

**SGI** Sustainable  
Governance  
Indicators

# 2014 Safe Living Report

Safe Living Conditions



Indicator **Safe Living Conditions**

Question **How effectively does internal security policy protect citizens against security risks?**

41 OECD and EU countries are sorted according to their performance on a scale from 10 (best) to 1 (lowest). This scale is tied to four qualitative evaluation levels.

- 10-9 = Internal security policy protects citizens against security risks very effectively.
- 8-6 = Internal security policy protects citizens against security risks more or less effectively.
- 5-3 = Internal security policy does not effectively protect citizens against security risks.
- 2-1 = Internal security policy exacerbates the security risks.

### Croatia

**Score 9** In Croatia, crime represents no significant threat to public safety and security. The police are generally effective in maintaining public order and combating crime. The police and prosecutors office collaborate effectively with international organizations and countries in the south east European region, the European Union and internationally. Intelligence services have developed cooperation with their counterparts within NATO and the European Union and act within an integrated security system. Croatia does not face significant terrorist threats. Organized crime affects the country mostly through transnational and regional crime networks involved into drugs, human and arms trafficking.

### Finland

**Score 9** Finland is still among the safest countries in Europe, although its rate of violent crime, homicides in particular, is relatively high. Finnish citizens, according to polls, regard the police as one of the most reliable societal institutions. In 2004, the government established the First Program on Internal Security; this program was modified and expanded in 2007. In June 2012, the government adopted the Third Internal Security Program. Aiming at preventing security problems that affect a citizen's daily life, the program puts an emphasis on measures to prevent social exclusion and social polarization. In all, the program includes 64 measures, each designating a responsible party and a timetable for implementation. The overall implementation will be monitored by the Ministry of the Interior. Additionally, the government has

adopted or is considering national strategies for combating organized crime, the informal economy and terrorism.

Citation:

"Turvallisempi huominen. Sisäisen turvallisuuden ohjelma." [A more secure tomorrow. Programme of Internal Security] 26/2012. Ministry of Interior, Helsinki.

[http://www.intermin.fi/en/development\\_projects/internal\\_security\\_programme](http://www.intermin.fi/en/development_projects/internal_security_programme)

## Japan

### Score 9

Japan enjoys a reputation for a very low crime rate, although it is unclear just how much the effectiveness of internal security policies contributes to this fact. Other social and economic factors are also at work. For major crimes such as homicide or hard-drug abuse, Japan's good reputation is well deserved. Terrorism also poses no major threat today. With respect to lesser offenses, however, particularly in the case of burglaries and robberies, Japan now occupies only a middle rank among OECD countries. Another issue is the existence of organized gangs (so-called yakuza), which have never been eradicated, although incidents in which these groups molest ordinary citizens seem rather rare. The total number of reported crimes has decreased in recent years, to about 1.5 million cases in 2011, but this is still more than in the 1960s and 1970s.

## Latvia

### Score 9

The group of institutions responsible for internal security policy in Latvia (the Ministry of Interior, the State Police, the Security Police, State Fire and Rescue Service, State Border Guard, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs) do not collaborate on policy. Crime rates in 2012 were down by 3% over 2011. There are 2,238.3 crimes per 100,000 inhabitants, the lowest such rate among the Baltic States. The level of terrorism threat did not change in 2011 and has remained low. In 2011, no acts of terrorism or other criminal offenses associated with terrorism were committed in Latvia.

Opinion polls from 2013 show that citizens' trust in the State Police (Valsts policija, VP) has reached 57%, an increase compared to previous years. A total of 63% residents say they feel safe in their home and its surroundings.

In 2011, policemen participated in a robbery of a casino in a small countryside town. This event prompted the minister of the interior to increase the low wages provided to police.

The 2011 State Border Guard report stated that the number of counterfeit documents detected and the number of third countries' individuals illegally

crossing the border had doubled (a much higher rate of increase than that of the neighboring countries). In 2011, 247 third-country nationals were detained, or more than 162% of the 2010 amount (94 individuals). In general, the effectiveness of the State Border Guard has improved, in part due to financial support by EU funds.

In 2011, the Ministry of Interior created a new unit in the State Police to combat cyber crime, and continued efforts to combat human trafficking.

Citation:

1. Research center SKDS (2013), Attitude Toward the State Police, Available at (in Latvian): <http://www.vp.gov.lv/?id=704>, Last assessed: 20.05.2013
2. State Border Guard (2011), Official Report, Available at (in Latvian): [http://www.rs.gov.lv/doc\\_upl//Valsts%20robezsardzes%202011.gada%20publiskais%20parskats.pdf](http://www.rs.gov.lv/doc_upl//Valsts%20robezsardzes%202011.gada%20publiskais%20parskats.pdf), Last assessed: 20.05.2013
3. Ministry of Interior (2011), Public Report, Available at (in Latvian): [http://www.iem.gov.lv/files/text/Gada\\_parskats\\_2011\\_wwwf%281%29.pdf](http://www.iem.gov.lv/files/text/Gada_parskats_2011_wwwf%281%29.pdf), Last assessed: 20.05.2013
4. Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, Information Technology and Communications Department (2013), Crime statistics in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Available at: [http://www.ird.lt/doc/statistika/duomenys\\_bv\\_per\\_2012m\\_%2001-12\\_men.pdf](http://www.ird.lt/doc/statistika/duomenys_bv_per_2012m_%2001-12_men.pdf), Last assessed: 20.05.2013

## New Zealand

### Score 9

New Zealand internal security is the responsibility of the police. The NZSIS (Security Intelligence Service) and the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) provide advisory services. Expenditures for public order and safety are relatively high and growing, as New Zealanders feel crime to be a salient issue. Recent crime statistics show a considerable decline in criminal offences – partly as a result of an ageing society where age groups that statistically commit more crimes are shrinking in number, and partly as a consequence of increased expenditures for police, criminal justice and prison services.

