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## Self-reporting of youth delinquency in the Balkans and beyond: Results of the ISRD3 International Self-Reporting Study of Delinquency in the Context of Violence, Victimization, and Substance Abuse in Comparative Aspects

By Dr. Sc. Mensut Ademi & Prof. Ass. Dr. Sc. Veton Vula

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**Keywords:** national and international comparison, ISRD-3, police data, self-publications, victimization studies, youth delinquency.

**GJHSS-C Classification:** LCC: HV9104-910



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# Self-reporting of Youth Delinquency in the Balkans and Beyond: Results of the ISRD3 International Self-Reporting Study of Delinquency in the Context of Violence, Victimization, and Substance Abuse in Comparative Aspects

Dr. Sc. Mensut Ademi <sup>α</sup> & Prof. Ass. Dr. Sc. Veton Vula <sup>ο</sup>

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

As in other areas, the delinquency of minors has become problematic in every country and the comparison of measures against them is more necessary (I. Marshall, M. Killias, D. Ezman ISRD2, 2010). For researchers, this research increases the possibilities for theory testing, while for policymakers, it allows the evaluation of their policies through 'benchmarking'. In criminology, two types of readily available data are used to place a country's particular "crime problem" in the wider international context: First, international organizations provide their evidence (Interpol, the United Nations provides data officially recorded crime for a large number of countries i.e. crime publikationed to the police, arrests, prosecutions, convictions, Aebi et al., 2006).<sup>1</sup>

A second important source of comparative delinquency data is that obtained between ISRD3 and

the International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) (van Dijk et al., 2007a, 2007b, Aebi et al. 2002; Robert, 2009; Zauberman, 2009).<sup>2</sup>

Here we present the Third International Self-Publikationed Delinquency Study (ISRD-3), Self-publikation surveys of delinquency have been a mainstay of delinquency research for more than half a century, these studies have typically been limited to a, or at most, in a small proportion of countries (Wikström and Svensson, 2008, focus on Sweden and England). At the European level, there are few comparative studies focusing on young people; an example is the European School Study Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) (see Hibell et al., 2004). Another example is the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and this has been a very interesting case in the Republic of Kosovo, whereas a project we think is targeted, but during the implementation, there are errors in taking the sample, (internationally standardized of 15-year-olds in schools, implemented in 62 countries of the world in 2009). The WHO Publikation on Health Behavior in School-Aged Children (HBSC) contains international self-publikation data on the use and abuse of cannabis (Currie et al., 2008).<sup>3</sup>

Until now, the first International Self-Publikationed Delinquency Study (ISRD-1; Junger-Tas et al., 1994) was conducted in 1992, focusing explicitly on youth delinquency and victimization for 13 countries in the same time continues with the second study of this type and, compared to ISRD-1, it has expanded greatly in scope and in the number of participating countries (Junger-Tas et al., 2010) and finally, ISRD3 has received an international expansion and reputation.

In this article, we present the first descriptive results of the extent of self-publikationed delinquency (12-month prevalence rates), as well as youth victimization experiences in our country Kosovo, comparing some data with countries in the region such

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<sup>1</sup> For an overview of the methodological issues related to the self-publikation method, see Junger-Tas and Marshall (1999).

<sup>2</sup> Although the bulk of the ISRD-2 countries is European, it is important to keep in mind that there are also countries from the American continent involved: Canada, USA, Venezuela, Aruba, Netherlands Antilles, and Suriname.

<sup>3</sup> I. Marshall, D. Ezman, M. Killias, Self-publikationed youth delinquency in Europe and beyond: First results of the Second International Self-Publikation Delinquency Study in the context of police and victimization data ISRD2, 2010

as Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina. These preliminary comparisons will test the validity of delinquency prevalence rates derived from different sources.

## II. ISRD3 IN KOSOVO

About 27 international countries participated in the ISRD3 project and their data are available, presenting findings on self-publikationed offending and victimization as the participation of 62,636 young people in cities or regions of Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina., Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, Macedonia, Netherlands, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela.

The main goal of the ISRD project is theory testing and research mechanisms that explain delinquency in a way that enables us to factor in national differences and contextual sources of influence. Second, the project produces information that provides local stakeholders with information about specifics patterns of youth crime in their areas.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to these aims, the project enables the comparison of delinquency patterns in different areas and cities – that is the focus of the current publication.

However, we aim to do more than simply present models of delinquency different areas and cities around the world. We also want to highlight – from the perspective of social indicators – the problem of relying on official police data such as better measurement of dimensions of youth crime and victimization. In the same time, from a methodological point of view, we want to emphasize the limits of self-publikationing delinquency surveys, especially in a comparative context. And finally, we love place more firmly a number of problems related to crime and victimization of young people on countries' policy agendas – such as the use of violence by parents against their children.

## III. METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

The ISRD has two distinctive features as a comparative study of youth crime and victimization: the large number and cultural diversity of participants in our country Kosovo and explicitly comparative design. How to overcome the many challenges or how to get the data in time or early warning.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> At the time of writing there were 33 ISRD3 participants who had signed the collaboration agreement; 26 had finished data collection and supplied a technical publikation by early 2017. The US data should be considered preliminary and incomplete, since data collection in the United States was still ongoing at the time of writing

<sup>5</sup> For a more detailed explanation of the basic ISRD research and methodology, see Marshall and Enzmann (2012, 21-65)

An integral part of comparative survey research has been a preoccupation of a long tradition of researchers in the field of cultural anthropology, sociology, political science. and criminology, with few clear solutions (Allardt 1990; Armer & Grimshaw 1973; Bennett 2009; Plaku, 1976; Howard et al. 2000; Kohn, 1987; Karstedt 2001; Marshall & Marshall 1983; Nelken 2009; Prezworski & Teune 2010). 1970; Ragin, 1987; Rokkan 1968; Smelser, 1976; 2003; Van de Vijver & Tanzer 2004). During the implementation of ISRD3 there are many challenges and problems such as technical, human and logistical, but awareness of these problems is the best weapon against oversimplification or misinterpretation of the results (Marshall & Enzmann 2012, 21).

### a) Sampling

The data collection models of the ISRD3 project are according to the research protocol, samples should be city-based, covering students from grades 7 to 9, corresponding to the age categories 12-14, 13-15 and 14-16 in our case, we have two cities in two regions, that of Prishtina as the capital and that of Prizren as the second city in the country.<sup>6</sup>

Data in two cities were sampled from 2500 minor respondents in the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th grades, so the minimum sample was 1800, the size and types of cities differ in different countries and some countries have chosen more samples. broad or national. Therefore, due to the heterogeneity of the sample, we should refrain from overgeneralizing the findings across countries. The survey should not be considered representative of the entire youth population in these countries, but instead of students in grades 7 through 11 in the cities or regions in which the data were collected.

