



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## The International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) Introduction

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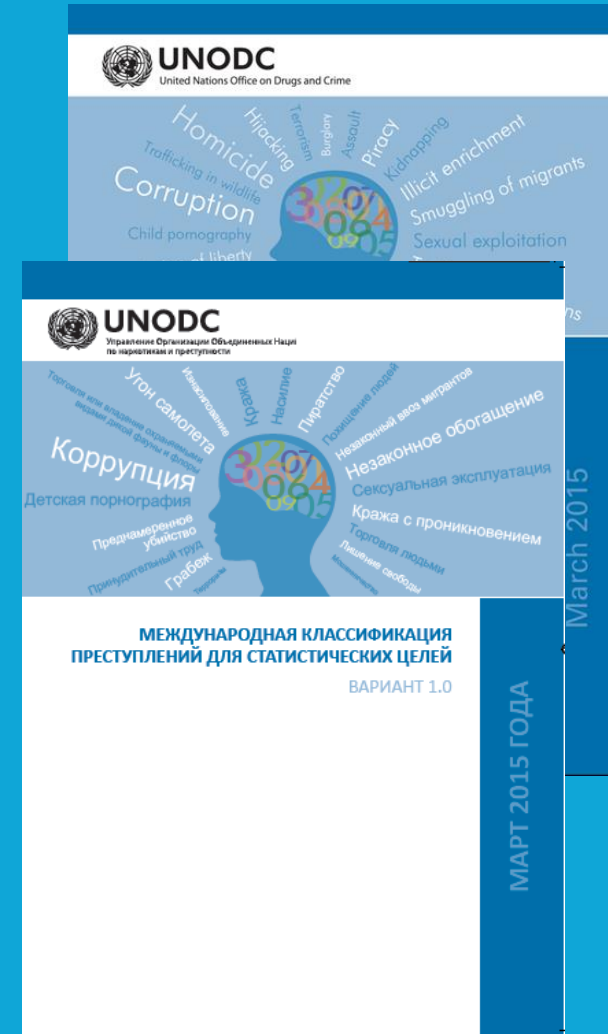
*Research Officer*

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*UNODC*

## What is the ICCS?

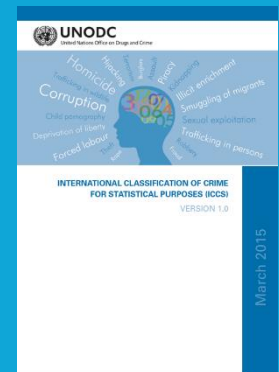
- The ICCS is the first international classification of crime for statistical purposes and will have far-reaching implications for crime data collection at all levels
- It is a hierarchical classification, whose categories are mutually exclusive and comprehensive
- The ICCS is built on behavioural descriptions and not on legal code, hence it is applicable across jurisdictions
- The ICCS is also a tool to understand crime patterns and characteristics
- The implementation of the ICCS will improve data consistency within and between countries





## Milestones of developing the ICCS

- 2009: joint UNODC/UNECE Task Force on crime classification set up by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), which in 2012 produced the ICCF
- 2013: UNSC and CCPCJ endorsed the plan to develop a full crime classification for statistical purposes (part of 'Roadmap')
- 2013-2014: three Expert Group Meetings and 2 rounds of testing of the ICCS among volunteer countries (77 countries + 10 int. organisations contributed)
- 2015: The ICCS was officially endorsed by the UN Stat. Commission in March 2015 and the UN Crime Commission in May 2015
- 2016: Translations; piloting the ICCS
- 2017: Awareness raising, virtual platform, technical assistance
- 2018: Implementation manual vol. I





## Building the classification: the 'what' and 'how'?

- Primary unit of classification is the act or event which constitutes a criminal offence
- The description of criminal acts is based on behaviours/events, not on legal provisions
- Sometimes, contextual elements are also taken into account to define crimes:



- Target – the main entity against which the act is directed (person, object, animal, state, communal value or concept)



- State of mind of perpetrator – mens rea and motivation (e.g. intentional vs. non-intentional/ negligent)



- Modus operandi – an act may be enabled by use of force, violence, intimidation, etc.