Internal security threats are also addressed through a Combined Threat Assessment Group (CTAG) which involves staff seconded from NZSIS, the New Zealand Police, the New Zealand Defense Force, GCSB, New Zealand Customs Service and Maritime New Zealand. CTAG provides assessments on terrorist or criminal threats aimed to create physical harm to New Zealand citizens or affect New Zealand interests at home or overseas, based on all information sources from the New Zealand government.

Citation:

- New Zealand Police Crime Statistics: <http://www.police.govt.nz/statistics/2012/fiscal> (accessed April 23, 2013).
- New Zealand Security Intelligence Service: <http://www.security.govt.nz/our-work/protection-from-terrorism/> (accessed April 23, 2013).

## Slovenia

### Score 9

Slovenia's accession to the Schengen group in December 2007 has resulted in a substantial professionalization of the Slovenian police force and border control. While the effectiveness of the police force still suffers from occasional underfunding and understaffing, actual and perceived security risks are rather low. According to a recent Eurobarometer, Slovenia is the EU member state with the smallest shares in the population to perceive crime and border security as a threat to national security (European Commission 2011). Compared to other East-Central European countries, trust in the police is relatively high.

Citation:  
European Commission, 2011: Special Eurobarometer 371, Internal Security ([http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_371\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_371_en.pdf))

## South Korea

### Score 9

Police statistics show a small increase in both violent crime and street crimes over the last few years, but the general sense of security remains high. The country has very strong gun control laws, making crimes involving firearms rare. There is no known terrorist activity in South Korea. One major concern that has not yet been effectively addressed is the spread of cyber crime, whose perpetrators take advantage of Korea's excellent broadband infrastructure and lax online security measures. The lax enforcement of traffic laws remains another issue, as Korea continues to have among the OECD's highest numbers of road fatalities relative to the population. Every year 6,800 people die in road traffic accidents in Korea. This is about 14.1 deaths per 100,000 population – the second highest number in the OECD behind Mexico. Generally respect for and trust in the police is low.

Citation:  
OECD, OECD Factbook 2009  
WHO, Global Health Observatory Data Repository, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.51310>

## Switzerland

### Score 9

Switzerland has improved its internal security through its integration into the European Schengen/Dublin regime. However, the country's participation remains domestically controversial, as right-wing populist actors have accused center-left politicians of cooperating in an inefficient European security network.

Internal security policy has developed as a collaborative policy field, in which various international and national governmental actors interact with private organizations.

Given the country's comparatively low crime rates, and the public confidence shown in the police and the justice system, internal security policy can be deemed a success.

## Australia

### Score 8

Internal security is largely the responsibility of the states and there is correspondingly some variation in policies and outcomes across the states. While crime is widely regarded as a significant economic and social problem, in most states crime rates are in fact relatively low. As for coordination between various policing, enforcement and intelligence-gathering authorities, it is generally satisfactory.

Australia has not experienced a significant act of terrorism in recent decades. There have been several failed plots involving Islamic extremists, most notably an attempt to bomb a major sporting event, and an attempt to storm a military base with automatic weapons. All resulted in long prison sentences for the defendants.

Responsibility for internal security rests with the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Security Intelligence Organization; the latter has no powers of arrest and relies on the police for support. Both rely on the criminal law for prosecutions, as well as on the Anti-Terrorism Act 2005, the last piece of legislation to be passed to combat terrorism. International organized crime that is not terrorism-related is investigated by the Australian Crime Commission, which was established by the Australian Crime Commission Act 2003, which amalgamated several bodies with similar remits.

## Austria

### Score 8

Internal security is comparatively well protected in Austria. The crime rate is volatile, rising in some areas such as criminal assaults, while falling in others such as break-ins and car thefts. Internet crime is an increasingly significant problem, and the Austrian police forces are seeking to counteract it through the creation of special task forces. The incidence of economic fraud is also rising due to the growing share of transactions over the Internet.

Police-force budgets and personnel counts have risen over time, an indicator that the police are viewed as the appropriate instrument to provide internal security.

The open borders guaranteed by the European Union and the Schengen agreement has made it easier for organized crime to cross borders, leading some to criticize Austria's EU membership status.

## Belgium

### Score 8

Belgium is generally a safe country, yet violence does occur and the country's crime rate is higher than in neighboring countries. Overcrowded, unhealthy prisons are often described as part of the problem; prison employees regularly strike, and the federal government in 2010 started renting cell space from the Dutch government). Police are overwhelmed, and the courts, often seen as lenient, are not always trusted to effectively curb criminality.

A wave of violent crime in the Brussels underground metro system required an emergency reaction on the part of the administration. An increase in the number of police present on public transport has immediately reduced acts of crime, but this issue shows a lack of a proactive policy against criminality in most Belgian cities. Given its central location and excellent transportation infrastructure, Belgium is a hub for synthetic drugs and other forms of trafficking, including related criminal networks and activities. Altogether, a subjective feeling of insecurity among citizens remains high.

Importantly, relative social stability has largely insulated the country from mass demonstrations or riots; one exception is related to the state's decision to forbid fully covering veils, such as the burqa, in public.

## Canada

### Score 8

Canada's internal security policy has been quite effective in protecting citizens against security risks. There have been no terrorist attacks in Canada, which suggests that the Canadian intelligence services are doing excellent work. Indeed, in the spring of 2013 the capture of two persons who had been accused of planning to bomb passenger trains offers an example of very effective operational work.

Crime rates in Canada are low from an international perspective and continue to fall. Canadians in general have a high degree of confidence and trust in the police. However, this is not true to the same extent within the aboriginal community. The Assembly of First Nations, the Metis National Council, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Native Women's Association of Canada have made repeated calls for a national public investigation into the unsolved cases of the murder or disappearance of about 600 aboriginal

women and girls across the country. The U.N. Human Rights Council's recent Universal Periodic Review of Canada expressed concerns about violence against indigenous women and girls and Canada's perceived failure to address the problem.