### b) Description of the sample

The publication is based on a total sample of 3,737 students in 49 schools classes gathered in two cities in Kosovo (Prishtina and Prizren), the biggest cities in our country and as cities where, since 1999, there has been a lot of migration towards them from rural areas. (Sample sizes across countries range from 647 in Serbia, 796 in Armenia and 1,080 in Kosovo to 3,737 in Estonia, 4,072 in Switzerland and 6,492 in Austria; 11 13 of 27 countries have samples between 1,600 and 2,400 cases. India and Austria, The average sample size is 2230 cases.)<sup>7</sup>

## IV. SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS

The ISRD-3 questionnaire includes questions on the social background of the respondents. In the first

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.askk-ks.com/isrd/>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320085714\\_Introduction\\_to\\_the\\_International\\_Self-Publikation\\_Delinquency\\_Study\\_ISRD3](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320085714_Introduction_to_the_International_Self-Publikation_Delinquency_Study_ISRD3)

part of this chapter, we will present basic demographic information about our sample, i.e. about variables that include age, gender, place of birth, ethnicity (belonging to national groups), religion and its importance, living arrangement and family status. Key demographic characteristics are presented only for the five countries

sampled. In the second part, we will present the basic findings about delinquency, victimization and substance use, their basic relationships with independent variables of social background, such as social well-being, ethnicity, religion, family constellation, etc.<sup>8</sup>

	Armenia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kosovo	Macedonia	Serbia	Ukraine	Switzerland <sup>9</sup>
female	61.0%	51.4%	49.0%	49.2%	48.1%	50.8%	51.3%
male	39.0%	48.6%	51.0%	50.8%	51.9%	49.2%	48.7%
N=	962	3063	1078	1239	886	1651	4158

*This informs about the distribution of male and female respondents*

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia and Ukraine the students of the 7-9<sup>th</sup> grades participated in the survey. In Armenia, juveniles also from the 10<sup>th</sup> grade were taken into the sample. It can be explained by the age of students. In accordance with the research plan, the age of ISRD-3 respondents should be from 12 till 16 years old regardless the grade. In Serbia there are

also juveniles from the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. It can be explained by conducting the survey also in the higher grades, among older students. But for the purpose of this publication, only the students of the needed age were taken, regardless their school grade. The following table shows the age distribution.<sup>10</sup>

	Armenia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kosovo	Macedonia	Serbia	Ukraine	Switzerland <sup>11</sup>
10-12	14.1%	13.3%	31.5%	5.4%	4.9%	28.1%	
13	30.7%	32.8%	34.7%	29.4%	23.7%	30.4%	24.8%
14	33.8%	36.5%	28.3%	34.0%	20.4%	30.6%	24.7%
15-17	21.4%	17.5%	5.5%	31.1%	22.9%	10.9%	50.6%
N=	957	3056	1078	1237	886	1651	4158

This table shows the distribution of the age among respondents in all five countries. Less than five respondents in each country identified themselves as 18-20 years old. They were recoded as missed answers to allow the comparison of these countries with other ISRD-3 results. More detailed age distribution of Swiss respondents can be seen in the Swiss National Publikation, Table 1.2, where respondents of 13, 14, 15, and 16 years old are presented as a quarter for each group.

*a) Birthplace of respondents, their parents; belonging to minority/majority groups; and religion*

The following group of tables and figures shows the main demographic characteristics of

juveniles in Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Ukraine, and Switzerland.

Countries of Ex-Yugoslavia are among the largest sources of immigrants to Switzerland, but in comparison with the previous years, fewer amounts of people came to Switzerland from this region. For instance, the number of immigrants with Serbian nationality decreased from 90.7 (in 2013) till 78.1 (in 2014) thousand<sup>12</sup> (Results of ISRD-3 in Serbia is not presented in this Publikation). It became ~ 4.7% in 2013 and 3.9% in 2013 from the total population of the foreign permanent residents in Switzerland. More information about the countries that participated in ISRD-3 is in the following Figure and Table.

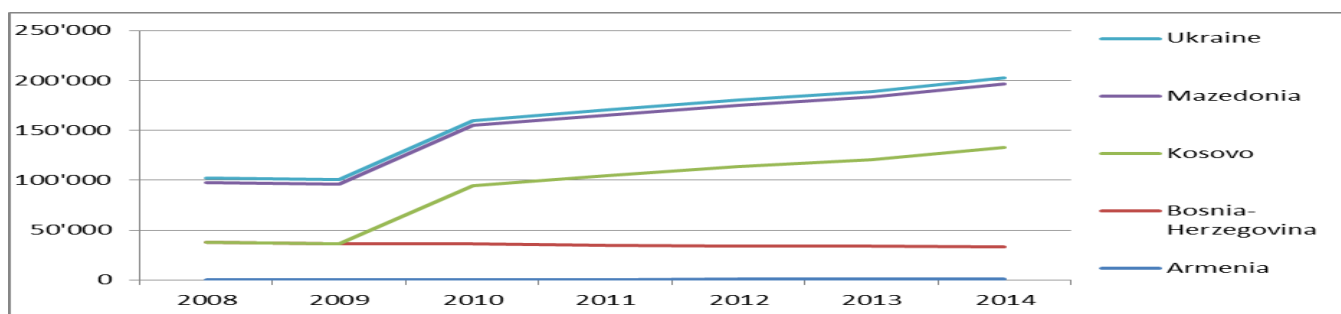
<sup>8</sup> The Third International Self-publication Study of Delinquency among Juveniles in Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine, and Switzerland Publikation to the Jacobs Foundation (Project N 2012-1026), Swiss Federal Office of Migration (04.04.2012) Swiss National Science Foundation (Project 10001C\_162816)

<sup>9</sup> Weighted data

<sup>10</sup> M. Killias, A. Lukash, M. Ademi, The Third International Self-publication Study of Delinquency among Juveniles in Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine, and Switzerland

<sup>11</sup> Foreign permanent resident population by nationality. The Swiss Statistics Web site. Federal Statistical Office (FSO) <http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/themen/01/07/blank/key/01/01.html>

<sup>12</sup> Weighted data



Minority/majority status and origin of parents, in %

	Armenia	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Kosovo	Macedonia	Serbia	Ukraine	Switzerland <sup>13</sup>
Born in this country	90.1	92.0	84.5	96.0	96.6	95.8	86.2
Born in other countries	9.9	8.0	15.5	4.0	3.4	4.2	13.8
N=	962	3063	1078	1239	882	1651	4158

The highest percentage of juveniles born in this country is in Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine (96.0%, 96.6%, and 95.8%). The lowest number of students who were born not in the native country is in Kosovo and Switzerland (85.5% and 86.2%). Some students also wrote their native country in the answer "other countries". But the number of such respondents is no more than one percent.

*b) Data about the religion in 5 countries provided by Nation Master and other sources*

This table represents the official data of religion in each country. Armenia is a relatively homogenous country. More than 90% of the population affiliate the Armenian Apostolic religion that is the part of Oriental Orthodoxy<sup>14</sup>. In Bosnia-Herzegovina 40% of the population affiliate Islam and one third identify themselves as Orthodox. More than 90% of people in Kosovo are Muslim. Two thirds of the Macedonian population is Eastern Orthodox and one third is Muslim. In Ukraine more than two thirds of people are Orthodox. There are also a lot of other Christian confessions. Serbia is a multi-religious country. The dominant religion is Orthodox Christianity (notably the Serbian Orthodox Church), but there are also some adherents of Islam (living mostly in the southwestern part of Serbia in the region of Sandžak or Raška, in the municipalities of Preševo and Bujanovac in southern Serbia), and Catholic Christianity (living mostly in northern part of Vojvodina province), as well as adherents of other religious groups such are Protestant Christians, Jews, and others.

