



Tool 2.5 Assessment of the criminal justice system

Overview

This tool offers resources for conducting assessments of criminal justice systems.

The terms of reference of an assessment mission may call for assessment of a specific aspect of the criminal justice system (such as policing or the prison system). A complete assessment will always entail an assessment of the country's legal framework (see Tool 2.4).

Recommended resources

Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit

UNODC, together with OSCE, has created the *Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit* as a practical guide to assist in the assessment of criminal justice systems and in the design of interventions aimed at integrating into them United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice standards and norms, as well as to assist in training on these issues.

The tools are designed to be used in civil or common law countries, with simple or complex institutions or processes, and will be particularly useful for countries undergoing transition or reconstruction. The toolkit is of use both for legal experts and for assessors who may be conducting assessments in areas distinct from criminal justice. The tools have been grouped into criminal justice sectors:

Policing

- Public safety and police service delivery
- The integrity and accountability of the police
- Crime investigation
- Police information and intelligence systems

Access to justice

- The courts
- The independence, impartiality and integrity of the judiciary
- The prosecution services
- Legal defence and legal aid

Custodial and non-custodial measures

- The prison system
- Detention prior to adjudication

- Alternatives to incarceration
- Social reintegration

Cross-cutting issues

- Criminal justice information
- Juvenile justice
- Victims and witnesses
- International cooperation



The Toolkit is available in hard copy, and electronically at:
www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/Criminal-Justice-Toolkit.html

The electronic version of this toolkit is updated on an ongoing basis.

Getting it Right: Collaborative Problem Solving for Criminal Justice

The United States Department of Justice and the National Institute of Corrections published a guide in June 2006, entitled *Getting it Right: Collaborative Problem Solving for Criminal Justice*. Although the tools contained in the guide are intended for the context of the United States, resources can be drawn from it and adapted for other criminal justice systems. Section Four focuses on building understanding of the criminal justice system. The six chapters in this section concern:

- (a) Obtaining necessary information
- (b) Planning the assessment
- (c) Mapping the system
- (d) Documenting and assessing current policies and practices
- (e) Gathering information on offenders
- (f) Documenting and assessing available resources

Additionally, the guide provides sample exercises, strategies, checklists, questionnaires and task lists.



This guide is available at:
<http://nicic.org/Library/019834>