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Possible general causes of violence in Europe: immigration and socioeconomic factors

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ABSTRACT. One of the main scientific problems in human society is centered on environmental factors that cause violent crime, aggression and violent behaviour in society (Coccia, 2017). The aim of this paper is to analyze the possible causes of violence in Europe considering current migratory phenomenon and other socioeconomic factors. The study here endeavors to analyze relationships between some types of crime, such as homicides, thefts, sexual violence, etc., and some socioeconomic factors, such as income per capita, population, education level, unemployment, etc. Data are from EUROSTAT for 2008–2013 period. The study design is based on descriptive statistics, regression and correlation analyses to analyze possible relationships between variables under study. Results seem to show that immigration and unemployment may increase crime rate in society, but the phenomenon is complex and cannot be traced back only to these two factors. Conclusions of this study are tentative but the preliminary findings of this paper can provide fruitful information to understand the dynamics of crime in Europe and their possible underlying causes in order to support appropriate social policies.