



CONCEPT NOTE

Conference “Three decades of crime and criminal justice statistics in Europe: Methods, trends and the impact on policy making” (22-23 March 2021)

This conference aims to bring together researchers, practitioners and policy makers during two days and four sessions.

The first session of the Conference will be dedicated to the presentation of the sixth edition of the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics. This is the latest result of a project launched by the Council of Europe in the mid-1990s and continued afterwards by a group of experts in comparative criminology. In the framework of this project, almost thirty years of data and metadata on police, prosecution, conviction, prison and probation statistics, as well as data from crime victim surveys, have been collected.

The second session will concentrate on the methodological problems related to any comparison of crime across countries and the way in which they could be contained. Particular emphasis is put on the way these comparisons are misused by the press and sometimes even by specialists.

The third session has two main goals. First, it presents the two final reports of the project LINCS (Linking Prison Statistics to the Criminal Justice System), co-funded by the European Commission and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe and the University of Lausanne. The reports analyse the link between trends in conviction and prison statistics as well as the potential influence of offence definitions on prison rates. This allows connecting this research project with the *Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE)*, which are being collected since 1983. Second, during the session will be discussed crime trends during the last thirty years and their possible explanations.

Finally, the fourth session concentrates on the way the data collected by researchers and European institutions, such as the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations, can be used by criminal policy makers and help implement evidence-based research. The goal is to show how data can guide effective policies that reduce crime and increase security while respecting human rights.