<sup>13</sup> Weighted data

<sup>14</sup> Papazian, M. The Armenian Church.Churchhistory. The Armenian Prelacy. <http://www.armenianprelacy.org/church-history/church-history>



Armenia <sup>15</sup>	Bosnia-Herzegovina <sup>16</sup>	Kosovo (Wagnsonner, 2004) <sup>17</sup>	Macedonia <sup>18</sup>	Serbia <sup>19</sup>	Ukraine	Switzerland <sup>20</sup>
Armenian Apostolic (94.7%)	Muslim (40%)	Muslim (>90%)	Eastern Orthodox (64.8%)	Orthodox Christian (81.1%)	Orthodox (76.5%)	Roman Catholic (38.2%)
Other Christian (4%)	Orthodox (31%)	Orthodox (~7.0%)	Muslim (33.3%)	Catholic (4.8%)	Ukrainian Greek Catholic (8%)	Protestant Reformed (26.9%)
Yezidi (monotheist with elements of nature worship, 1.3%)	Roman Catholic (15%)	Catholic (3%, 2004)	Roman catholic (0.3%)	Protestant and other Christian (1.0%)	Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox (7.2%)	Muslim and Islamic communities (5.0%)
				Muslim (3.0%)	Roman Catholic (2.2%)	
					Protestant (2.2%)	
					Jewish (0.6%)	
	other(14%)		other (1.6%)	Other, I do not know, not religious (10.2)	other(3.2%)	Other, Unknown, non-denominational (29.9%)

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#### c) *Working status of parents, family well-off and amount of pocket money in comparison with others*

This part of the publikation shows the results of the ISRD-3 in five countries and Switzerland, as well as statistical data of unemployment rates and poverty in these countries.

Statistics of population below poverty and unemployment rate among the selected countries, in %

	Armenia (2014)	Bosnia-Herzegovina (2014)	Kosovo (2014)	Macedonia (2014)	Serbia	Ukraine (2014)	Switzerland (2014)
Population below poverty line <sup>22</sup>	35.8%	18.6%	30%	30.4%	9.2% (2013)	24.1%	7.6%
Unemployment rate <sup>23</sup>	17.3%	44.3%	30.9%	28.6%	19.7% (2014)	8.0%	3.2%

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.nationmaster.com/country-info/stats/Religion/Religions>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.nationmaster.com/country-info/stats/Religion/Religions>

<sup>17</sup> Christian Wagnsonner. Religionsgemeinschaften im Kosovo. Mittwoch, 18. August 2004. Institut für Religion und Frieden. Katholische Militärseelsorge Österreichs. [http://www.irf.ac.at/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=167&Itemid=32](http://www.irf.ac.at/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=167&Itemid=32)

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.stat.gov.mk/publikacii/knigaX.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Religion, mother tongue and ethnicity. Data by municipalities and cities. 2011 Census of population, households and dwelling in the Republic of Serbia. Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. Supported by the EU. IN Serbian. [http://pod2.stat.gov.rs/ObjavljenePublikacije/Popis2011/Knjiga4\\_Veroispovest.pdf](http://pod2.stat.gov.rs/ObjavljenePublikacije/Popis2011/Knjiga4_Veroispovest.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> Languages and religions – Data, indicators. 2011-2013. Swiss Federal Statistical Office <http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/themen/01/05/blank/key/religionen.html>

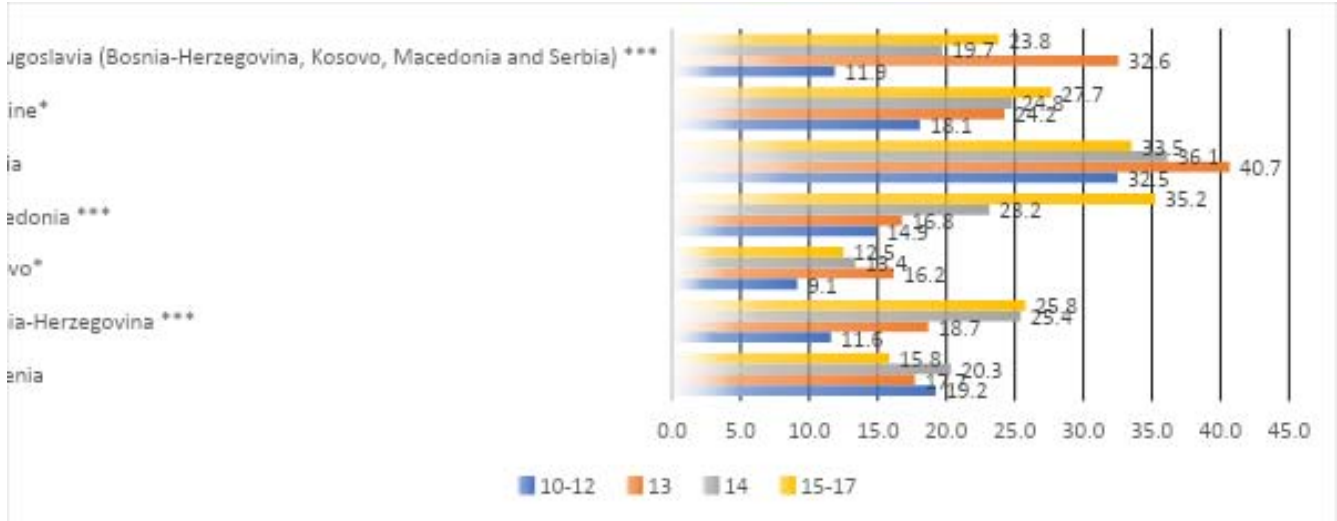
<sup>21</sup> Papazian, M. The Armenian Church.Churchhistory.The Armenian Prelacy. <http://www.armenianprelacy.org/church-history/church-history>

<sup>22</sup> Population below poverty line (%).The world Factbook, January 1, 2014.<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

<sup>23</sup> Unemployment rate.: This entry contains the percent of the labor force that is without jobs. Substantial underemployment might be noted. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

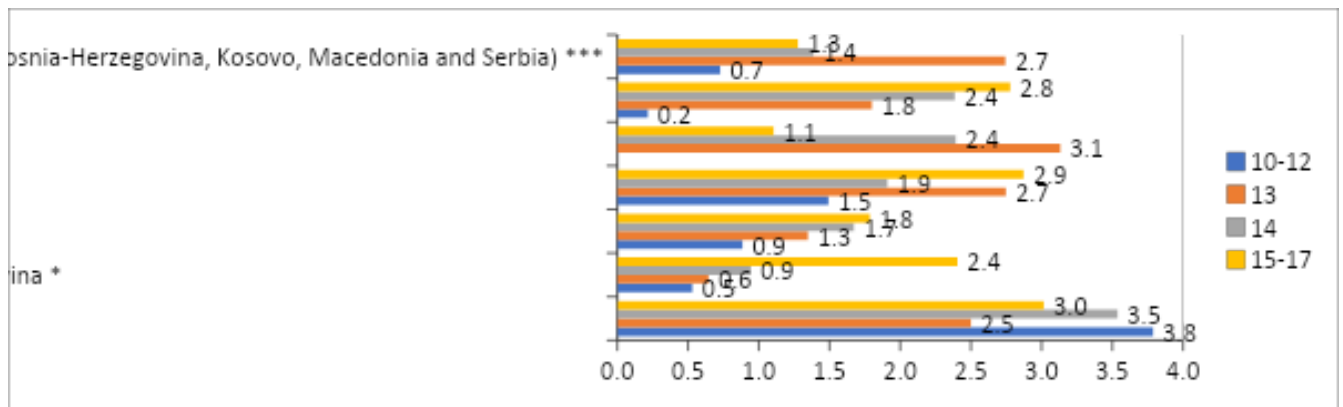
In Armenia, Kosovo, and Macedonia, one third of the population is below poverty line. Nevertheless only 20% of the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina has this index, 44% of the population is unemployed. The lowest unemployment rate after Switzerland is in Ukraine, but in the last country almost every fourth person is under the poverty line.

