

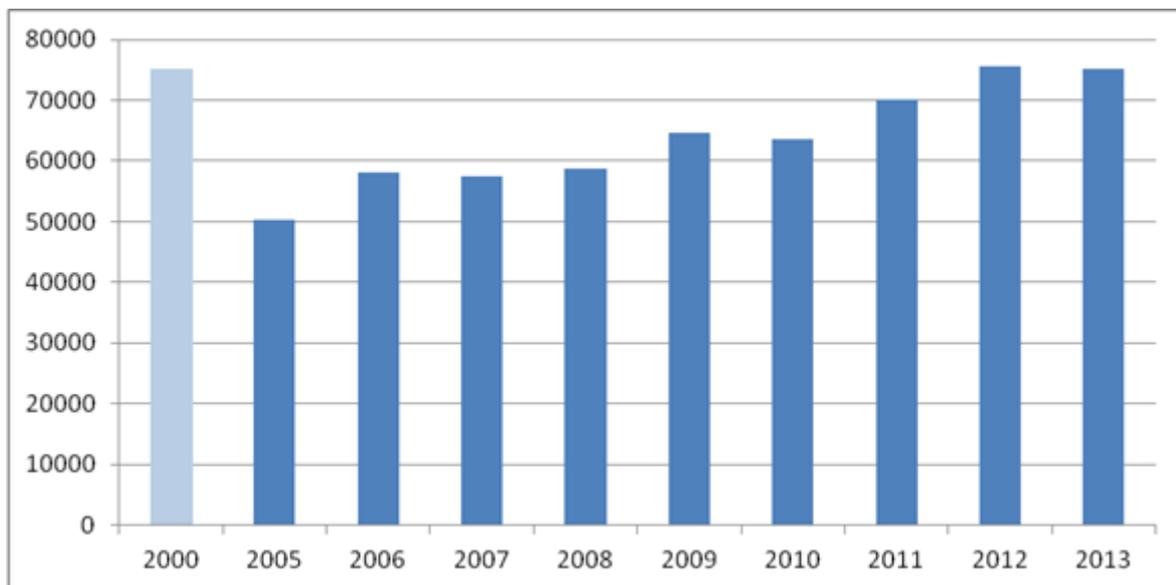
Fight against domestic burglary

On Monday 24 November 2014 the Directorate-General Security and Prevention of the FPS Home Affairs has organized the second **States-General Domestic Burglary**, which was also the final piece of the **European project 'Domestic Burglary'**. The aim was to mutually exchange ideas on an integrated approach of the fight against domestic burglary. This implies a global approach, an efficient coordination and a total involvement of all competent actors.

This States-General was attended by 200 persons: members of the local and federal authorities and representatives of the academic world, the prevention services and the police services.

Domestic burglary in figures

Domestic burglary in Belgium (strict)



The phenomenon of domestic burglary keeps peaking, in spite of the many efforts that are put in at all policy levels.

Since 2005 one can see a clear rising trend with a sad height in 2012. In 2013 we saw a very small decline, yet we still count 205 domestic burglaries a day.

The loot

When burglars steal, they primarily take into account the saleability and the weight of the goods. The most important objects remain jewellery, watches and money. It is remarkable though that computers and accessories are on the up and up, as their number rose between 2008 and 2013 with over 40 %. (Source: Federal Police)

I. Support to the local authorities

The fight against burglary is a permanent challenge, given the extent of the phenomenon. That is thus the reason why this phenomenon has been included for years in the National Security Plan and thus also in the plan 2012- 2015.

To fight burglaries the local authorities need to dispose of knowledge and up-to-date tools that are adapted to the reality of the field.

Below you find an overview.

1. Monitor Domestic Burglary

To be able to outline a good policy it is important to have a good view on the phenomenon. That is why the FPS Home Affairs has developed a 'monitor domestic burglary' that is accessible for cities and municipalities. It is a database that groups all policy data on domestic burglary. This includes: all figures, the number of alarm systems, priority of the phenomenon within the zonal security plan, the presence of domestic burglary within the strategic security and prevention plan, the number of burglary prevention advisors, the number of neighbourhood information networks, etc. All data can be consulted from national to municipal level.

This database is not only intended to be able to provide a good framework for the phenomenon, but especially to be able to strive for specific sensitization at the local level.

The monitor can be consulted through www.besafe.be.

2. European project Domestic Burglary

On 1 October 2013 the European project "An integral methodology to develop an information-led and community-orientated policy to tackle domestic burglary", in short "Domestic Burglary", was started. This project – financed with the support of the European Commission – wants to stimulate an integral and integrated approach of burglary prevention at the European level. By exchanging best practises and development tools, other EU countries too can gain or expand their knowledge and expertise and attend to the prevention of domestic burglary.

The result was a methodological step-by-step plan one can use to outline a local burglary prevention policy. More info on www.domesticburglary.eu.

3. Scientific research «new technologies»

What is the effect of new technologies on burglary prevention? We then think of: Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and also the use of home automation and the different apps the citizen is bombarded with. On 1 November 2014 a scientific research was started regarding the impact of new technologies on crime control. The aim of this research is an assessment of the

technologies that can have an impact on crime control and the possibilities to meet this with adapted prevention measures.

II. What can you do as a citizen?

1 DAY NOT

You can only fight burglary when the citizen also plays his role. Therefore the FPS Home Affairs, the provinces, the police and the local authorities organize different sensitization actions that involve the citizen. The standard example of this is the action '1 day not' that takes place on 11 December. It is the first national action against domestic burglary and is especially aimed at the citizen to let him think about his role within this theme.

On the website www.1dagniet.be everyone can post his own initiative and find a whole series of prevention tips and original ideas from other initiators. Follow «1 day not» on Facebook and Twitter as well.

Appeal to burglary prevention advisors

A burglary prevention advisor is an expert in burglary prevention who works for a municipality or a local police zone. His main mission is to explain to the citizens how they can protect their homes best against burglary. And as every house is different, the burglary prevention advisor visits the citizens at home. This visit is free, neutral and without obligations. To request a visit: www.diefstalpreventieadviseur.be.

Participation in a neighbourhood information network

Citizens can actively participate in their security by joining a neighbourhood information network (BIN). This is a citizens' initiative regarding security in the form of a cooperation agreement between the residents of a neighbourhood and the local police, in which the citizens commit themselves to report suspect actions to the police. The police examines the reporting and informs, if necessary, the citizens that belong to the BIN. These neighbourhood information networks strive to increase the security and quality of life in a specific neighbourhood, to stimulate the social control, but also to emphasize the importance of prevention. Interested to create a BIN in your neighbourhood? Contact the local police.

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