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LINCS (*Linking International Criminal Statistics*)

Council of Europe, Strasbourg 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> April 2018

# National Victimization Surveys, 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics

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# Overview

- Background
- Data requested in the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the ESB
- Availability and periodicity of national victimization surveys
- Wording of the questions on *trust in the police* and *feelings of safety*
- Methodology used in the national victimization surveys
- Main results of the national victimization surveys for some indicators

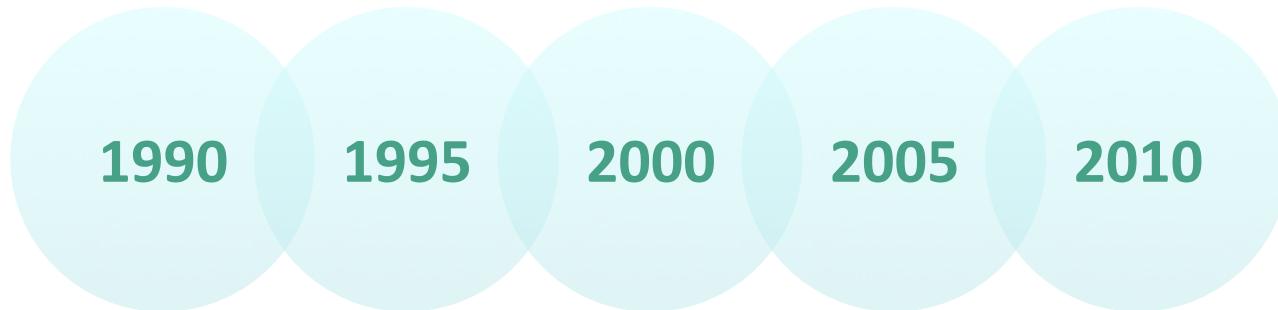
# Background

- Lack of recent International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS)
- Data on national victimization surveys 1990 to 2010

**Comparability!**



- Data were asked for five different victimization surveys:



# Data requested

- Availability and periodicity of national victimization surveys

- Wording of the questions

- Offences

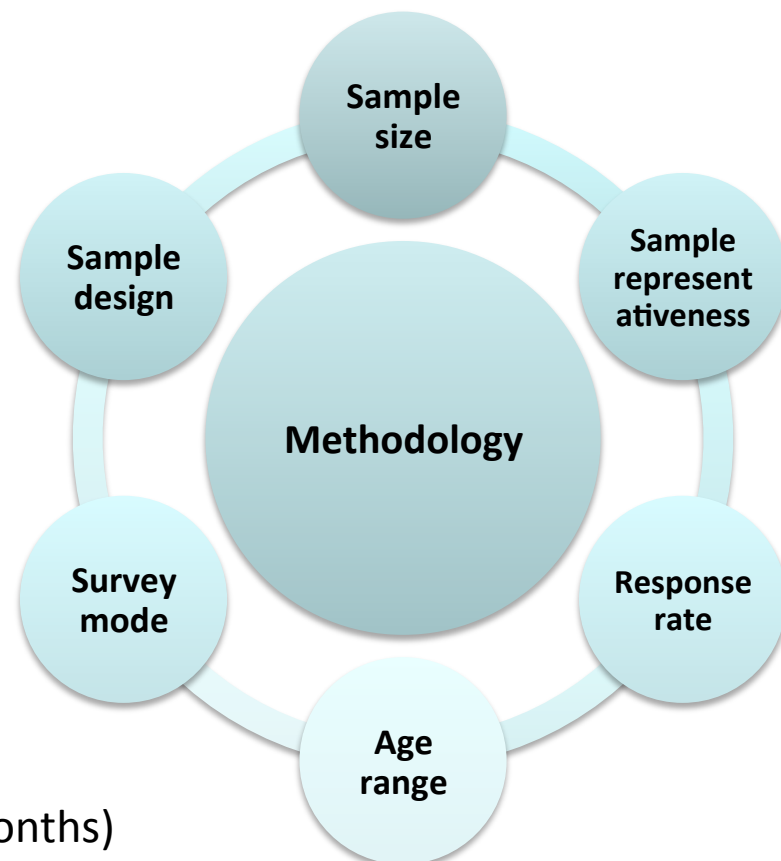
- ✓ bodily injury/assault
- ✓ sexual assault
- ✓ robbery
- ✓ theft of personal property
- ✓ theft of a motor vehicle
- ✓ domestic burglary
- ✓ corruption

- *Trust in the police and feelings of safety*

- Methodology

- Main results

- ✓ prevalence and incidence of victimization (12 months)
- ✓ percentage of victims reporting to the police