Percentage of the population below poverty in Switzerland is 2.5-3 times less than in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Ukraine, four-five times less than in Armenia, Kosovo, and Macedonia.



*Delinquency (last year prevalence) by gender, Minor offences<sup>24</sup> by age of respondents, in %, In Ukraine, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia, juveniles commit more offences by increasing of their age. Respondents in the age of 14 and 15-17 are several*

times more likely to publication about this group of offences. Students from Kosovo publication about Minor offences more often in the age of 13 and 14. This association for Armenia is not significant Violent offences<sup>25</sup> by age of respondents, in %



The same as in the previous figure, Ukrainian students publication about violent offences more often when they become older. Only a few of 10-12 years children publication assault and/or robbery. Fourteen years old juveniles from Bosnia-Herzegovina publication about violent offences twice less frequent than their older colleagues. Younger children publication it even less. This association is significant only for these two countries.

Juveniles from Kosovo in the age of 15-17 publication about property offences four times more often than their 13 and 14 years old colleagues. The

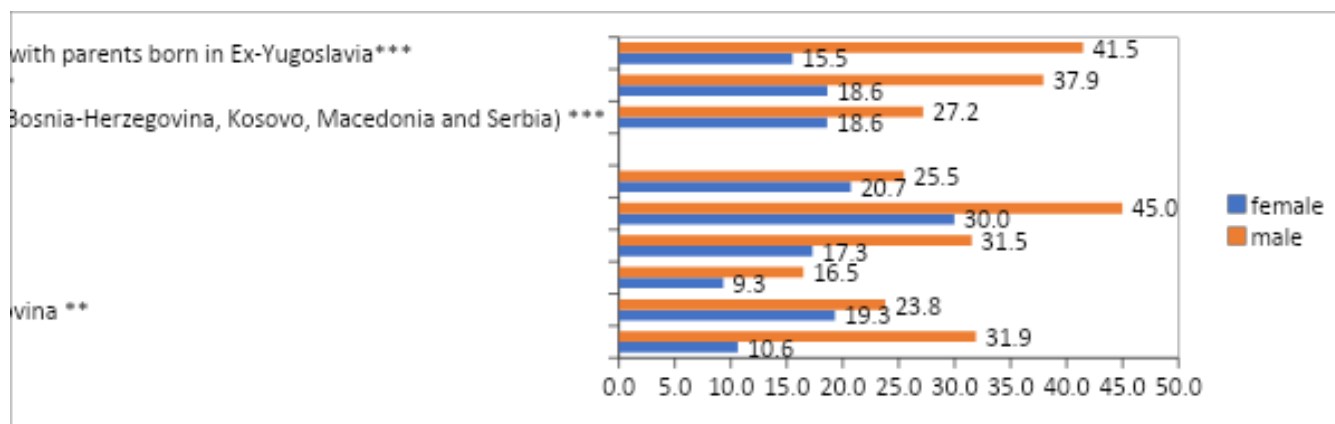
same is in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia. Older respondents commit property offences more often. This association is not significant for Armenia, Ukraine and Serbia.

#### d) *Delinquency (last year prevalence) by gender*

The difference between boys and girls who committed robbery and/or assault is relatively big in all countries. Males are more likely to publication about violent offences. It is especially visible in Kosovo and Armenia. This association is highly significant in all countries.

<sup>24</sup> Minor offences = graffiti, vandalism, shoplifting, group fight, carrying weapon, and animal cruelty

<sup>25</sup> Violent offences = robbery and assault

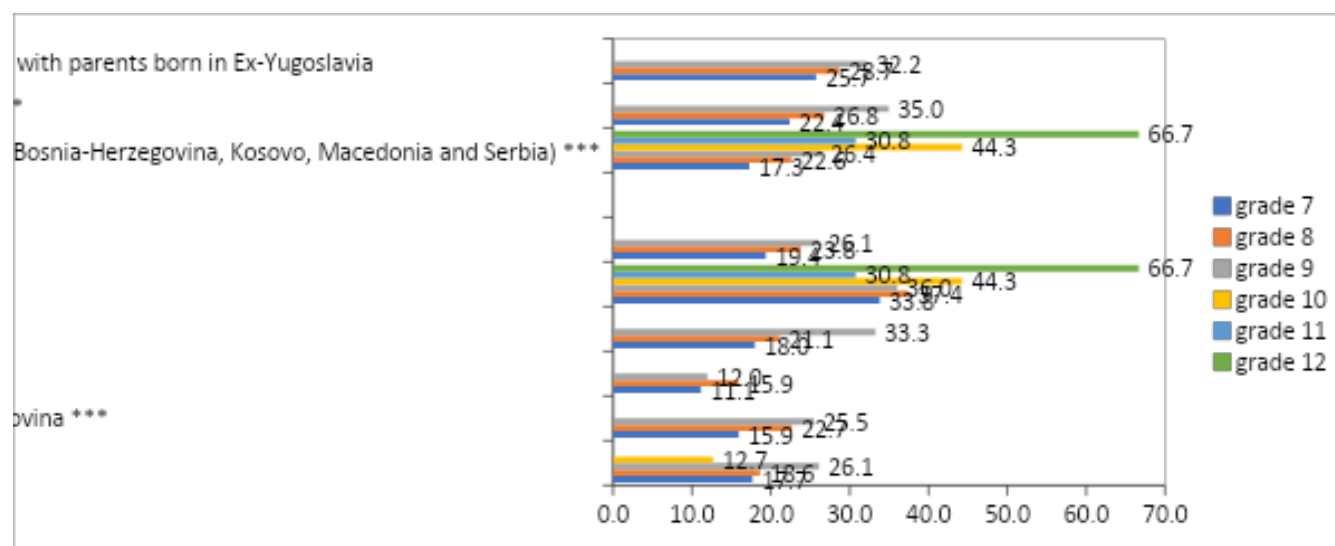


Males are more likely to commit property offences than females. This difference is especially visible among Armenian juveniles: boys publication about this group of perpetrations seventeen times more often. Swiss boys with parent(s) born in Ex-Yugoslavia publication about property offences three times more often than females. In all other countries and their groups, males publication about property perpetrations

two-three times more often than females. This association is not significant in Serbia and Kosovo.

#### e) Delinquency (last year prevalence) by grade

This association is significant only for respondents from Ukraine and Switzerland. Students from the 9<sup>th</sup> grade are two-three times more likely to publication about violent offences than their colleagues from the 7<sup>th</sup> or the 8<sup>th</sup> grades.



