

Crime prevention policy	
EU- priority	Organized Property Crime
Country	GREECE
Years	2016 - 2017

1. Overview of the field

Definition of the crime

According to the Article 187 of the Hellenic Penal Code, organized property crime are the following illegal activities:

“Grand larceny” (Article 374, a.k.a. Aggravated Theft),

“Embezzlement” (Article 375),

“Robbery” (Article 380)

Assessment of trends and developments

No specific changes have been occurred in trends of organized property crime area in Greece for years 2016 and 2017. The main ones are still:

1) **THEFTS** (All kind of thefts): Entry with violation of doors, windows, balcony doors and / or other auxiliary areas of the houses and / or business premises (by breaking the lock bolt,) by using various improvised or not tools and equipment (screwdriver, crowbar, passe-partout key, credit cards, flammable gas bottles, etc.), entry from unsecured points and / or pretending employee of a company or trader.

It should be noted that in 2017 three (3) criminal groups, which involved in ATM explosions with the PLOFKRAAK method, were traced.

The selection of target continues to be carried out on the basis of information gathering, through the surveillance of victims, house and shop attendants, neighbors, home assistants, bank employees or other means (Internet social media, newspaper ads and / or internet ads, etc.). Their main purpose of entries is money, jewelery (and other valuables), electronic devices (laptops, tablets, mobile phones, etc.), electrical appliances, travel and / or other documents.

2) **ROBBERY AND VIOLENT THEFTS**: In these groups, the use of violence is frequent and inherent in the criminal activity (it is mainly practiced against victims but also against police officers in the pursuit) and sometimes intense (causing injuries to victims for revealing hidden values and / or money).

In order to counteract the resistance of the victims, the perpetrators use violence (mainly physical) but also weapons, improvised or not (knives, pistols, shotguns, rifles, screwdrivers, other sharp objects).

As far as the selection of target, the majority of the groups were involved in street robberies (pedestrians, drivers, minors and elderly persons), in business shops (Gas Fuel Stations, mini markets, kiosks) and in homes robberies. For the selection of victims, they use a variety of ways (informants, victim surveillance, newspaper advertisements, Internet).

The members of the teams may use the legal structures for their movement (such as leasing of vehicles from rental companies), the sale of stolen goods (pawnshops, metal recycling companies, advertisement sites and other applications on the Internet) and money or stolen goods handling (money transfer companies, courier companies).

Also, the majority of the groups (53%) use standard countermeasures (stolen and / or leased cars, placement of stolen or fake car registration number plates in their own cars,

coverage of car registration number plates, frequent change of vehicles, hood and gloves coverage when committing crimes, ghost numbers for their members' communications, deactivating alarms) and / or stronger capture countermeasures (use of encoded messages & false in their communications, the avoidance of the use of mobile phones, listening of communication channels of police authorities, departure to their country of origin in order to avoid arrest after committing the crimes, burning vehicles used in the commission of the crimes) .

Recent overview of statistics and research

Comparison of number of cases and perpetrators for **organised property crime**:
 Years 2016 & 2017