# Availability and periodicity of national victimization surveys

**36** countries **answered** the section of the questionnaire covering national victimization surveys

**9** of them (Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Kosovo, Malta, Russia, Serbia, and Slovakia) had **never conducted** a national victimization survey

**13** others **conduct a periodical** national victimization survey

**13** countries **do not conduct** a periodical survey but have conducted one or more national victimization surveys

**Table 6.1.2 Countries with *periodical* national victimization surveys and frequency of such surveys**

Country	Frequency
Belgium	Normally every two years, but the most recent survey was in 2008/2009
Bulgaria	Annual
Denmark	Annual
Georgia	Last three years 2010-2012
France	Annual
Iceland	Annual for the capital area but every two years for the whole country
Ireland	3-6 years
Italy	About every five years
Netherlands	Annual
Sweden	Annual
Turkey	Annual
UK: England & Wales	Continuous (with annual results)
UK: Northern Ireland	Continuous (with annual results)
UK: Scotland	Every two years

**Table 6.1.3 Countries with *occasional* national victimization surveys and characteristics of such surveys**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Characteristics/year of the survey(s)</b>
Albania	Albania participated in the International Crime Victim Survey in 1996, carried out by UNICRI, and in 2000, conducted by Gallup for UNICRI, with city samples. The International Crime Business Survey was conducted in 2000, a National Survey on Children Violence in 2006, and a National Survey on Domestic Violence in 2008. References: <a href="http://www.unicef.org/albania/Violence_against_children_in_Albania.pdf">http://www.unicef.org/albania/Violence_against_children_in_Albania.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/domestic-violence-in-albania---national-survey/">http://www.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/domestic-violence-in-albania---national-survey/</a> . Hysi, Vasilika (1998). The International Crime Victim Survey in Tirana (Albania), 1996, in <i>The International Crime Victim Survey In Countries in Transition (national reports)</i> , UNICRI publication No 62. Rome: UNICRI. Hysi, Vasilika (2001) <i>The International Crime Victim Survey, Albania</i> (National Report). Tirana.
Armenia	2010.
Austria	Austria conducted a nationwide study on domestic violence (including attacks on sexual integrity) for which data are available.
Croatia	2000, 2009.
Czech Republic	2006.
Estonia	Major surveys: 1) ICVS: 1993, 1995, 2000, 2004. 2) Based on and largely comparable to the ICVS: 2009.
Finland	1980, 1988, 1993, 1997, 2003, 2006, 2009
Lithuania	2004, 2005, 2007.
Poland	2007, 2008, 2009.
Portugal	1992 and 1994.
Slovenia	Data are available in the Data archive of social sciences. Questionnaires and methods were adjusted to conform to the international sweeps of the ICVS until 2001. However, there were no available economic resources to participate fully in later surveys or to fully analyse earlier data.
Spain	In 1978, 1980, 1991 and 1995 surveys were conducted by the Center of Sociological Research (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, CIS). Data are not available.
Switzerland	National Crime Victim Surveys were conducted in 1984/7, 1989, 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2005 by the University of Lausanne, and in 2011 by the University of Zurich, under the direction of Prof. Martin Killias. Since 1989, the questionnaire used was based on the ICVS with some additional questions.

# Wording of the questions on: offences, trust in the police and feelings of safety

**Table 6.1.5 Wording of the questions included in national victimization surveys**

Offence /Topic	Standard Wording	Similar wording	Different wording	Question not included
<b>Bodily injury</b>	<i>... have you been personally attacked (e.g., someone hit you with his/her fists, kicked you, or used force or violence on you in any other way)?</i>	13 countries: Armenia, Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, UK: Northern Ireland, UK: Scotland.	8 countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Iceland, Lithuania, Turkey, UK: England & Wales.	1 country: Portugal
<b>Sexual assault</b>	<i>... has anyone grabbed you, touched you or assaulted you for sexual reasons in a really offensive way?</i>	6 countries: Belgium, Estonia, Georgia, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden.	12 countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Lithuania, Portugal, Turkey, UK: England & Wales, UK: Scotland.	4 countries: Armenia, Ireland, Poland, UK: Northern Ireland.
<b>Robbery</b>	<i>...has anyone stolen something from you by using force or threatening you?</i>	10 countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Sweden.	10 countries: Czech Republic, France, Iceland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Turkey, UK: England & Wales, UK: Northern Ireland, UK: Scotland.	2 countries: Armenia, Finland
<b>Theft of personal property</b>	<i>... have you personally been the victim of a theft of personal property, such as pick-pocketing or theft of a purse, wallet, clothing, jewellery,</i>	9 countries: Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Italy, Poland.	13 countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, UK: England & Wales,	0 countries

