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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE
6 MARCH 2020**

&

**CONFERENCE "MEASURING CYBERCRIME IN THE TIME OF COVID-19:
THE ROLE OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS
29-30 OCTOBER 2020**

Introduction

This intermediate report is organised in two main parts:

- 1) Executive Summary of the intermediate report
- 2) Appendices: Appendix 1 to 5 present the documents summarised in the first part of this intermediate report

Executive Summary

This intermediate report summarises the work conducted during the year 2020 in order to start fulfilling the tasks foreseen in Consultant's contract N°237/2021.

One of the main tasks of that contract is the organisation of a Conference dedicated to new types of crime, including cybercrime. In order to achieve that goal, a scientific committee of 4 experts was appointed. This committee includes the consultant (Professor Marcelo F. Aebi, Ph.D.) as well as Professor Stefano Caneppele, Ph.D. from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, Professor Fernando Miró, Ph.D. from the University Miguel Hernández of Elche, Alicante, Spain, and Professor Michael Levi, Ph.D, from Cardiff University, United Kingdom.

The scientific committee met in Strasbourg on 6 March 2020 from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm (see Appendix 1). The meeting was fruitful and allowed the planification of the whole Conference which was supposed to take place on 4 and 5 May in Strasbourg, under the title "Cybercrime in Europe now: How we measure it, how we respond to it". The lockdowns imposed as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Council of Europe to postpone that Conference.

The Scientific committee remained in contact through emails and virtual meetings and, finally, it was decided that the Conference would take place on 29 and 30 October according to a concept note that is included in Appendix 2.

The Conference effectively took place on 29 and 30 October under the title: "Measuring cybercrime in the time of COVID-19: The role of crime and criminal justice statistics". Appendix 3 presents the program of the Conference, Appendix 4 includes the list of participants, and Appendix 5 the Executive Summary of the Conference as well as the Power Point presentations.

The Conference was very productive. It combined plenary sessions and long discussions among the participants. The proceedings of the Conference will be published by the end of this project, in such a way that it is useless to try to summarise the presentations here. Currently, the research team of the University of Lausanne is already working on the transcription of the proceedings.

Apart from that, an extended scientific committee will meet in January 2021 in order to start organising the second Conference foreseen in Consultant's contract N°237/2021, which will take place on 22 and 23 March 2021. In sum, the first months of the project were extremely fruitful. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed the work and forced us to postpone the first Conference but, apart from that, the project is developing as planned and the deliverables will be produced on time.

Appendix 1:
Conference of the Scientific Committee
(6 March 2020)

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Strasbourg, 6 March 2020

**The scientific committees of the Conference:
"Cybercrime in Europe now: How we measure it, how we respond to it"
(4-5 May 2020, Strasbourg)**

Strasbourg, 6 March 2020 (9:00 am - 6:00 pm)

Council of Europe (Agora) / Conseil de l'Europe (Agora)
Room / Salle: G04

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Professor Marcelo F. AEBI, Ph.D.
Vice-director, School of Criminal Sciences, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
E-mail: Marcelo.Aebi@unil.ch

Professor Dr. Stefano CANEPPELE
School of Criminal Justice, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
E-mail: stefano.caneppele@unil.ch

Professor Fernando MIRÓ
Full Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology (Universidad Miguel Hernández of Elche, Alicante) and Director of CRÍMINA Centre for the study and prevention of crime, Elche (Alicante), Spain,
E-mail: f.miro@crimina.es

Professor Michael LEVI, PhD, DSc (Econ.), FaCSS, FLSW
Professor of Criminology, Cardiff University, United Kingdom
E-mail: Levi@cardiff.ac.uk

SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Ilina TANEVA
Secretary to the PC-CP

Christine COLEUR
Assistant

Appendix 2:

Concept note produced in June 2020 regarding the holding of the first Conference of the project