## Principles for the ICCS



**Exhaustiveness** – events generally known to constitute offences in a significant number of countries



**Structure** – organised hierarchically, with manageable and balanced numbers of categories at successive levels



**Mutual exclusivity** – any crime assigned to one and only one category



**Description** – as precise as possible description of each criminal act and category



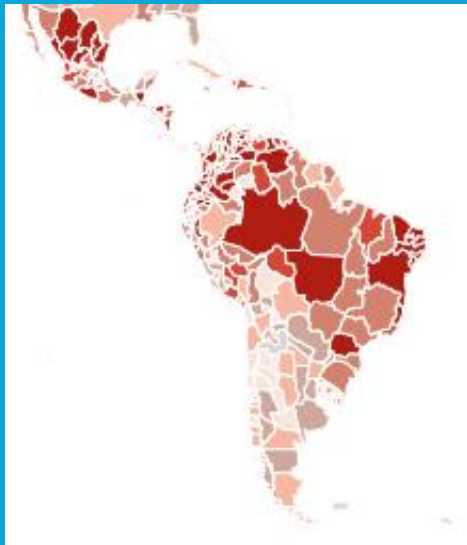
## Advantages of the ICCS

The ICCS - a definitional framework that groups and organizes criminal offences meaningfully and systematically - will allow to:

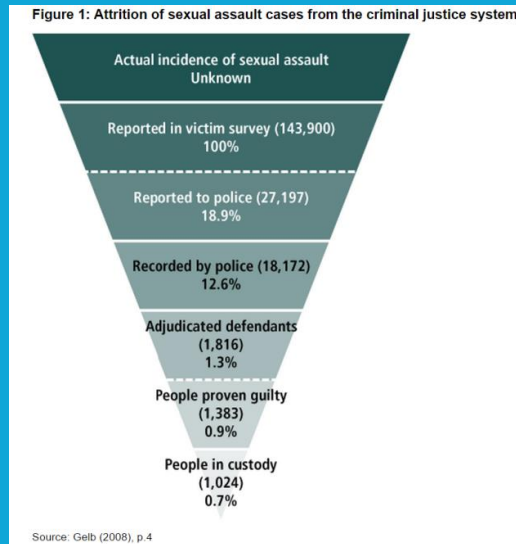
- Build a comprehensive stat. framework on all criminal offences to facilitate analysis of crime
- Improve comparability across countries and through time
- Improve data consistency within countries:

