



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

First Regional Workshop
On the Strengthening of Justice and Home Affairs Statistics In the
Western Balkans
Skopje, 12th – 14th May 2010

Final Report



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I. Introduction

1. The 'First Regional Workshop on the Strengthening of Justice and Home Affairs Statistics in the Western Balkans' was held in Skopje from 12 – 14 March 2010 as part of the project 'Development of Monitoring Instruments for Judicial and Law Enforcement Institutions in the Western Balkans'. With the support of the European Union under the 2006 CARDS project the aim of the project is to bring justice and home affairs statistics systems towards international and EU standards.
2. The workshop was attended by experts from relevant justice and home affairs (JHA) institutions of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244, Montenegro and Serbia, covering police, prosecution, courts, border authorities and national statistical offices as well as UNODC staff and local focal points, project partners and associates and relevant international organizations.
3. Workshop participants acknowledged the substantial work done in preparation of the workshop and welcomed in particular the elaboration and dissemination, in English and local languages, of the detailed Technical Assessment Reports of current Justice and Home Affairs statistical systems in the project countries.

II. Conclusions and Recommendations

The workshop adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

4. Participants agreed on the importance of strengthening the capacities of Justice and Home Affairs institutions, including police, prosecution, courts, and institutions involved in asylum, visa and migration issues, to record, compile, report and disseminate statistics that are timely, accurate, reliable and in accordance with international standards and EU *acquis* and current practices.
5. Participants recommended continued work on the further development of crime and criminal justice statistics systems, as well as those for migration, asylum and visa issues, based on the UNODC Technical Assessment Reports and the recommendations contained in the Programme Guidelines, as revised during the workshop for each country or territory. In particular, the members of the project Advisory Steering Group (ASG) commit themselves to support this process, including through ensuring participation of appropriate staff and experts in training on the development of administrative systems and the conduct of corruption surveys.

6. Participants recognized the importance of applying general statistical principles in the production and dissemination of crime and criminal justice data, such as transparency, accuracy and consistency. The important contribution of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in quality control and inter-institutional coordination for national and international reporting of administrative statistics was highlighted and acknowledged. Participants also discussed and highlighted the special value of crime victimization and corruption surveys for evidence-based policy making and acknowledged the special role of NSOs in carrying out such surveys on a regular basis.

7. The workshop further discussed and agreed on a set of JHA regional indicators in line with indicators commonly used at EU and international levels. These included priority indicators on the number of offences and persons reported, prosecuted and convicted by offence type, data on offender and victim profiles, the number of reported migrant smugglers by citizenship, and corruption related indicators from population surveys. Offence types used in Eurostat and United Nations data collections should be reflected in the JHA regional indicators. Participants have agreed on the individual, national priority needs of training on the development of administrative systems of collection, aggregation, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of data in accordance with the EU and other international standards. The training should start in September 2010. An integral part of the training will be a pilot data collection exercise. A template for the pilot data collection exercise on the priority indicators will be distributed during the training phase of the project. Participants recommended that countries and territories of the region should work toward achieving measurement of these priority indicators in the short to medium-term.

III. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening of the meeting

8. The 'First Regional Workshop on the Strengthening of JHA Statistics in the Western Balkans' was opened by His Excellency Mr. Mihailo Manevski, Minister of Justice of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Introductory statements were also made by Mr. Patrick Paquet, First Secretary of the Delegation of the European Union to The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ms. Carla Ciavarella, Regional Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for Southeast Europe.

B. Attendance

9. The meeting was attended by 37 participants from 7 countries/territories of the region in addition to representatives from 10, regional, international or non-governmental organizations and two independent experts. A list of participants is contained in the annex to the present report.

C. Adoption of the agenda

10. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the workshop
2. Presentation of project and international and EU standards on JHA statistics
3. Discussion of technical assessment reports
4. Working Groups on current gaps and needs of data collection
5. Working Groups on training needs and training priorities
6. Special Session on National Statistical Office and corruption surveys
7. Discussion of regional indicators
8. Conclusions and Recommendations
9. Adoption of the report.