Figure A: Number of Cases

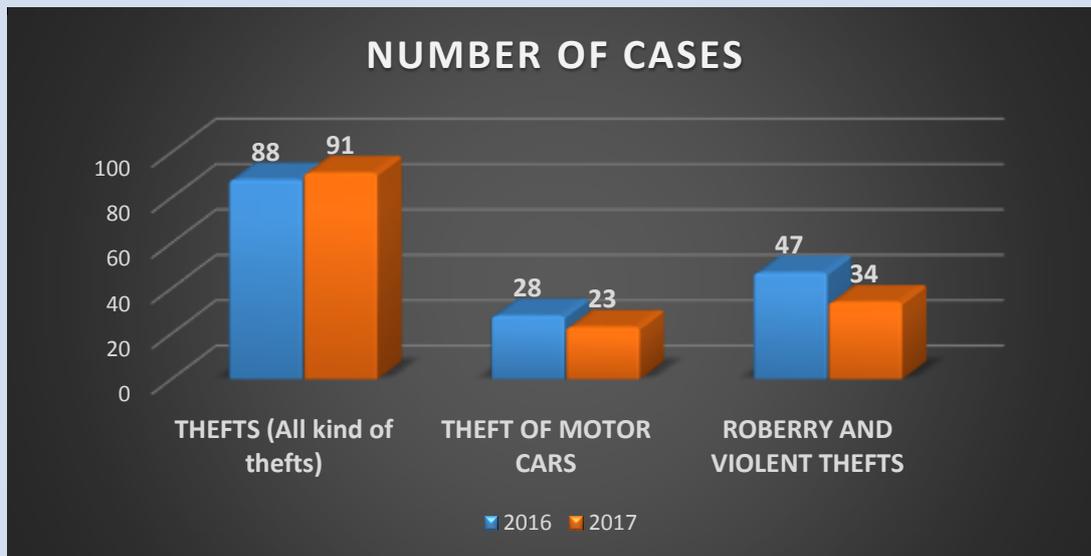
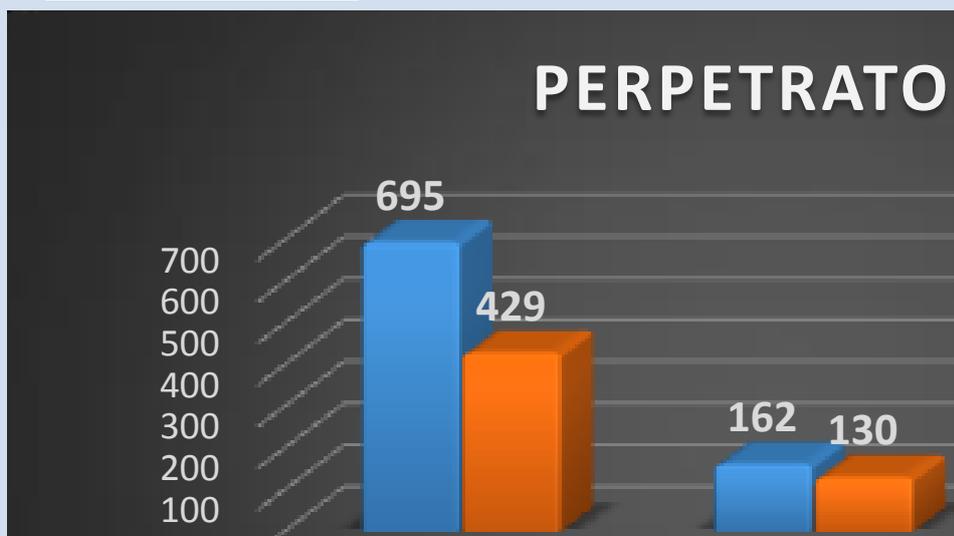


Figure B: Perpetrators



2. Crime strategy and coordination

Objectives of the crime strategy

“Combating serious international and organized crime”,
“Reduction of the number of violent crimes causing the common sense via the reduction of threats and the chance to commit them” and

“Supporting economic growth of the country with constantly keeping internal security at the highest possible level”

are Priorities of the Hellenic Anti-crime Policy Programme for the years 2015-2019.

Applied actions for the achievement of priorities and objectives set by the Anti-crime Policy Programme are estimated with the use of quantitative indicators that can count some of their results as well as qualitative indicators based on a deep research of the security environment and mainly related to the elimination of these factors and conditions that promote criminal activities. Based on predetermined indicators, Hellenic Police Directorates are asked to set on an annual basis (in the beginning of each year) certain objectives regarding crime reduction and their detection as well as actions which will reinforce the feeling of security.

➤ Quantitative objectives for crime reduction.

Since factors that lead to criminal activities vary, it is not considered appropriate to set national objectives for a quantitative reduction of crimes but each regional Hellenic Police Directorate sets its own goals for crime reduction and regarding certain regions that fall under its jurisdiction where higher frequency of crimes is observed and thus, targeted actions of preventive policing are required (e.g. a 10% reduction of burglaries in tourist infrastructure at the seaside touristic zone of each Prefecture).

Directorates with nation-wide jurisdiction are asked to set specific objectives at national level.

Therefore, they aim at reducing crimes which:

- are observed at a certain region,
- are committed by the same offenders or by offenders having a common criminal profile,
- cause serious damage to the victims,
- intensify the citizens' feeling of insecurity
- are discussed in the local or nationwide press for a long period of time,
- have cross-border dimensions.

➤ Objectives set in order to detect crimes at the region of each Directorate.