Citation:

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2013), Universal Periodic Review: Canada. Draft report available at [http://www.upr-info.org/IMG/pdf/a\\_h\\_rc\\_wg.6\\_16\\_1.9\\_canada.pdf](http://www.upr-info.org/IMG/pdf/a_h_rc_wg.6_16_1.9_canada.pdf)

## Chile

### Score 8

Internal security policy is quite effective. While organized crime is not apparent to the average citizen, there are some disturbing trends: selective ethnic-based acts of terrorism, rising drug trafficking (and related crimes), and a very sharp and systematic increase in common crime trends ranging from petty crime to murder. Still, public perception of crime tends to overestimate the statistical reality. Private security services are widespread in the wealthier urban areas, especially in Santiago. Chile has an extremely high number of prisoners among the younger population in particular. Prevention measures are not well developed.

The last two governments each launched anti-crime programs focusing more on detection and repression than on prevention. These had very mixed results. Crime repression programs such as the Plan Cuadrante and the marked increase in the numbers of police officers have significantly reduced crime rates. However, penal code reform and its implementation over the last eight years have significantly raised the efficiency of crime detection and criminal prosecution.

## Denmark

### Score 8

The security forces and police are responsible for internal security (falling under the Ministry of Justice). Cooperation between the police and defense intelligence services was increased after 9/11. International cooperation has also increased among Western allies.

Denmark is not a violent society. The homicide rate is low, and Danes normally trust the police. Burglaries are not uncommon, either, though crimes related to drug use do occur.

The European Union is also trying to improve all aspects of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) cooperation. Here, too, there is a problem with Denmark's cooperation that is rooted in its opt-outs which date back to 1993. Despite holding an opt-out with regard to the EU's JHA, Denmark

participated in JHA cooperation so long as this was subject to intergovernmental cooperation as the third pillar of the EU's legal framework. However, since 2009, when the Treaty of Lisbon came into force, all JHA actions have become subject to supranational principles, which means that Denmark no longer takes part in JHA activity. But this could change should Denmark decide to opt-in.

In recent years there has been a majority of Danes favoring participation in JHA, but the chance Denmark will opt-in has decreased since 2009. The current government, although in favor of abolishing the Danish opt-out, have postponed the holding of a referendum.

Because of the Muhammad cartoon controversy in 2005, it is reasonable to expect that there are both foreign and domestic threats against Denmark. The murder plot discovered by Danish police in February 2008 against cartoonist Kurt Westergaard lends support to the feeling that Denmark may be the target of terror attacks. So far the Danish police have successfully dealt with the threat.

In the June 2011 Eurobarometer, 56% of Danes said terrorism was the most important challenge to the security of Danish citizens at the moment (The EU average was 25%). Thirty percent of Danes said the biggest challenge was the financial crisis (the EU average was 33%).

Citation:

"The Danish EU opt-outs" Danish Foreign Policy Yearbook 2009, p. 194.

Murder plot against Danish cartoonist, [http://jyllands-posten.dk/uknews/EC\\_E3923645/murder-plot-against-danish-cartoonist/](http://jyllands-posten.dk/uknews/EC_E3923645/murder-plot-against-danish-cartoonist/) (accessed 18 April 2013)

DIIS, "Opinion Polls," <http://www.diis.dk/graphics/Publications/Books2012/YB2012/040.Chapter%204%20opinion%20polls.pdf> (accessed 18 April 2013).

## Germany

### Score 8

In general, residents of Germany are well protected against security risks such as crime or terrorism. Crime rates are on the decline: While in 1998, a total of 7,869 crimes were recorded per 100,000 inhabitants, this figure had fallen to 7,327 in 2012, with a slight increase in the detection rate from 52.3% to 54.4% (Bundesministerium des Innern 2013).

However, the National Socialist Underground (NSU) scandal revealed certain institutional problems inside domestic intelligence and police agencies. In November 2011, right-wing terrorists Uwe Böhnhardt and Uwe Mundlos killed themselves in order to avoid arrest. Along with Beate Zschäpe, who was facing trial as of the time of writing, they had formed the NSU, a neo-Nazi group that had murdered nine individuals from immigrant families and a German policewoman between 2000 and 2007. As of the time of writing, five

leading officials of various intelligence agencies on the state and federal levels had been forced to resign as a consequence of mismanagement and possible misconduct related to this case.

Along with extremist activities by right-wing and left-wing groups and organizations, Islamic extremism is perceived as a threat in Germany. However, authorities have to date been successful in preventing major terrorist attacks, largely by detecting conspiracies at an early stage.

## Iceland

### Score 8

Iceland has always been a secure place to live, with relatively few assaults, burglaries or other crimes against citizens. Some changes have occurred after the collapse in 2008, however. The coalition government of 2007 – 2009 was forced from power as a result of riots – albeit largely peaceful ones – in early 2009. While these events led only to minor injuries and some arrests, they were essentially the first riots since March 1949, when people protested against the parliament's decision to bring Iceland into NATO. In general, the broader environment ensures Iceland's internal security rather than any particular police efficiency, as Iceland's police force has long suffered from a manpower shortage, exacerbated by low pay.

The incidence of drug-smuggling has been rising for many years, as a result of which random violence has become an increasing concern for the residents of Reykjavik on weekend nights. Attacks by violent drunkards or drug users on innocent bystanders have become more common.

## Luxembourg

### Score 8

While Luxembourg no longer scores among the very top cities in Mercer's Quality of Living survey, the capital as of 2012 is ranked nineteenth worldwide on standards of living and personal security.

As of 2000 the government merged the police and the gendarmerie to create the Police Grand-Ducale, cutting administration staff strengthening the forces overall, resulting in an improvement in crime clearance rates.