D. Adoption of the report

11. At its meeting on 14 May, the workshop participants considered and adopted the workshop report.

IV. Summary of discussion

12. The first part of the workshop was devoted to the analysis of strengths and weaknesses of JHA statistical systems in relation to international standards and EU acquis relevant to this field. Participants identified that a common weakness in statistical systems of the region was the use of different units of count among various criminal justice authorities as well as the absence of integrated file numbers in the recording systems of various criminal justice actors. The switch from paper-based to fully computerized data collection systems was seen as a strength of recording systems in several countries, however the level of characteristics of offenders and victims recorded in data collection systems across the region was found to vary among countries and institutions.

13. Participants subsequently discussed current gaps and needs of data collection in four horizontal working groups on statistics related to police, prosecution and courts, migration/asylum/visa and National Statistical Offices (NSOs), respectively.

14. The working group on police statistics identified a number of common gaps in crime recording systems in the region, such as the level of details of recorded personal information on offenders and victims (including, for example, ethnicity and offender-victims relationship) or information on the motive of the crime committed (such as motives of crimes committed out of hate, racism or xenophobia).

15. The working group on prosecution and court statistics addressed a number of issues related to the role of prosecution and court statistics within the criminal justice statistics and focused in particular on the feasibility of introducing an integrated file number (IFN), the role of the National Statistical Office (NSOs) in collecting and reporting crime and criminal justice statistics, the gaps and weaknesses of current crime classification systems used by prosecution and courts, as well as the potential use of criminal justice statistics by various target groups.

16. The working group on migration statistics identified a common lack of data on migration stocks and flows from population registers and the need to use alternative information sources. Generally, participants identified a need for better coordination between countries and territories of the region on the exchange of data on both illegal and legal migration.

17. The working group on the role of NSOs in the collection and reporting of crime and criminal justice data found large disparities in the role and capacities of NSOs to compile and publish such data. In several countries there is a parallel system of criminal justice data collection from prosecution and courts, while other NSOs have not yet started to collect such data or are only partially covering them. Participants stressed the need to improve inter-institutional coordination and data flow. The lack of resources was seen as a common constraint for the production of user-friendly reports and outputs for a wider public.

18. The delegations of the region subsequently gathered in working groups made up of the workshop participants from each country and territory in order to prioritize their individual training and technical assistance needs.

19. Regarding police statistics, several countries indicated their interest to formulate clear and updated written counting rules (including, for example, whether and when to record crimes and to apply a principal offence rule). Representatives also expressed interest in introducing integrated file numbers (IFN) to track cases and persons across the agencies of the criminal justice system, including how IFNs may be integrated in computerized data recording systems. A particular point raised by a number of participants was the need to improve knowledge and standards for analyzing and presenting crime data. In particular, with respect to the production of informative reports from existing crime statistics

that were tailored to different needs and audiences (including, parliament, policy makers, and the media), and the preparation of data for international reporting (including relevant metadata). Participants also highlighted that they would like to explore options for collecting and monitoring data on organized crime, including possibilities for the production of comparable figures and indicators on organized crime at the national and regional levels.

20. With respect to prosecution and courts statistics, participants identified training needs for establishing the most appropriate counting units for criminal justice statistics and ways to implement uniform counting units for comparability across institutions. Participants noted however that this should bear in mind the legal, organizational and technical obstacles in the project countries/territories. In addition, ways to improve the data flow from local prosecutor's offices and courts to the central level, as well as to NSOs, should be examined, including through the use of electronic and newly introduced Case Management Systems for providing statistical information. Finally, participants in a number of countries/territories identified a need to better define the users and uses of criminal justice statistics. Finally, participants noted that it would be useful to obtain training on establishing partnerships with research institutes for the analysis and dissemination of crime and criminal justice data.

