



## PRESS RELEASE

### "Mapping crime and insecurity in the region of the Capital, in the era of economic crisis"

Panteion University, 23.11.2022

The Laboratory of Urban Criminology of the Panteion University held, on Wednesday 23.11.2022, at the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, the Workshop "**Mapping crime and insecurity in the region of the Capital, in the era of economic crisis**", in the framework of the Project "*UrbanCrime: Spatial aspects of Crime and insecurity in the era of economic crisis: trends, dimensions and correlations*" No. Project HFRI-FM17-3898, which was approved and funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI) and is being implemented under the scientific responsibility of Professor Christina Zarafonitou, Director of the Laboratory of Urban Criminology.

The Vice-Rector for Research and Lifelong Learning of Panteion University, **Professor Charalambos Economou**, the President of the Scientific Council of HFRI, **Professor Xenia Chrysochoou**, and the President of the Department of Sociology of Panteion University, **Professor Tryfon Kostopoulos**, addressed the Workshop. The guests and numerous participants were welcomed by the Project's Scientific Coordinator, **Professor Christina Zarafonitou**, who briefly presented the overall project.

The Workshop was structured in three sessions. More specifically, the **first session** entitled: «The role of socio-economic conditions in social structure and function: The Case of the Economic Crisis» was conducted by **Prof. Andreas Lytras**, Department of Sociology, Panteion University, who delivered a presentation on "*The role of economic factors in social structure and functioning*", **Stella Malliou**, Sociologist-Criminologist who discussed the "*Impact of the economic crisis on crime: The international research experience*", **Vasiliki Giannopoulou**,

Sociologist-Criminologist who referred to "*The impact of the economic crisis on insecurity: the international research experience*" and **Katerina Fitsialou**, Sociologist-PhDc, who presented "*The connection between unemployment and crime*". Coordination: Prof. Charalambos Economou.

In the **second session** entitled: «*The role of space in the study of the crime phenomenon*», **Professor Antonis Rovolis**, Department of Economic & Regional Development, Panteion University, presented the paper "*The study of crime in the analysis of the Economics of Urban Centres*" and **George Bathas**, Economist-Criminologist presented "*Historical evolution and usefulness of crime mapping*". Coordinator: Assoc. Professor Angelos Mimis.

In the **third session** entitled: «*Presentation of research findings in the Municipalities of Athens, Filothei-Psychiko, Korydallos*», **Dimitris Kalamaras**, DStat, analyzed the "*Findings of statistical analysis in the Municipalities of Athens, Filothei-Psychiko, Korydallos*". **Assoc. Professor Angelos Mimis** and **PhDc. Thanos Synolakis**, Department of Economic & Regional Development, Panteion University, presented the "*Mapping and spatial analysis of the survey data*", while **Eleni Kontopoulou**, DCrim and Lawyer, reported on the findings of the "*Interviews with representatives of the Municipalities and the Police*". The findings were commented on by representatives of the municipalities of the areas concerned. Coordinator: Prof. Christina Zarafonitou.

It is worth mentioning the combined methodology applied in the overall research study, which included both quantitative and qualitative methods of examining the phenomenon being researched, while techniques of mapping and spatial pattern analysis were applied to study the spatial distribution of crime, fear and insecurity. The scientific team of the project has an interdisciplinary character and consists of Faculty Members, PhD and postgraduate students in the fields of Criminology, Sociology, Applied Statistics and Geoinformatics.

The results obtained can be used to understand the factors that create and exacerbate the conditions related to victimization and insecurity of citizens, especially in the context of the economic crisis, as well as for the development of effective social prevention and counter-crime policy measures.

The impressions of the attendees and participants were very positive and there was a wish to exploit the findings of this project on a scientific level as well as on the level of applicable policy. From her behalf, the President of the Scientific Council of the HFRI referred to the



intention to create a repository in order to facilitate the above mentioned valorization of this and similar important studies supported by the HFRI.

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