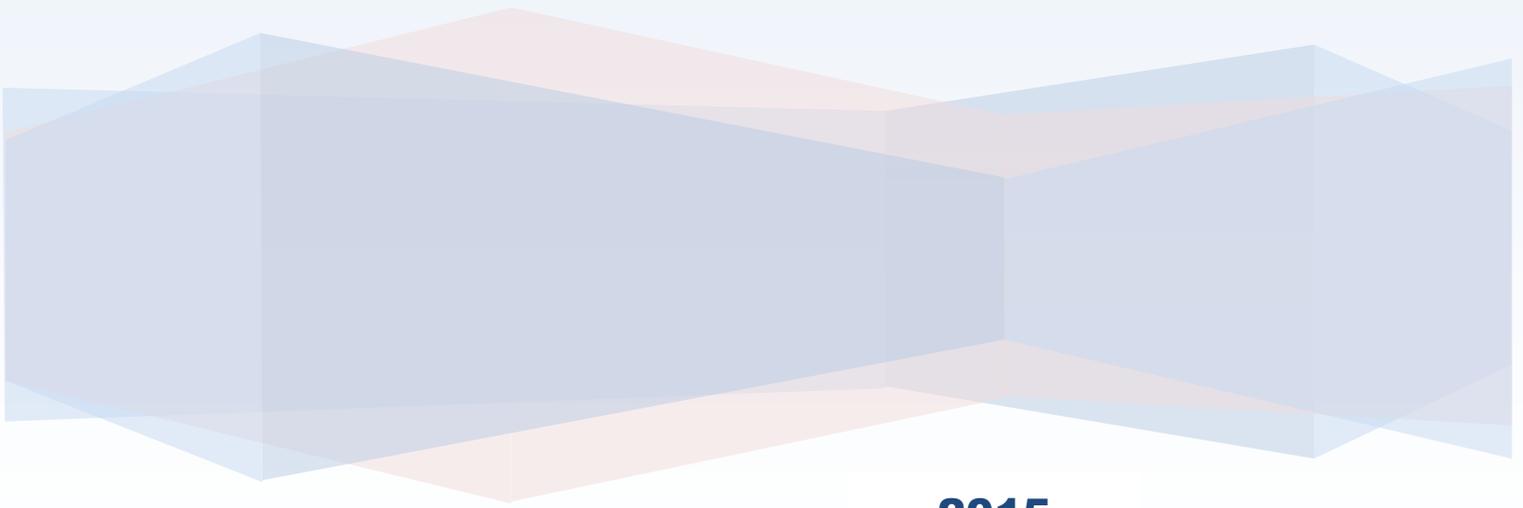




Center of Excellence in

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT,
CRIME, VICTIMIZATION AND JUSTICE**

Generating better crime & justice statistics



2015



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**INSTITUTO NACIONAL
DE ESTADÍSTICA Y GEOGRAFÍA**



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GREETINGS FROM THE COORDINATOR

We cannot improve what we cannot measure. For this reason, The Center of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice (CoE) aims to improve crime statistics, as the global community demands more and better data on crime and its context in order to inform policy making.

Historically, data about the economy, the environment and the population has been a priority for National Statistical Offices (NSO's). However, as crime is becoming a growing concern and a top priority in national agendas, every government requires deeper and timely evidence for tackling it. The elusive forms of criminality and their impact upon the society and the economy, impose an urgent mandate for all authorities to produce coherent data that could be shared nationally and also compared across different nations.

The Center supports statistical efforts through the following goals:

- Promote the creation of crime and criminal justice statistical systems
- Promote international standards on crime and criminal justice statistical systems
- Develop sound methodologies for measuring difficult-to-measure crimes

The CoE invites you to participate in our activities for improving crime statistics systems, in order to contribute to the ultimate goal of fighting crime and strengthening evidence-based policy making to improve living conditions in our societies.

