



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 victimization 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 discussions will be based on the definitions contained in the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime ([ETS No.185](#)), known as the Budapest Convention, as well as on its Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism committed through computer systems ([ETS No.189](#)).

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.

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