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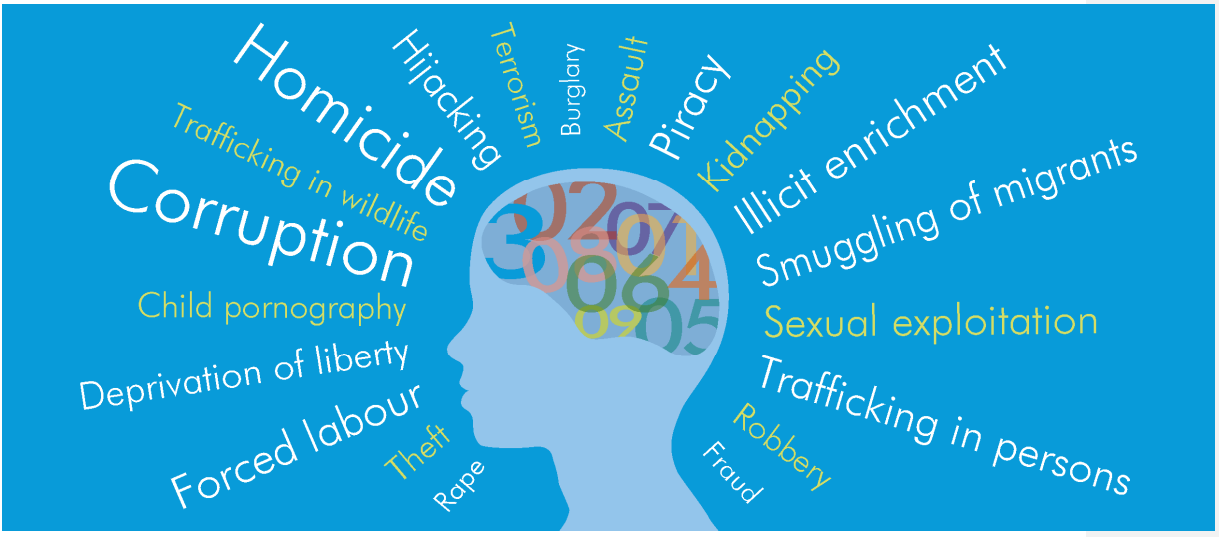
INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF CRIME FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES (ICCS): IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL



International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS): Implementation Manual

Vienna, 2024

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Preface

In 2015, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (UN-CCPCJ) endorsed the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) in line with plans approved by the UNSC in its decision 44/110 and by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2013/37. ICCS is the international standard for defining and classifying criminal offences to produce and disseminate statistical data on crime and criminal justice.

Since its adoption in 2015, the interest in aligning national crime statistics with the ICCS has grown worldwide, assisted by awareness raising and technical assistance activities carried out by the UNODC. Alignment with ICCS is vital for improving the availability of high-quality, comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice at the global level. A number of countries have already made substantial progress in setting up structures for ICCS implementation and in mapping their national crime categories or criminal codes to the ICCS. These worldwide efforts to align national crime statistics with the ICCS are starting to be reflected in more comparable data at the national, regional and global level.

The current implementation manual aims to provide guidance to countries on their ICCS implementation journey. It draws from a decade of experience implementing ICCS around the world. The manual offers concrete steps to promote uptake of ICCS, determine the scope of implementation, build a correspondence table and produce data according to ICCS.

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The manual's core team included Martijn Kind, David Rausis, Roberto Murguia Huerta and Claudia Pontoglio.

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Reader's guide

Purpose of the manual

The manual provides guidance for the national implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS). The manual aims to assist countries throughout the implementation process, help set realistic goals and ensure sustainability of data collection, production and dissemination processes in line with ICCS. The specific objectives of the manual are to offer concrete guidance on:

1. Establishing the institutional framework for implementation.
2. Developing a national workplan for implementation.
3. Assessing the boundaries of ICCS implementation.
4. Developing a correspondence table and mapping national crime data into ICCS.
5. Enabling the recording of additional information about offences through disaggregating variables.
6. Producing and disseminating statistical data in line with ICCS.

The proposed strategies for ICCS implementation presented in this manual are based on lessons learned from countries' experience with ICCS implementation to date and from the UNODC's involvement in ICCS capacity building activities around the world.

Intended audience

The manual is intended for all relevant producers and users of data in the area of crime and criminal justice statistics, including the police, the prosecution service, the courts, the prison system, the National Statistical Office (NSO), other relevant Government institutions, civil society organizations and other non-governmental actors. The ICCS implementation process will inevitably differ depending on a country's existing capacities, available resources, national priorities and institutional environment. Nonetheless, the manual is designed to assist all countries, regardless of existing criminal justice data production capabilities, from the very earliest stage of development to those with more advanced crime and criminal justice statistical systems.

Structure of the manual

Part I of the manual presents a general overview of ICCS including why it is important and how it can be implemented. The reader will be presented with information on the development process of the classification, its intended benefits and the structure of ICCS. Additionally, part I presents a phased implementation process that can serve as a road map for countries.

Part II offers concrete guidelines on the core issues faced by countries when implementing ICCS, including determining the boundaries of ICCS implementation, developing a correspondence table, reviewing and standardizing disaggregating variables and producing statistical outputs in line with ICCS.

Part I: Understanding the ICCS and the road map to implementation

The first chapter discusses the rationale behind the development of ICCS, the development process, the benefits and structure of the classification and how it can benefit the criminal justice system. The second chapter focuses on the road map for ICCS implementation. It covers building the case with stakeholders, assessing the current criminal justice statistical system, constructing a correspondence table, implementing the classification and producing relevant statistical outputs.

1 Introduction to ICCS

1.1 Rationale for the development of ICCS

The purposeful collection and organization of crime and criminal justice data into statistical form is essential to the production of knowledge that can feed into evidence-informed decision-making processes. Through the provision of high-quality, granular statistics the criminal justice system, policymakers as well as the general public can assess changes in crime trends and patterns, monitor the State response to crime, evaluate crime prevention strategies and better understand the various facets of crime in different contexts. As noted by the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (A/RES/68/261), statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a society and are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis to honour citizens' entitlement to public information.

However, the comparison of crime statistics between agencies, over time, or between countries is a highly challenging endeavor without standardized concepts and an internationally recognized statistical framework to make such comparisons possible. The various data providers in the criminal justice system can use different definitions and concepts to organize crime and criminal justice data – often based on legal rather than statistical principles. For example, for an offence to be considered an assault, one country may require physical contact while another country may not.

Data may further be organized and categorized according to legal provisions, such as articles in the penal code, rather than statistical principles and reflect the operational focus of the organization recording the data. This close and intertwined relationship between legislation and statistics creates problems from an analytical perspective. As such, the data are not always relevant from an analytical standpoint or easily utilized in analysis and compiled for meaningful dissemination and use.

Furthermore, comparability over time and between jurisdictions can be hampered by inevitable changes in legislation and, for example, by the fact that the same act can be criminalized under very different legal provisions across countries. Because of this lack of legal homogeneity, comparison of criminal justice or community safety outcomes between jurisdictions is highly challenging.

ICCS addresses these issues by providing a common framework based on internationally agreed concepts, definitions and principles for statistical purposes. Importantly, as noted in more detail in chapter 3, implementation of the classification does not call for changes to existing criminal legislation and is purely for statistical purposes. Offences are grouped in a meaningful and systematic way, resulting in an improvement in the capability to collect, produce, disseminate and use meaningful crime statistics in order to inform the public and tailor policies and programmes in the areas of crime prevention, the rule of law and criminal justice reform.

1.2 ICCS development process

The report of the international group of experts on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders (E/CN.5/231) first highlighted the importance of preparing a standard classification of offences in 1950. However, successive endeavours to develop such an international crime classification were fraught with challenges due to disparities in definitions, national legislations and reporting systems.