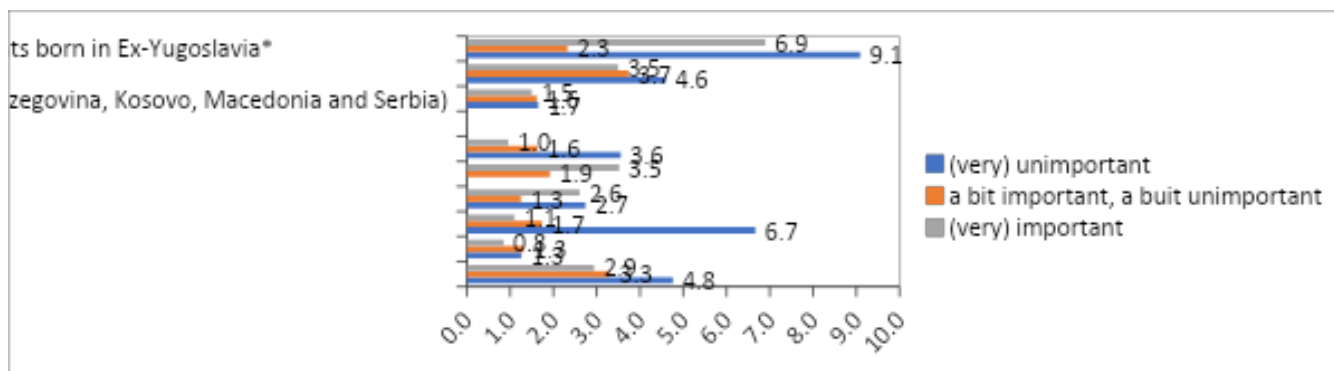
Violent offences <sup>26</sup> by importance of religion, in % In comparison with the previous figure, the association between violent offences and importance of religion is mostly not significant. The exception is the results in Ukraine and among Swiss students with parent(s) from Ex-Yugoslavia.

Ukrainian less religious students are more likely to commit robbery and/or assault. Swiss students with parent(s) born in Ex-Yugoslavia, for whom religion is (very) important and (very) unimportant, perpetrated more violent offences than their peers with neutral

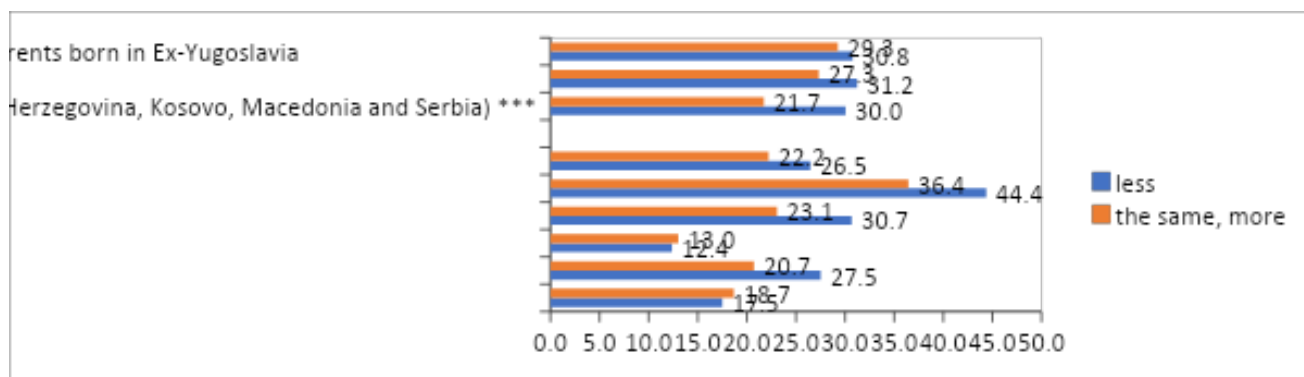
attitude to religion. Such distribution can be explained by a small number of respondents in this group (e.g. 9.1% of not-religious respondents publication about violent offences, N=4).

<sup>26</sup> Violent offences = robbery and assault





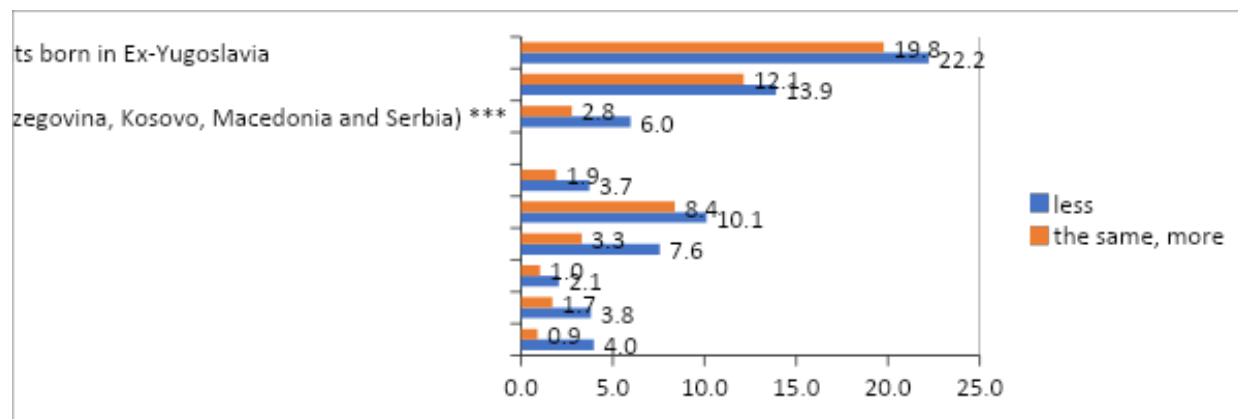
Minor offences <sup>27</sup> by personal money in comparison with others, in %



Students with less amount of pocket money are more likely to commit minor offences. This association is significant only for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia,

Switzerland and the group of the selected Ex-Yugoslavian countries

Property offences <sup>28</sup> by personal money in comparison with others, in %.



Students with less pocket money in comparison with others are more likely to commit property offences. It is especially visible among Armenian juveniles. This association is significant for all countries except Serbia, Switzerland and Kosovo.

More than 90% of respondents from Serbia and Ukraine publikationed about having friends to spend time with. It is the highest percentage among the

selected countries and their groups. This percentage is the lowest in Armenia, Kosovo and Macedonia. Only two thirds of juveniles have such friends there. This percentage among Swiss juveniles with parents born in Ex-Yugoslavia, on the Swiss national level among juveniles from Ex-Yugoslavian country cluster is very similar: from 74 to 78%. The ISRD-3 questionnaire included the question "How many of your friends have

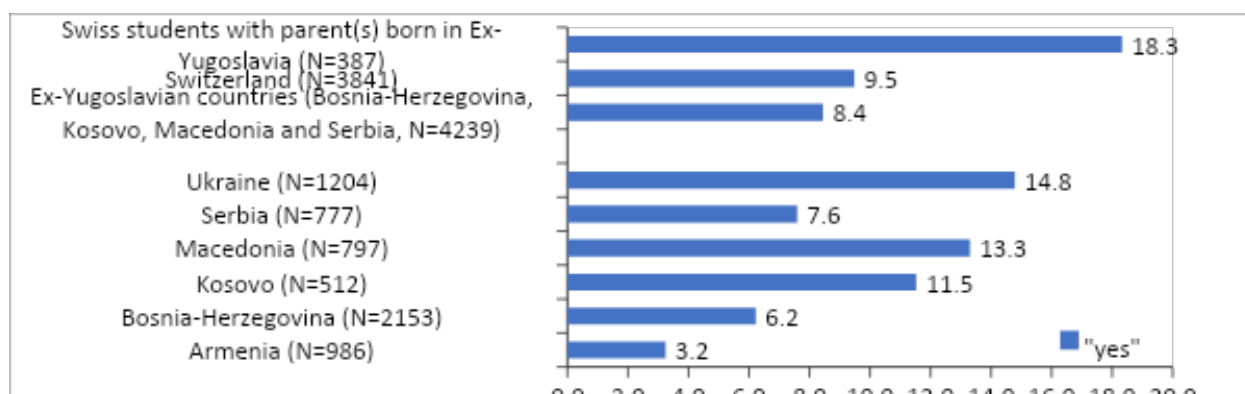
<sup>27</sup> Minor offences = graffiti, vandalism, shoplifting, group fight, caring weapon, and animal cruelty

