Octopus Conference 2021 Workshop Victims



ON-AND OFFLINE CRIME VICTIMS

THE SHIFTING REALITY OF CRIMINAL VICTIMISATION in EUROPE

Prof JAN VAN DIJK NSCR



Prevalence and trends in common offline crime, 2006-2019, Gallup World Poll, N>400.000; source: Van Dijk et al., 2021

Europe Northern Europe Western Europe Eastern Europe Southern Europe





Percentages victims per year of four types of cyber crime 2012-2019; source: The Netherlands Security Monitors N> 30.000 per year

Rate of all cyber crime

Identity fraud

Consumer fraud online

Hacking

Cyber bullying





Cyber crime in The Netherlands

- Online fraud and cyber bullying are on the rise in NL
- Online victimization is now almost equal in prevalence as victimization by offline common crime
- Only 13% of victims of online crime report the incident to the police
- The 'dark numbers of crime' are increasing



Percentages of population victimised at least once during the past five years and past twelve months by five types of cyber crimes in Georgia; nationwide; ICVS 2021/Van Dijk et al. 2022

	5 yr. victimisation	Last 12 months
Consumer fraud online	4,7	2,9
Bankcard/online-banking fraud	2,0	0,9
Hacking	2,1	0,6
Computer virus	13,4	6,9
Cyber bullying	1,9	0,7



Cyber crime victimization in Georgia last year

- 0.9 percent of Georgians are victimized by bank card fraud or fraud during e-banking last year.
- 0.7 of Georgians has been subject to bullying in cyber space last year. A quarter said photos or films of them had been placed on internet and another quarter that they had been stalked.
- Many respondents had been affected by the placement of a virus (6.9% last year).
- Hacking had affected 2% of the population last year.



Percentages of cases reported to police in Georgia

Consumer fraud on line	2
Bankcard/online-banking fraud	14
Unauthorised access to personal information/hacking	12
Computer virus	0.5
Bullying	21



"Taking everything into account, how serious was the incident for you or your household?"

	Very serious	Fairly serious	Not very serious	DK
Consumer fraud	7	17	75	1
Bankcard/online-banking fraud	30	27	42	1
Unauthorized access to personal information/hacking	14	20	63	3
Computer virus	6	11	82	1
Bullying	25	24	51	0



`Did you or anyone else in your household have any contact with a specialized victim support agency after this incident?' If not, would this have been useful ?'

	Yes, useful (in %%)
Burglary	43
Robbery	43
Bullying	73
Assault & threat by stranger (males)	28
Assault & threat known offender (males)	32
Sexual offences (females)	45
Assault & threat by stranger (females)	74
Assault & threat known offender (females)	55

In conclusion

- Cyber crime is rising to the level of offline crime
- It is rarely reported to the police
- Some of it is very serious (e.g. major fraud and bullying)
- Victims of online crime rarely receive specialized support
- Europe urgently needs a regular crime victimization survey covering cyber crime victimization