Yet even though the national police force staff was increased to 1,660 agents and 240 officers, crime as of the review period is still rising. According to 2012 statistics, the crime rate rose 2.81% from 2011, with 7,171 crimes per 100,000 residents. Car thefts, however, have fallen, and Luxembourg's prisoner population has remained constant (663 prisoners) which is only slightly above the EU-27 average for 2012.

One ongoing focus is the continuous education and training of police officers as an important method in adjusting to new criminal methods and activities and to strengthen international cooperation and bilateral agreements in combating cross-border crime. Sustained efforts remain necessary to prevent issues such as money laundering, other financial crimes and terrorism.

Citation:

<http://www.statistiques.public.lu/fr/actualites/conditions-sociales/justice/2013/03/20130307/20130307.pdf>

<http://www.wort.lu/de/view/kriminalitaet-weiter-auf-dem-vormarsch-513879c2e4b068c0dfd53e1f>

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/crime/data/database>

<http://www.abbl.lu/statistics/luxembourg-international-rankings>

<http://www.mercer.com/press-releases/quality-of-living-report-2012#Europe>

Tageblatt.lu (2012), Die Kriminalität steigt: <http://www.tageblatt.lu/nachrichten/luxemburg/story/17550916>

## Netherlands

### Score 8

In 2010 the Dutch government spent €13.5 billion on public order and safety (police, fire protection, disaster protection, judicial and penitentiary system) – an amount of which has been approximately stable since 2008. The Integral Safety Monitor for 2010 reports that the 25% of the population aged 15 years and over that claims to have been the victim of frequently occurring crimes (vandalism, fraud, violence) is decreasing; however, the feeling of vulnerability among the public remains at the same level. Regarding terrorism threats, the intelligence services (Nationale Coordinator Terrorismebestrijding, established 2004) appear able to prevent attacks. The policies of the present government focus on considerable cost reduction and the centralization of the previously strictly municipality- and region-based police, judicial and penitentiary systems. Judges and other legal personnel have voiced public complaints about the “managerialization” of the judicial process and the resulting overburdening workload for judges, leading to “sloppy” trials and verdicts. Government policy attempts to shift part of the burden on the judicial system to intermediation procedures. Despite frequently occurring large fires in industrial complexes, spending on fire and disaster protection remains unaltered.

Citation:

Ministerie van Veiligheid en Justitie, Onderwerpen ([www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/venj/onderwerpen](http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/venj/onderwerpen))

CBS (2012), Integrale Veiligheidsmonitor 2011. Landelijke rapportage, Den Haag

CBS (2012), Overheid geeft 13,4 miljard euro uit aan openbare orde en veiligheid, Den Haag

## Poland

### Score 8

The number of homicides and thefts again has continued to fall during the review period, and the feeling of safety among citizens has dramatically grown. According to data from the Central Statistical Office (Główny Urząd

Statystyczny, GUS), from 2000 to 2011 the number of crimes confirmed by police fell from 89,533 to 47,673 and the total number of crimes per 10,000 inhabitants fell from 554 to 338. During the same period, the percentage of crimes solved by police increased from 22.3% to 48%. As a result, the level of perceived security has grown. During the period, only 10% of respondents said they were afraid of crime, compared with 25% in 2004. However, confidence in the police force has fallen slightly from 2010 to 2012.

## Spain

### Score 8

Spain performs satisfactorily in protecting citizens against security risks in comparison with other OECD and European countries. The official data shows that general delinquency and homicides are low and the crime rate even decreased in the first quarter of 2013 (already in 2012 Spain was far below the EU average). There has been a moderate growth of thefts with violence but, considering the high unemployment and some reduction of public expenditure on law and order policies, the overall situation can be considered quite successful.

However, the impact of the current economic crisis has contributed to an increase in the subjective feeling of insecurity, and public opinion continues to press for additional preventive measures. It must also be mentioned that, during the period examined, one of the main Spanish security problems since the 1970s ended as the Basque terrorist group ETA announced in October 2011 that it would definitely cease violence. The government of Spain and its citizens are also concerned that the country remains a principal target for Islamic extremism but Spanish intelligence and police communities have demonstrated their effectiveness at fighting this risk in recent years. Finally, a renewed security strategy (combining internal and external risks) was approved in spring 2013.

## Sweden

### Score 8

The crime rate in Sweden is slightly higher than it is in comparable countries. Assessing the effectiveness of the internal security police is a complex undertaking. Sweden has experienced substantial problems with organized crime for a long time. Despite increased efforts to address this problem during the period of review, organized crime has shown no sign of waning, rather the opposite. Many media accounts of homicides and assaults relate these incidents to organized crime and rivalry among competing organizations.

In terms of solving and preventing crime, there has been extensive debate about police effectiveness. Studies suggest that the police do not use their resources effectively and that only 2% of their working time is spent on actual crime prevention or resolution. Analysts say the emphasis on measuring performance has led the police to focus on quick results rather than crime prevention.

Citation:

Holgerson, S. and J. Knutsson (2012), Vad gör egentligen polisen? (Institutionen för ekonomisk och industriell utveckling. LIU-IEI-Research Report 12/0004. Linköping: Linköpings Universitet).

## United Kingdom

### Score 8

Objectively speaking, citizens of the United Kingdom have enjoyed improved security over the last 15 years as the crime rate has dropped significantly and consistently (although it continues to be relatively high in absolute terms when compared to other OECD countries).

This is not reflected, however, in increased subjective perception of security, since British citizens (probably influenced by media reporting) perceive crime to be on the rise. The issue thus remains in the public spotlight, and cuts in the budgets of the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice – in line with overall budget cuts to fight the deficit – have therefore been politically contentious. The most recent figures do, nevertheless, suggest a further fall in crime, although questions have been raised about whether “new” crimes like cyber crime are being adequately recorded. Moreover, even in higher crime areas, there are few signs that citizens consider they are unsafe.