Coordinator
Salomé Flores Sierra Franzoni



ABOUT THE CENTER

The Center of Excellence for Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice, located in Mexico City, was established at the end of 2010 to support countries in improving data collection, dissemination and analysis of statistical information in the area of crime statistics, through training and methodological research on emerging issues.

In little more than a year, the Center of Excellence has been the promoter of many initiatives that have advanced regional and global methodological work on crime statistics and have successfully supported countries in the region. Among many other activities, the Center of Excellence organized the First International Conference on Government, Public Safety, Victimization and Justice Statistics and training workshops, and provided support for the development of the international classification of crime.

UNSC Resolution E/CN.3/2013/11

Context

In 2008, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico became an autonomous institution and created the Subsystem of Statistical information on government, public security and administration of justice within the Statistical and Geographic National Information System (SNIEG). In this context, INEGI identified the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading institution on crime statistics and surveys. In late 2010, both institutions decided to build a strategic alliance through the creation of a Center of Excellence for Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice (CoE) which opened in May 2011.

Objectives

The Center of Excellence pursues to:

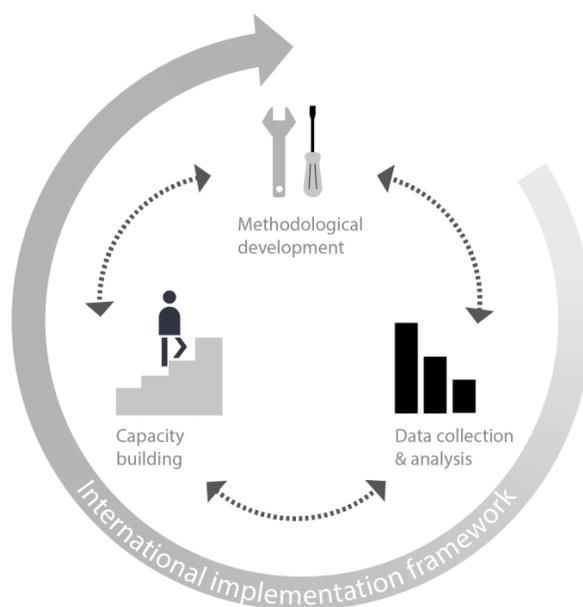
- Foster dialogue among all stakeholders involved in the production and use of statistical information on crime and criminal justice, aiming to improve the availability, quality, relevance and use of data for generating evidence-based policies.
- Strengthen coordination of international and regional processes to improve crime and criminal justice statistical information and facilitate the exchange of successful experiences at regional level.
- Generate new methodological approaches and tools to improve statistical information on criminal activities, particularly difficult-to-measure crimes.
- Facilitate regional and international exchange of good practices in the production of statistical information from different sources (statistical surveys on crime and administrative records).
- Develop training modules for the design and implementation of victimization surveys
- To improve the institutional framework for statistical processes related to crime, victimization and justice

ROAD MAP TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF CRIME STATISTICS AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

During the 43rd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and the 22nd session of the UN Commission on Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention and in compliance with its requests, INEGI and UNODC submitted a joint proposal of a roadmap to improve crime statistics¹.

This roadmap includes a vision on how the international statistical community can improve the quality and availability of crime statistics. It establishes priority areas and concrete outputs. The constituent elements of the roadmap are to strengthen the statistical capacities, develop methodologies and standards, improve national and international data collection and to develop an international classification of crime for statistical purposes. National statistical offices should play a strategic role to consolidate crime statistical systems to facilitate the coordination among different authorities, implement statistical standards and ensure data quality.

Figure 1: The three pillars of the Road map



The Center has a clear mandate outlined in the referred roadmap. In this regard, the activities that are explained in this booklet seek to support the international efforts made towards the production of better statistics.

¹ Report of the Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a roadmap to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels. (E/CN.3/2013/11) Economic and Social Council.