# Improve data consistency within countries...

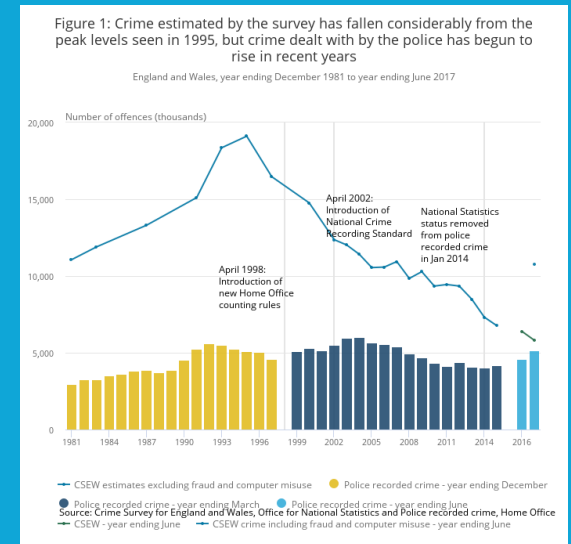
... across entities in federal states



across data produced by successive stages of the criminal justice process

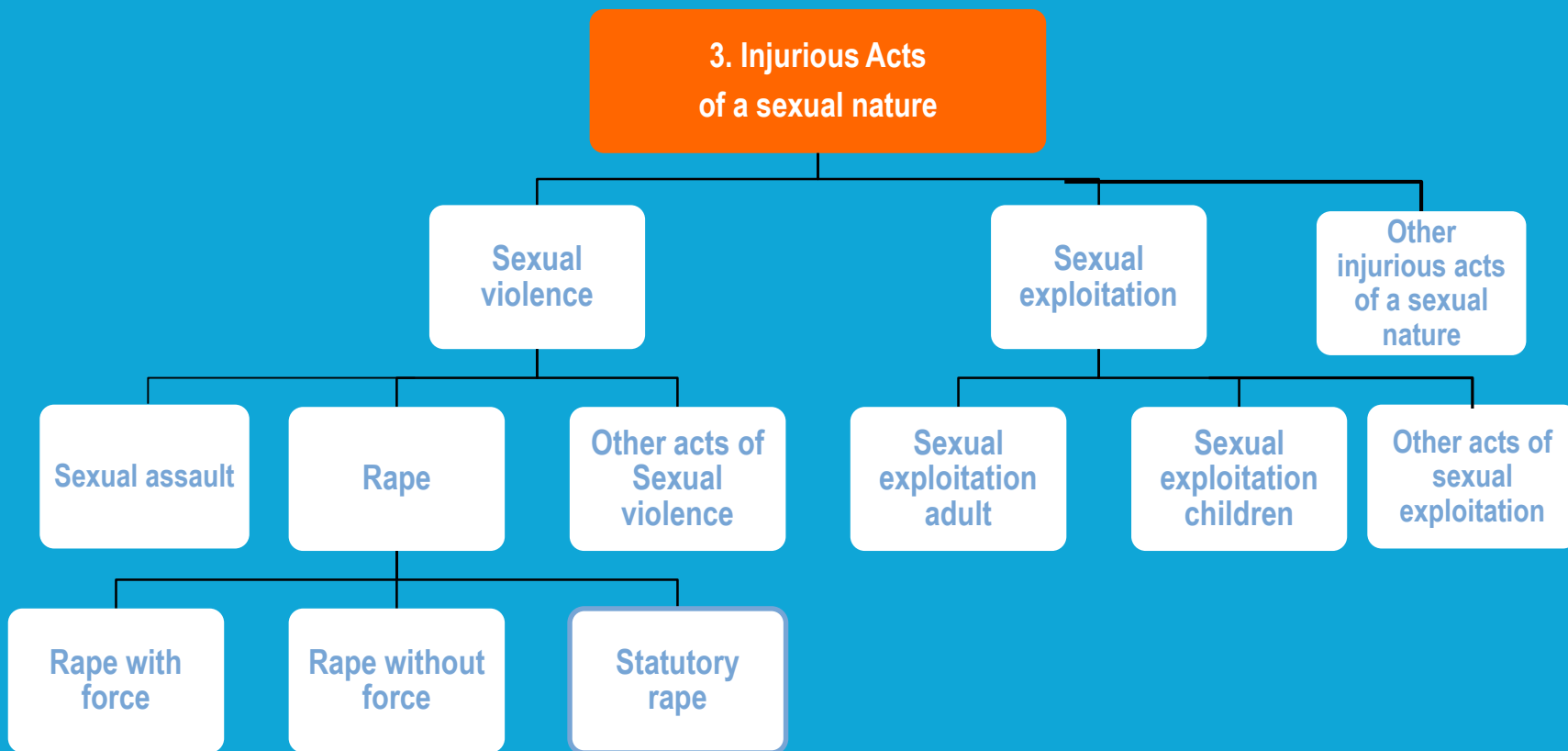


across sources (admin. data and surveys)





# Example of ICCS structure







## The structure of the ICCS: Level 1

### LEVEL 1 CATEGORIES

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Acts leading to death or intending to cause death                   |
| 2  | Acts leading to harm or intending to cause harm to the person       |
| 3  | Injurious acts of a sexual nature                                   |
| 4  | Acts against property involving violence or threat against a person |
| 5  | Acts against property only  |
| 6  | Acts involving controlled psychoactive substances or other drugs    |
| 7  | Acts involving fraud, deception or corruption                       |
| 8  | Acts against public order, authority and provisions of the State    |
| 9  | Acts against public safety and state security                       |
| 10 | Acts against the natural environment                                |
| 11 | Other criminal acts not elsewhere classified                        |