Concrete steps to overcome such limitations were made in 2009 when the Conference of European Statisticians established a Task Force, led by the UNODC and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), to develop a crime classification framework based on behavioural descriptions rather than legal codes. The resulting framework for an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes (ECE/CES/2012/6) was approved by the Conference of European Statisticians at its 60th plenary session in June 2012.

The proposal to develop a full international crime classification was discussed at the 43rd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and the 21st session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). At the next session of both UNSC and CCPCJ, both Commissions approved the plan to develop an international classification of crime for statistical purposes, in consultation with statisticians and experts from national statistical offices, other national government institutions and regional and international organizations.

Three consultation meetings were held between 2012 and 2014 and two large-scale pilot testing exercises of successive versions of ICCS were undertaken during the same period. Both pilot testing exercises confirmed the feasibility of developing and implementing ICCS, with a view to gradually applying it to statistics produced at the national level. A final draft version of ICCS was sent to Member States and other relevant organizations by the UNODC and the United Nations Statistical Division in August 2014.

At its 46th session in March 2015, the UNSC endorsed ICCS as an international statistical standard for data collection, both from administrative records and survey generated data, and as an analytical tool to elicit unique information on crime drivers and factors.

Developed with the active participation and collaboration of experts from several countries, ICCS is the result of extensive consultations and collaboration between national statistical offices, other national government institutions, regional and international organizations, including UNODC, the UNODC-INEGI Center of Excellence (COE) in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Eurostat, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the Organisation of American States (OAS). Furthermore, ICCS was reviewed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications, the central coordinating body for the work on international classifications established by the UNSC.

1.3 What is a statistical classification?

ICCS is an international statistical classification that organizes and standardizes the recording of criminal acts for statistical purposes. Statistical classifications group and organize information meaningfully and systematically in exhaustive and structured sets of categories that are defined according to a set of criteria for similarity. A primary purpose of a statistical classification is to provide a simplification of the real world and to provide a useful framework for collecting, organizing and analyzing data, as well as providing a framework for the international comparability of statistics and supporting policy making.[1]

A statistical classification can be defined as a set of discrete, exhaustive and mutually exclusive categories which can be assigned to one or more variables used in the collection and presentation of data. As an example from everyday life, consider a restaurant menu. The items on the menu represent the units to be classified. The items are listed in different categories (e.g., starters, main courses, desserts and drinks) and subcategories (e.g., meat, fish and vegetarian options). In ICCS, the unit of classification is the act that constitutes a criminal offence. ICCS offers a list of categories that define specific criminal offences, such as "robbery", and subcategories like "robbery from the person" or "robbery of an establishment".

ICCS provides a comprehensive framework of internationally agreed crime concepts and definitions which serve to enhance the collection, production, dissemination and use of statistical data on crime. In addition, ICCS facilitates the collection of additional data such as the characteristics of criminal acts, victims, perpetrators and motives through a set of disaggregating variables. The classification is built on established statistical principles:[2]

- *Hierarchically structured* – ICCS features four levels of aggregation with the most general categories at the top and the most detailed categories at the bottom. The most detailed categories can be aggregated into the more general categories (e.g., "serious assault" and "minor assault" are level 4 categories that can be aggregated into the level 3 category "assault").
- *Mutually exclusive* – There is a clear boundary in the scope and reach of every criminal offence at the same level of the classification, avoiding ambiguities and overlap. In principle, each criminal act should only be classified to one category in ICCS.
- *Exhaustive* – The classification contains a comprehensive list of criminal acts which aims to capture acts or events generally known to constitute criminal offences in a sufficient number of countries. This allows for the classification of most crimes with due regard as to what is feasible.

In addition to the above, ICCS strives to be universally applicable. The categories of the classification are based on a behavioural approach rather than strict legal specifications derived from criminal law. Crimes as defined in criminal law are typically associated with actions or behavioural and contextual attributes that are universally considered to be an offence (for example, wounding or injuring a person, or taking property without consent). Utilizing a behaviour-based approach avoids issues created by legal complexities, resulting in a simplified and globally applicable classification with fewer ambiguities. Put simply, it is easier to classify offences that are defined by behaviours and actions rather than by legal definitions and intent. This allows for the systematic application across countries, institutions and legal systems – regardless of the specificities of national criminal legislation.

ICCS is thus a fundamental component in improving the quality, comparability and granularity of data across all relevant actors of national criminal justice systems. As ICCS is implemented across more

countries, the resulting increased statistical comparability stands to improve analytical opportunities at (sub)national, regional and international levels.

1.4 Benefits of ICCS

Common statistical terminology

ICCS was developed in order to organize and harmonize crime and criminal justice data for statistical purposes. The classification's scope includes all main types of criminal offences and, as such, constitutes a comprehensive framework of definitions for producing national crime statistics. Based on statistical concepts and definitions, ICCS provides a comprehensive long-term perspective when building or reviewing a national crime statistics system as it is not sensitive to changes in national legislation and regulatory frameworks. This standardization of offence categories fosters and coordinates data integration across criminal justice agencies and across different data sources encompassing administrative records and statistical surveys.

Furthermore, ICCS enables data linkages between the different stages of the criminal justice system. When consistently applied by all relevant data producers, ICCS can be used to measure the flows between the different stages of the criminal justice system. For example, links could be made between the recorded number of a given offence, the number of arrests for the same type of offence and, in sequence, on the prosecution, conviction and sentencing of persons for the same type of offence. The result is a unification among institutions as they are provided with a common language for the communication and exchange of interoperable statistical information to effectively understand the national crime situation.

Greater granularity

ICCS enables the collection of detailed offence data and can be applied in relation to events and conditions related to the criminal justice process, such as arrests, prosecutions, convictions and prison sentences. Furthermore, through the collection of disaggregating variables, ICCS highlights the many facets of crime and responds to the need for highly detailed crime and criminal justice information to inform policymaking. The set of disaggregating variables included in ICCS provide contextual information about criminal offences that supports more sophisticated, in-depth analysis of those offences. Such data are often critical to improving the understanding of crime trends.

Disaggregating variables can relate to the characteristics of an individual crime event or the characteristics of the victim or offender. To illustrate, statistical data on intentional homicide are more valuable if they are disaggregated by the sex of the victim and offender, the use of a firearm, the motive for the killing and whether the killing happened in the context of organized crime. Such data offer the opportunity to delve into the different aspects of homicide, including the trends and patterns of homicide figures for specific subgroups of interest and a comprehensive analysis of the complex dynamics involved.

Improved international comparability

At the international level, ICCS improves the comparability of crime statistics across countries by standardizing concepts and definitions, allowing for the systematic collection, production and dissemination of data and responding to the increased demand for in-depth research and analysis on transnational crime. When investigating cases of organized crime, in particular those that are of a transnational nature, the efficacy of the criminal justice response can be hampered by the complex nature of the crimes and the fact that the investigation of organized criminal groups often crosses institutional and (inter)national borders. Article 28 of the United Nations convention against

transnational organized crime (A/RES/55/25) highlights the need for State Parties to develop common definitions, standards and methodologies to improve their understanding of the nature of organized crime. ICCS contributes to this objective by offering a standard classification of offences and a set of policy-relevant disaggregating variables.

Moreover, ICCS is one of the primary tools to support national efforts in collecting high-quality data for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Definitions applied in several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to the areas of public security and safety, trafficking, corruption and access to justice are aligned with ICCS. Implementation of ICCS will thus enable countries to produce high quality data to accurately report on the related SDG indicators. For example, to monitor the two indicators for target 16.5 *Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms*, countries need accurate data on the prevalence of bribery – as defined in ICCS – among the population and among businesses. Moreover, the indicators require the collection of disaggregating variables such as age and sex. These disaggregating variables are included in ICCS.

