1. Overview of the field

Definition of the crime

Property crime is a criminal offense that threatens the property of individuals and legal entities and their property interests. Section XVIII "Offenses against Property" of the Criminal Law of Latvia includes various types of property crime:

- **Theft** (concealed or overt stealing of the movable property of another)
- **Robbery** (stealing of movable property of another related to violence or threatened violence)
- **Fraud** (acquiring property of another, or of rights to such property, by the use, in bad faith, of trust, or by deceit)
- **Fraud in an Automated Data Processing System** (knowingly entering of false data into an automated data processing system for the acquisition of the property of another person or the rights to such property, or the acquisition of other material benefits, in order to influence the operation of the resources thereof (computer fraud))
- **Insurance Fraud** (intentional destruction, damage or concealment of the property of himself or herself for the purpose of receiving insurance compensation)
- **Misappropriation** (unlawful acquiring or wasting property of another, if it has been committed by a person to whom such property been entrusted or in whose charge it has been placed)
- **Theft, Fraud, Misappropriation on a Small Scale**
- **Repeated Theft, Fraud, Misappropriation**
- **Arbitrary Consumption of Electricity, Thermal Energy and Gas, Arbitrary Utilisation of Electronic Communications Services** (arbitrary consumption of electricity, thermal energy or gas services or arbitrary utilisation of electronic communications services)
- **Illegal Acts with the Commercial Accounting of Consumed Electricity, Thermal Energy and Gas** (interference with the operation of an electricity, thermal energy or gas meter for commercial accounting of electricity, thermal energy or gas or the distortion thereof or making, adaptation, distribution or installation of equipment, devices or software, if such acts provide persons with the possibility to arbitrarily consume electricity, thermal energy or gas)
- **Extortion** (demanding without legal basis therefor the surrender of property or rights to property, or the performing of any acts of a financial nature, therewith threatening violence against, or disclosure of defamatory information concerning, the victim or relatives of the victim, or to destroy their property or cause them other substantial harm)
- **Extortion by an Organised Group** (establishing an organised group or participating in such for the purpose of extortion)
- **Intentional Destruction of and Damage to Property** (intentional destruction of or damage to property of another)
- **Negligent Destruction of and Damage to Property** (destruction of or damage to the
property of another through negligence, by careless handling of fire or in any other generally dangerous way)

- Intentional Destruction and Damaging of Electrical Network, Public Electronic Communications Network, Heating Network, Gas, Oil and Oil Product Pipelines (intentional destruction of or damage to an electrical network, public electronic communications network, heating network or gas, oil and oil product pipelines or installations)
- Negligent Destruction of and Damage to Natural Gas and Oil Pipelines (destruction of or damage to natural gas, oil or oil product pipelines or their installations through negligence)
- Irresponsible and Careless Guarding of Property (being a person who has been entrusted with the guarding of property, commits performing his or her duties irresponsibly and carelessly, if such conduct has been the cause of stealing, destruction or damage of such property on a large scale and if it is not the criminal offence of a public official or of a responsible employee of an undertaking (company) or organisation)

Organised Property Crime is a crime that is committed in organised group as a business. An organised group is an association formed by more than two persons which has been created for the purpose of jointly committing one or several crimes and the participants of which in accordance with previous agreement have divided responsibilities.

### Assessment of trends and developments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major offence groups by their size</th>
<th>Offences with the highest degree of latency</th>
<th>Offences with the most repeatability (same person suffers)</th>
<th>Specific current issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Theft from a commercial object</td>
<td>Fraud (63 % are not reported)</td>
<td>Theft from home (31 % repeatability)</td>
<td>Theft of agricultural machinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Damage to the property</td>
<td>Pick-pocketing (61 % are not reported)</td>
<td>Fraud (33 % repeatability)</td>
<td>Thefts of keyless go cars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Thefts from private homes and their territories</td>
<td>Damage to the property (41 % are not reported)</td>
<td>Damage to the property (35 % repeatability)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Thefts from apartments</td>
<td>Bicycle theft (28 % are not reported)</td>
<td>Robbery (28 % repeatability)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Thefts from cars and trucks</td>
<td>Theft from the vehicle (26 % are not reported)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Bicycle thefts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Organised Property Crime trends that are considered to be topicality are thefts of keyless go cars, agricultural machinery and equipment, thefts from agricultural machinery (for example, navigation systems) and fraud committed against persons who wish to purchase tractor machinery through advertisements through the transfer of advance payments, but do not receive the product.