21. Regarding migration data, several participants expressed a need for training on the production of data on migration, asylum and visa required by relevant EU Regulations. This should be done in cooperation with state statistical offices and responsible departments for migration. A special focus should be given to the exchange of experience and knowledge transfer among countries of the region, particularly concerning knowledge gaps and training needs for the production of data on human smuggling and illegal migration.

22. Regarding the role of NSOs in the collection and dissemination of crime and criminal justice data, several participants identified a need to improve inter-institutional coordination and cooperation between data-providers (police, prosecution and courts) and NSOs. Specific training needs for international reporting (Eurostat and UN data collections) should be addressed. This could include through an exchange of experience already acquired by countries in the region.

23. A point that was raised by a number of participants from several countries concerned the usefulness of conducting joint training sessions for staff from different criminal justice institutions in order to promote inter-institutional exchange and coordination within national criminal justice systems.

24. The seven country/territory working groups also discussed and adopted the draft Programme Guidelines with specific recommendations for improving their data collection systems. Based on the comments provided, the Programme Guidelines will be revised over the coming weeks and will be made available on the project website together with the final technical assessment reports.

25. A session on the role of NSOs in collecting and reporting crime and criminal justice statistics as well as in the conduct of victimization and corruption surveys was held at the end of the second day of the workshop. The special role of NSOs in the reporting of crime and criminal justice statistics at the national and international levels was highlighted. Participants also discussed and highlighted the special value of crime victimization and corruption surveys for evidence-based policy making and acknowledged the special role of NSOs in carrying out such surveys on a regular basis.

26. In the last general session, the workshop discussed and agreed a set of JHA regional indicators that countries and territories of the region should prioritize during subsequent project activities with a view towards achieving measurement of these indicators by the end of the project. These included priority indicators on the number of offences and persons reported, prosecuted and convicted by offence type, data on offender and victim profiles, the number of reported migrant smugglers by citizenship, and corruption related indicators from population surveys.

27. In parallel to the working groups of experts, the first regional meeting of the project Advisory Steering Group (ASG) was held. ASG members recognized the value of the project for the development of JHA statistical systems of their countries and territories, expressed their political commitment towards achievement of the project goals, and agreed on the technical and administrative support required for the smooth implementation of the training phase of the project.

ANNEX

List of participants

Genta Bektashi – ASG member, Director, Directory of Integration Policies & Foreign Assistance, Ministry of Interior	Albania
Oltisa Golloshaj – Ministry of Justice	Albania
Blerta Miruku – Institute for Statistics	Albania
Vladimir Nano – Head of Statistical Unit at MoI	Albania
Nikoll Ndoci – Ministry of Interior	Albania
Advan Repak – alternate for ASG member, Head, Sector for the fight against terrorism, organised crime and abuse of drugs, Ministry of Security	BIH
Hajrudin Alic – Federal Bureau for Statistics	BIH
Stipe Rozic – Ministry of Interior of FBiH	BIH
Mladen Petrovic – Ministry of Interior of RS	BIH
Velimir Savic – The Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics	BIH
Fadil Fatic - Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH
Mladen Kanlic - Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH
Faruk Arslanagic - Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH
Gorana Zlatkovic - High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council	BIH
Maja Greguric – ASG member, Head, Department of international cooperation, Ministry of Justice	Croatia
Mario Vlajcevic – Professional Associate, Administration and Justice Department, Croatian Central Bureau of Statistics	Croatia
Ivan Poljak – Ministry of Justice	Croatia
Bozidar Horvat – Ministry of Justice	Croatia
Artan Duraku – ASG member, Chief of Staff, MoI	Kosovo under UNSCR 1244
Agron Metolli – Department for Crime Analysis, Kosovo Police	Kosovo under UNSCR 1244
Besnik Ramosaj - Department for Statistics, Kosovo Judicial Council	Kosovo under UNSCR 1244
Sefedin Kuqi - Division for Planning Policy and Statistics, Department for Citizenship Asylum and Migration	Kosovo under UNSCR 1244
Sanie Ismajli - Department for Social Statistics, Statistical Office	Kosovo under UNSCR 1244
Merima Bakovic – alternate for the ASG member, Assistant, Ministry of Justice	Montenegro
Bojan Bugarin – Administrator, Ministry of internal affairs Group for visas, readmission and asylum	Montenegro
Darko Djukic - Prosecution	Montenegro
Jovana Zivkovic – Independent councilor, Statistical Office of Montenegro	Montenegro
Slobodan Boskovic – ASG member, Assistant to the Minister, Ministry of Justice	Serbia
Ana Makic – Advisor to the Minister of Justice	Serbia
Mladen Spasic – Advisor to the Minister of Interior	Serbia
Tatjana Vasic – Head of Department, General Police Directorate, Analytical Departments	Serbia
Vesna Zajc – Advisor, Republic Statistical Office, Division for statistics of justice administration and elections	Serbia
Elena Hristoska – ASG member, Expert, International - Legal Cooperation Department, Ministry of Justice	FYR Macedonia

