

Sometimes phones worked and sometimes they didn't. Restaurant menus tempted us with lists of tasty looking fare but we got used to hearing 'nemame' - not available. Entrance to the smartest nightclub in town cost only 60p (just 10,000 zloties). My week with other ISTD members looking at Polish criminal justice last September (see page 13) left me in no doubt that life for the people of Warsaw is a world apart from my life in London.

We can for the moment dispense with lengthy debates about the causes of crime. The turmoil, the pressure of frustrated aspirations, the uncertainty about the future, the massive movement of people and the reawakening of old animosities throughout eastern Europe (page 8) are sufficient grounds for expecting crime to rise. And rising it is. Whilst in Romania statistics had not been available either to the public nor professionals in the criminal justice system and in Poland only basic data had been available to the general population, in Hungary statistics have been made publicly available but in rather indigestible form. Even though statistics in the former regimes were not widely available and those that did exist were best treated with caution, it is clear that theft, street crime and violent crime are now rocketing (page 7).

Drug abuse has yet to feature in the form that the West knows it; abusing drugs means abusing medicines as there simply is not enough spare money around in Budapest, Prague, Bucharest and other

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capital cities of eastern Europe to attract the attention of the world drug dealers. The Soviet Union is a step ahead of the rest; its organised crime networks (page 4) provide a chilling reminder of what could easily and probably will happen elsewhere in eastern Europe over the coming decades.

No stone untouched, no country is

spared from the revolution of the last two years. Even tiny Albania is on the move (page 10) and, for as long as homosexuals are sentenced to ten years inside, the country's new democracy still has quite a way to go!

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