Methodological development

International Crime Classification for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)

After several attempts at developing a standard crime classification, including at EU level (EULOCS), a joint UNODC/UNECE Task Force (TF) on crime classification was set up in 2009 under the framework of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). In 2011, the TF presented the International Crime Classification Framework (ICCF), approved by CES in 2012.

Since 2013, the CoE has been collaborating to support countries of the region to join the work of the ICCS. To do so, the CoE co-organized a consultation meeting in October 2012 in Mexico City with the participation of 9 countries², the UN Statistical Commission, Eurostat and HEUNI. In February 2013, the CoE co-organized a meeting of the Expert Group on Crime Statistics and the Working Group on International Crime Classification that took place in Vienna, Austria. This meeting convened over 20 countries and 12 international organizations. In 2014, a second Meeting of the Group of Experts and a final testing round took place with the participation of 44 countries from 5 continents.

The CoE will provide support for the implementation of the ICCS at the regional level.

Victimization

Households

Victimization surveys are, for most of Latin American countries, a developing tool to generate better crime statistics. Administrative records only register the crimes that are reported to the police, a high number of crimes are not registered; therefore, the crime figures are frequently underrepresented.

Victimization surveys are used to have a comprehensive picture of crime as these can capture certain crime characteristics that are not recorded by administrative records, such as: the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, if a weapon was used or not, the place where the crime occurred and whether the crime was reported or not to the police.

As part of the Road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels, the Center seeks to promote and consolidate the know-how on victimization surveys. This objective will be reached by:

- Creating a victimization methodological lab where good practices are shared and methodologies are tested
- Integrating a library on victimization surveys containing methodological literature
- Publishing a victimization survey repository containing materials of existing victimization surveys.

Businesses

Usually, victimization surveys are conducted in households but crime also affects businesses. However,

²Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Holanda, Indonesia, Italy, México, Philippines and USA.

victimization surveys in the private sector are barely conducted around the world. The necessary methodological framework to measure crime against business is still under discussion.

The Center has edited two publications on business victimization surveys:

- A working paper on *how to measure and how to use statistical data to analyze the victimization of the private sector in Latin America* which aimed to identify existing measures of the private sector victimization and suggest future orientations to measure this phenomena.
- *How to measure crime in the private sector and measuring and analyzing crime against the private sector: international experiences and the Mexican Practice*. This publication aims at providing both theoretical and methodological contributions to the study of crimes against business, supported by empirical examples and data from a wide range of studies. It deals with the several phases of this phenomenon in order to depict each of them and to pave the way for future research.
- Finally, the Center is currently involved in the development of a Manual on Victimization Surveys in the Private Sector.

Organized Crime:

The Roadmap to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels establishes that producing statistics on organized crime requires tools that go beyond traditional data-collection systems.

In 2011, the Center, in partnership with the Italian Research Institute *TRANSCRIME*, developed a research paper entitled *How to measure organized crime* which presents a methodology to assess five dimensions related to organized crime (groups, activities, state response, enablers and civil society).

This research paper was discussed during the First and the Second international conferences about governance, crime and justice statistics and it is available for consultation in the Center website.

Capacity Building

Training courses

Because of its educational nature, the Center promotes learning activities about victimization surveys.

An on-line course on victimization surveys is available in Spanish and English versions. This course reviews all aspects of developing and implementing a crime victimization survey.

An on-site 40-hour course on victimization surveys is also available upon request.

International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics

This Conference is co-organized by the Center every other year with the objective of facilitating an international exchange of good practices in the production of statistical information, both in relation to statistical surveys on crime (victimization surveys on population and business sector) and on innovative ways to make use of administrative records to produce high quality information on crime and state response to it.



The First International Conference took place in May 2012 in Aguascalientes, Mexico and brought together more than 400 participants from 28 countries.