Table 1 **SDG indicators and ICCS**

Indicator	ICCS code
5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months	Assault (0201) Other acts intended to induce fear or emotional distress (02089) Sexual violence (0301)
5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months	Sexual violence (0301)
11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of non-sexual or sexual harassment in the previous 12 months	Harassment (0208) Non-physical sexual assault (030122)
15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked	Trafficking of protected species across national borders (100312)
16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population	Intentional homicide (0101)
16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and/or (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months	Assault (0201) Other acts intended to induce fear or emotional distress (02089) Sexual violence (0301)
16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population	Trafficking in persons (0204)
16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	Sexual violence (0301)

16.3.1 Proportion of victims of (a) physical, (b) psychological and/or (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	Assault (0201) Other acts intended to induce fear or emotional distress (02089) Sexual violence (0301)
16.4.2 Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments	Trafficking of weapons and explosives (09012)
16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	Bribery (07031)
16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months	Bribery (07031)

In addition, ICCS has been integrated into the definitions of the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS). These surveys are sent to Member States annually to facilitate national data collection and are the official mechanism to submit data for eight indicators of the SDGs.

The UN-CTS was initiated when the United Nations Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1984/48 of 25 May 1984, requested that the Secretary-General maintain and develop the United Nations crime-related database by continuing to conduct surveys of crime trends and the operations of criminal justice systems. The major goal of the UN-CTS today is to collect data on the incidence of reported crime and the operations of criminal justice systems in line with ICCS. The survey results provide an overview of trends and interrelationships between various parts of the criminal justice system to promote informed decision-making, nationally and internationally.

The data collected through UN-CTS are disseminated through the UNODC Data Portal (https://dataunodc.un.org/). Also used to monitor progress towards key Sustainable Development Goal 16 targets, the data are presented in several analytical publications, such as the Global Study on Homicide (https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/global-study-on-homicide.html) and short research briefs included in the Data Matters series (https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/data-matters.html). UN-CTS data pertaining to crime-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators are also published on the United Nations SDG Global Database (https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal).

1.5 Structure of ICCS

As noted in section 1.3, ICCS is structured in a hierarchical manner and groups offences at four different levels – levels 1 (sections), 2 (divisions), 3 (groups) and 4 (classes). The 11 level-1 categories highlighted in Table 2 are designed to cover all offences in scope for ICCS. These top-level categories are quite broad and are typically only used to produce highly aggregated overview figures, or when more detailed data of sufficient quality are not available.

Table 2 **Level 1 categories of ICCS**

Code	Level 1 category description
01	Acts leading to death or intending to cause death
02	Acts leading to harm or intending to cause harm to the person
03	Injurious acts of a sexual nature
04	Acts against property involving violence or threat against a person
05	Acts against property only
06	Acts involving controlled drugs or other psychoactive substances
07	Acts involving fraud, deception or corruption
08	Acts against public order, authority and provisions of the State
09	Acts against public safety and state security
10	Acts against the natural environment
11	Other criminal acts not elsewhere classified

Source: International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).

Criminal offences at Levels 2, 3 and 4 are more specific disaggregated behaviours, which can be combined and summed to provide observations at more aggregated levels. For example, to compute the total number of burglaries (level 2 category 0501), one can sum the different level 3 and level 4 categories that belong to this category. Vice versa, provided detailed data are available, observations at higher levels can generally be subdivided into lower-level categories. The four levels of ICCS are intended to encompass every criminal offence generally known to constitute criminal offences in a sufficient number of countries. However, not all Level 2 categories are further subdivided into Level 3 categories nor are all Level 3 categories subdivided into Level 4 categories, as the lower-level categories are not always necessary to identify policy-relevant groupings of offences.

Scope

ICCS aims to cover every possible manifestation of crime. The offences included in the current version of ICCS provide a basis for such a comprehensive endeavour and capture acts that generally constitute criminal offences in a substantial number of countries. For this reason, ICCS only practically captures offences at a certain level of detail, focusing on the policy-relevance at a national and international level. However, future versions of the classification may include other crimes as it is revised to maintain relevance in the ever-changing criminal landscape and incorporate feedback on the experience of national adoption by Member States.

As a consequence of its overarching goal to cover every possible manifestation of crime, ICCS may include events or behaviours that are not criminalized in some countries. ICCS does not support nor legitimize the criminalization of any offence listed within it. The scope of ICCS is limited to statistical purposes and the classification is not intended to influence or modify the penal codes of any of the countries that implement it. When a behaviour in ICCS is not considered a criminal offence in a country, the category relating to it can be considered out of scope for implementation (see chapter 3 for further guidance). Also note that ICCS is not intended to classify events that generally constitute administrative or minor regulatory offences and should, under most circumstances, only be used to categorize criminal offences.

Primary unit of classification

The primary unit of classification of ICCS is the behaviour or act that constitutes a criminal offence. The description of the criminal offence is provided in terms of the behaviour shown by the perpetrator(s) of a crime. The apparent behaviour is in most cases sufficient to define an offence for the purposes of ICCS. In some cases, however, additional elements need to be taken into account, such as the intention (state of mind) of the perpetrator or a characteristic of the victim (for example, whether he/she is a minor). In other cases, a crime is defined by a more complex sequence of behaviours, as in the case of trafficking in persons described in Annex II of the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime (A/RES/55/25) for example. Trafficking in persons involves three key elements, namely the act (what is done), the means (how it is done) and the purpose (why it is done) resulting in a complex chain of behaviours and actions that is more challenging to capture.

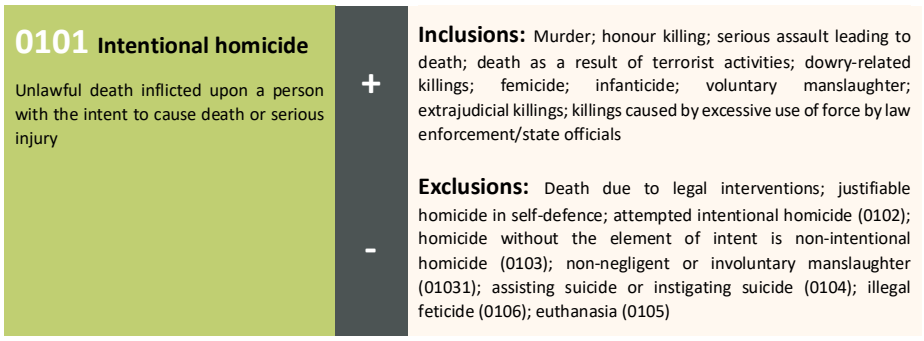
Definition of categories

All categories, at every level of the classification, are defined in detailed terms in ICCS. Each of these definitions offer a description of the act comprising the criminal offence, the core set of actions, and in some instances behavioural and contextual attributes. The definitions were constructed following four criteria:

- Policy relevance (e.g., protection of property rights or protection of health)
- Target of the act (e.g., person, property, natural environment or the state)
- Seriousness of the act (e.g., acts leading to death or acts causing harm)
- Means by which the act/event is perpetrated (e.g., by violence or threat of violence)

Apart from their descriptions, categories are accompanied by a list of both inclusions and exclusions to assist coders in identifying the most common criminal offences included in, or excluded from, the category. The listed inclusions and exclusions are examples and are not intended to be exhaustive. They present commonly used names of offences that typically fall within the definition of each category. However, priority should be given to the actual definition of the offence, rather than the simple name given to it.

Figure 1 I**nclusions and exclusions of ICCS category 0101 intentional homicide**



Source: International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).