The coalition government abolished some of the harsh counter-terrorism laws introduced by earlier Labour governments in an attempt to correct the balance in favor of civil rights. A new National Crime Agency will start work in the autumn of 2013 as a central body for crime fighting. Certain high-profile revelations of police malpractice, including the recently exposed falsification of records in the Hillsborough football disaster of 1989, have led to disquiet about police behavior, but have not conspicuously undermined confidence.

## Cyprus

### Score 7

Cyprus is generally considered to be a safe environment. A low incidence of crime, assaults and homicides place it in very good position compared to other countries in the world. As an island, it has developed adequate monitoring of the coast and entry points. Its only relatively vulnerable points are the line dividing the government-controlled areas and the Turkish-

occupied north, as well as the portions of the British bases that abut the north. Cyprus is not part of the Schengen Area. The Green Line, or demarcation between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish-controlled areas, provides peculiar problems with respect to border protection. Burglaries and robberies of houses and businesses are by far the most common crimes, with a relatively stable occurrence in the period under review. Illegal drug activity is comparatively minimal overall, but an increase in the amount of illegal drugs confiscated at entry points has been evident.

The country's police force collaborates closely with INTERPOL and cooperates with the United States in the fight against terrorism. The number of police officers per 100,000 people is among the highest in the world. However, only 60% of the population have confidence in the police, a relatively low proportion.

Citation:

1. Police force per 100,000, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_countries\\_by\\_number\\_of\\_police\\_officers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_police_officers)

## Czech Republic

### Score 7

While confidence in the police in the Czech Republic is low from a historical and a comparative perspective, more than half of Czech citizens are satisfied with the performance of police and have a feeling of security. Crime figures are unremarkable. However, there are increasing regional differences: from 2011 to 2013, the feeling of security declined in the central Bohemia region and in north-west Bohemia, i.e., in regions with strong tensions between majority society and Roma population. Protection against security risks is favored by a well-functioning cross-border cooperation. There is also cooperation with other police and enforcement agencies on human trafficking from the Czech Republic for prostitution and forced labor. However, prosecutions within the Czech Republic have been rare. The first court proceedings against trafficking for forced labor were initiated in 2012 despite its clear definition in law since 2004, reflecting reluctance and hesitation from courts.

## Estonia

### Score 7

Despite improvement in recent times, Estonia ranks at the bottom in homicide and violence statistics in the OECD. One of the major causes of high crime rates is alcohol and drug consumption that often leads to violent behavior at home or in other private settings. This makes crime prevention harder and calls for better cooperation between social workers and the police. In contrast, there is barely any violence in the streets, and if it occurs,

it is usually an alcohol related conflict between people who know each other. The police enjoy public trust and support, but the main problem is scarcity of human and material resources. Due to very strict fiscal policy, all security forces have to survive on cut budgets, which has led to the closing down of police and rescue units in rural areas. As a result, people of small towns and villages feel less secure than they used to. In response, local people have organized voluntary rescue groups and neighborhood watch groups.

Citation:

Estonian Human Development Report 2012/13, chapter 2.3. <http://www.kogu.ee/olemus-ja-roll/e-esti-inimarengu-aruanne/eesti-inima-rengu-aruanne-2013/>

## France

### Score 7

Although the police maintains a reputation of being efficient (sometimes too efficient, as the institution is granted significant powers and discretion vis-à-vis the citizenry), concerns over internal security have been high. Attention has focused on repeated outbreaks of urban violence in the suburbs or other areas. Following a rising level of petty crime and several terrorist attacks on French territory and abroad, citizens have been more and more vocal about the need to be better protected by enforcing “law and order” measures. A rise in robbery and trafficking is such that some neighborhoods in the periphery of large cities are seen as off-limits. There is obviously a relationship between the economic and social crisis and this increase in feelings of insecurity. This situation has also had a decisive impact on protest votes in favor of the extreme-right party, the National Front.

Nonetheless, domestic security policy is able to protect citizens; problems (those related to urban violence) are often linked to social problems and have to be managed by actions beyond security policy.

## Ireland

### Score 7

Irish crime rates are relatively low by international standards. Violent crime has declined somewhat during the recession, while crimes against property have risen slightly.

The low serious crime rate has been a longstanding feature of Irish society. It is difficult to gauge how far this should be attributed to the effectiveness of internal security policies.

The police force enjoys a good relationship with the majority of the population, although tensions exist in certain areas and with certain social groups.

With the decline in the threat posed by Republican activity, the rise of organized crime and gangland activities related to the drugs trade has become the biggest single threat to internal security. There is also some overlap between membership of dissident Republican groups and criminal gangs.

Despite the increase in the use of firearms by criminals, the main police force remains unarmed. The low detection and conviction rates for gangland crimes are disturbing. The difficulty of obtaining convictions is increased by witness intimidation, which has occurred in some high-profile trials.

Cross-border policing cooperation between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland remains good, although the existence of a long land border is an inherent obstacle to effective law enforcement.

## Israel

### Score 7

The Ministry of Public Security (MPS) manages the internal security field in conjunction with the armed forces and other specific government agencies such as Rachel and Malal. The MPS itself is in charge of crime prevention, the prison system, gun control, prevention of terrorist acts, fire prevention, and other such issues. Increasingly focused on dealing with internal security in general (expanding on duties served in its previous incarnation as the Ministry of Police), the MPS continues to be reformed with the aim of integrating the country's various agencies dealing with security issues. In a paper published in 2013, the ministry reported on progress in integrating and improving communications between civil, governmental and military groups. For example, previously dispersed authorities such as the Firearm Licensing Department (2011), the Israel Fire and Rescue Services (2011) and the Israel Anti-Drug Authority have been integrated under the Ministry of Public Security's bureaucratic umbrella.