Beyond the constant effort to detect former serious crimes, each Hellenic Police Directorate has to set priorities for crime detection committed at the region that falls under its jurisdiction. In other words, it should be reported for which specific crimes

committed under the scope of each Directorate's responsibility, both detection and arrest of culprits should be set as priority (without setting any particular quantitative objectives). This kind of evaluation should be done according to qualitative criteria regarding:

- both hazard and threat caused by culprits that have not been arrested,
- any particular features of the victims,
- the damage caused to the victims,
- their (negative) impact on the local society.

An objective can be also set in order for a particular criminal activity to be detected that was committed at the region that falls under the jurisdiction of a certain Hellenic Police Directorate and offended public opinion.

➤ **Quantitative objectives for the consolidation of the feeling of security.**

Recognizing that a quantitative reduction of crimes does not probably result to the elimination of crime factors and the alleviation of the feeling of insecurity, the Hellenic Police Directorates are asked to describe certain quantitative objectives regarding the elimination of particular criminal conditions regarding certain areas where delinquency problems exist. In this context, not only police activities are defined but also cooperation actions are carried-out with bodies that can contribute to make these areas more attractive, to help citizens and make interventions or take initiatives so as to eliminate any adverse conditions that may lead to delinquency and insecurity.

Role of prevention in the crime strategy on state/regional/local level

A) In regard to the Priority "Reduction of the number of violent crimes causing the common sense via the reduction of threats and the chance to commit them", prevention has been set as a goal including the "Integration of measures of prevention against victimization in everyday life". Some of the implementing actions for achieving prevention are the following:

- Mapping of criminal areas, description of the type of crime and focused police actions.
- Full implementation of technological means.
- Operation of the ad hoc group of the Hellenic Police-Greek federation of Bank Employee Unions and European Banking Committee in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the security measures taken in the sector credit institutions and the need to improve them.
- Cooperation with the persons in charge of the Credit Institutions and other targets of financial interest to make full use of the technical means for protection- prevention.
- Formation of joint inspection teams in chosen spots.

- Advice concerning the prevention against victimization and the reduction of vulnerability on the site of Hellenic Police Force and meetings with social groups representatives - Utilization of the Press.
- Development and upgrade of special plans for protection- prevention of escapes from Police Services buildings, transmission buildings, hospitals and prisons.
- Creation of a network to care for the compilation and utilization of informative material in order to prevent escapes and other criminal offenses within the prisons.

B) In regard to the Priority “Supporting economic growth of the country with constantly keeping internal security at the highest possible level”, the following prevention goals have been set:

- Prevention – Law enforcement of small-scale crime. Development of obviously preventive policing on a neighborhood level.
- Improvement of security in the tourist areas.
- Reduction of the chances to commit a crime at the arrival ports of cruise ships and around archaeological sites.
- Improvement of the security feeling in areas with young tourists.
- Reduction of the chances to commit a crime via means of public transport.

Some of the implementing actions for achieving prevention goals are the following:

- Designed development of daily “on foot” patrols, focused on the problems of every area.
- Implementation of “on foot” patrols even in the field of information compilation, after the establishment of a good communication and frequent contacts with the citizens of the area.
- Designed development of mobile patrols and their realization on a 24 hour basis.
- Creation of groups of motorcycle policing.
- Creation of synergies of police controls and campaigns.
- Taking initiatives and cooperating for a common action of the Hellenic Police force and other services - Authorities, to combat local problems of common interest.
- Strengthening the institution of the “officer of the neighborhood”.
- Training- retraining of the police “officers of the neighborhood” and their commanding officers.
- Performing vulnerability studies of archaeological sites.
- Strengthening of the airport Services and of the tourist areas of the Country with more officers during the summer months.
- Formation of units of undercover officers to prevent and suppress the pickpocketing.
- Intensification of the Hellenic Police Force presence in stations and means of public transport.

Implementation of the policy (which level is responsible for the implementation and how is the implementation coordinated?)

The implementation of the Criminal Policy Programme is depended on all administrative

levels (Higher ranks of Chain of command, central divisions-competent for strategic planning and regional directorates-competent for operational planning) of the Hellenic Police which take action in order to support it. A main parameter for achieving both priorities and objectives is a basic evaluation of the programme – with a critical point of view- which leads to the re-evaluation and improvement of specific plans and implemented actions.