Take, for example, a national classification where the criminal offence "theft" has a sub-category "theft with aggravated circumstances". This subcategory is defined as the unlawful taking or obtaining of property with forced entry. While the first part of this definition is consistent with the ICCS definition of 0502 *Theft*, the part on forced entry points towards unauthorized access and unlawful entry. In ICCS, "theft after unauthorized access to premises" is listed as an exclusion under 0502 *Theft* and points towards 0501 *Burglary*. Under 0501 *Burglary*, unlawful entry with intent to commit theft is listed as an inclusion. Therefore, an offence nationally classified as theft with aggravated circumstances should be classified under a different offence category in ICCS. This offence should further be excluded from any figure reported for 0502 *Theft*.

The description, inclusions and exclusions oftentimes contain footnotes meant to provide further guidance on the exact meaning of specific terms. For example, under 0101 *Intentional homicide*, murder is defined in footnote 36 of ICCS as "an unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury, including when premeditated and/or with malice aforethought". Using the detailed information contained in the description, inclusions, exclusions and additional footnotes, users of ICCS are able to classify crimes as accurately as possible for statistical purposes.

Defining and classifying offences for statistical purposes is thus the primary focus of the classification. To accomplish this, legal provisions, national classifications and national crime indicators that exist in a country are matched with the categories of ICCS. It is important to reiterate that the legal provisions that exist in a given country remain unaffected by ICCS implementation. Countries should continue to define offences in the most appropriate way given their national legal systems and legislation. ICCS is used to assign each offence to a category regardless of the respective legal system for use solely in the collection, production, dissemination and use of statistics.

Coding scheme

Given the need for international data harmonization, comparability and straightforward integration into national statistical systems, ICCS utilizes a numerical coding scheme for each category. As an example, table 3 breaks down the numerical coding for ICCS category 050121 *Burglary of permanent private residences*.

Table 3 **Example of ICCS numerical coding scheme**

Level	Code	Description
Level 1	05	Acts against property only
Level 2	0501	Burglary
Level 3	05012	Burglary of private residential premises
Level 4	050121	Burglary of permanent private residences

Source: International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).

The ICCS numerical coding scheme reflects the classification level. Level 1 categories have a two-digit code (e.g., 05); Level 2 categories have a four-digit code (e.g., 0501); Level 3 categories have a five-digit code (e.g., 05012); and Level 4 categories have a six-digit code (e.g., 050121). Each category in ICCS has a unique code that is assigned only to that category. This ensures categories of the statistical classification are mutually exclusive and easily distinguished from one another.

In the above example, every recorded *burglary of private residential premises* under the code 05012 should also be included at a higher level in the hierarchy in the figures of *burglary* under code 0501. All burglaries, together with all thefts and all other acts against property only are aggregated in the level 1 category 05 *Acts against property only*.

Disaggregating variables

In addition to providing an exhaustive classification of offences, ICCS also provides a set of disaggregating variables. These disaggregating variables serve as descriptors that provide additional contextual information about the offence to support more sophisticated, in-depth analysis of criminal offences and are often critical in understanding policy-relevant trends. The variables can relate to the characteristics of the individual crime event or the characteristics of victim(s) and perpetrator(s). For example, when producing statistics on intentional homicide, data are more valuable if they can be disaggregated by the sex and age of the victims and perpetrators, the use of firearms or the motives for the killings. More information about disaggregating variables is provided in chapter 5.

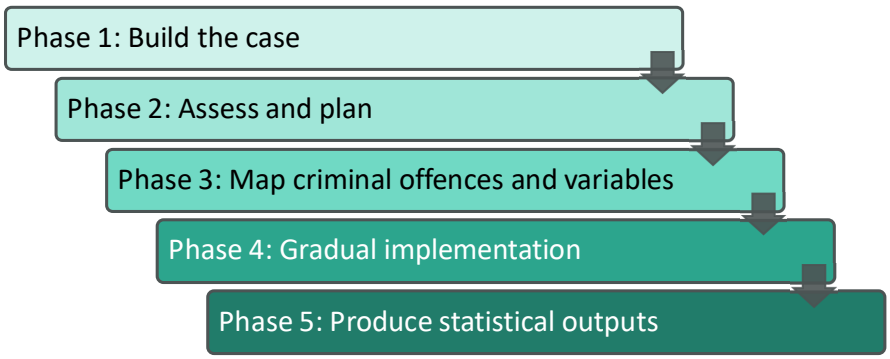
2 Road map for ICCS implementation

The process of adopting ICCS will differ from country to country depending on several factors such as the current level of statistical capabilities, available resources, national priorities and the institutional environment. The implementation phases proposed in this chapter extend from institutional awareness raising on the use and benefits of the classification, to the production of statistics in line with ICCS. The phases are meant as a starting point to guide implementation. Each country can adapt any of the phases to their own context and needs.

Given the heterogeneity of political systems (unitary, federalist or other), legal systems (such as civil, common or religious law) and statistical systems (centralized or decentralized) around the world, the ICCS implementation process can differ significantly between countries. For example, a country with an existing national crime classification may simply update their digital infrastructure to automatically produce ICCS-compliant statistics. In other cases, a country may not have a national crime classification in place and can choose to adopt ICCS as the national classification for statistical purposes. However, these factors do not determine whether ICCS can be implemented, rather they dictate how the ICCS implementation process might be structured.

The road map for ICCS implementation presented in the current implementation manual consists of five phases, each outlined in this chapter with concrete steps and examples of approaches taken by different countries. The road map can be seen as a guide to plan the ICCS implementation process from start to finish – although it should be noted that there is no predefined finish line as the implementation process will require follow-up to ensure continued alignment across the criminal justice system. Each of the five phases is further divided into a number of activities. These activities do not need to be implemented sequentially and can, instead, be implemented in a different order than the one proposed here. Similarly, work on different phases can be executed in parallel. In other words, the road map should be seen as a flexible tool that guides implementation rather than a fixed process to be strictly adhered to.

Figure 2 **Phases of the ICCS implementation process**



2.1 Phase 1: Build the case

Identify all relevant stakeholders

In order to ensure the interests of all relevant stakeholders are considered and addressed throughout the implementation process it is essential to identify and engage relevant data owners and producers, potential data users and other key partners by creating a stakeholder map (see figure 3). A stakeholder map will foster collaboration by identifying partners who share similar objectives, help identify potential areas of conflict, highlight relationships between different stakeholders and identify stakeholders that hold decision-making power, funding, knowledge or key data.

Which specific stakeholders are most relevant will differ in each national setting. In one group of countries this may be a small group limited to key criminal justice agencies, while in another group of countries there could be a large group of potentially interested stakeholders spanning civil society, academia, other government agencies and other actors to be engaged throughout the implementation process.

Some stakeholders will be critical partners to the implementation process, such as those authorizing resources and political support, whereas others, such as the data user community, may only need to be kept informed of the progress being made without any direct technical involvement in the process. If the implementation plan is likely to involve a significant change to the existing structure of local data collection efforts, relevant users of those data should also be engaged in the process to manage the change from a user community perspective.

Figure 3 **Example of stakeholder mapping**

Data owners / producers	Key advisers and experts	Data user community	Governance bodies
• Police • Prosecution service • Courts • Prison system • Ministry of Justice / Interior • National Statistical Office	• Academics • Legal professionals • Regional partners • UNODC	• Policymakers • Researchers • NGOs • Civil society organizations • General public	• Elected representatives • Government departments

Data owners are responsible for the collection and storage of the data, provide access to relevant data sets, ensure data quality and may impose restrictions on data use. In the area of crime and criminal justice statistics this group usually includes:

- Law enforcement agencies like the various police forces, including specialized agencies dealing with, among others, organized crime, terrorism, financial crime, crimes that affect the environment or violence against women.
- Prosecution services with various levels and topics of responsibility, typically any type of state attorney, prosecutors from various agencies, procurator or investigative judges.

- Criminal courts with various levels and topics of responsibility, typically any court or tribunal that has the authority to adjudicate any legal proceedings of a prosecuting agent of the state against a defendant.
- Agencies administrating prisons, penal institutions, correctional facilities or community-based non-custodial corrections services.