The OECD's Better Life Index gives Israel a moderate mark on security. Israel's murder rate is average among the OECD countries (2.1 persons killed annually per 100,000 inhabitants). A total of 70% of citizens questioned stated that they felt safe walking alone at night (OECD average: 67%). Inequality between social groups is moderate in this respect, with Israel ranking 15th out of 35 countries surveyed by the OECD on this measure. Since Israel's internal-security budget is divided between different agencies, and cannot be separated from the defense budget managed by the Ministry of Defense, it is hard to estimate the country's overall internal-security expenditure. Although the Ministry of Public Security's budget increased in recent years, difficulties in estimation also arise from the previously noted

reforms, which substantially expanded the ministry's responsibilities. Some of these changes have come as a result of perceived failures of previous institutional arrangements; for instance, the 2010 Mount Carmel forest fire, which resulted in more than 30 police casualties, resulted in significant public criticism and prompted institutional change.

Citation:

"Policy of the minister of public security 2013," MPS August 2012. (Hebrew)

Chartuf, Jacob, "Description and analysis of budget offer of the MPS for the years 2010-2011," Knesset research institute 14.12.2010. (Hebrew)

"Safety: Better life index Israel," OECD.

Rahabad, Hachya, "Two years to the Carmel catastrophe: The deceased were actualising acts of love," ynet website 4.12.2012 (Hebrew)

## Italy

### Score 7

With the exception of some regions of southern Italy where mafia-type organized crime can have a serious impact on the security of certain sectors of the population (for instance entrepreneurs and shop owners) internal security is sufficiently guaranteed. Crime levels are not particularly high and the population has in general a rather high level of confidence in the security forces. The segmentation of security forces (Carabinieri, Polizia di Stato, Guardia di Finanza, Polizia Municipale) makes for some inefficiencies but also stimulates a certain degree of positive competition.

## Lithuania

### Score 7

Lithuania's internal security has improved in recent years, in part thanks to Lithuania's accession to the European Union in 2004 and to the Schengen zone in 2007. These relationships improved police cooperation with the country's EU peers and allowed the public security infrastructure, information systems and staff skills to be upgraded. Crime rates fell during the 2005 – 2007 period, but this trend was reversed beginning in 2008, coinciding with the onset of the economic crisis. The country has a high number of homicides by EU standards, and the population expresses a relatively low level confidence in the police. In the 2011 Eurobarometer survey, 58% of Lithuanians either disagreed or totally disagreed with the statement that their country was doing enough to fight organized crime, as compared to an EU-27 average of 42%.

State funding for internal security purposes remains limited; though it gradually increased between 2004 to 2008, government expenditure for public safety purposes dropped from 2.4% of GDP in 2008 to 2.1% in 2011. Observers say that the police force's motivation, competence and stability, as

well as that of other internal security organizations, are among the most pressing challenges to improving public safety. According to the 2011 Eurobarometer report, 42% of Lithuanians felt corruption to be an issue very important to citizens' security, while just 5% felt the same about terrorism threats, and 2% for civil wars/wars. The annual report of the Lithuanian Security Department has recently highlighted threats linked to the activities of external intelligence services from neighboring non-NATO countries.

Citation:

The 2011 Eurobarometer reports is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_371\\_fact\\_lt\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_371_fact_lt_en.pdf).

## Norway

### Score 7

Norway is traditionally a safe country. The country's security is not seriously threatened by crime. For example, the number of homicides per capita is the third-lowest in the world, and incarceration rates are also small. Police presence is rarely significant, and incidents of police activism are rare. The police continue to be predominantly unarmed. Prison sentences are relatively mild, and Norway has relied instead on long-term crime-prevention policies. Theft and petty crimes are relatively infrequent, although there has been some concern over increasing levels of narcotics- and gang-related crimes. There is a perception that knife- and gun-related crimes are increasing in frequency and brutality. In recent years, various reforms have sought to enhance cooperation between various police and intelligence units, both internally and with respect to cross-border cooperation.

The police service is decentralized, organized in 27 relatively small police districts. In 2001, a central police directorate was established, but this was mainly a matter of moving the central police authority bureaucratically from under the Ministry of Justice. The directorate is small, with about 120 officials. The head of the directorate has recently proposed a merger of police districts into larger units, but no such action has as of the time of writing taken place.

In the aftermath of the 22 July 2011 terrorist assaults on the government compound in Oslo and the summer camp of the Labor Party youth organization, the police service was severely criticized for not having put necessary precautions in place. This revealed shortcomings in police organization and logistics, including a low capacity for planning and implementation within the central police directorate.

## Portugal

Score  
value\_6

Portugal is signatory to and participant in all of the relevant Europe-wide programs regarding public security.

Despite the economic crisis and rising unemployment, crime has not risen in the period under analysis. Indeed, the 2012 National Internal Security report indicates a drop in overall criminality – particularly violent and serious crime. Portugal remains a relatively safe country in international terms, especially with regard to violent and serious crime, although this is less true of burglaries and petty theft. The most recent data (2010) showed Portugal having the 5th highest rate in the OECD of burglaries per 100,000 population according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Statistics on Crime, Sexual Violence.

While the economic crisis has not seen an overall increase in crime, new forms of criminality have emerged, possibly initiated by the recession. One such instance is the stealing of non-valuable metals, such as copper from internet and phone cables, metals from public artworks (e.g., bronze statues), or of public railings and sewage covers made of metal. This type of crime has gained some media salience, and the 2012 National Internal Security report indicates there were 15,172 instances in 2012.

Citation:

(1) Sistema de Segurança Interna, "Relatório Anual de Segurança Interna 2012"

(2) Nick Cowen & Nigel Williams / Civitas (2012), "Comparisons of Crime in OECD Countries", p. 5

(3) Sistema de Segurança Interna, "Relatório Anual de Segurança Interna 2012", p. 45.

