

Crime prevention policy	
EU- priority	Organised Property Crime
Country	Hungary
Year	2018

1. Overview of the field

Definition of the crime

Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code

CHAPTER XXXV

VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

Robbery *Section 365*

Plundering *Section 366*

Extortion *Section 367*

Private Justice *Section 368*

CHAPTER XXXVI

OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY

Theft *Section 370*

Vandalism *Section 371*

Embezzlement *Section 372*

Fraud *Section 373*

Economic Fraud *Section 374*

Information System Fraud *Section 375*

Misappropriation of Funds *Section 376*

Defalcation *Section 377*

Unlawful Appropriation *Section 378*

Dealing in Stolen Goods *Section 379*

Larceny of Motor Vehicle *Section 380*

Usury *Section 381*

Definition: Property crime is among the crimes that has been sanctioned since the old ages and it's represented highest (nearly 60%) in the Hungarian overall crime rate. The base of the current legislation is the Act V of 1878 on the Criminal Code.

In regard of property crime the offended legal interests are typically proprietary rights and the connected rights such as beneficial use and lawful interest.

Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code can be found under the following link:

http://thb.kormany.hu/download/a/46/11000/Btk_EN.pdf

Assessment of trends and developments

Both violent crimes and offenses against property are showing a decreasing trend.

Recent overview of statistics and research

The amount of property crimes registered in police procedures between 2012 and 2017 in Hungary.	2013.	2014.	2015.	2016.	2017.
Violent crimes against property					
Robbery	2 294	1 952	1 440	1 133	853
Plundering	2 012	1 932	1 923	1 769	1 533
Extortion	639	528	385	331	249
Private Justice	595	546	498	401	345
Offenses against property					
Theft	167 487	141 424	111 326	92 072	78 225
Vandalism	9 189	8 414	7 276	6 873	6 459
Embezzlement	4 257	4 508	2 677	2 532	2 366
Fraud	36 837	33 011	31 571	43 228	22 086
Economic Fraud	0	1	0	1	2
Misappropriation of Funds	68	85	82	71	33
Defalcation	6	7	2	2	3
Unlawful Appropriation	1 080	1 331	1 615	1 590	1 664
Dealing in Stolen Goods	796	762	708	429	380
Larceny of Motor Vehicle	1 054	1 112	982	949	962
Usury	320	125	87	40	44
In total:	358 807	309 394	267 628	278 263	215 713

2. Crime strategy and coordination

Objectives of the crime strategy

The current national strategy of social prevention of crime drawn up by the National Crime Prevention Council came into force on 18 October 2013 by Government Resolution No 1744/2013 on the National Crime Prevention Strategy (2013-2023).

The Strategy sets out the necessary legislative, organisational development and training tasks for ten years as well as public awareness programmes and the possibilities of promoting societal actions in the area of crime prevention. The priorities, measures and areas of intervention specified in the Strategy are designed to help achieving the objectives of criminal policy, reducing the vulnerability of children and youth, reducing victimisation and avoiding repetition of offences. The strategy has a clear view of actions to be taken; it contains a detailed action plan which is renewed every second year. Its aim is to be clear and acceptable for experts working in the field of crime prevention as well as for partners and citizens.

Priorities of the Strategy:

- Urban security and property safety

- Protection of minors and children
- Assistance to victims of crimes and prevention of victimisation
- Prevention of repeated offences

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

To improve the general well-being of the Hungarian citizens it is essential to enable the conditions of public safety which can only be achieved with social cohesion. Successful crime prevention means that stakeholders (public organizations, municipalities, NGOs, churches, economic operators, families and citizens themselves) do everything within their power to prevent victimisation and recidivism and to reduce the possibilities for someone to become an offender. It is important to apply local solutions for local problems and to facilitate discussion between local stakeholders in order to strengthen the effect of their preventive activities.

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

The National Crime Prevention Council of Hungary was established on 13 April 2011 by Government Decree 1087/2011 in order to create a high level of public safety, combat crime and take steps to combat offenders and the factors leading to crime.

The Council has an operative body, the Secretariat which is a department within the Ministry of Interior. The Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy and the current Action plan.

