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Socioeconomic Determinants of Crime: An Empirical Application for European Countries / Suçun Sosyoekonomik Belirleyicileri: Avrupa Ülkeleri İçin Ampirik Bir Uygulama

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ABSTRACT

Criminal events should be socioeconomically analyzed by focusing on their reasons and results. In this direction, the field of crime economics become a research topic in theoretical and empirical literature to investigate the impact of socioeconomic variables on crime and the relationship between crime and unemployment, income distribution, inflation, education, economic growth is econometrically analyzed. It is expected that unemployment, income inequality, low income, high cost of living, low education level increase crimes by promoting people to commit illegal acts. Analyzing these variables that may be possible causes of criminal behaviors and determining their effects on crime enable countries to make efficient policies and to live peaceful coexistence. Therefore, the relationship between criminal behaviours and socioeconomic variables should be investigated and relevant policies should be put into practice accordingly. So, this study focuses on socioeconomic determinants of criminal behaviours such as per capita income, unemployment, education level, welfare index, inequality index and price level by applying panel data techniques on 25 European Countries' data spanning from 1993-2012. Results show that per capita income, education level and welfare index have positive impact while unemployment, income inequality and price level have negative influence on crime.

KEYWORDS Crime; unemployment; education; income inequality; welfare index; price level

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