## Slovakia

Score 7

The Slovak police meets EU standards of border management and is quite effective in protecting the national borders in line with the Schengen agreement. As a result, Slovak citizens are only weakly concerned about illegal migration or porous EU borders. In spite of modest crime figures and low security risks, however, overall trust in the police remains low. The police suffer from underfunding and corruption. Marginalized groups like Roma and homosexuals run the risk of being discriminated against by the police.

## Malta

Score 6

Security threats to the state originating from outside have been largely absent. But this in itself means that one cannot really assess local readiness or ability to protect citizens if such threats were to materialize. According to

the U.S. Department of State, no indigenous terrorist or extremist groups are known to be active in Malta; however, the report adds that due to its geographic location and status as an EU country, Malta could be used as a possible staging point for terrorists desiring to enter other European Union countries or as a refuge for terrorists attempting to evade detection. Malta has its own Secret Service, but this is very much dependent on intelligence from friendly outside intelligence services than its own resources.

For this purpose Malta is affiliated with Interpol and seeks to acquire intelligence from countries with which it has treaties supporting its security, such as Italy. Malta is also a member of a number of cross-border security cooperation efforts, including the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex). As Malta has to make provisions for the security of the external frontier of the European Union, it has received assistance to maintain this role.

The government is pursuing measures to enhance the existing border control system, incorporating biometric capturing devices (fingerprints) in immigration booths and implementing shore-based surveillance measures. In relation to smarter borders, Malta's security apparatus is primarily directed toward policing the island's maritime borders and is focused on irregular migration and drug smuggling. Between 2007 and 2013, Malta is projected to spend €150 million on border security, 75% of which will be financed by the European Union.

Internally, the Secret Service has proved incapable of preempting isolated bombings or helping police to identify perpetrators leading to their conviction in the Maltese courts. It has been, however, relatively more effective in supporting the police in the fight against corruption. The Secret Service and the police are undergoing reforms and a new police academy is set to open in 2013.

Citation:

Malta Security Service Ignored Invitations for International Collaboration. Times of Malta 09/04/13  
EU Conference on Innovation Border Management. 2012  
eu2012.dk/.../Conference%20on%20Innovation%20Border%20Management  
MULTI-ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2007-13 EXTERNAL BORDERS FUND MEMBER STATE Republic of Malta  
www.ppcd.gov.mt/file.aspx?f= 1366  
MALTA Information Exchange on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security 31 December 2012 www.osce.org/fsc/101506

## Romania

### Score 6

In Romania, homicide and violent crime rates have been relatively low, and according to the Global Competitiveness Report, threats of terrorism, crime and violence were not particularly important concerns among businesses in

Romania (the country performed better than several EU members, including Greece, Hungary and Bulgaria). Nonetheless, the majority of Romanians (60%) reveal low trust levels when it comes to the activities of the police, known to be rife with corruption (though the extent of police corruption has declined since the 1990s). The European Commission decided back in 2005 to become directly involved in the implementation of the Anti-Corruption General Directorate (DGA) within the Ministry of Internal Affairs (encompassing the gendarmerie, the police and the immigration office). In 2010, the salaries and bonuses of police officers were cut significantly as part of the austerity measures, and these cuts are likely to undermine the DGA's success rate as low salaries serve as a disincentive to attract qualified staff and are likely to encourage corruption.

## Turkey

### Score 6

Despite being classified as a safe country by the Control Risks Group, Turkey during the period experienced a series of terrorist attacks, mainly perpetrated by left-wing extremist groups and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). In 2012 in terror-related attacks some 31 police officers, 132 military personnel, and 16 village guards were killed.

Aside from external or interstate security threats, the National Police Department, when comparing figures from 2010 to 2006, registered a significant decline in Turkey's crime rate. Mugging cases fell by 37%, homicides by 39%, manslaughter or bodily harm caused by celebratory gunfire by 43%, workplace theft by 26%, burglary by 0.7%, pick pocketing by 5% and bribery by 8%. According to a National Police Department report, the rise in the education level of the police, the extension of information services and the installation of Mobile Electronic Systems Integration (MOBES) cameras in major cities played a key role in the decline of crime cases.

The government's efforts in cooperating with international police to help combat human trafficking and fight organized crime were however lacking.

Citation:

Turkey sees record drop in crime rate, police report shows, Today's Zaman, 3.5.2011.

## United States

### Score 6

The United States invests massively in efforts to protect citizens against security risks such as crime and terrorism, and for the most part, it is successful. The degree of success varies, however, depending on the kind of security threat. In the years after 9/11, the United States built an extraordinarily large security establishment centered in the Department of

Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency – the latter which specializes in intercepting and monitoring telephone communications. The United States has assumed that international terrorist groups, such as Al Qaeda, regard the country and its citizens as their primary targets, and that efforts to attack the United States are always underway. It views homegrown terrorists, sympathetic to radical Islamist or other terrorist groups, but not trained or directed by them, as an additional threat.

The federal government has, therefore, invested heavily in a wide range of measures and resources, such as heightened airport security procedures and equipment, equipment for inspecting cargo coming through ports, training for first-responders, and capability for monitoring international communication, among other things. These efforts have been successful in preventing attacks in the United States beyond any reasonable expectation. Indeed, from September 2001 until April 2013, there were no major, successful terrorist attacks on American territory. Security officials successfully blocked a number of attempts.

It is hard to assess the degree to which this success reflects extraordinary intelligence and detection capability, an unexpected lack of resources or organization on the part of terrorists, or both. Nevertheless, the Boston Marathon bombings – which resulted in three deaths and 246 hospitalized with injuries – demonstrated that the anti-terrorist security establishment is not impregnable. Subsequent investigation indicated that the two bombers had planned their attack alone, using information from the Internet and equipment and materials that are readily available. The Boston attacks suggest, therefore, that there are limits to feasible prevention of attacks.