<sup>28</sup> Serious property offences = burglary, motorbike/car theft, car break, bicycle theft, personal theft

at least one parent of foreign origin?" Among the answers were "None at all", "A few" "Many of them", "All of them". The variable was dichotomized to you it for the bivariate and multivariate analysis. This table shows the frequency of students, who have many/all friends with parents of foreign origin. Armenia has the most homogenous society: only two percent of juveniles have a lot/all of such friends. This prevalence in Kosovo and Macedonia is not very high; it is twice lower than in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Ukraine. Such prevalence in Serbia is a bit lower than in Ukraine and Bosnia-Herzegovina. This percentage is the highest in the Switzerland on the national level and among Swiss students with parents born in Ex-Yugoslavia. One third and two thirds of the respondents publikationed about

many/all of such friends. It is understandable, because Switzerland is one of the largest destinations of immigrants in the world; and Swiss students, who have parents immigrated from Ex-Yugoslavia, communicate mostly with peers with similar origin.

Ukrainian students consider their group of friends as a gang almost five times more often than their peers in Armenia. This percentage among the taken Ex-Yugoslavian countries is the highest in Macedonia and Kosovo, and it is the lowest in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia. Respondents from Switzerland and Ex-Yugoslavian country cluster publikationed about it almost equally. It is twice lower than among Swiss students with parent(s) born in Ex-Yugoslavia.



Over 90% of juveniles from all selected countries except Serbia and Switzerland do not have friends who have ever tried drugs. More than 40% of students from Switzerland and Swiss students with parents from Ex-Yugoslavia have friends who have already consumed drugs. It can be explained by a "highly permissive" character of Swiss society (Killias, Maljevic, Lucia, 2010, P. 188). This prevalence is also relatively high in Switzerland: each fourth respondent publikationed about it. Respondents from Ex-Yugoslavian country cluster publikationed about having friends committed shoplifting twice less frequent than their peers in Switzerland. Swiss students with parent(s) born in Ex-Yugoslavia have such friends a bit more often than Swiss juveniles on the national level, of this publikation, where the prevalence of shoplifting is also higher among this group of respondents. We suggest that it can be explained by an influence of a "bad company" and strongly associated with own perpetration of minor offences, including shoplifting (Figure 3.38). Each third Serbian student publikation about it.

Among the taken Ex-Yugoslavian countries, juveniles from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia have such friends 2.5 times more often than their peers in Kosovo. This prevalence is the highest among adolescents from Serbia. Juveniles in Armenia have

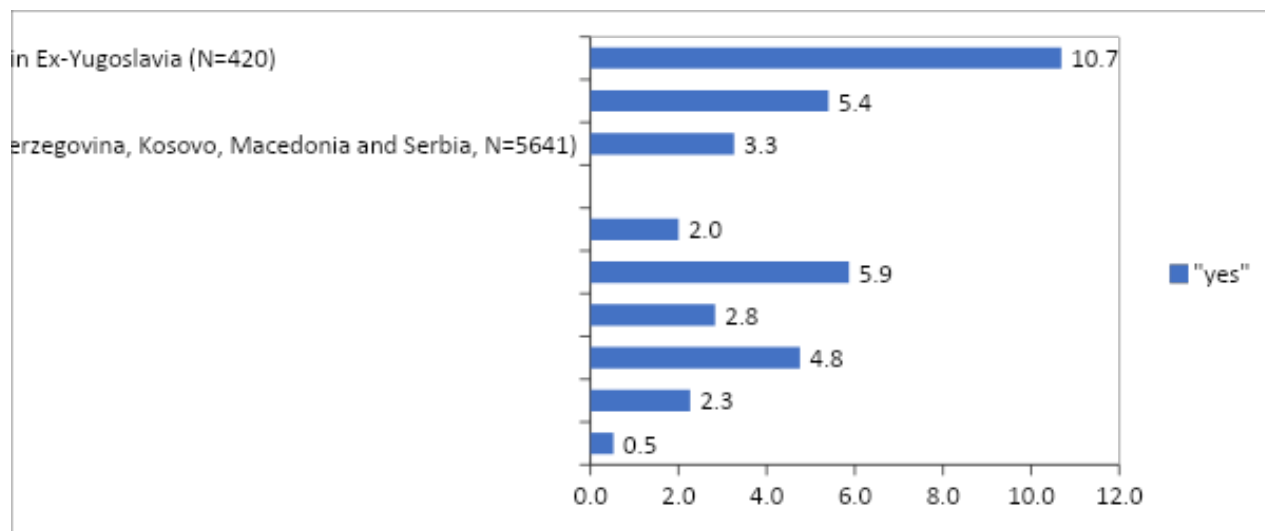
friends who have committed shoplifting three times less often than their peers in Ukraine.

The same as in the previous figure, Swiss students on the national level and Swiss students with parent(s) born in Ex-Yugoslavia publication about having friends committed burglary eight times more often than their peers in the chosen Ex-Yugoslavian countries (cluster).

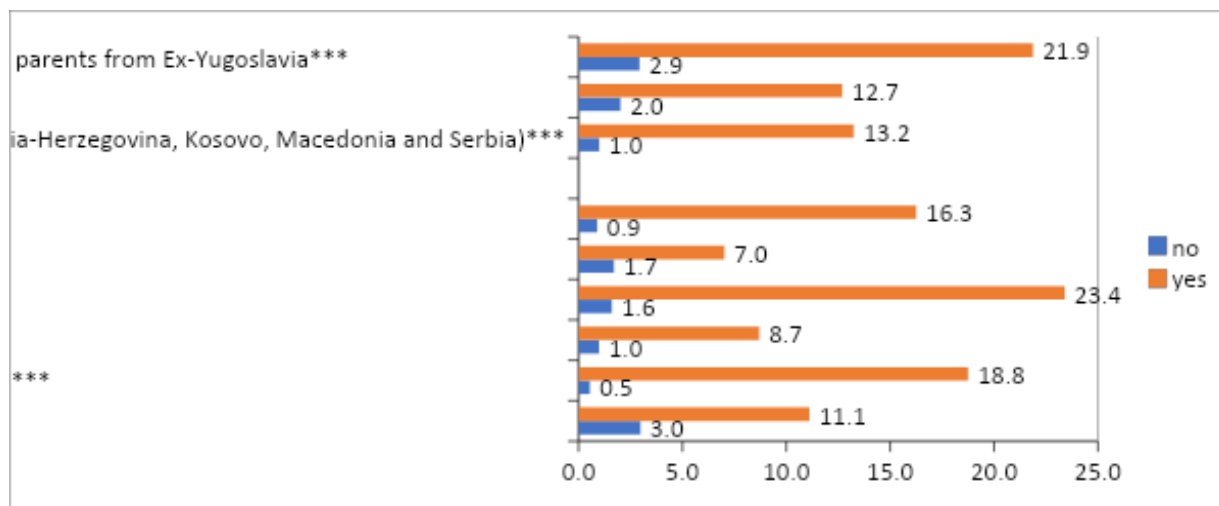
Among the selected Balkan countries, Kosovo has the lowest prevalence of such friends; it is the highest among Serbian juveniles. Armenian adolescents have also friends committed burglary five times less often than students from Ukraine.