In federal states another layer may have to be considered to ensure the involvement of all relevant data owners both at subnational/state and federal level. For example, if data collection is heavily decentralized, processes and standards for data collection may differ significantly across subnational units.

Data producers analyze and interpret the data and produce crime and criminal justice statistics. These could be the same institutions that collect the data or may be other types of organizations, such as:

- The National Statistical Office
- A Government department with responsibility for criminal justice policy and administration
- Research Institutions

Key advisers and experts can be found in academic circles or be criminal justice practitioners who can provide vital technical assistance. For example, legal expertise is likely to be required when producing a correspondence table linking offences described in the national penal code to their respective ICCS categories as part of the implementation process. Moreover, criminal justice practitioners involved in the management of data can provide important insights on how data are currently being recorded and how disaggregating variables can best be incorporated into the existing system.

UNODC and other relevant international or regional organizations can also serve as key partners. As custodian of numerous international standards and norms related to crime and criminal justice and ICCS, UNODC is particularly well placed to provide countries with technical expertise and capacity-building in this field. In addition, UNODC manages the primary international data collection on crime trends and the operations of criminal justice systems (UN-CTS) and, as such, can provide important data expertise.

The *data user community* can provide valuable insights as data and statistics are most valuable when they are used. As such, the needs of data users should be carefully considered when implementing ICCS. Designing statistical outputs in line with the needs of criminal justice institutions, researchers, non-governmental organizations, national or regional institutions (such as the Ombudsman or equality bodies), other parts of the government, international organizations and the general public is key to designing statistical outputs that are relevant and will be in high demand. After all, the value of crime and criminal justice statistics is determined by their potential use for strategic decision-making at different levels of government, their use by society at large and their contribution to achieving fair and equitable justice for all.

Governance bodies form another critical aspect of the stakeholder mapping exercise and involves identifying the stakeholders who will be authorizing ICCS implementation from a governance and resourcing perspective. This may be one or several decision makers already considered in the above lists or an elected official. Identifying these key stakeholders at an early stage is vital to ensure political support and ensure the sustainability of the implementation process. Moreover, governance bodies may define legal requirements, standards or guidelines that impact how the classification can best be implemented and how sensitive data should be handled.

Raise awareness

Plans to raise awareness of ICCS and build the case for its implementation could focus on both creating an effective group of collaborators that drive the technical work and securing the required support from data owners, data producers, data users and other relevant stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping. In some countries this may be a complex process, whereas in other countries this may be a routine exercise facilitated by an existing statistical commission or working group on crime statistics.

ICCS related communication should be targeted to specific stakeholders, such as statisticians, operational personnel in criminal justice institutions or high-level decision makers at relevant line ministries. To facilitate this, communication strategies could be developed for both technical and non-technical personnel that provide the basic concepts of ICCS, advocate for the use of ICCS and highlight the benefits for different institutions. Institutions in the criminal justice system often have a long history and strong identity and genuinely value their uniqueness and independence, which must be recognized and valued when trying to introduce change.

Organizations with a local, internal focus may not be immediately interested in comparable data between countries when it requires change on their part. However, they may be interested in producing more comparable and more granular data that can assist them in their day-to-day operations, which is facilitated by ICCS implementation. Therefore, raising awareness about the basic concepts of the ICCS, how it can be utilized and what added value it could bring to key stakeholders is an essential first step to establishing the necessary buy-in from all key stakeholders to proceed with implementation.

Another important step during this part of the implementation process is to distribute copies of ICCS among relevant stakeholders. Note, however, that ICCS is currently only available in all six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) and it may be necessary to translate the classification to the national language. For example, before proceeding with the implementation process, the NSO in Mongolia had the ICCS translated into Mongolian. Note that translating ICCS is a complex exercise that requires significant legal and linguistic expertise to avoid discrepancies.

Building support and establishing partnerships between stakeholders promotes the sustainability of the ICCS implementation process and ensures harmonization of activities across agencies. Making the case for implementing ICCS should be a continuous activity that is maintained during the implementation process to ensure ongoing commitment to the full delivery of ICCS and its benefits. For example, the ICCS implementation process in the Republic of Korea was strengthened when the President issued the enforcement decree of the Statistics Act, which created a strong case for ICCS implementation, procedures for implementing a statistical classification and a clear authorizing environment for partners.[3]

Establish a national ICCS working group

The next key element of the first phase is to create a national working group that can drive the implementation process. In case an existing mechanism for collaboration on crime and criminal justice statistics exists, this group may also adopt the role of ICCS working group. Otherwise, critical partners identified in the stakeholder mapping process should be convened into the new national working group on ICCS implementation. Ideally, the national ICCS working group should be formally established in coordination with the national statistical authorities, relevant data owners in the area of crime and criminal justice statistics and all necessary levels of government.

It is important to develop terms of reference for the national working group that clearly spell out the roles and responsibilities of the involved stakeholders. The terms of reference should, as a minimum, also define the purpose and objective of the group, the scope of work, a timeline with a set of clearly defined deliverables, proposed frequency of meetings and an estimation of financial and non-financial resources required. The national working group can also consider appointing dedicated task forces to accomplish specific objectives, such as a technical task force to develop the correspondence table (see phase 3) or an implementation task force to pilot test the new national classification on a limited set of data (see phase 4).

A national focal point should be appointed to lead the implementation process that ideally would also serve as a focal point on ICCS implementation to UNODC. The agency supplying the focal point should have strong statistical expertise to effectively lead the technical aspects of the implementation process and emphasize the statistical significance of ICCS, while taking into account operational/practical perspectives. The leading agency must also ensure broad and inclusive consultations with other relevant stakeholders in the criminal justice system and beyond.

Box 1 **National experiences with ICCS governance**

While some jurisdictions have experienced challenges in engaging their criminal justice sectors in the implementation process, others had existing statistical coordination mechanisms in place for managing crime and criminal justice statistics. In the latter case, National Statistical Offices (NSOs) typically take on the bulk of the work to implement ICCS without requiring significant engagement with relevant criminal justice institutions. This is especially the case when there is not a lot of remediation work to be done to existing systems and an existing statistical classifications can be directly mapped to ICCS. In both Finland and Australia, for example, ICCS implementation was largely managed by the NSO. However, for best results – and particularly if there is a significant body of work to be undertaken to implement ICCS – whole of sector involvement is recommended.

In the Philippines, for example, the Philippines Statistics Authority serves as secretariat to the Interagency Committee on Security, Justice and Peace Statistics which was utilized to drive development, adoption and implementation of ICCS. The Committee serves as a venue for the discussion and resolution of statistical issues, the review of methodologies and the development of workable schemes towards the improvement of security, justice and peace statistics. The Committee was chaired by the Department of National Defense, Co-Chaired by the Department of Justice and comprised of members from all major criminal justice institutions, including the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the National Police Commissions, the Philippine National Police and the Supreme Court of the Philippines.

A technical working group from the Philippine Statistics Authority operated under the Interagency Committee to progress the work plan for ICCS implementation. The correspondence table process was guided by the inventory of criminal offences under national law generated from the Philippine Crime Index Project of the Department of Justice. The Classification was further endorsed for adoption by the Interagency Committee on Statistical Classification Systems and the Philippine Statistical Authority Board. The 2018 Philippine Standard Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes has since been released.[4]

2.2 Phase 2: Assess and plan

Define the scope of ICCS implementation

An important part of initializing the ICCS implementation process is for the national working group to set the scope of implementation and determine which data, statistics or legislation will be included in the process. It is advisable to make a realistic estimate of the time and budget needs for multiple scenarios, ranging from a specific focus on a single category (e.g., intentional homicide) to full ICCS implementation. To do so, it is advisable to first become familiar with ICCS in one of the official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish) or, if considered relevant, translate ICCS into the national language. However, as noted in phase 1, translating ICCS into a national language can be a significant project in itself. The experience of countries to date shows that translation requires significant expertise in linguistics, statistics and legal matters.

