

SP1 - COOPERATION

SSH7

GRANT AGREEMENT NR 217311

SCIENTIFIC INDICATORS OF CONFIDENCE IN JUSTICE: TOOLS FOR POLICY ASSESSMENT

Work Package 5:

Review of Country-based contextual data (socio-legal and criminological) relevant to public confidence in justice

Task 5.1 – 5.4:

Deliverable 5.3:

Synthesis report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The research project EURO-JUSTIS (Scientific Indicators of Confidence in JUSTIS: Tools for Policy Assessment), which is funded primarily by the European Commission from the 7th Framework Programme for Research, is designed to provide EU institutions and Member States with new indicators for assessing public confidence in justice.

WP5 provides country-based contextual data to highlight local specificities and survey-based attitudinal indicators developed under WP5. WP5 was led by the University of Parma (UNIPR) with the support of other partner institutions.

This deliverable explains and justifies the contextual data we have been collecting, and how they can be analysed. Particular attention has been paid to suggestions made by the External Expert Group in their validation report (D7.22) concerning the collection of contextual data – to be selective, justify its validity and to collect data closely linked to trust in justice.

1. The purpose of the contextual data-set

It was always envisaged that any cross-national suite of survey indicators could be interpreted sensibly only if there were contextual datasets at country level that provided, for example, information on demographics, socio-economic circumstances and the nature of crime and justice. For example, measures of confidence in the effectiveness of justice need to be interpreted against objective information about crime trends. Measures of confidence in the fairness of justice need to be interpreted both against measure of social/economic justice (eg Gini coefficients) and against indicators of human rights compliance.

The value of the contextual data increased when the Euro-Justis suite of survey questions was adopted by the 2010 European Social Survey (ESS). In analysis of the ESS, key contextual variables will be incorporated into multi-level structural equation models predicting trust in justice, perceptions of legitimacy and compliance and cooperation with the law. As there will be a maximum of 32 countries in the ESS analysis, the number of contextual variables that can be included in any model is necessarily limited. In the description of the eight baskets of indicators below, we have suggested which variables are likely to be the key ones included in the analysis.

Each basket of indicators was assigned to one partner, who collected the relevant data and input this into a shared "Googledocument". Each basket has two pages, one setting out the data, and the other documenting sources. (see www.eurojustis.eu/fotoweb/70.xls). This will be valuable both for our ESS analysis and for comparative research in other fields.

2. The key indicators

1. Number of police officers per 100,000 inhabitants (taken from basket Economic Wealth & Social Inequalities – Cells R through U under “SocioEcon” sheet in the excel chart)

2. Unemployment rates (taken from basket Economic Wealth & Social Inequalities – cells F through J under “SocioEcon” sheet in the excel chart)

3. Inequality in income distribution (taken from basket Economic Wealth & Social Inequalities – Cells L through M under “SocioEcon” sheet in the excel chart)

4. Annual budget allocated to legal aid per inhabitant (taken from basket Objective Efficiency of Justice – Cells F through G under “Efficiency” sheet in the excel chart)

5. Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population) (taken from basket Crime Levels and Penalty – Cells AP through AZ under “CrimeLevels” sheet in the excel chart)

6. Recorded crimes (per 100,000 population) (taken from basket Crime Levels and Penalty – Cells B through W under “CrimeLevels” sheet in the excel chart)

7. Government spending on welfare (taken from basket Institutional

Structures (CJS & Government) & Legal Reforms – Cells B through E under “political institutions” sheet in the excel chart)

8. The World Bank indices on Governance – Rule of Law (taken from basket Institutional Structures (CJS & Government) & Legal Reforms – Cells R through T under “political institutions” sheet in the excel chart)

9. Corruption Perceptions Index (taken from basket Legitimacy – Cells D through E under “Legitimacy” sheet in the excel chart)

3. Conclusion

This deliverable has summarized work assembling contextual country-level variables to permit fuller interpretation of individual-level survey indicators of trust in justice. Our original plans were modified somewhat when it became clear that a core set of our survey indicators would be included in the 2010 ESS, and that we would need country-level variables for multi-level modeling. We are now in a position where most of the required country-level indicators that we shall need are already available to us – and to other researchers planning similar comparative research.