It is hard to compare these results with the prevalence of burglary because the low number of respondents who committed this offence, the prevalence of burglary among Swiss respondents on the national level and Swiss students with parents born in Ex-Yugoslavia is higher than among juveniles from other countries and their clusters.

Having friends, who committed robbery, in %



Violent offences<sup>29</sup> (last year prevalence) by cannabis use (life time prevalence), in %



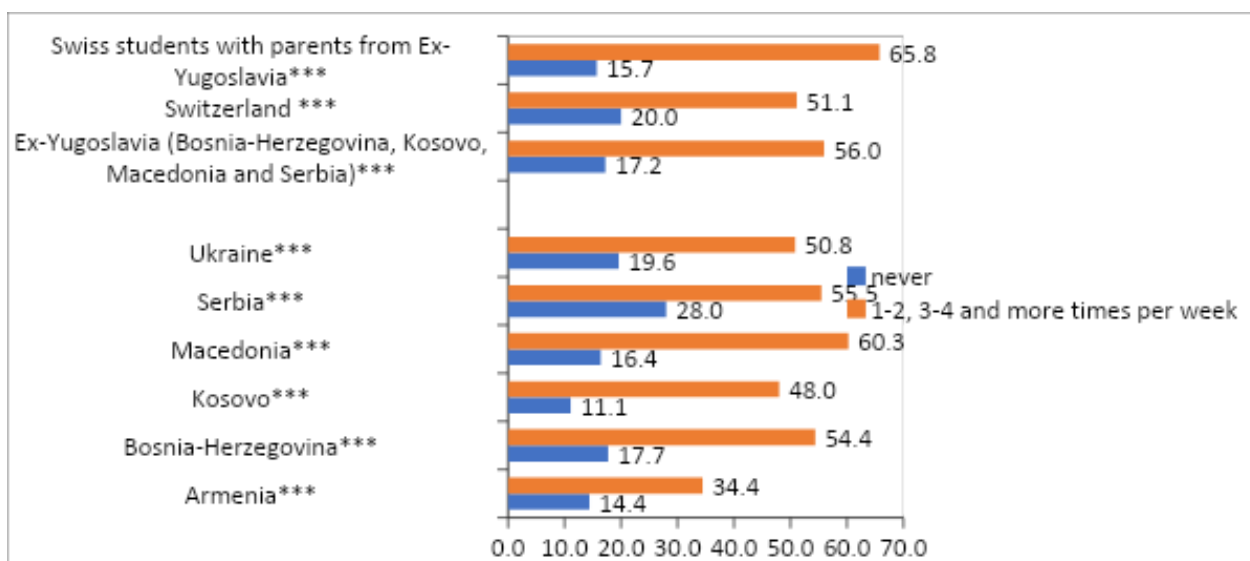
Respondents, who have already consumed cannabis, are 4-18-37 times more likely to commit a violent offence than those who have never tried cannabis. This likelihood is the highest in Ukraine, Macedonia (18 times) and Bosnia-Herzegovina (37 times). This is the lowest in Serbia, Armenia and Switzerland. This association is significant and highly significant in all taken countries and their groups. Comparison of the results of bivariate analysis shows that cannabis use has a stronger influence on violent offences than on minor offences perpetration.

Respondents, who have five or more alcohol drinks on one occasion during last 30 days, are 2-4 times more likely to commit a minor offence. This association is highly significant for all countries.

Minor offences<sup>26</sup> (last year prevalence) by binge drinking (last month prevalence), in %

<sup>29</sup> Violent offences = robbery and assault

<sup>30</sup> Minor offences = graffiti, vandalism, shoplifting, group fight, carrying weapon, and animal cruelty



## V. ANALISE

- The highest prevalence of alcohol use is in Serbia and Switzerland. It is also relatively high in Ukraine, Macedonia and Armenia. This percentage is the lowest in Kosovo. Each third respondent from the Ex-Yugoslavian country cluster has already tried alcohol.
- We suggest that such differences can be explained by cultural and traditional issues of a country, spending leisure time by respondents. The first argument is described more detailed in the following table with the statistics of wine consumption, provided by the Wine Institute, California. The distribution of wine and alcohol consumption per capita in different countries is corresponding mostly to our results and presented in the following figure.
- In accordance with ISRD-3 results, students from Armenia and Serbia reported the highest prevalence of drinking wine in comparison with other types of alcohol. All other countries and their groups used to consume beers more often than wine and spirits.
- Students from Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina reported about binge drinking the least frequent. This percentage is the highest among students from Serbia and Armenia. Juveniles from the selected Ex-Yugoslavian country cluster consume five or more drinks on one occasion almost twice less frequent than their peers from Switzerland regardless the parents' origin.
- Our respondents in all countries are more likely to consume alcohol when they go out. This association is similar in Serbia, but the distinguishing feature is having more than half of respondents have already tried alcohol if they never go out.
- In all countries and their groups, students who spend most of their time with their families, are less likely to consume alcohol.

- Cannabis use is strongly associated with an active night life. Students, who go out more often than three times per week, are more likely to consume this substance. It is not significant for Serbia and Macedonia.
- The same as with alcohol, students who spend most of their time with family are less likely to consume cannabis.
- Respondents, who go out more than three times per week, are three-five times more likely to report about binge drinking than those who never go out in all taken countries and their groups. This association is highly significant.
- Respondents, who consume cannabis, are more likely to commit an offence.
- Cannabis use has a stronger influence on violent offences than on minor offences perpetration.
- Students, who have five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion, report about violent offences perpetration 3-12 times more often than their peers who do not do binge drinking. The influence of binge drinking is stronger on the perpetration of violent offences than on the perpetration of property offences.

## VI. DISCUSSION

Preliminary analyzes reflect strong findings regarding national, regional and international delinquency differences and similarities in levels of offending and victimization experiences among 14-18 year olds. Due to the high degree of methodological standardization of ISRD-3, and the large number of countries represented, ISRD-3 data promise to make an important contribution - both substantively and methodologically - to international comparative knowledge, especially the countries we have case studies Macedonia, BiH, Serbia, Armenia, Ukraine and Switzerland.

A similar picture appears when the skill of offense is used, with the Balkan countries but also in Ukraine.

Our preliminary findings suggest that country groupings based on theoretical and policy-related criteria (rather than region) offer a promising method to present and interpret the large amount of international data (Smit et al., 2008) that have been also successfully applied to the analysis of the results of the First International Delinquency Self-Report Study (Junger-Tas et al., 2003). Although there is considerable variation within clusters, the observed differences between clusters support our belief that this approach is more promising and worthy of continued exploration.