The adaption of ICCS requires a mapping of national criminal legislation or existing national crime statistics into the categories of ICCS (i.e., a correspondence table). However, some ICCS categories might not be relevant in a country because they are not (or not yet) criminalized. Every ICCS category that does not have corresponding criminalized acts in any punitive legal provisions at any level of governance in a country can normally be excluded from national implementation. Note that determining which crimes are in scope at the national level can be more challenging when operating in a federal system of government where some criminal laws are determined and enforced at the federal level while others are determined and enforced at the subnational level.

Criminal offences considered in scope should also include crimes related to international treaties and jurisdiction that appear in a country's criminal legislation (not only in the national penal code, but in any criminal legislation). Chapter 3 provides further guidance on establishing the boundaries of ICCS and determining the universe of criminal activity relevant for ICCS implementation.

Box 2 **Germany's experience in determining the scope of implementation**

In Germany, a very comprehensive legal review and translation process was undertaken as part of the process of both determining scope and mapping offences. Academic legal experts and practitioners collaborated on this process. Germany already possessed a statistical system that produced statistics based upon local legal codes, with a scope of both criminal codes, secondary criminal law and some regulatory offences. As ICCS was a new standard classification for criminal offences for international data collection, a full review was taken of legislation and ICCS concepts to establish an appropriate correspondence table.

Germany initially focused on intentional homicide to establish their national approach to the implementation process. This process served both as the commencement of the mapping processes and a feasibility study for the approach to be taken for broad ICCS implementation. A paper has been produced which documents both the exhaustive conceptual process undertaken in breaking down the concepts of German criminal law and ICCS and the nuanced approach taken in determining degrees of correspondence and finding best matches.[5]

Assess current data production and statistical capabilities

As part of the implementation process, it is recommended to conduct a thorough assessment of the existing national crime statistics system, requiring a review of the methods, processes and tools used for the collection of data from the criminal justice system and how these data are governed.

Such a comprehensive assessment provides a detailed understanding of a country's starting position for ICCS implementation. It can help identify gaps, assess the compatibility of ICCS with current statistical outputs, highlight strengths and weaknesses and feed into the decision on what target a country should set for implementation. Furthermore, based on the assessment, countries can determine which aspects of the national work plan for ICCS implementation discussed below should be prioritized.

For the assessment, data collection procedures, legal codes and relevant prior assessments of crime and criminal justice statistics should be analyzed to improve the understanding of, among others, criminal justice system coverage, data collection processes, offence mapping, disaggregating variables, statistical dissemination, data quality and data governance.

The following (non-exhaustive) assessment questions can offer a starting point for the effective planning of the ICCS implementation process.

Table 4 **Sample assessment questions**

Questions	Assessment area
1. Are crime and criminal justice data currently being collected? a. If so, do they cover crimes recorded by the police? b. Prosecutorial actions? c. Persons convicted in criminal court? d. Persons held in prisons and/or under the supervision of corrective services?	Justice system coverage
2. For each stage of the criminal justice system (the police, the prosecution service, the criminal courts, the prison system), are data collected for all offences or only specific offence(s)?	Justice system coverage
3. Are data collected in unit record or aggregate form for each relevant stage of the criminal justice system?	Data collection processes
4. How are microdata stored by each relevant data supplier? a. Electronically? b. Paper? c. Mixed process? – both paper-based data collection and electronic data collection	Data collection processes
5. Are data recorded at the level of each individual criminal offence or using a principal offence rule?	Data collection processes

Questions	Assessment area
Note: When multiple offences are committed simultaneously by the same offender, only the most serious offence would be recorded under a principal offence rule.	
6. Are data sharing agreements in place to allow the collation of ICCS-based statistics at the national level? Are all relevant agencies covered by formal data sharing agreements?	Data collection processes
7. Is a standardized list of crimes or an offence classification used to compile existing statistics? If so, is this classification used consistently across criminal justice institutions? Are guidelines or manuals available for staff to ensure consistent use of the classification?	Offence mapping
8. Does the offence classification (if it exists) capture all offences covered by the 11 main sections of ICCS? Are there any gaps or discrepancies in coverage? Are there significant differences in terminology, definitions or subcategories?	Offence mapping
9. Are data collected on the characteristics of the victim and/or perpetrator, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, the context of the crime, etc. (i.e., disaggregating variables)?	Disaggregating variables
10. Are these disaggregating variables recorded consistently across all agencies and departments of the criminal justice system?	Disaggregating variables
11. Does the current system of disaggregating variables align with the standard set forth in ICCS? Are there any gaps or discrepancies in coverage?	Disaggregating variables
12. Are there any business rules applied to the collection of crime and criminal justice data that restrict the statistics that can be produced? Which ones?	Statistical production
13. Are crime and criminal justice statistics regularly produced? If so, for which stages of the criminal justice system? • Police/law enforcement? • Prosecution? • Courts? • Prisons? • Community-based corrections? At what frequency (e.g., weekly, monthly, yearly)?	Statistical production

Questions	Assessment area
14. Are statistics regularly (i.e., at least once a year, every year) provided to UNODC and mapped to the requirements of the United Nations Crime Trends Survey (UN-CTS)? If yes, which agencies are currently covered by this data provision?	Statistical dissemination
15. Are crime and criminal justice statistics publicly disseminated? a. If yes, who publishes them? Criminal justice agencies? Government departments? The National Statistical Office? Other? b. Are multiple sets of statistics published relating to the same stages of the criminal justice system? Or is there a single source? If there are multiple sources, do they tell the same story or are there differences?	Statistical dissemination
16. Does well-defined metadata exist (i.e., systems where metadata is documented, archived and disseminated, in line with internationally accepted standards?[6]) relating to current crime and criminal justice statistics?	Data quality and governance
17. Has there been a quality assessment of the coding of offence data (and relevant disaggregating variables) in crime and criminal justice statistics? If yes, in what year was the most recent assessment conducted? What was the main outcome of the assessment?	Data quality and governance
18. If your country has justice institutions that operate at a subnational level (e.g., in a federal system), are all relevant jurisdictions included in existing national-level statistics? Would additional institutions need to be included to provide a full picture? Which ones?	Data quality and governance
19. Are existing databases compatible with ICCS's coding system? How will they have to be restructured or modified to accommodate the ICCS structure and coding system?	IT systems
20. Does the software used for recording and collecting data require an update to allow for accurate coding and data recording in line with ICCS? Will the software have to be replaced? What are the financial implications of this?	IT systems
21. Does a body or mechanism exist to coordinate crime and criminal justice institutions for statistical purposes? Are all relevant agencies involved in these collaborative	Enabling factors

Questions	Assessment area
arrangements? If any are missing, could they be invited to join the coordination mechanism?	
22. What human, technical and financial resources are available within the criminal justice institutions and/or statistical system to support the implementation of ICCS-based crime and criminal justice statistics? Will staff require additional training?	Enabling factors
23. How is the current statistical infrastructure within your country organized and does it facilitate or hinder the production of ICCS-based statistics?	Enabling factors
24. Has a mandate to implement ICCS been provided by the Government (e.g., a presidential decree or law)? Does this mandate provide the required resources to sustainably implement ICCS?	Enabling factors
25. Are there any legal or jurisdictional limitations that might hinder the complete or accurate implementation of ICCS? Do any laws exists that prescribe the regular production of crime and criminal justice statistics?	Enabling factors

Depending on the results of such an assessment, countries may choose different routes for ICCS implementation and the adoption of ICCS can trigger a broader process in which critical gaps in the national crime statistics system may simultaneously be addressed.