The government has had less success dealing with two other kinds of violence. First, large cities are plagued by homicides, primarily in inner city black and Latino neighborhoods. New Orleans, St. Louis, Baltimore, and Detroit are all among the world's 50 cities with the highest homicide rates. While gun violence in the United States is high compared with other OECD countries, the firearm homicide rate is down 49% from its peak in 1993. Second, deranged individuals (without political or religious motives) have used semi-automatic weapons with large ammunition clips to kill large numbers of people at movie theaters, college campuses, religious temples, schools and other sites. In December 2012, a shooter killed twenty children and six adult staff members at an elementary school in Sandy Hook, Connecticut. Under pressure from the National Rifle Association and its mass membership, Congress failed to pass legislation imposing background checks for the purchase of a gun or limiting the size of ammunition magazines – measures with overwhelming public support.

## Bulgaria

### Score 5

While Bulgaria does have a serious problem with organized crime, normal citizens can live relatively safely. Crime figures have fallen in the period under review, and trust in the police, while low in international comparison, is substantially higher than the trust in other public institutions such as the president, the government, the legislature or the judicial system. The strong feeling of personal insecurity revealed by various surveys relates more to economic insecurity than to fear of crime. Although the GERB government declared Schengen accession a priority, progress with international cooperation in security matters has remained limited, as reflected in the repeated postponements of Bulgaria's admission to the Schengen Area.

## Greece

### Score 5

As UN data on homicides and assaults for 2011 show, Greece, despite suffering from a severe economic crisis, is not a dangerous country in which to live. Naturally, there are a few neighborhoods in Athens where it is not safe to walk at night and there are also areas in the city center where the police have been unable to monitor illegal activities, such as drug trafficking and prostitution as well as violent crime. These are areas controlled by groups of illegal migrants from Africa and South Asia who have entered Greece in search of jobs or of opportunities to access western European countries. They have been unable to accomplish either aim and have since been living a life in the grey zone between precarious work in the underground economy and participation in organized crime. Since 2011 – 2013 the cumulative effects of the economic crisis have worsened their prospects, while inter-ethnic strife among communities of migrants also erupted on rare occasions. There are also groups of East European and Greek criminals who prefer to engage in crimes against property. The result was that in the wake of the crisis many people considered some sections of the center of Athens as “no go zones.” Assaults were frequent in these downtown areas. Despite widespread stereotypes to the contrary, not all crime is related to migration. Indeed, gangs of Greeks (rather than migrants) have also participated in various forms of crime, particularly smuggling, burglaries and kidnappings.

This situation started to improve in early spring 2012 and even more so towards the end of that year. The Ministry of Public Order, which oversees police and security forces, took measures to monitor the most unsafe zones of the center of Athens by placing policemen on the streets at visible points and intersections. It stepped up efforts to deter further irregular migration from Turkey into Greece by building a fence across a point on the river Evros

which separates the two countries and another along the north-east borders of Greece; and it started sweeping operations at squares where illegal commerce of forfeited consumer goods by various groups of migrants had flourished.

Of course, safety is also a matter of perception. Even if conditions improve, people may not recognize change unless considerable time lapses. Indeed, Greeks do not feel safe. For instance, as shown by the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions study conducted in Greece in 2011 by the Greek Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), the greatest risks Greeks report with regard to housing are noise (25% of the respondents), environmental pollution (also 25%) and vandalism and criminality (20%).

Citation:

Data on homicides are drawn on the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Data on risks Greeks perceive are drawn on research conducted in the context of EU-SILK program by the Greek Statistical Authority and is available at [http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/A0802/PressReleases/A0802\\_SFA10\\_DT\\_AN\\_00\\_2011\\_08\\_F\\_GR.pdf](http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/A0802/PressReleases/A0802_SFA10_DT_AN_00_2011_08_F_GR.pdf)

## Hungary

Score 4

In Hungary, regular crime is largely kept within “normal” limits. However, there are strong security risks associated with violence perpetrated by extreme-right groups and the confrontation of opposing political camps on the streets. The government’s attempts to prevent atrocities against Roma, Jews or homosexuals and to protect opposition demonstrators have been rather half-hearted. For instance, in April 2013 some dozen clashes were reported with the involvement of the (New) Hungarian Guard, a paramilitary right-wing organization, trying to capitalize on conflicts between majority Hungarians and the impoverished Roma minority.

## Mexico

Score 3

Mexico is among the most dangerous countries in the world, mainly as a result of criminal activity. (The amount of political violence is very small for a country of Mexico’s size). It has a slightly better homicide rate than Honduras or Venezuela but it is as bad as Colombia. The main reason for this high homicide rate is that Mexico has become a major center for the transit of illegal drugs to the United States. In brutal competition with each other, Mexico’s criminal gangs, or cartels, have carried out horrific acts and killed thousands.

In 2006, then incoming PAN President Calderon made the so-called war on drugs a policy priority. However, the murder rate since 2006 increased. The reasons for this increase are complex and cannot all be blamed on the

government. But Calderon's anti-drug policy clearly did not succeed. The incoming Pena Nieto government has criticized the Calderon government for relying too much on force in dealing with the drug problem, but it is not clear if Mexico has any alternatives. Mexico has improved the efficiency of its crime-fighting operations but there are still problems stemming from a lack of bureaucratic co-operation and the immense scale of the criminal activity.

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Contact:

Bertelsmann Stiftung  
Carl-Bertelsmann-Straße 256  
33311 Gütersloh

Dr. Daniel Schraad-Tischler  
[daniel.schraad-tischler@bertelsmann-stiftung.de](mailto:daniel.schraad-tischler@bertelsmann-stiftung.de)

Najim Azahaf  
[najim.azahaf@bertelsmann-stiftung.de](mailto:najim.azahaf@bertelsmann-stiftung.de)