



PRESS RELEASE

CRIME, SAFETY & SECURITY IN BENELUX

Rates of “hate crimes” and assaults are increasing across the region, but there’s little concern on the streets

Significant findings

- The Netherlands has the highest “common crime” rates for the EU-15 (excluding the UK and Ireland)
- Assaults are 50% above the EU average
- Belgium has recorded the highest number of ‘hate’ crimes - linked to its immigrant population - in the EU
- Belgium is the only EU country bucking the trend of decreasing crime
- All three countries have “hate crimes” above the EU average (all rated in the top six for EU member states)

Rates of crime

- Belgium - no clear decreases in crime, much more crime than in 1988
- Netherlands - increasing level of assaults (with threats, 4.5% vs. 3% EU average and with force, 1.5% vs. 1%)
- Luxembourg - high exposure to drug-related incidents (14%, vs. 10% EU average)
- Luxembourg - below the EU average for almost all types of crime

Concerns, precautions taken and findings re the police

- The worries about safety in the streets and burglaries are decreasing, except in Luxembourg
- The Dutch have the highest rate in the EU in terms of fitting special locks (twice EU average), the Belgians and Luxembourgers have high rates.
- Police – the Belgian population are very happy, the Dutch and the Luxembourgers are reasonably happy with police performance
- Drugs – some concern, slightly above the EU average; but it’s a major concern in Luxembourg

Solving the problems

- The Dutch population are one of the countries to be most in favour of prison sentences, while Belgium and Luxembourg are both opposed

From the report: - "The Burden of Crime in the EU, A Comparative Analysis of the European Survey of Crime and Safety (EU ICS) 2005". Robert Manchin, Gallup Europe, coordinated the Consortium and the project was co-financed by the European Commission under FP6.

For more information, please contact [Louis de Schorlemer@gallup-europe.be](mailto:Louis_de_Schorlemer@gallup-europe.be)

Tel: 32 2 734 54 18 / 32 473 712197