➤ Evaluation meetings at the Hellenic Police Headquarters

Evaluating procedures of the actions applied and their results take place on a 6 month basis and in particular at the beginning of July and January. In other words, specific plans and the way they are being implemented are evaluated for the 1st semester and a period of 12th months from their implementation throughout a calendar year. Specifically:

- During the 2nd 10-day period of the months July and January, there is a meeting of the Higher ranks of Chain of command and the General Police Colonels of the Attica and Thessaloniki (largest cities) Hellenic Police Directorates as well as the General Police Colonels of the Regional Directorates. The main topic of the meeting is the programme's implementation procedure while suggestions are submitted and directions are given in order to improve the programme's implementation procedure. Furthermore, General Regional Police Colonels participate in teleconferences in order to offer any relevant data regarding the objectives set, every three months.
- During the meeting that takes place in January, Regional Police Colonels take part in order to submit their suggestions in the context of an annual report of the programme implemented.

In the context of the evaluation procedure, the Higher ranks of Chain of command, following a review on the implementation procedure and a research done regarding new suggestions on plans, decide on the budget that is given to each Hellenic Police General Directorate, each Hellenic Police Regional Directorate as well as to the Directorates with nation-wide jurisdiction.

➤ Divisions of the Hellenic Police Headquarters competent for strategic planning – setting of priorities

Central Divisions of the Hellenic Police Headquarters have many responsibilities in order to achieve a successful implementation of the 5-year programme since the initial action framework regarding priorities and objectives is defined by them. Through the present action framework, suggestions are submitted towards the Government Officials (Police Force's Supervisors) and the Higher ranks of Chain of command of the Hellenic Police in order to make strategic-institutional changes. In this context, the following are determined:

- For each priority included in the Criminal Policy Programme, a requesting Division belonging to a certain Branch of the Headquarters, is responsible for watching, evaluating, informing and submitting suggestions to the Headquarters regarding the objectives set for a particular priority. More than one requesting Division can be appointed as far as certain priorities are concerned.
- Hellenic Police Headquarters forms a Special Inspection Team that is responsible to check both quantitative and qualitative data. This particular team consists of specialized Police Officers having studied on both analysis and statistics and having a good knowledge of re-planning operational procedures. The aforementioned team submits 6-month reports to the Higher ranks of Chain of command which is used within the framework of evaluating the programme's implementation procedure at central, regional and local level.
- Headquarters' Central Divisions support and contribute to the work done by the Inspection Team providing full information on the issues that fall under their jurisdiction.

- Headquarters' Central Divisions give emphasis on supporting the implementation of the 2nd Pillar of the Criminal Policy Programme (encouraging the joint formulation and production of Criminal Policy) by writing down all bodies that can take part in and form permanent cooperation networks in order to achieve a better management of the various crime forms. In the context of a successful cooperation, they are asked to evaluate the existing institutional framework and make suggestions for improving cooperation.
- The Headquarters' Central Divisions provide detailed directions to Hellenic Police Regional Directorates as far as the implementation of the objectives and the whole review of the Programme is concerned, ensuring thus, that it is made clear by all administrative levels. There is a daily support so as any problems emerging during the implementation phase to be solved immediately. To facilitate the programme's review, they draw up, after cooperating with one another, and send a relevant layout to all Regional Directorates.
- Any order issued by a Headquarters' Central Division related to the priorities of the programme are examined and notified to the five Branches' Generals of the Headquarters for reasons of ensuring a common guideline. It should be noted that any order that repeats the objectives and actions of the Programme is avoided. Moreover, any orders that lead to amendments-deviations from both priorities and objectives should be approved a priori by the Higher ranks of Chain of command.
- Specific operational plans drawn up by the Hellenic Police Directorates are assessed by the Specific Inspection Team per semester (before every regular meeting between Higher ranks of Chain of command and the General Police Colonels) in order to find any omissions, weaknesses as well as points to be improved. Furthermore, during December of each year, an Order is issued by the

Headquarters including basic points of improvement of the specific plans that are readapted and renewed at an annual basis (during January).

- Hellenic Police Regional General Police Colonels - competent for planning and implementation of objectives and actions development.