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

Government Decree 1087/2011

Members of the National Crime Prevention Council and the appointment of the members

- a) The Council consists of no more than 23 members, who are representatives of different organisations.
- b) The president of the Council is appointed by the prime minister.
- c) The co-presidents are the minister responsible for the coordination of police forces and the minister responsible for the coordination of the governmental activities.
- d) The followings can delegate one member each:
 - da) the state secretary responsible for the judicial relations,
 - db) the state secretary responsible for public education,
 - dc) the state secretary responsible for youth and family affairs,
 - dd) the state secretary responsible for labour market and training,
 - de) the state secretary responsible for the police,

- df) the state secretary responsible for municipalities,
- dg) the commander of the prison service,
- dh) deputy state secretary responsible for the management of judicial methods,
- di) the Police Superintendent,
- dj) the state secretary responsible for infrastructure,
- dk) the minister responsible for agricultural policy,
- dl) the minister responsible for construction.
- e) The Government invites:
 - ea) the president of the Association of the Hungarian Municipalities,
 - eb) the president of the Association of Cities with County Rights,
 - ec) the president of the Association of Departmental Councils,
 - ed) the president of the Civilian Police,
 - ee) the president of the White Ring Public Benefit Association,
 - ef) the president of the National Roma Self-Government,
 - eg) the president of the National Media and Info communications Authority,
 - eh) the president of the National Association of Local Authoritiesto delegate a member to the Council.

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

3. Good practices

Overview of recent good practices, prevention programs, etc.

„We deliver safety” – property protection program

In September 2015 the Crime Prevention Unit of the National Police Headquarters started a program for enhancing the subjective sense of security of the public called „We deliver safety” property protection program. Its main aim is to help people to avoid emergency situations and to improve their decision-making skill in property protection.

The financial resources of the Program were provided by the National Crime Prevention Council and the National Police Headquarters. Aegon insurance company also supported the activities with promotion materials, brochures and videos.

Due to the prevention activities and the increased presence of the police in public spaces the number of thefts has decreased nationwide in the past years, while the effectiveness of the investigations has increased. As a result of the Program we experience that the population is more conscious and aware of the risks, people use better security technologies to protect their valuables. They take the advice of the police about the prevention techniques that cost

nothing but can help to prevent infringements.

In order to achieve the goals laid down in the Program the regional police forces have implemented the following activities under the direction of the Crime Prevention Unit of the National Police Headquarters;

- on their area of competence they have examined the current criminal situation and three towns/districts were selected based on the crime statistics where the presence of the police was reasonable;
- the programs were held monthly at three locations at different times for five days;
- the citizens were informed continuously about the place of the so called “information points” and about its services.

In 2016 there was a national contest taking place about property protection. One primary school student (5th - 8th grade), one parent and one grandparent could apply in one team. All together 525 people in 175 teams participated in the contest. The final competition took place in the building of the National Police Headquarters.



“BikeSafe” bicycle registration program”

In Hungary large part of the stolen bicycles are unidentified. Generally the owners do not have a warrant of the bikes and cannot provide usable photos of them that could help the investigating authorities after they got stolen. BikeSafe bicycle registration program was launched in 2013 in order to solve this problem. At the moment around 20 000 bikes are registered in the system. Until 2016 only online registration was possible (www.bikesafe.hu) but in March 2016 BikeSafe bicycle registration program was integrated in the “We deliver safety” project. Thanks to this integration there is an opportunity for bike owners to register their bicycles at the information points, in bicycle stores and at all the police headquarters where the crime prevention units register the bikes in the database for free. All together 6 894 bicycles have been registered so far for free.

The citizens’ feedback on the program was very positive. Some people heard about property protection at the information points for the first time and their willingness to report the cases

or press charges against someone have risen. There have been 4 248 appearances and around 70 000 people have been reached with our prevention program so far.



Source: <http://www.police.hu/hu/hirek-es-informaciok/bunmegelozes/a-rendorsegi-bunmegelozes/folytatodik-a-hazhoz-megyunk>



Source: <http://www.police.hu/hu/hirek-es-informaciok/bunmegelozes/a-rendorsegi-bunmegelozes/folytatodik-a-hazhoz-megyunk>

Since 2017 there is also general prevention information services provided beside the property protection topic such as:

- victim support
- domestic violence