Organised property crime (in particular thefts of agricultural machinery and equipment and thefts of premium class cars) in most cases are done by residents of foreign countries (for example Lithuania) therefor an enhanced border zone control is being carried out.
### Recent overview of statistics and research

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>1 441</td>
<td>1 516</td>
<td>1 072</td>
<td>1 061</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>917</td>
<td>809</td>
<td>779</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft (except theft in small amounts)</td>
<td>19 182</td>
<td>19 696</td>
<td>17 411</td>
<td>17 078</td>
<td>14 276</td>
<td>12 860</td>
<td>11 777</td>
<td>10 247</td>
<td>9 652</td>
<td>8 869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- theft from cars and trucks</td>
<td>4 171</td>
<td>4 346</td>
<td>3 631</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1 360</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- theft from residential premises</td>
<td>3 538</td>
<td>4 133</td>
<td>4 194</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3 512</td>
<td>2 851</td>
<td>2 333</td>
<td>2 112</td>
<td>2 126</td>
<td>1 795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- theft of cars and trucks</td>
<td>1 868</td>
<td>1 825</td>
<td>1 251</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>1 065</td>
<td>1 199</td>
<td>1 014</td>
<td>1 127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud</td>
<td>1 815</td>
<td>1 470</td>
<td>1 521</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1 816</td>
<td>1 793</td>
<td>1 731</td>
<td>1 809</td>
<td>1 698</td>
<td>1 382</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### 2. Crime strategy and coordination

#### Objectives of the crime strategy

Objective of “Crime Prevention Strategy” of State Police of Latvia is to lower the crime rates by four strategic ways - solving local problems, improvement of police work with primary target groups, systematic information and education on security issues and increasing the effectiveness of the State Police prevention system.

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

Prevention of the State Police of Latvia is implemented at several levels. At the central level, there is Crime prevention unit that is responsible for implementing national-level analytical work, programs and interventions, developing and coordinating actions for regional and local-level tasks.

The structure of the State Police of Latvia is divided into 5 regions. There are 5 units responsible for regional interventions and solving problems that are relevant only to a particular region and coordinating local police station work at regional level.

At local level, there are 40 police stations and each police station is responsible for local prevention tasks.

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

As described in previous question.
Stakeholders (working groups, specialized agencies, partners, etc)
Municipal police, according to their competence - other state administration institutions, Latvian and foreign law enforcement and security authorities, insurance agencies

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

3. Good practices

Overview of recent good practices, prevention programs, etc.

Solving local problems

1. Prevention plans
State Police of Latvia is implementing community-based police work by introducing a prevention plan at each police station. Each police station introduces a prevention plan and implements the tasks for achieving the strategic goals.
The aim of prevention plans is to:
1) perform effective response to the main trends of delinquency trends (crime and administrative offenses) in the territory of each police station. Preventive activities in territories with a higher crime risk are aimed at the prevention of specific phenomena.
2) identify security threats in a timely manner – identify the owners of the risk objects and persons from the risk groups, creating cooperation and the communication chain, so that, if necessary, both the preventive alert function and the possibility to receive risk information can be provided;
3) develop support – not only the involvement of local governments and state administrations in drafting security problems, but also the involvement of the population in solving their current security problems.

If identified problem is property crime, the responsible employees implement the necessary interventions. For example some of possible interventions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thefts from dwellings:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Re-inspection of objects;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification and assessment of risk objects using special material;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thefts from vehicles:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrolling and assessment of the territories during the day in certain residential areas and car safety assessment;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control the places where these objects could be sold;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement apartment complex areas (specific streets) on the patrol route;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle thefts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluate staircases in risk areas and check whether there are bicycles stored in them;
Carry out a bike safety assessment on the patrolling route;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify the most up-to-date 3-5 security problems for the residents;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish an information exchange chain for different target audiences to implement the preventive warning function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address the priority 3-5 problems by evaluating the available support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify and note the NGO’s, local community leaders, administrative organizations and merchants in the area. Create contact and understand the readiness to cooperate with the State Police of Latvia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involve the identified partners in solving priority security issues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prevention plans have been implemented in State Police of Latvia starting 2017 and first assessment of results is planned in 2018. However, by establish an information exchange chain for farmers in WhatsApp application to implement the preventive warning function, it was possible to reduce thefts of navigation systems from agricultural machinery in one of the districts.

