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Session 3 – Invited paper

ICVS IN SLOVENIA

Submitted by Statistical Office, Republic of Slovenia *

I. Short history

1. ICVS was carried out in Slovenia three times. In 1992 and 1997 it was carried out by the Institute of criminology at the faculty of Law in Ljubljana. Survey from year 1992 covered just Ljubljana (net sample size 1000 households). In 1997 sample size was extended also to other parts of Slovenia (net sample size for Ljubljana 1033 households; and 1020 for other Slovenia). In 2001 Crime Victims survey became a regular statistical survey of SORS, included in National program of statistical surveys as an important supplement source of data to the existing data collected from the criminal justice system.

II. Crime Victim Survey 2001 within SORS

2.1 Methodology and content of CVS questionnaire

2. Crime Victims Survey within SORS in 2001 was done in line with methodology and content of questionnaire of ICVS from 2001 and in line with standard rules for carrying out household sample surveys within SORS.

Only the following minor changes were implemented in the Slovene questionnaire:

- The questions about the possibility to prevent the crime were added;

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- The questions about corruption, which were in ICVS only included in face-to-face interviews, were kept;
- The order of some questions were changed in accordance with experiences from pilot survey, although the label of questions were kept;
- Within the block of demographic questions the possible answers were harmonised with other surveys within SORS - but still in line with ICVS demands;

2.2. Organisation and method of surveying

3. Preparation for the survey started in the first half of year 2000. Team of people involved in CVS within SORS was appointed, methodological and technical instructions were prepared for interweavers, 18- just female interweavers were chosen and trained for the interweaves, sample for the pilot and main survey was prepared, instructions and programmes for processing and tabulations of data were prepared.

4. Pilot survey was carried out in November 2000 on the sample of 300 households. Two versions of questionnaire were prepared. The purpose of the pilot survey was to test the order and clarity of questions, time needed for interview and response rate. On the basis of results of pilot survey the final version of questionnaire was prepared.

5. The main survey was carried out at the end of January 2001. In order to interest the potential target persons at the selected telephone number to cooperate in the survey, we sent an advance letter with which we introduced the survey, describing in detail its purpose and results that were available from the previous surveys.

6. The data were collected by computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). In the sample 6000 telephone numbers were selected. Of all household members we selected the respondent according to the »last birthday« method.

7. After the end of the survey documentation was also prepared about all phases of work

2.3 Sampling

8. The sample frame was the directory of private telephone subscribers. The sample was stratified, systematic and random. Strata were defined with statistical regions (12 regions) and type of settlement within the region (6 types). In each stratum we sampled independently. The number of units (telephone numbers) in each stratum is proportional to the share of people aged 16 years or more living in a certain type of settlement in a certain region. Out of 6000 telephone numbers selected there were 2000 telephone numbers selected in Ljubljana. The city of Ljubljana was over sampled to ensure satisfactory precision and comparability of the data with the data from 1992 and 1997.

9. Response rate in the survey was 66,8%, refusal rate was 17,9%, ineligibility rate was 3% and non contact rate was 9,6%. Nonresponse analysis was also made after the end of the survey.

2.4 Weighting

10. Data from the survey were weighted to the whole population according to the household size because persons living in households with more members are less likely to be selected. Besides the basic weighting, additional weighting (calibration) was used, which adjust the distribution of control variables

to the known population structure. For adjustment we used the following variables: sex, age, level of education, household size, statistical region and type of settlement.

2.5 Precision of estimates

11. Precision of estimates for some target variables was estimated with the help of Sudaan 7.0 software. For other published data the precision is estimated with the help of a model.

12. Error criteria were the following:

- Estimates with the coefficient of variation under 0,10 (CV =0,10) are published without limitations;
- Estimates with coefficient of variation between 0,10 and 0,15 are published in single parentheses;
- Estimates with the coefficient of variation between 0,15 and 0,30 are published in double parentheses;
- Estimates with the coefficient of variation over 0,30 are not published, but each one is substituted by a dot;

13. These error criteria are used to inform the data user about the quality of survey estimates. The user should take into account that estimates published without limitations are sufficiently precise, while those in parentheses are less precise.

2.6 Dissemination of data

14. The results of the survey were presented:

- In two bi-lingual (Slovene English) publications of SORS:
 - In Rapid Reports (in September 2001);
 - In Results of surveys – together with the data from criminal justice statistics (March 2002);
- At the press conference in September 2001;
- Micro data were sent to UNICRI in October;
- Deindividualised micro data were transmitted to the Archive of sociological data (free access for researches, students).

2.7 Main conclusions after CVS and plans for future

15. After tabulations of data were done, many data at the lower level of desegregation were marked with double parentheses or substituted by a dot. More detailed disaggregations were, more dots appeared in the tables.

So, the main conclusion was that the sample size was still too small to allow more in-depth analyses of data at a sufficient level of reliability. It was decided that in next CVS the sample size will be extended.

16. Computer assisted telephone interviewing was proven as a good method for this type of survey. This is an advantage, also because this method is the cheapest method for carrying out household sample surveys.

Preparation work for new CVS in Slovenia will start in year 2005.

III. Advantages and disadvantages of carrying out CVS within Statistical Office/s

17. Although the first two Crime Victims Surveys carried out within Institute of Criminology were done at a high professional level, there are some advantages of carrying out such a survey within Statistical Office, which were also the main reason for its inclusion into Statistical Work Program.

18. These advantages are mostly the following:

- regular financial sources are provided from the budget, when the survey is included in the National Statistical program;
- technology and know-how were already available within Statistical Office for carrying out such a survey;
- standard rules accepted for carrying out household sample surveys must be followed (sufficient sample size; sampling, weighting methods, information for data users and producers about the quality of data, documentation).

19. On the other hand there are also some disadvantages:

- Statistical office is rather big organisation system – planning and preparatory work must start months before the field work starts;
- Limited resources in the situation of ever growing demands for statistical data at national and international level – the priority of crime statistics in comparison with some other fields of statistics is rather low;

IV. Conclusions

20. When thinking about reaching international comparability in the field of crime statistics, household/population crime victims surveys (like ICVS) seems to be, on our opinion, the easiest way to reach this goal.

21. Beside harmonised questionnaires and definitions also statistical rules for conducting such a household sample surveys must be harmonised in line with general standards within statistical system. Sufficient sample sizes and harmonised effective sampling methods are of crucial importance, especially because criminal victimisation is still rather rare event. Data users and, of course, also data producers must be informed about the quality and reliability of data, to be able to make qualified analysis. On the other hand, it will be, to our opinion, much more difficult to reach international comparability of data, based on administrative data sources, especially those from criminal justice systems. Although methodology, definitions and classifications would be harmonised, still there will be differences in efficiency of criminal justice systems between the countries, which will influence international comparability of data.

22. At the situation of very limited human (and financial) resources (which will be, in the case of Slovenia, even further reduced in the near future) and constantly growing demands for data at national and international level, the role of Statistical office/s in the process of international harmonisation of crime statistics will depend on priorities given to this field of statistics in the future.

23. The highest priorities for work at the different fields of statistics within EU countries are given to the demands for data from EU and Eurostat.

24. With inclusion of Crime statistics into Eurostat working programme, the priority of crime statistics will probably increase also at national level within EU countries.