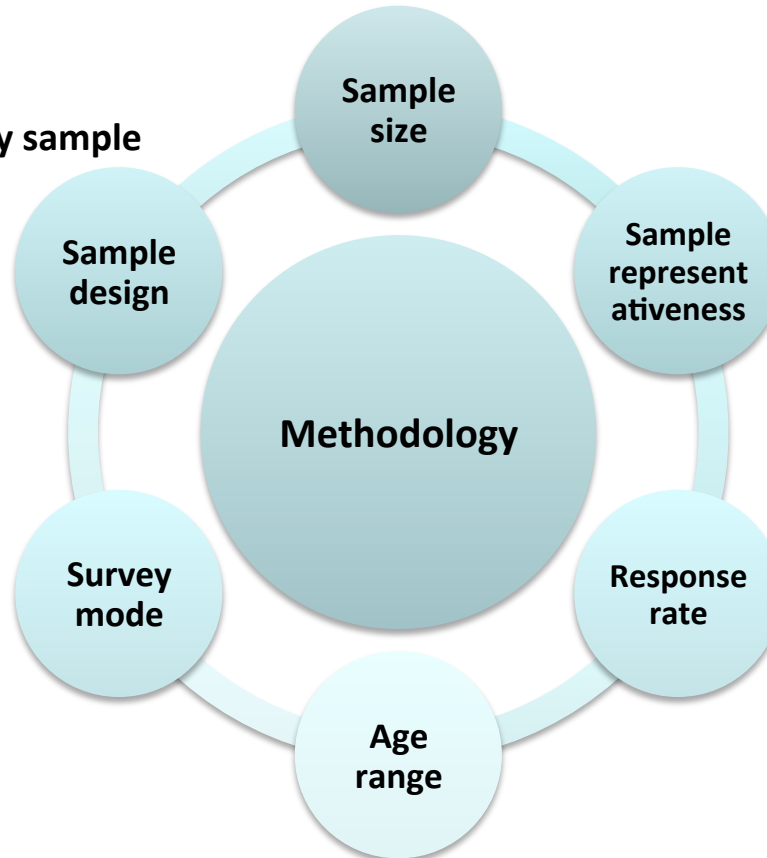


# Methodology used in the victimization surveys

- Gradually increasing during the 20 years
- 10 countries out of 20 used samples of more than 10,000 households in 2010

**Multistage probability sample**  
most common design

**CATI and CAPI**



- 2010
- **National level and 1<sup>st</sup> regional** (7 countries)
  - **National level** (4 countries)
  - **National level, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> regional level** (1 country)
  - **National level and urban-rural breakdown** (1 country)
  - **Blocks then household** (1 country)

Generally **decreasing** since 2000

- Minimum age is usually **15-16 years old**.
- Most countries **do not fix a maximum age**

# Main results of the national victimization: Quality of the data

## Data reporting:

Bodily injury/assault

Theft of a motor vehicle

Robbery

Domestic burglary

Theft of personal property

Sexual assault

Corruption

## Most commonly used indicator:

Prevalence of victimization

Percentage of victims that reported the offence to the police

Incidence of victimization

# Main results of the national victimization surveys for the following indicators

In 2010:

## Offence prevalence

- **Theft of personal property** highest prevalence in Europe
- **Sexual assault** the lowest one

## Feelings on unsafety

- The percentage of respondents feeling unsafe or very unsafe on the street after dark **varies widely** across countries;
- **Lower than 50%**

## Police perception

- The percentage of respondents thinking that the **police was doing a good or very good job** in controlling crime in the local area was **higher than 50%** (with a couple of exceptions)
- However, **no direct correlation** between confidence in the police and unsafety in the streets after dark

# LINCS questionnaire

## Cybercrime wording

**Table 2** Types of cybercrime that are covered in the questionnaires

Study	Questions about crime prevalence over a period of 12 months of								Cyberbullying/ threats/sexual offence		Malware		Hacking
	Online shopping fraud		Online banking and payment fraud		Other fraud								
	Victim	Damage	Victim	Damage	Advanced fee/ dating fraud		ID fraud other than banking		Victim	Damage	Victim	Damage	Victim
NTU	y	f	y	f					y	e			
CSEW	y	fet	y	fet	y	fet	y	fet			y	fet	y
VM	y		y						y				y
ODW	y	f	y	f	y	fe	y	fe	y	fe	y	f	y
ITN											y	f	
WSIND	y	f	y	f							y	f	
DV	y	fet <sup>a</sup>											
CVS			y	f									
ES	y	e	y	e									

y: questioned

f: includes questions on financial loss

e: includes questions on emotional impact

t: includes questions on time loss

<sup>a</sup> There is a 4 point scale question on the seriousness of the incident, this implicitly includes finance, emotion and/or time

Reep-van den Bergh & Junger (2018)

**Thank you for your attention!**



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