Gorazd MEŠKO Katja EMAN Rok HACIN

## Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe

New Risks, Crime, Policing, Courts, Prisons and Security in the Post-COVID-19 Times – Challenges and Opportunities, Book of Abstract





## Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security

## Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe

New Risks, Crime, Policing, Courts, Prisons and Security in the Post-COVID-19

Times – Challenges and Opportunities

Book of Abstracts

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## Criminal Law Responses to Environmental Offences in the Republic of Serbia

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The article provides a critical analysis of the criminal law framework for addressing environmental crime in Serbia, with a particular focus on its conceptualisation within the national criminal legislation. The first section examines how environmental crime is defined in Serbian law, offering comparative insights from selected jurisdictions and exploring doctrinal interpretations of the concept. Furthermore, it analyses the interaction between criminal law and misdemeanour law responses to environmental offences, identifying key gaps and deficiencies in the current legal framework, and proposes improvements to enhance its effectiveness. In the second part, the article shifts focus to judicial practice, analysing how the Serbian criminal justice system has dealt with environmental crime in recent years. It specifically delves into two landmark cases that have transcended legal discourse to become politically charged issues: the proposed exploitation of the Jadar Valley lithium deposit by the Rio Tinto Corporation, and the mining activities of the Chinese company Zijin. These cases illustrate the intersection of environmental concerns, corporate interests, and national politics, shedding light on the challenges faced by the criminal justice system in addressing environmental crime within this complex socio-political landscape.

Keywords: environment, offence, crime, criminal law, Republic of Serbia