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CONCEPT NOTE REGARDING THE HOLDING OF A CONFERENCE: "MEASURING CYBERCRIME IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: THE ROLE OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS"

In roughly thirty years, the world has undergone a major transformation linked to the digital revolution. This has introduced major modifications in terms of security, crime and the modus operandi of criminals. New online crimes have emerged (like hacking and computer viruses), traditionally offline crimes have frequently become hybrid crimes, in the sense that they combine an online and an offline component (like bullying and cyberbullying or fraud and cyber-fraud), and a new way of influencing the public debate through means that often imply deviant or delinquent behaviours (through fake news or unfounded attacks via the digital social networks) has developed. Crime in the 21st Century often takes place online and, in order to prevent it, it is necessary to know its extent and characteristics. This requires valid and reliable crime measures, and this is one of the aspects that has attracted less attention in the public and scientific debate. The aim of the discussion that will take place during the Conference is to identify ways in which crime and criminal justice statistics as well as crime and victimisation surveys could be improved to capture the real extent and characteristics of the phenomenon. This will allow developing together an agenda for future research and evidence-based evaluation of crime prevention strategies.

The Conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and policy makers in order to improve the common knowledge on crimes committed online and identify the kind of data that can be useful for those involved in its prevention. This activity is related to the work of the Council of Europe on the field of criminal statistics through the Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE) and the European Sourcebook on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics.

This activity is funded jointly by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Appendix 3:

**Programme of the Conference “Measuring
cybercrime in the time of COVID-19: The role of
crime and criminal justice statistics”
(29-30 October 2020)**

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CONFERENCE
"MEASURING CYBERCRIME IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: THE ROLE OF CRIME AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS"

(29-30 OCTOBER 2020, STRASBOURG)

(BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ONLY)

PROGRAM DAY 1

13.00-13.10 Introduction **Annie DEVOS (PC-CP Chair) & Marcelo AEBI (University of Lausanne)**

PRELUDE SESSION: CYBERCRIME IN TIMES OF COVID-19 AND IN POSTCOVID-19 ERA

13.10-13.30 COVID-19 and cybercrime. What we know, what we do not know and what we shall measure:
Fernando MIRÓ LINARES (University M. Hernandez)

SESSION 1 - MODERNISING CRIME & JUSTICE STATISTICS

13.30-13.50 The International Effort in the Modernization of Crime Statistics **Michael LEVI (University of Cardiff)**

13.50-14.10 Cybercrime & the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes **Alexander SEGER (Council of Europe)**

14.10-14.50 Cybercrime Statistics: National Experiences

Estonia: Andri AHVEN and Mari-Liis SÖÖT (Estonian Ministry of Justice)

Spain: Francisco SANCHEZ JIMENEZ (Spanish Ministry of Interior)

14.50-15.20 Self Report Delinquency Survey & Cybercrime: The State-of-the-art, **Lieven PAUWELS (Ghent University)**

15.20- 15.30 Questions & Answers

SESSION 2 - MODERNISING VICTIMISATION SURVEY

09.20-09.40 Crime Survey & Cybercrime: The State-of-the-art, **Marianne JUNGER (University of Twente)**

09.40-10.40 National Experiences in Cybercrime Surveys: Challenges and Lessons Learnt

The Netherlands: Johan VAN WILSEM (Court of Audit)

Finland: Matti NÄSI (University of Helsinki)

England and Wales: Billy GAZARD (Office for National Statistics, Centre for Crime and Justice)

10.40-11.30 Wrap up section

Moderator: **Stefano CANEPPELE (University of Lausanne)**

SESSION 3 - RETHINKING VICTIMS ASSISTANCE & DETERRENCE MODELS

13.00-13.20 Which Assistance for Cybercrime Victims? **Ricardo ESTRELA (Portuguese Association for Victim Support)**

13.20-13.40 The Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment, **Nicole Samantha VAN DER MEULEN (Europol)**