## The ICCS – detailed structure

SECTION 01		ACTS LEADING TO DEATH OR INTENDING TO CAUSE DEATH	
<b>0101 Intentional homicide</b> Unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury.	+	<b>Inclusions:</b> Murder; <sup>35</sup> honour killing; <sup>36</sup> serious assault leading to death; <sup>37</sup> death as a result of terrorist activities; <sup>38</sup> dowry-related killings; <sup>39</sup> <b>femicide</b> ; <sup>40</sup> infanticide; <sup>41</sup> voluntary manslaughter; <sup>42</sup> extrajudicial killings; killings caused by excessive use of force by law enforcement/state officials <sup>43</sup>	
	-	<b>Exclusions:</b> <sup>44</sup> Death due to legal interventions; <sup>45</sup> justifiable homicide in self-defence; <sup>46</sup> attempted intentional homicide (0102); homicide without the element of intent is non-intentional homicide (0103); non-negligent or involuntary manslaughter <sup>47</sup> (01031); assisting suicide or instigating suicide (0104); illegal abortion (0105); euthanasia (01061)	
<b>0102 Attempted intentional homicide</b> Attempt to inflict unlawful death upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury.	+	<b>Inclusions:</b> Attempted murder; attempt to inflict death as a result of terrorist activities; attempted infanticide; attempted <b>femicide</b> ;	
	-	<b>Exclusions:</b> Conspiracy to procure or commit illegal abortion (0105)	
<b>0103 Non-intentional homicide</b> Unlawful death unintentionally inflicted upon a person by another person.	+	<b>Inclusions:</b> Involuntary manslaughter, causing death by dangerous driving; apply all inclusions listed in 01031 - 01032	
	-	<b>Exclusions:</b> Serious assault leading to death (0101); voluntary manslaughter (0101)	
<b>01031 Non-negligent manslaughter</b> Unlawful death inflicted upon a person when there is generally intent to cause harm but no intent to cause death or serious injury.	+	<b>Inclusions:</b> Involuntary manslaughter; bodily injury leading to death when no serious harm was intended	
	-	<b>Exclusions:</b> Apply all exclusions listed in 0103	
<b>01032 Negligent manslaughter</b> Unintended death as a result of a negligent or involuntary act that is not intentionally directed against the victim. <sup>48</sup>	+	<b>Inclusions:</b> Criminally negligent manslaughter; corporate manslaughter; vehicular manslaughter; apply all inclusions listed in 010321 - 010322	
	-	<b>Exclusions:</b> Negligent acts not amounting to death (0206); apply all exclusions listed in 0103	
<b>010321 Vehicular homicide</b> Unintended death as a result of a negligent, reckless or involuntary act while operating a vehicle that is not intentionally directed against the victim. <sup>49</sup> - Negligent as defined in footnote 14.	+	<b>Inclusions:</b> Causing death by dangerous driving; causing death through breach of traffic safety rules; causing death by driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol; vehicular manslaughter	
	-	<b>Exclusions:</b> Negligence related to traffic not amounting to death (02063); operating a vehicle under the influence of psychoactive substances not	



## Additional disaggregations

### Disaggregating variables:

- Event descriptions: situational context, motive, type of weapon, location, date/time, attempted/completed, Cybercrime related, etc.
- Victim descriptions: sex, age, age status, victim-perpetrator relationship, citizenship, legal status, intoxication, etc.
- Perpetrator descriptions: sex, age, age status, victim-perpetrator relationship, citizenship, legal status, intoxication, recidivist status, etc.



# Additional disaggregations

VICTIM DISAGGREGATIONS				EVENT DISAGGREGATIONS			
SV – Sex of victim <sup>166</sup>	STV – Age status victim	Cit – Citizenship <sup>167</sup>	LS – Legal status	Geo – Geographical location of the crime	Rep – Reported by	DaT – Date of the crime	Time of the crime
1. Male 2. Female 3. Not applicable 4. Not known	1. Minor 2. Adult 3. Not applicable 4. Not known	1. National citizen 2. Foreign citizen 3. Not applicable 4. Not known	1. Natural person 1.1 Private individual <sup>167</sup> 1.2. Public official <sup>167</sup> 2. Legal entity <sup>168</sup> 2.1 Private entity <sup>168</sup> 2.2 Public entity <sup>168</sup> 2.3 Other entity <sup>168</sup> 3. Not known	1. Required geographical division of country (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , etc. levels) 2. Extraterritorial <sup>169</sup> 3. Not applicable 4. Not known	1. Victim 2. Witness (non-victim) 3. Police 4. Other law enforcement 5. Criminal justice institution 6. Not known		
PERPETRATOR DISAGGREGATIONS							
AV – Age of victim	VIP – Victim-perpetrator relationship	SP – Sex of perpetrator	STP – Age status of perpetrator	Cit – Citizenship	LS – Legal status		
1. 0-14 2. 15-29 3. 30-44 4. 45-59 5. 60+ 6. Not known	1. Current intimate partner/spouse 2. Former intimate partner/spouse 3. Blood relative 4. Other household member 5. Friend 6. Acquaintance 7. Colleague/work relationship 8. Authority/care relationship	1. Male 2. Female 3. Not applicable 4. Not known	1. Minor 2. Adult 3. Not applicable 4. Not known	1. National citizen 2. Foreign citizen 3. Not applicable 4. Not known	1. Natural person 1.1 Private individual 1.2 Public official 2. Legal entity 2.1 Private entity 2.2 Public entity 2.3 Other entity 3. Not known	Int – Perpetrator with controlled psychoactive substance	
SITUATIONAL CONTEXT OF INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE							
Homicide related to other criminal activities <sup>169</sup>	Homicide related to organized criminal groups or gangs	Homicide related to organized criminal groups	The victim or perpetrator is a member of an organized criminal group/gang, or homicide is committed by a member of an organized criminal group/gang	Intimate partner/spouse			
	Homicide related to other criminal activities	Homicide related to robbery	Homicide may be perpetrated during the commission of another criminal offence	Intimate partner/spouse			
Interpersonal homicide <sup>169</sup>	Intimate partner/family member	Homicide perpetrated during the commission of another criminal offence	Homicide perpetrated by a family member (including intimate partner, spouse, blood relative, household member, friend, acquaintance, colleague/work relationship, authority/care relationship, neighbour, etc.)	Intimate partner/spouse			
	Other interpersonal homicide		Homicide perpetrated on a person who is not known to the victim or perpetrator, including neighbour disputes or property disputes, random and seemingly unprovoked	Other household member			