The Second edition took place in June 2014 in Mexico City. The conference had the participation of 350 academics, researchers, members of international and national organizations, public officials and personnel from national statistical offices from 40 countries. The conference had 71 speakers; 32 from America, 25 from Europe, 8 from Africa, 4 from Oceania and 2 from Asia. The topics discussed in the conference provided practical and theoretical knowledge to improve victimization surveys, crime measurement, difficult-to-measure-crimes, measuring of violence against women, drug consumption and governance.

A third edition will take place on June 2016.

Theses contests:

Considering the importance to generate better crime statistics and related subjects, the CoE organizes an annual International Thesis Competition on Victimization, Crime and Justice in Latin America.

We seek to recognize those theses that analyze and produce knowledge about issues associated with government, victimization, crime and justice through the intensive use of statistical data. So far, the Center has received 200 theses from 15 different countries³, and its currently holding a 4th International Thesis Competition.

REGIONAL EFFORTS

Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

In 2012, during the XI meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) held in Quito, Ecuador, the Committee agreed to create a new working group on statistics on public security and justice

By the end of 2013, during the VII Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas held in Chile, the Statistical Conference of the Americas approved the creation of a working group integrated by Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic and Mexico (as coordinator), as well as the UNODC-INEGI Center of Excellence serving as Technical Secretariat.

The Conference also welcomed the Biennial Program to focus the activities of the group.

The Biennial Program specific goals are to:

- Promote and improve crime and criminal justice statistics systems
- Contribute, generate and develop the international classification of crimes for statistical purposes.
- Promote and contribute to the development of surveys on victimization.

The group's first product, *A Conceptual paper on statistical systems on public safety and justice in Latin America and the Caribbean* is available at the Center of Excellence website.

³Argentina, Alemania, Barbados, Brasil, Canadá, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, España, Estados Unidos, Italia, México, Reino Unido, Uruguay, Venezuela.



Standardizing Victimization Surveys

In 2013, the Center of Excellence jointly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) through its regional project RIC,⁴ organized the first Regional Meeting on Victimization Surveys.

The meeting was attended by experts from 21 countries⁵ and by representatives of regional organizations such as the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Democratic Security Observatory (OBSICA), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

The meeting concluded with the approval of a regional Task Force in charge of developing a harmonized questionnaire and common methodology guidelines for the implementation of victimization surveys across the region. Since then, the Center of Excellence has served as the Secretariat of the Task Force.

In early 2014, the Task Force held its first meeting on Victimization Surveys in Cali, Colombia. The meeting which was really developed as technical workshop was jointly organized by the Centre of Excellence and the RIC-Cisalva Project. It was agreed after this meeting that the harmonized victimization questionnaire and methodology be called the LACSI (Latin America and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative).

A 2nd technical meeting took place in Panama on February 2015. The meeting was attended by all members of the Task Force, but this time three countries were invited as observers. These countries were Belize, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. The questionnaire was again completely revised and more changes were made. And finally, an agreed-upon draft was completed. However, the review of pending methodological criteria remained pending.

To complete the methodological guidelines a new meeting is foreseen to take place in early May 2015 at the premises of the Center of Excellence in Mexico City.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)

On its 44th session the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the resolution E/CN.3/2013/11 which establishes that the Centre of Excellence represents a good practice that could be replicated in other continents for setting up regional networks that can respond to its specific needs while considering various actors of national systems of crime statistics (national statistical offices, criminal justice institutions, researchers and academia).

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

⁴ Regional System of Standardized Indicators in Peaceful Coexistence and Citizen Security implemented by the Univalle-Cisalva in Cali (Colombia).

⁵ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Uruguay, the United States and Venezuela) coming largely from National Statistical Offices and Ministries of the Interior and Justice.



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During the 22nd Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), a resolution⁶ endorsing how to improve the quality and availability of crime and justice statistics was adopted, which mentions the importance of the Center's role in the process of generating statistical information.

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⁶ Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on July 2013. 2013/37 Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development (E/RES/2013/37).