Regional General Police Colonels support the Criminal Policy Programme suggesting at the same time to the Hellenic Police Directorates the way all objectives set are implemented at an operational level. In this context:

- They observe the way objectives are being implemented and assess all specific operational plans drawn by the Hellenic Police Directorates submitting to competent Headquarters Central Divisions assessment reports which are focused on the existing problems and suggesting ways of improvement and amendment of planning procedures as well as of the supportive actions that should be implemented by the Headquarters. The aforementioned reports refer to the development of quantitative and qualitative indices included in the Programme. Assessment reports of both the 1st and 2nd semester are sent during the first 10 days of the months July and January respectively.
- They meet once a month with the Regional Hellenic Police Colonels. During these meetings they analyze how the objectives' implementation procedure is taking place and they also highlight all problems occurring during the implementation of all measures taken. Finally, they decide on the solutions and changes needed to be done during planning.
- At the beginning of each year, they meet with the Hellenic Police Colonels of the Regions that fall under their jurisdiction in order to assess the criminal environment of their region, redefine/ classify local crime-related problems and decide for which of them, the Hellenic Police Divisions should issue Specific Operational Plans. All new plans, after being approved by the General Hellenic Police Colonels, are submitted to the General Hellenic Police Inspectors, the HQ Branches' Generals and all competent Headquarters Divisions by the end of January of each year.
- Within the same time period, all quantitative and qualitative assessment indices measuring the efficiency of police actions are approved and submitted to competent Directorates. The aforementioned indices are typically relevant to the problems included in the Specific Operational Plans.
- By January 10th of each year, they submit a report regarding planning procedure applied by their subordinate Hellenic Police Directorates. The aforementioned report includes their suggestion for a new classification of the local crime-related problems observed at the Prefectures that fall under their jurisdiction (brief description of each problem).
- In the context of their meetings with the Higher ranks of Chain of command, they

present both the progress and assessment of the specific operational plans and make suggestions for solutions and successful practices according to planning implementation.

- In the context of the 3-month teleconferences with the Higher ranks of Chain of command, they present data related to the progress and assessment of the specific operational plans implemented at the region that fall under their jurisdiction.
 - At the beginning of September, both General Hellenic Police Colonels and the Heads of Directorates with nation-wide jurisdiction submit to the Higher ranks of Chain of command an annual budget report (necessary resources and means) following these actions that plan to implement the following year.
- Hellenic Police Directorates: competent for operational planning and development of actions.

Hellenic Police Directorates plan and implement all actions that are directly connected with the secondary objectives included in the priorities set by the Programme. These actions are adjusted to the particularities of factors and conditions that are related to criminality of their region. In this context:

- They renew the operational plans on an annual basis, redefining and classifying local crime-related problems in cooperation with the General Police Region Colonels to whom they are submitted for approval.
- They cooperate with local social institutions that can have a say in criminal policy and contribute to the achievement of the Programme's objectives (such as Prefectures' and Municipalities' Authorities, Universities, welfare services, citizens' unions, the Orthodox Church, educational institutions, professional associations etc.). Before the reassessment of the problems and the plans' preparations, opinions of the aforementioned institutions are requested.
- Each semester, they submit a detailed report on the progress regarding plans' implementation to the relevant Hellenic Police General Directorates (of Athens and Thessaloniki) and the Hellenic Police General Regional Directorates (nationwide) in order for the General Police Colonels to carry out an overall assessment report.
- Every 15 days, they carry out meetings with the Commanding Officers of the Police Departments of their regions during which the implemented planning regarding objectives' implementation is analyzed and arising problems during the implementation of the measures are pointed out. Finally, decisions are made in order to find solutions and changes to be done regarding planning.
- They make the initial determination and the constant attendance of both quantitative and qualitative assessment indices regarding actions' effectiveness which is relevant to those problems included in the Specific Operational Plans.
- In the context of regular meetings with the General Police Colonels and the Higher ranks of Chain of command, they present both the progress and the assessment of the

implemented specific operational plans and based on their experience, they suggest solutions and best practice.

- Hellenic Police Subdivisions and Departments: competent for development of actions.

