

a European victim survey?

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A step back

- Criminologists have a fairly unique problem: they cannot measure their central variable of interest well
- Instead, we use police data, indirect data, victimization data
- Victim reports generally perceived as least problematic
- Even so: not unproblematic and especially problematic if we want to compare cross-nationally: definitional and methodological incongruities resulting convoluted comparisons (compare malaria or TB)
- 'impossible to compare'

A step back

- European Sourcebook a laudable effort to help overcome incongruities between national crime & justice statistics or interpret these – however: no victimisation data, only inventory
- As a consequence hard to compare crime trends
- ICVS?
- Not often: rounds in 1989, in 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2004/2005 (European), patchy picture
- FRA survey (based on ICVS) in 2021

A question

- Would it not be nice/a good idea/necessary to have yearly or bi-yearly victimisation data for Europe?
- Common physical space
- Largely open borders
- Transnational crime
- Supranational laws (victim's directive)
- Some countries do not even have regular victimisation surveys

A step forward

- So what about a yearly or bi-yearly EU-CVS/E-CVS/CoE-CVS?
- For: yearly data on victimisation trends (for likely limited set), best option for crime trends across Europe
- Against: for some countries (possibly conflicting) double surveys: national and European
- What to heed: uniform methodology!

Your thoughts?