For instance, some countries may discover a need to completely overhaul the governance of their crime and criminal justice data for statistical purposes. Others might opt for bringing criminal justice agencies not presently involved in the data collection into the statistical process to improve coverage and standardize disaggregating variables. While other countries may only need to map their existing national offence classification to ICCS in order to allow data to be produced for international reporting and analysis purposes. In other words, depending on the starting point of a country, ICCS implementation can imply anything from a complete overhaul of the crime and criminal justice statistics system to implementing minor adjustments in existing procedures.

Develop a national work plan

Based on the assessment, the national working group should draft a detailed national work plan for ICCS implementation. The aim is to create a plan that is endorsed and approved by the relevant national authorities. This may require approval or endorsement from the relevant authorizing agency or a government stakeholder depending on the institutional environment. The plan should be feasible, contain clear lines of accountability and be supported and endorsed by all key stakeholders.

The national work plan should further identify all the steps, activities, and outputs for progressive implementation of ICCS. It should consider the capacity of the national crime statistics system and the existing institutional environment. An emphasis should be placed on taking an incremental approach to implementation, to avoid overwhelming or disrupting existing system and allow for institutional developments and potential statistical system upgrades.

At a minimum, the following elements should be included in the national work plan:

- A comparison of existing legislation/ classifications / data with ICCS categories / definitions / disaggregating variables
- The production of a correspondence table to link the national system to ICCS
- The review and standardization of disaggregating variables
- The establishment of coordination mechanisms between all data producers
- The assessment and adjustment of data collection and processing systems
- A process evaluation and plan for continuous improvement

Clearly defining the vision (what is intended to be achieved) and how it will be achieved (objectives and expected results) is essential. The findings from the assessment should form the basis for establishing and prioritizing objectives. Objectives and expected results should refer to specific deliverables, steps and tasks that are required to achieve ICCS implementation. For example, training coders on the concepts and definitions of ICCS or mapping a national classification into ICCS are objectives. These objectives should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound (SMART).

This will inevitably raise the question of the human and financial resources needed for ICCS implementation. Particularly if there is a requirement for integrating ICCS compliant disaggregation variables in existing data recording systems or an in-depth assessment and adjustment of data collection and processing systems. A financing strategy should specify estimated costs and identify funding sources.

The discussion may also focus on the time institutions have to dedicate to the process. Countries can create a dynamic timetable that clarifies roles, responsibilities and expected outputs. The timetable should clarify to each stakeholder what needs to be done, by whom and by when. The timetable should be flexible enough to account for unexpected developments. This would allow the implementation strategy to adapt and evolve in line with other developments (such as planned system upgrades) that may assist more efficient implementation.

Table 5 **Example of basic Gantt chart**

Activity	Coordinating entity	Timeframe					
		Y1H1	Y1H2	Y2H1	Y2H2	Y3H1	Y3H2
Phase 1							
Identify stakeholders	Lead entity						
Raise awareness	National working group						
Establish national working group	Lead entity						
Coordinate with UNODC	National working group						
Phase 2							
Define scope of implementation	National working group						

Assess current data production and statistical capabilities	NSO						
Develop national workplan for implementation	National working group						
Phase 3							
Develop correspondence table	National working group – Technical task force						
Establish maintenance procedure	National working group – Technical task force						
Phase 4							
Formalize adoption	National working group						
Pilot test	National working group – Implementation task force						
Train staff	National working group – Implementation task force						
Integrate ICCS into statistical system	National working group – Technical task force						
Collect feedback from users	National working group – Implementation task force						
Phase 5							
Data production	NSO						
Data dissemination	National working group – Dissemination task force						

Evaluation and maintenance work

It is important to consider conducting an evaluation after completion of the national work plan to understand what worked well and what could be improved for future projects and identify any remaining issues that may require resolution. This would involve the design of a monitoring, evaluation and learning framework before the implementation work is started to measure progress and determine bottlenecks and issues in the delivery of results. Considerations for an evaluation exercise should be made when the national work plan and budget are drawn up.

As a country's criminal law invariably changes with the adoption of new laws and the repeal over time of existing laws, maintenance work will also be required as the national classification and correspondence to ICCS must be kept up to date. This responsibility may fall on the NSO, the lead entity of the national working group or the custodian agency of the resulting national classification. If maintenance is not addressed in the national work plan, agencies may independently introduce updates in their local version of the classification without coordinating with the wider group of stakeholders, allowing for differing interpretations to creep into the resulting statistical products.

2.3 Phase 3: Map criminal offences and variables

Implementation of ICCS requires a mapping of national crime categories into ICCS categories. The process involves creating a so-called correspondence table and this is perhaps the most critical technical activity undertaken for the adoption of ICCS. A correspondence table systematically explains where, and to what extent, categories in one classification can be found in other classifications. Due to its technical specificity, the process is described in detail in chapter 4.

ICCS provides a standardized list of categories for various disaggregating variables that capture data on the event and characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator. These variables should also be harmonized as part of the ICCS implementation process and incorporated into the resulting correspondence product. Disaggregating variables are discussed in detail in chapter 5.

Several countries implementing ICCS have highlighted the importance of involving legal experts, statisticians and researchers in the technical preparatory work as well as the mapping process. The official appointment of a subject matter expert to lead the mapping process has similarly proven to be beneficial.

2.4 Phase 4: Gradual implementation

After the work plan has been approved, the required resources and support for the work plan has been secured and the correspondence table has been produced, implementation can commence. Implementation is a key part of the execution of the work plan. The tasks laid out in the work plan are materialized into concrete actions and outcomes. ICCS is expected to be implemented progressively into statistical systems and the work plan should provide a degree of flexibility to allow for the management of unforeseen obstacles or unexpected opportunities that may arise.

Formalize ICCS adoption

Once the correspondence table has been produced, reviewed and agreed upon by the national working group, it may be worthwhile to seek official endorsement of ICCS implementation. Countries usually formalize the process by publishing the mapping as a new national crime classification or as an update to their pre-existing classification. The resulting document should provide the specific coding, definitions and linkages to ICCS – including guidance on standardizing disaggregating variables. This promulgation is often the prerogative of the head of the national crime statistics system.

It is crucial to ensure that the newly adopted classification is closely observed by all national crime and criminal justice institutions. National data standardization can be achieved by means of the promulgation of normative obligations that bound institutions to use the resulting national classification within their own records systems or at least to disseminate and share their information through data sets or statistical products fully aligned with it.

Even when all criminal justice institutions actively participated in the implementation process and the national working group, the resulting classification needs to be safeguarded against changing political wills, priorities or management decisions. Adopting the classification as a normative instrument not only achieves this, but also justifies future investments in its gradual adoption and provides a degree of sustainability to the improvement process of crime and criminal justice statistics as a whole.

Consider a pilot

It may be worthwhile to consider piloting the classification on a limited set of data to identify and address any potential issues before moving to full implementation. The pilot data set could either attempt to reflect the diversity of offences, jurisdictions and reporting agencies typically involved in

the production of crime and criminal justice statistics in the country or focus on specific crime categories (e.g., intentional homicide) as a proof of concept. Challenges that may arise during the pilot include difficulties in classifying specific offences, data entry problems or software glitches. The pilot can also reveal areas where training or additional guidance will be needed for relevant staff. One of the main benefits of a successful pilot is that it will demonstrate the feasibility of implementing ICCS in the data recording system and further cement buy-in from stakeholders by illustrating its added value before moving to wider adoption.

Train staff

To ensure a successful implementation of ICCS, it is vital to provide adequate training to relevant staff working on data collection, classification, analysis and reporting in the criminal justice system. This could include educating staff on the application of the classification, data entry procedures and quality assurance measures. Further items to highlight during a training could include the structure, categories and coding rules of ICCS, the correspondence between national offence categories and ICCS, and the value of the classification for improved data quality, comparability and evidence-informed decision-making within the criminal justice system. Such trainings could be delivered in-person, online or in the form of eLearning modules.

