

WATER GOVERNANCE, WATER CRIMES AND POLICING WATER CRIMES – SLOVENIAN PERSPECTIVES

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A paper presented at Colloquium: Safety, Resilience and Community; an online event on 29 September 2020

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND WATER

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SLOVENIAN CONSTITUTION

- **Article 70a* (Right to Drinking Water)**
 - Everyone has the right to drinking water. Water resources shall be a public good managed by the state. As a priority and in a sustainable manner, water resources shall be used to supply the population with drinking water and water for household use and in this respect shall not be a market commodity. The supply of the population with drinking water and water for household use shall be ensured by the state directly through self-governing local communities and on a not for-profit basis.
 - * As amended by the Constitutional Act Amending Chapter III of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, which was **adopted on 25 November 2016 and entered into force on 25 November 2016** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 75/16)

SAFETY AND SECURITY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES & WATER CRIMES

- In addition to a national project on local safety and security covering a variety of security threats and crime (2015-2018), we also conducted a project on water crimes in EU (2016-2017; <http://watercrimes.eu/>). Since 2019, we have focused on rural areas, rural crime and rural safety.
- Water governance and control over water consumption (water management) is crucial for local community's sustainable development, especially in case of scarce water resources.
- Water (related) crimes project (WC are not numerous in official statistics; global assessment/ risk index/ $RISK = PROBABILITY \times IMPACT$): the most present crimes related to water are **corruption** (concessions, predatory business practices), **pollution** (poor water management and quality control), **organised crime** (also economic crime – taking over water resources), **fraud** (water prices and selling fake mineral water - food safety), **terrorism** (poisoning water resources, demolition of water pipelines etc.), **cyber attacks** (water management infrastructure hacking) and **water theft**.



WATER GOVERNANCE IN SLOVENIA

- Slovenia is a country with a vast water reserve (but it is a small country). 3 different kinds of climate – Alpine, Continental and Mediterranean.
- Ministry of Environment and Environmental agency regulate Water in the country – a special website is only about the water, emphasising EU directives on Water, legislation and measures taken – annual reports on the water quality.
- The Constitution of the RS – drinking water is a basic right. Cynical statements of entrepreneurs – We'll buy your water springs, drain them and then you can enjoy your constitutional right...
- Mixture of neoliberalism and political „good will“ – concessions of water resources (Heineken, etc.)
- Nevertheless, there is still enough water for daily use but unevenly distributed – problems with some pipelines and pollution of water in the East due to use of too big amounts fertilizers and pesticides in the past.
- Attention of criminologists and critical thoughts about water exploitation are considered as a nuisance. Recent changes – local safety and security partnerships and sustainable developmental perspectives – think globally, solve locally. Awareness raising and the role of academia – environmental awareness.

WATER CRIMES IN SLOVENIA

- Official crime statistics, interviews with experts and stakeholders;
- Statistically speaking, such crimes are rarely detected. Much more minor offences (fines for responsible persons of legal persons and legal persons (companies – offending legislation), as well as individuals such as farmers collecting waste from sewage tanks and spraying it in the forests, etc.)
- FGI with experts show that they perceive the following ranking of water crime threats: water pollution, cyber attacks (power plants, water management systems), corruption, terrorism, fraud, water theft and organised criminal activities.



POLICING WATER CRIMES

- Challenges: EU prosecutorial and police cooperation (JITs).
- The police force does not have water crime specialists but detectives who do investigation on organised crime and environmental crime, also cover water crimes. Despite a small number, the police registered water pollution, water pilfering, suspicion of corruption in relation to obtaining concessions.
- The need to incorporate water and other environmental crimes to basic and on the job training of community policing officers. The country is too small for specialised rural police forces. In addition, criminal investigation of several cases also included international police cooperation and intelligence led policing.

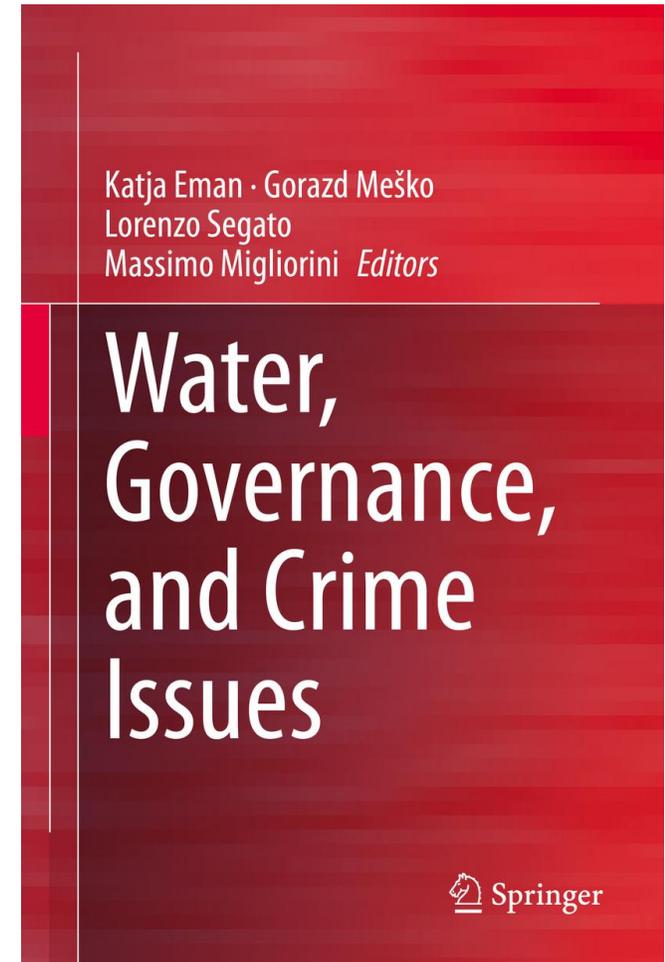


**BACK TO
SDGS – GOAL
17 –
PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE
GOALS**

Not only regarding water crime but all safety and security issues local partnerships need to be developed. Since 1997, around 200 local safety and security councils have been established in local communities. Mayors lead the councils, members are stakeholders, representatives of institutions, local business and civil society. Discussions and priorities are also protection of the environment, including water issues.

IN STEAD OF CONCLUSION

Water is found almost everywhere on Earth. Approximately 70% of our planet's surface is covered by water in the form of oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and streams, canals and ponds, waterfalls and underground water caves, thermal springs, icy Arctic and Antarctic areas, as well as lesser-known underground reservoirs. Water is considered the second most important natural element for the survival of the human (and almost every other) species, preceded only by air. Furthermore, approximately 75% of the human body is composed of water. Therefore, water is a crucial element of our planet that cannot be bartered with. The fact that more than two-thirds of our planet's surface are covered by water leads to the conclusion that water often represents an ecosystem—a living environment—for numerous species, thus acting as the cradle of biodiversity, which is particularly important for the creation and preservation of ecosystems' sustainability. Therefore, water is of crucial importance not only for the people as stated in SDGs of the UN.



The image features a vibrant green background with several clear water droplets of varying sizes. The droplets are in sharp focus, reflecting light and showing the texture of the surface they are on. In the upper left corner, there is a black rounded square with a thin white border. Inside this square, the text "THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font, centered and arranged in three lines.

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**