In the context of their responsibilities, both Hellenic Police Subdivisions and Departments implement the Special Operational Plans through actions based on priorities set by the Programme. The Commanding Officers of the aforementioned services are communicating the Programme's directions to the Police Staff and of inspiring all employees in order to contribute to the maximum to the accomplishment of operational actions, objectives and priorities and finally of the main strategic objective. In this context:

- The Commanding Officers of Subdivisions and Departments study the present plan of the Programme and present it to the staff in order to inform and explain the programme to all employees so as to be implemented on a daily basis in the context of police tasks.
- At least once a week, meetings with all staff takes place at each Subdivision and Department during which all secondary actions implemented for achieving the Programme's objectives are analyzed and assessed. All opinions and assessments submitted by the staff regarding actions' effectiveness are recorded as well as all suggestions made in order to decrease crime phenomena in the region that fall under their jurisdiction.
- The Commanding Officers of both Criminal Investigation and General Policing Services that have the same or common geographic responsibilities meet together at least once a week in order to examine crime phenomena in their regions, coordinate their actions and ensure a joint policing strategy.
- In cooperation with Police Divisions, they take the initiative, upon written invitation to the Municipalities' Authorities, to establish "Local Councils for the Prevention of Delinquency".

Stakeholders (working groups, specialised agencies, partners, etc)

- - At a strategic level the Public Security Division of the Hellenic Police HQ is competent for planning-evaluating security measures concerning facilities of the banking sector (A.T.M. included) and promoting relevant legal provision. In this sense, a working group with representatives of the Hellenic Banks' Association and Bank Employees Union has been established. At least 2 official meetings per year take place at a central level. During these meetings security measures concerning

facilities of the banking sector, are evaluated.

- There is also cooperation with the Locksmiths' Union. Meetings with their representatives take place.

- In order to combat theft and trafficking of metal objects, under initiative of Hellenic Police, an Action Plan is enforced at a national level. In the framework of this Plan, Operational Action is carried out, at least once a year, with full-scale checks/inspections in metal recycling facilities and vehicles that carry metal objects with the participation of all competent Services-Authorities (Hellenic Police, Hellenic Fire Corpse, Environmental Inspectorate, Labour Inspectorate, Tax Authorities, Construction Planning Inspectorate of Municipal or Regional Authorities, Hellenic Coast-Guard, Customs Authorities, Economical Crimes Enforcement Agency). Although the operational action is mainly focused on spotting and identifying metal objects, in the framework of a multidisciplinary approach of metal-theft crimes, all competent Services-Authorities conduct checks within their line of competence. During the implementation of the National Operational Action Plan, there is very good cooperation with all competent Authorities.

- At the operational level, Property Crime Investigation Departments have been established in Security Directorates of Athens (capital) and Thessaloniki (second largest city).

Participation in European/ international networks, working groups, etc.

Hellenic Police is participating in;

- the E.U. CARPOL Working Group (combating vehicle crime),
- the CARPOL' s Joint Operational Actions for combatting vehicle crime,
- the E.U. combating metal theft Working Group' s Joint Operational Actions,
- EUROPOL' s Analysis Projects for Organized Property Crime and Eastern Europe Organized Crime and their initiatives,
- Southeast Law Enforcement Center' s "Stolen vehicles task-force",
- Southeast Law Enforcement Center' s Joint Operational Actions for combatting

vehicle crime,

- Interpol' s "Millenium" project,
- E.U. EMPACT' s Organized Property Crime Priority.

3. Good practices

Overview of recent good practices, prevention programs, etc.

- On the official site of Hellenic Police have been posted preventive directions to the public to avoid victimization concerning almost all types of property crime.

- Multidimensional prevention-public awareness campaign was initiated the previous years concerning house burglaries and thefts in a tricky manner against the elderly. Guideline-preventive direction leaflets were issued by the Police and there was a nationwide presentation campaign including public presentations by Police Officers to the elderly and the rest of the public in all regions of the Country. The leaflets were presented to the media, as well. They are also posted in the Police Force' s official website.

- In addition, the Police Force has initiated social networks' accounts (FACEBOOK and TWITTER), to which links of the directions and leaflets are posted.

- At an operational level, when it comes to pick-pocketing at public transport means and crowded public places, there is undercover Police Action with focus on perpetrators. Undercover Policing focuses on known offenders-current suspects. Photos of offenders-suspects are used by officers operating for spotting/targeting possible perpetrators. In addition surveillance cameras in railway stations are monitored for spotting possible perpetrators. Also there is focus on the environment. Special police attention is paid on public events and sites that may attract pick-pocketing perpetrators.