13.40-14.20 Deterrence, Diversion and Desistance of Cybercriminals [Michael LEVI](#) (University of Cardiff)

14.20-15.20 Wrap up section

Moderator: **Marcelo AEBI** (University of Lausanne)

15.20-15.30 Concluding Remarks **Marcelo AEBI** (University of Lausanne)

Appendix 4:

**List of participants to the Conference “Measuring
cybercrime in the time of COVID-19: The role of
crime and criminal justice statistics”
(29-30 October 2020)**

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Strasbourg, 30.10.2020

PC-CP (2020) Conf. Cybercrime October

“MEASURING CYBERCRIME IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: THE ROLE OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS

« ÉVALUER LA CYBERCRIMINALITÉ À L'ÈRE DU COVID-19 : LE RÔLE DES STATISTIQUES RELATIVES À LA CRIMINALITÉ ET À LA JUSTICE PÉNALE »

29-30/10/2020

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ***LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS***

MEMBER STATES / ÉTATS MEMBRES

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Delphine WYNANTS

Attachée, SPF Justice, Direction générale de la Législation, des Libertés et des Droits fondamentaux, Direction Droit pénal, Service des infractions et procédures particulières

E-mail: delphine.wynants@just.fgov.be

DENMARK / DANEMARK

Mikkel MØLLER OKHOLM

Research and Documentation Division, Ministry of Justice

E-mail: mok@jm.dk

Niels Denny SØRENSEN

Deputy Chief Super Intendent, Danish National Police, National Cyber Crime Center

E-mail: nds001@politi.dk

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Janne KANERVA

Counsellor of Legislation, Legislative Affairs, Ministry of Justice

E-mail: janne.kanerva@om.fi

GREECE / GRÈCE

Maria KOLLIA

Police, Cybercrime Prosecution Directorate, Athens

E-mail: ccu@cybercrimeunit.gov.gr

HUNGARY / HONGRIE

Petronella DERES
Researcher, National Institute of Criminology
E-mail: deres@okri.hu

Ádám PINTÉR
Hungarian Central Statistical Office
E-mail: adam.pinter@ksh.hu

Mára RAHÓI
Prosecutor, Office of the Prosecutor General
E-mail: rahoi.maria@mku.hu

Gábor SZÁSZVAI-PAPP
Head of Unit, Office of the Prosecutor General
E-mail: Dr.Szaszvai-Papp.Gabor@mku.hu

Ákos SZIGETI
Statistician, National Institute of Criminology
E-mail: szigeti@okri.hu

Anita SZÚCS
Hungarian Central Statistical Office
E-mail: anita.szucs@ksh.hu

LATVIA / LETTONIE

Gunars JANKEVICS
Senior officer, State police, Central criminal police department, International Co-operation department, 1-st Unit (cross-border cooperation 24/7, SIS/SIRENE, Cybercrime contact point for Latvia)
E-mail: gunars.jankevics@vp.gov.lv; ssp@vp.gov.lv

Olegs OLINS
Deputy Head of the 1st Unit, (Operational cross-border cooperation (24/7) and SIS/SIRENE, Latvian National Point of Contact for preventing and fighting cybercrimes), International Co-operation Department of the Central Criminal Police Department of the State Police of Latvia
E-mail: olegs.olins@vp.gov.lv

MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNÉGRO

Ognjen MITROVIĆ
Head of Division for International Judicial Co-operation
E-mail: ognjen.mitrovic@mpa.gov.me

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA

Soltan VEACESLAV
Prosecutor, Head of information technology section and fighting cybercrime, General Prosecutor Office
E-mail: v.soltan@procuratura.md

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

José DURÁN MARTÍN
Major, Spanish Guardia Civil, Cybersecurity Coordination Unit, Madrid
E-mail: jduran@guardiacivil.es

SWEDEN / SUÈDE

Mattias FOGELGREN
Desk officer, Division for Crime Policy, Ministry of Justice
E-mail: mattias.fogelgren@regeringskansliet.se

SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

Philippe HAYOZ
Responsable du domaine "Police" et suppléant de la cheffe de section, Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI, Office fédéral de la statistique, Section criminalité et droit pénal, Neuchâtel
E-mail: Philippe.Hayoz@bfs.admin.ch

Seymour MIZRAHI
Collaborateur scientifique, Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI, Office fédéral de la statistique OFS, Section criminalité et droit pénal CRIME, Neuchâtel
E-mail: Seymour.Mizrahi@bfs.admin.ch

TURKEY / TURQUIE

Fatih ASLAN Deputy
Inspector
E-mail: fatih.aslan1@egm.gov.tr

İbrahim ÖZDEMİR Inspector
E-mail: ozdemiribrahim@egm.gov.tr

UKRAINE

Oleksii GICHKO
Head of International Co-operation Branch, Department of Cyber Security, Security Service of Ukraine
E-mail: oleksii.gichko@dis.gov.ua

UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI

Justin MILLAR
Head of Cyber Crime International, Cyber Policy Unit
E-mail: Justin.Millar4@homeoffice.gov.uk

SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS / ORATEURS-ORATRICES ET MODÉRATEURS-MODÉRATRICES

Marcelo F. AEBI
Professor, Vice-director, School of Criminal Sciences, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
E-mail: Marcelo.Aebi@unil.ch

Andri AHVEN
Adviser Criminal Policy Department, Ministry of Justice, Estonia
E-mail: andri.ahven@just.ee

Stefano CANEPPELE
Professor, School of Criminal Justice, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
E-mail: stefano.caneppele@unil.ch

Ricardo ESTRELA
Portuguese Association for Victim Support
E-mail: ricardoestrela@apav.pt

Billy GAZARD
Office for National Statistics, Centre for Crime and Justice
E-mail: Billy.Gazard@ons.gov.uk

Marianne JUNGER
University of Twente, The Netherlands
E-mail: m.junger@utwente.nl

Michael LEVI
Professor of Criminology, Cardiff University, United Kingdom
E-mail: Levi@cardiff.ac.uk

Fernando MIRÓ
Full Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology (Universidad Miguel Hernández of Elche, Alicante) and Director of CRÍMINA Centre for the study and prevention of crime, Spain
E-mail: f.miro@crimina.es

Matti NÄSI
University of Helsinki, Finland
E-mail: matti.j.nasi@helsinki.fi

Lieven PAUWELS
Department Criminology, Criminal Law and Social Law, Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy (IRCP), Belgium
E-mail: Lieven.Pauwels@UGent.be

Francisco SANCHEZ JIMENEZ
Head of Service, Department of Statistical System and Support of Victims, State Secretariat for Security, Ministry of the Interior, Spain
E-mail: fsj@interior.es

Mari-Liis SÖÖT
Head of Analysis Division, Criminal Policy Department, Ministry of Justice, Estonia
E-mail: Mari-Liis.Soot@just.ee

Nicole Samantha VAN DER MEULEN
EUROPOL
E-mail: Nicole-Samantha.van-der-Meulen@europol.europa.eu

Johan VAN WILSEM
Dr., Strategist-researcher Justice & Security, Netherlands Court of Audit, The Hague, The Netherlands
E-mail: J.Wilsem@rekenkamer.nl

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE

Jesca BENEDER
Team Leader, European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers, Unit B.2 Procedural Criminal Law, Brussels/Belgium
E-mail: Jesca.Beneder@ec.europa.eu

COUNCIL FOR PENOLOGICAL CO-OPERATION / CONSEIL DE COOPÉRATION PÉNOLOGIQUE
(PC-CP)

Annie DEVOS
Présidente du PC-CP
Administratrice générale des Maisons de Justice, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgique
E-mail: annie.devos@cfwb.be

SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / SECÉTARIAT DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
DIRECTORATE GENERAL I / DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE I