2. **CPTED (Crime prevention trough environmental design)**

State police of Latvia was a partner in the project managed by Estonian police and Boarder Guard Board - HOME/2012/ISEC/AG/4000004321 „Development of existing urban design, planning and crime prevention methods and introduction of new ones to improve living environment safety (CPTED)“ co-funded by the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Program of the European Union”.

Main aims of the project:
- development of existing CPTED methods in partner countries;
- raise of the professional knowledge of participants on CPTED;
- creation of network to improve cooperation and exchange of best practices;
- preparation of learning materials and specific manual for police officers;
- CPTED topic will be included permanently into teaching program of Academy of Security Sciences (Estonia);
- more active participation of police officers in spatial planning processes.

Several trainings have been organized for State Police officers on the planning of a safe environment and the prevention of crime through the use of spatial planning and architectural elements.

**Improvement of police work with primary target groups**

To identify / investigate the repeatability of victims in property crime and develop an action strategy to reduce this phenomenon State Police of Latvia is managing a project No. JUST/2015/JACC/AG/VICT/9223

1. Preventing repeated victimization through developing individual risk assessment tool and strengthening capacity of relevant professionals. (2017-2019).
2. CPTED is integrated to a tool that helps assess and prevent risk of the repeated victimization in the cases of the property crime. Project is in progress at the moment.

**Systematic information and education on security issues**

| 2014     | Informative booklets on property security issues were developed. Booklets were designed for adults to focus their attention and remind them of elementary security measures. They also include directions on where to go for help. Booklets were made in an easy-to-understand way, using icons and images, avoiding hard-to-understand and solid text. In addition, booklets were |
designed with an informative educational function, both by presenting the reader with the latest, current statistics, and discovering so far unknown, interesting facts. The booklets were intended to be distributed at various events.

Information was provided to various media (on television, radio, Internet, newspaper) both in interviews and in other ways about various topics, including property security and Internet fraud, and how to avoid it.

**2015**

Informative booklets on property security ("Your home security") issues were developed.

In collaboration with the Latvian Library for the Blind there had been developed Braille booklets for visually disabled people on various security topics including property security.

Information was provided to various media (on television, radio, Internet, newspaper) both in interviews and in other ways about various topics, including property security and fraud involving the renting or buying/selling apartments, thefts from housing and property security, theft from the vehicle, bicycle theft, neighborhood security and property security during the holidays, Internet fraud, and how to avoid it.

**2016**

Informative booklets on property security issues were developed – "Your apartment security", "Test - home security", "Car / bike / home". Informative materials are intended for adults to draw their attention and remind them of elementary security measures, as well as give advice on how to improve their own safety.

In its turn, for the first time special informative tests were developed, in which the person can assess the security of their home. The test is developed in a very convenient and easy way and helps a person to identify the main risks and understand on what topics they need to improve their knowledge.

Informative material "Car / bike / home" was developed to be left at unsecure property during the safety assessments.

Information was provided to various media (on television, radio, Internet, newspaper) both in interviews and in other ways about various topics, including property security and pickpocketing, bicycle theft, property security during the holidays.

**2017**

Having identified the necessity, as well as planning the necessary handouts for the tasks of Prevention plans, an informative materials (brochures and leaflets) on the security of dwelling (apartment and private houses) was developed for the use in discussions with the victim on departure to the theft.

Information was provided to various media (on television, radio, Internet, newspaper) both in interviews and in other ways about various topics, including property security and road safety (fraud on the roads), Internet security and fraud cases in the Internet, bicycle theft, home security, theft from vehicles, property security during the holidays.

An organized event for the "Housing Safety Month", informing about the specifics of the theft from the housing was provided. Event "Housing Safety Month" was organized by insurance agency Gjensidige Latvia in cooperation with Latvian rescue services and security sector representatives. Main purpose if event was to raise awareness and understanding of housing security issues in the country, thus reducing the number of accidents and crime in the country related to housing security. A formal memorandum on
the opening of the "Housing Month of Safety" was signed in March to increase awareness of public awareness and education in housing security issues.

**Improving the effectiveness of the State Police prevention system**

State police of Latvia is developing a tactical prevention approach for preventive measures at local level. Once a month an assessment of territory safety is made by evaluating geographical indicators and dynamics of committed crimes to plan crime prevention activities. At the moment aforementioned method as a pilot project is tested in one city in Latvia.