Kiril Trajanoski - State Statistical Office	FYR Macedonia
Tatjana Groseva - Ministry of Interior	FYR Macedonia
Adnan Memed - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	FYR Macedonia
Lile Stefanova - Basic Public Prosecution for Organized Crime and Corruption	FYR Macedonia
Kauko Aromaa – HEUNI	HEUNI
Ernesto Savona - TRANSCRIME	TRANSCRIME
Luca Sbardelaro - TRANSCRIME	TRANSCRIME
Michele Riccardi - TRANSCRIME	TRANSCRIME
Giulia Mugellini - TRANSCRIME	TRANSCRIME
Reichel David - ICMPD	ICMPD
Stanislav Dimitrov Aleksandrov - RAI	RAI
George Mills - EULEX	EULEX
Laila Vaivode - EULEX	EULEX
Natasha Banfield - UNMIK	UNMIK
Erika Gamsjager - Head of Subdepartment 4.3 Statistics, Criminal Intelligence Service Austria, Federal Ministry of the Interior	Mol Austria
Paul Smit - Program Supervisor Modelling and Justice Statistics Research and Documentation Centre, Ministry of Justice	WODC Netherlands
Patrick Paquet - First Secretary, Head of Section for Political & Justice and Home Affairs Issues, Delegation of the European Union	EU Skopje
Marina Kurte - Adviser on EU integration and legal issues, Delegation of the European Union	EU Skopje
Tihomir Nikolovski - UNHCR Skopje Office, Assistant Legal Officer (alternate Ramco Kundevski)	UNHCR Skopje
Biljana Lubarovska - UNICEF Skopje Office	UNICEF Skopje Office
Anna Eva Radicetti - IOM	IOM Skopje Office
Brigitte Stevkovski - ICMPD Skopje	ICMPD Skopje
Melita Gruevska-Graham - ICMPD Skopje	ICMPD Skopje
Toni Jakimovski – MARRI Regional Centre	MARRI Skopje
Carla Ciavarella - Regional Programme Coordinator for South East Europe	UNODC Sofia
Michel Jandl - Research Expert, Statistics and Survey Section	UNODC Vienna
Steven Malby - Research Officer, Statistics and Survey Section	UNODC Vienna
Enrico Bisogno - Research Expert, Statistics and Survey Section	UNODC Vienna
Miroslav Prljevic - National Project Officer, Project Office Belgrade	UNODC Belgrade
Jelena Velic - Project Administrative Associate, Project Office Belgrade	UNODC Belgrade
Ilir Bicja	UNODC focal point Albania
Almir Maljević	UNODC focal point BiH
Getoš Anna-Maria	UNODC focal point Croatia
Bistra Netkova	UNODC focal point FYROM
Olivera Komar	UNODC focal point Montenegro
Lulzim Fushtica	UNODC focal point Kosovo UNSCR 1244