Alexander SEGER
Head of Cybercrime Division/ Chef de la Division Cybercriminalité
E-mail: alexander.seger@coe.int

Nina LICHTNER
Programme Officer, Cybercrime Division/ Chargée de Programme, Division Cybercriminalité
E-mail: nina.lichtner@coe.int

Lucia BARBA
Project Assistant, iPROCEEDS-2
Cybercrime Division/ Division Cybercriminalité
E-mail: lucia.barba@coe.int

Nicoleta MUNTEAN
Senior Project Officer, CyberSouth, Cybercrime Programme Office (C-PROC), Council of Europe
E-mail: nicoleta.muntean@coe.int

Georgeta MUREANU
Project Officer, iPROCEEDS-2
Cybercrime Division/ Division Cybercriminalité
E-mail: georgeta.mureanu@coe.int

Ana VLAD
Project Assistant, Cybercrime Programme Office (C-PROC), Council of Europe
E-mail: ana.vlad@coe.int

Ilina TANEVA
Deputy Head of the Criminal Law Division, Secretary to the PC-CP / Cheffe adjointe de la Division de Droit Pénal,
Secrétaire du PC-CP
E-mail: ilina.taneva@coe.int

Christine COLEUR
Diana FRECHOSO
Assistants / Assistantes

INTERPRETERS / INTERPRÈTES

English: PEDUSSAUD Jean-Jacques
French: CHENETIER-KIPPING Chloé, GUITTONNEAU Nicolas

Appendix 5:

Executive Summary of the Conference “Measuring cybercrime in the time of COVID-19: The role of crime and criminal justice statistics” (29-30 October 2020)



Executive Summary of the Conference “Measuring cybercrime in the time of COVID-19: The role of crime and criminal justice statistics”

The Conference “Measuring cybercrime in the time of COVID-19: The role of crime and criminal justice statistics” took place by videoconference on 29 and 30 October 2020.

Forty-seven persons participated in the Conference and, among them, 14 made presentations.

The Conference was opened by the PC-CP Chair Annie Devos, who welcomed the participants and presented the general framework of the Conference.

The first presentation was made by Fernando Miró Llinares (Spain), who summarised the current knowledge on the impact of COVID-19 on cybercrime and indicated the kind of measures required to improve that knowledge.

After him, Michael Levi (United Kingdom) presented the current efforts made throughout Europe in order to modernise crime statistics by including the cyber related offences that currently are seldom recorded.

In that perspective, the following two presentations were dedicated to the efforts made concretely in Estonia and Spain to reach the modernization required. Thus, Andri Ahven and Mari-Liis Sööt showed how cybercrimes are recorded in Estonia, and Francisco Sánchez Giménez concentrated on how they are recorded in Spain.

Finally, the last presentation of the first day was done by Lieven Pauwels (Belgium) who illustrated the way in which alternative measures of crime can help measuring cybercrime. In particular, Prof. Pauwels showed the way in which self-reported delinquency surveys can help reaching that goal.

In a similar perspective, the presentations made during the morning of the second day focused on the use of victim surveys to measure cybercrime. First, Marianne Junger (Netherlands) presented an overview of the situation at the international level (which countries are measuring cybercrime through crime survey and how). Then, there were three presentations dedicated to three specific countries. In that context, Johan van Wilsem presented the situation in the Netherlands, Matti Näsi in Finland, and Billy Gazard in England and Wales.

After the lunch break, Ricardo Estrela (Portugal) focused his presentation on the way cybercrime victims can be assisted. Then Nicole Samanta van der Muelen introduced Europol’s “Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment”. Finally, Michael Levi (United Kingdom) discussed the rehabilitation of cybercriminals focusing on deterrence, diversion and desistance from cybercrime.

The Conference ended with a one hour long wrap up section in which several of the participants took the word in order to ask or answer questions.

In sum, the Conference was a success and the proceedings will be published by the end of the project.