

## THE JUSTIS PROJECT RESEARCH TEAM

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## CONTRIBUTE TO THE JUSTIS PROJECT

Researchers and policy makers interested in confidence in justice, fear of crime and security-related matters may participate in the JUSTIS project and are encouraged to approach the JUSTIS research team for details of events and research opportunities.

## THE JUSTIS NEWSLETTER

Sign up to the newsletter at [www.eurojustis.eu](http://www.eurojustis.eu) and receive updates on JUSTIS progress, academic debates on public confidence and fear of crime.



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## THE "JUSTIS" PROJECT

Scientific Indicators  
of Confidence in Justice

TOOLS FOR POLICY ASSESSMENT

*Towards an evidence-based assessment  
of public trust in justice  
and feelings of security across Europe*

[www.eurojustis.eu](http://www.eurojustis.eu)

## WHAT IS JUSTIS?

JUSTIS is a project designed to provide EU institutions and Member States with new evidence-based indicators for the assessment of public trust in criminal justice and public feelings of security.

## WHY IS JUSTIS IMPORTANT?

Europe needs reliable and scientifically validated indicators of public trust in justice. There is a clear rationale for this. After a period of relative stability, EU Member States face rapid changes in their economies, population levels, migration and immigration. These changes are likely to have an impact, amongst other things, on European crime levels and social stability.

Maintaining commitment to the rule of law will be a growing challenge in a changing and increasingly culturally diverse world. Member States have a growing need for social indicators to improve crime policy and its assessment.

Common sense indicators based on readily available statistics – such as crime trends – have been used extensively. Much less attention has been paid to crucial but hard-to-measure indicators about public confidence in justice and about public levels of insecurity. Without such indicators, there is a risk that crime policies may become over-focused on short-term objectives of crime control, at the expense of equally important longer-term objectives relating to trust in justice.

## WHAT ARE THE TIMESCALES OF JUSTIS?

The JUSTIS project began on 1 March 2008 and will last for 36 months, until February 2011.

## WHAT ARE THE JUSTIS OBJECTIVES?

The JUSTIS project aims to develop and pilot new survey-based indicators of public confidence in justice – a term used here to embrace issues relating to fairness, trust and insecurity.

It will assemble contextual data for interpreting the indicators – on the assumption that there are close relationships between public perceptions of justice and the substantive quality of justice as reflected in the workings of the justice process. It will develop tools for presenting and interpreting the indicators in ways that are intuitive and accessible.

The JUSTIS project will also aim to build some consensus across Member States about the importance of assessing crime policy against objective criteria of public confidence and trust.

## THE JUSTIS EXTERNAL EXPERT GROUP

A group of external experts has been set up to support the work of the JUSTIS project.

The External Expert Group sets the standards for high level scientific results in the project and validates the outcomes against those standards. Experts will bring their own experiences and visions into the project, as well as export JUSTIS findings and results to their own countries and professional fields.

EEG members have been selected on the basis of technical knowledge or influencing ability.

**Julian Roberts**, Professor of Criminology at the University of Oxford, is the chair of the JUSTIS External Expert Group.

## THE JUSTIS TIMELINE

### March 2008

Kick-off meeting in Leuven, Belgium

### April 2008

Launch of the JUSTIS website

### May 2008 - February 2009

Review of needs for social indicators across Europe

### October 2008

Project meeting in Helsinki, Finland

### March 2009

International JUSTIS Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria

### Through 2009

Design of new social indicators of public confidence

### February 2010

International JUSTIS Conference in Parma, Italy

### Through 2010

Survey-piloting and testing of JUSTIS indicators

*www.eurojustis.eu*