## Implementation challenges at national level

1. Awareness raising/advocacy
2. Coordination
3. Technical work

Key issue: enhance quality of statistics for better policy making and monitoring



## International support

UNODC provides support for countries implementing the ICCS in 4 main areas:

1. Organisational and institutional framework: Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to lead ICCS implementation and maintenance (1<sup>st</sup> meeting: May 2016)
2. Information campaign: reach-out to data producers and users (ongoing)
3. Methodological support: implementation manual under development + other technical documentation
4. Technical assistance: virtual platform among ICCS practitioners, technical assistance activities (projects in Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific)



## Implementation Manual, Vol. I (under development)

- Annotated outline of 'Mapping national administrative crime statistics into the ICCS was produced in 2016; full manual will rely on the inputs from volunteer countries
- Part A: how to build correspondence tables/mapping crimes?
- Part B: how to use disaggregating variable to produce better crime data?
- Part C: Guidelines for classifying specific offences (examples)
- Annex 1: Implementation Roadmap: 10 concrete steps for ICCS implementation
- Annex 2: Case studies
- Annex 3: Model work plan for mapping classifications



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## Virtual platform on ICCS I

Objective: support ICCS implementation

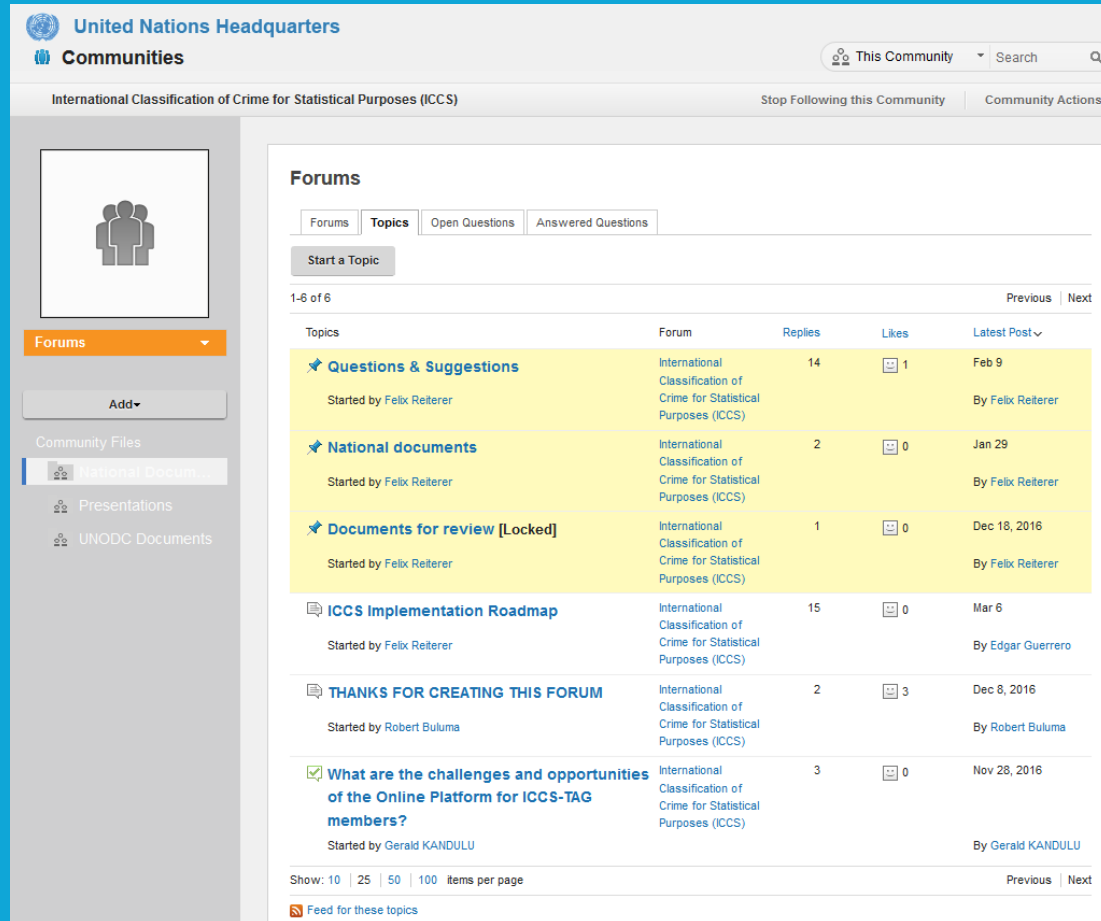
Members on the platform can:

- Ask any question to UNODC and to other TAG Members;
- Get guidance from UNODC and from other TAG Members;
- Share documents and exchange their experiences;
- Advise UNODC on activities and methodological tools for ICCS implementation;
- Receive methodological tools developed by UNODC;
- Get information on UNODC activities.



# Virtual platform on ICCS II

- As of 21 Nov 2017: 80 users
  - From 50 countries/5 continents
  - 8 countries from Asia
- Topics
  - Questions & suggestions
  - National documents
  - Documents for review
  - Roadmap for ICCS Implementation
  - Boundaries of the ICCS
- Future topics
  - Issues for ICCS review
  - Announcement of new files for information



The screenshot shows the 'United Nations Headquarters' Communities page for the 'International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)'. The page features a sidebar with a 'Forums' section and a main content area with a 'Forums' tab. The forum list includes several topics with their respective details.

Topics	Forum	Replies	Likes	Latest Post
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Questions &amp; suggestions</b></li> <li>Started by Felix Reiterer</li> </ul>	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)	14	1	Feb 9 By Felix Reiterer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>National documents</b></li> <li>Started by Felix Reiterer</li> </ul>	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)	2	0	Jan 29 By Felix Reiterer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Documents for review [Locked]</b></li> <li>Started by Felix Reiterer</li> </ul>	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)	1	0	Dec 18, 2016 By Felix Reiterer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🗨️ <b>ICCS Implementation Roadmap</b></li> <li>Started by Felix Reiterer</li> </ul>	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)	15	0	Mar 6 By Edgar Guerrero
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🗨️ <b>THANKS FOR CREATING THIS FORUM</b></li> <li>Started by Robert Buluma</li> </ul>	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)	2	3	Dec 8, 2016 By Robert Buluma
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✅ <b>What are the challenges and opportunities of the Online Platform for ICCS-TAG members?</b></li> <li>Started by Gerald KANDULU</li> </ul>	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)	3	0	Nov 28, 2016 By Gerald KANDULU



## Implementation of the ICCS (int'l activities)

Implementation support for countries:

- Development of a Common Protocol on mapping procedures:
  - Assessment protocol of crime statistic system
  - Template for mapping procedures
- Technical assistance in drafting correspondence tables, through Q&A on virtual platform or regional/country mission;
- Volunteer countries for complete ICCS mapping;
- Case studies of developing complete ICCS correspondence tables;
- Peer review of another case study correspondence table (who would be interested in participating in this?)



## Roadmap for ICCS implementation: 10 steps

1. Setting up institutional and organizational framework
2. Awareness raising
3. International coordination and support
4. Technical preparations
5. Assessment of current data production
6. Develop a national workplan
7. Implement your workplan
8. Produce outputs
9. Publish national crime data according to ICCS categories
10. Implementation report



## Other challenges in using crime statistics

- Three main factors affect comparability and interpretability of crime statistics (i.e. what to account for when making sense of figures on crimes):
  - Proportion of crime that is reported/detected
  - The way crime is defined and classified
  - The way crime is recorded and counted

... and the  
ICCS?



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Thank you  
for your attention

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/iccs.html>

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