Third, the partially contradictory trends in self-reported offending and victimization that emerged in the ISRD-3 data are striking. In former socialist countries, tighter social control over school children than in Western countries may prevent them from committing more crimes, while older juveniles may be less controlled and, occasionally, to victimize younger minors. The willingness to honestly report on one's behavior may also vary across countries. This is supported by a European study of alcohol and drugs. Hibell et al. (2004) showed that the rate of respondents who said they would never report hashish use varied between 2% (Finland) and 12% (Lithuania). The differential validity hypothesis should become a routine empirical dimension for comparative criminological studies of self-report (see also Pauwels and Svensson, 2008).

Fourth, our attempts to compare ISRD-3, ICVS and ESB data for three specific offenses (robbery/extortion, assault and theft) illustrate, once again, the great challenges associated with trying to disentangle – at the level international – (possible) convergence of different measures of crime. Previous research (Aebi et al., 2002) has shown that police and ICVS data are highly correlated after adjustments are made to match these sources (with respect to offense definitions and counting rules), as in the case of ESB. If ICVS and ISRD data on robbery, assault and theft victimization are moderately or not at all correlated (in the case of assault), this may be due to the fact that ISRD and ICVS data relate to different age groups (14-15 vs 16-19) and levels (city vs nations). Furthermore, ICVS data may be more controversial when it comes to estimating rates of victimization among adolescents given the small sample sizes and chronic underrepresentation of this age group in population surveys. More encouraging is the finding of a moderate and consistent correlation between police data on known offenders (PSO) and ISRD data on self-reported offenses (for robbery, assault and theft).<sup>31</sup>

Despite all the measurement problems, the ISRD-3 data allow analysis of the causes of crime and to assess the extent to which theories on the causation of crime hold up across nations. Therefore, information about lifestyle, social connectedness and control, neighborhood contexts, and other risk factors is essential when one wishes to examine the causes of delinquency (Junger-Tas and Marshall, 1999). A forthcoming publication, based on the analysis of the pooled international data set, will focus on the social response to delinquent behavior, the meaning of the family, the influence of schools and school systems, the meaning of lifestyles and the influence of the neighborhood on delinquency and victimization.

## VII. CONCLUSION

### *Kosovo*

- Before the starting of ISRD-3, this country in terms of research was more a kind of black box. The level of delinquency among Swiss juveniles with Kosovar origin is relatively high (not presented in this research), but its comparison with the prevalence of perpetrations in their own country, brings the opposite results. Thus, respondents from Kosovo reported the lowest percentage of minor and property offences and the second lowest in the violent perpetrations. Juveniles from this country are also better controlled by parents and have the lowest percentage of respondents, who have tried alcohol in their life.<sup>32</sup>

### *Bosnia-Herzegovina*

- The same as among the taken Ex-Yugoslavian countries, except Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina has a relatively higher prevalence of graffiti. The percentage of violent offences is the lowest.
- The same as Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina participated in ISRD-2 in 2006. In 2015 (ISRD-3) there is a significant decreasing of vandalism, group fight and assault. The opposite tendency is with cannabis use (ltp) and shoplifting and burglary.

### *Macedonia*

- Macedonia participated in ISRD-3 for the first time. The same as Bosnia-Herzegovina, there is relatively high prevalence of graffiti. Macedonian respondents reported one of the highest levels of minor and property offences and the second highest level of violent offences after Armenia. The percentage of substance use is not the highest.

<sup>31</sup> Junger-Tas J, Marshall IH, and Ribeaud D (2003) Delinquency in an international perspective: The International Self-Reported Delinquency Study (ISRD). The Hague: Kugler. Junger-Tas J, Terlouw GJ and Klein

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<sup>32</sup>



## Serbia

- The percentage of graffiti, shoplifting, assault and theft is also among the highest. There is no juvenile who have committed burglary (lyp) among out respondents. The minor offences (index) were reported in Serbia more often than in the other countries. The level of property offences is the second highest than in Switzerland.

## Ukraine

- This is the second post-soviet country that participated in ISRD-3. In comparison with Armenia, Ukraine took part in this study for the first time. Juveniles from this country, together with some others, reported relatively often about graffiti. The prevalence of shoplifting and group fight is relatively high; the prevalence of caring weapon is the highest, animal cruelty is the lowest. Ukraine has the second highest prevalence of minor, violent and property perpetrations, as well as alcohol consumption (ltp), and the highest level of cannabis use (ltp).

## Swiss students with parents from Ex-Yugoslavia and Ex-Yugoslavian country cluster.

- Respondents from Ex-Yugoslavia (cluster) and Swiss students with parent(s) born in Ex-Yugoslavia reported about graffiti more often than their peers in Switzerland on the national level. We suggest that it is the part of the habits that immanent the behaviour in some countries and it is present in Swiss families with parent(s) born in Ex-Yugoslavia.
- In contrast to graffiti, vandalism is not immanent much to the taken Ex-Yugoslavian countries, but present in Swiss families with parent(s) born in Ex-Yugoslavia. We suggest that it can be explained by the difficulties of socialization in Switzerland. There is a similar distribution of caring weapon, group fight and animal cruelty, robbery and assault.

## Switzerland

- Swiss juveniles on the national level reported a lower prevalence of minor offences than their Swiss peers with parents born in Ex-Yugoslavia, and a higher prevalence than their peers in the Ex-Yugoslavian country cluster. The only exception is graffiti. This offence was reported by Ex-Yugoslavian respondents twice more often than by their Swiss students on the national level.
- Juveniles from Switzerland reported about violent offences 2-3 times more often than juveniles in Ex-Yugoslavian countries. Serious property offences were reported differently in comparison with the selected countries and their groups. For instance, bicycle theft was perpetrated by Swiss juveniles nine times more often than by their peers in Ex-Yugoslavia. It can be explained by more developed culture of bicycle use in Switzerland than in the

taken country cluster. Theft also was reported almost four times more often.

- The index of minor offences was reported by Swiss juveniles almost similarly to Swiss students with parents from Ex-Yugoslavia and a bit higher than juveniles from Ex-Yugoslavia. Juveniles from Switzerland reported the highest percentage of respondents who committed a violent offence. It is twice higher than their Ex-Yugoslavian peers. Similar results are with property offences. Swiss juveniles reported one of the highest prevalences of these perpetrations, four times higher than in all Ex-Yugoslavian countries.

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#### Notes

1. See the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and the Operations of the Criminal Justice Systems (CTS) at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/United-Nations-Surveys-on-Crime-Trends-and-the-Operations-of-Criminal-Justice-Systems.html>
2. For an overview of the methodological issues related to the self-report method, see Junger-Tas and Marshall (1999).
3. <http://www.espad.org/espad-reports>.
4. Although the bulk of the ISRD-2 countries is European, it is important to keep in mind that there are also countries from the American continent involved: Canada, USA, Venezuela, Aruba, Netherlands Antilles, and Suriname.
5. The complete questionnaire may be found at our website <http://webapp5.rz.uni-hamburg.de/ISRD/JDEB>
6. In the original English version ("Did you ever snatch a purse, bag or something else from a person?") this is a violent offence. Sometimes it was interpreted as pickpocketing; however, most researchers interpreted this offence as violent.
7. An exception is Aruba: Although Oranjestad has less than 100,000 inhabitants it is included because it is the capital city.

