



PRESS RELEASE

CRIME, SAFETY & SECURITY IN SOUTHERN EUROPE

Spain, Italy and Portugal have reasons to be cheerful; in Greece, there is no good news at all.

Significant findings

- Spain has the lowest rate of “common crime” in the EU
- Italy - lowest rate of robberies and assaults (without force) in the EU – both less than 1% chance
- Portugal has the EU’s lowest rates of personal theft & assaults (with force)
- Greece - more pickpockets than in any other member state (over double the EU average)
- Greece – EU state with the most concern about burglaries and safety on the streets
- Greece has high number of robberies, only Ireland ranks higher

Rates of crime

- Spain has the lowest number of “hate crimes” in any EU country (in those measured) – at 20% of EU average
- But ... Spain is in the top three of EU member states in terms of robberies
- .. Italy has many burglaries and is above the EU’s average
- ... Portugal has high rates of thefts from cars – second only to UK

Ethics (corruption and consumer fraud)

- No threat / fear of consumer fraud or corruption ...
- ... but Greece has the second highest rating for consumer fraud – 25% vs. 12% EU average and the highest for corruption – 13% vs. 2% EU average

Concerns, precautions taken and the police (including comments on drugs)

- Italy has a low opinion of police performance
- Greece has total lack of confidence in police performance, lower than any country in the EU-15
- Greece has more concern about drug-related incidents, safety in the streets and burglary than any other member state

Solving the problems

- Italians are more or less in line with the EU average, i.e. more faith in community service than in prison terms, idem Portugal
- Strangely, the Spanish are below the EU average in terms of wanting prison sentences and community service orders!
- Greece has less faith in the use of community service orders than any other EU member state

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.

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