

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

Conclusions and Recommendations

The workshop adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. 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.
2. 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 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 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.