

Abstract

This study examines whether determinants of crime, hypothesized in the economic theory of crime and tested in other global regions, also explain crime rates in Eastern Europe, which is often excluded in existing research. Using fixed effects estimation and controlling for social cohesion and law enforcement, the results suggest that increases in income per capita have a negative effect on homicide and violent crime, but the effect on sexual and property crimes is mixed. Furthermore, the significance and sign of the impact of income inequality and unemployment differ across individual crimes. This study also investigates crime determinants specifically in Czechia and Slovakia. Contrary to the cross-country analysis, there appears to be little connection between aggregate income and the regional distribution of crime, indicating the importance of social rather than economic factors.

JEL Classification K42, O15, O52, P20, C23

Keywords Crime, Income distribution, Eastern Europe, Panel Data, Czechia, Slovakia

Title Determinants of Crime in Eastern Europe with a Focus on Czechia and Slovakia