The UNODC has developed an eLearning course on ICCS that is available on UNODC's eLearning platform (https://elearningunodc.org/course/view.php?id=389). The platform offers self-paced online modules that are open to individuals after registration and are free of charge. The ICCS course outlines the basic building blocks of ICCS to assist practitioners in the implementation of the classification and highlights how the use of standardized data can improve the response to criminal activity.

In addition to training sessions, the national working group may also consider developing clear ICCS implementation guidelines and coding manuals for relevant staff that relate to their day-to-day jobs. Such tools could clearly explain the scope and purpose of ICCS, describe the classification structure, highlight the coding rules with detailed examples and scenarios (real-world or hypothetical) and offer detailed procedures for collecting and recording crime data using ICCS.

Integrate ICCS categories into the statistical system

After formalizing adoption, running a pilot and training staff, crime and criminal justice institutions can move towards implementation and will have the added responsibility of using the newly formalized national classification to produce or convert data (at any point in the data life cycle) in line with the new national standard. Depending on where a country is in terms of its crime and criminal justice data production capabilities, one of the two generalized approaches highlighted below could be applied. For each country, the most suitable approach will need to be identified and a clear timeframe for implementation should be set in the national work plan.

Approach 1: Recode existing statistical outputs according to ICCS

The first approach offers minimal disruption to existing data collections or pre-existing national statistics. For countries that are already producing detailed national crime and criminal justice statistics, this may represent the quickest, simplest and most cost-effective approach to ICCS implementation. In this case, the conversion is done at the output stage of the statistical process, using the correspondence table as a translation key to convert the local crime and criminal justice statistics into ICCS categories. The use of the new classification and coding does not imply other parallel codings for statistical outputs should be dropped, such as the articles or acts in the national

criminal legislation, additional disaggregating variables, or other categories that an institutions might need to keep in place to, for example, meet national reporting requirements.

Approach 2: Recode or parallel code microdata according to ICCS

The second approach involves modifying individual data and records systems over time. Institutions can opt to recode past individual records and use the new classification as the basis for coding records from that point onwards. Doing so will provide data that are more accurate and compatible with ICCS. The technical task is to code on the most granular level, that is, at the individual criminal offence level (microdata). To do this consistently, resources must be allocated to ensure that time series are properly reviewed and reclassified and collection systems are updated or re-programmed. As with recoding existing statistical outputs, the use of the new classification and coding does not imply other coding schemes should be dropped, such as the articles or acts in the criminal legislation, additional disaggregating variables, or other categories that an institutions might need to keep in place to, for example, meet national reporting requirements.

The second approach offers the greatest potential in terms of data production, evidence-informed decision-making, standardization, comparability and return on investment. When a formal requirement for institutions to produce crime and criminal justice statistics exists but records systems are still in development or in the design phase, collection instruments, classification criteria and validation processes can be fully aligned with ICCS. This ensures that all data at the individual criminal offence level (microdata) will be recorded for statistical purposes using the categories and disaggregating variables contained in the classification.

Completing the correspondence table is a fundamental step in adapting data and resolving any potential compatibility issues with historical data. The correspondence table can also highlight the need for, or issues with, disaggregating variables. Data should also be tested against the correspondence table to identify any potential mapping errors/anomalies, and to reconcile the distribution across the aggregated levels of the classification for existing time-series.

Collect feedback from users

The national working group can consider collecting valuable feedback from users involved in applying ICCS to collect and produce statistics. This could take the form of a user satisfaction survey that can help identify challenges in applying ICCS, technical difficulties or suggestions for improvement. Findings can be summarized in a report along with recommendations for addressing any of the identified issues. This will provide key information for an iterative approach to progressive ICCS implementation that quickly addresses user concerns and challenges. Using the feedback, training materials may be revised, implementation guidance could be updated or technical issues could be identified and addressed.

2.5 Phase 5: Produce statistical outputs

Once ICCS has been introduced to data owners and integrated into data recording systems using the correspondence table, it becomes possible to produce and disseminate statistics in line with the classification. Producing relevant statistics that will be in high demand and disseminating them in user-friendly, open and machine-readable formats will ensure the generated crime and criminal justice statistics inform society and contribute to the prevention of criminal activity.

Production

Countries are encouraged to start small and increase their production of ICCS-compliant data over time. A starting point could be data on intentional homicide and/or other data requested in the UN-CTS. Subsequently, production can gradually extend to the production of aggregated data at all Level 1 ICCS categories. The scope could then shift to producing data disaggregated at level 2, then at level 3 and, if applicable, at level 4 categories. Countries may also opt for priority-based data production, identifying the most relevant or prevalent crimes and focusing on their systematic recording. As a final step, additional data in line with the ICCS disaggregating variables can be introduced and systematically produced.

The exact sequence to follow or the areas to prioritize will differ per country. To make this determination, it is important to consider the outcomes of the initial assessment on data production and statistical capability and consider the scope of implementation as determined by the national working group during phase 2. Chapter 6 contains a brief discussion on producing data according to ICCS to offer basic guidance to countries.

For additional guidance on the production of statistical data by criminal justice institutions, please refer to the UNODC publication series dedicated to this topic. The series includes three specific guidelines for the police, the prosecution service and the courts, and the prison system.[7, 8, 9] Moreover, a fourth guideline addresses the governance of statistical data in the criminal justice system more broadly.[10]

Dissemination

Disseminating high-quality, granular and comparable data and utilizing them to analyze crime and criminal justice trends is the most tangible benefit of implementing ICCS for stakeholders. In addition, it is beneficial to disseminate metadata to help users understand the context in which the data were collected and processed, including details of revisions and corrections to the data, an overview of definitions, methods and classification applied to the data, and contact details of the responsible data officer. This is useful for improving the usability of data and communicating data quality to data users.

There are many ways to disseminate statistics on crime and criminal justice. This typically involves a press release, the presentation of general results and the release of a set of predefined data tables according to a predetermined release calendar that is communicated to the public well in advance. As a next step, agencies can consider releasing (part of) the underlying data and metadata. Countries with more advanced reporting systems typically allow aggregated data to be downloaded in user-friendly open data formats. This allows the user to further analyze and process the data, fostering its reuse for research and other purposes. Data visualization tools, GIS solutions and APIs are other frequently used options to disseminate data and make results more actionable.

Modern IT solutions allow for the dissemination of administrative data and official statistics through websites and data portals. Data portals are web-based interfaces designed to make it easier to find,

explore and use data. Many organizations use web-based data portals to make their data available to the public. Such portals typically incorporate data visualizations like graphs, maps and dashboards to make complex data and statistics easier to comprehend and explore. When implementing a data portal solution, it is important to seek impartial expert advice to make an informed decision and select the appropriate data portal tool to meet organizational needs. One should be aware of the advantages and shortcomings of each tool, its use of open or proprietary formats, its sustainability and the real costs of maintenance.

Developing a data dissemination plan can further ensure that statistics are used widely and generate the greatest value possible, without compromising the right to privacy or releasing data of a potentially sensitive nature. The method of dissemination and the form the resulting statistics take should address the needs of data users and be appropriate for the quality and nature of the data available. Some users prefer brief, nontechnical summary statements while others require graphs, tables and in-depth analysis.

Developing engaging and user-friendly statistical data for dissemination is a costly and time-consuming undertaking, and without dedicated long-term funding the data can quickly become outdated or, in the worst case, irrelevant. For this reason, the resources available for producing and releasing statistics are a further consideration when designing statistical outputs in line with ICCS that can be sustainably produced on an ongoing basis.

Table 6 **Examples of the digital dissemination of crime and criminal justice statistics**

Country	Institution	Database	Weblink
Argentina	Ministry of Security	Sistema Nacional de Información Criminal	https://www.argentina.gob.ar/seguridad/estadisticascriminales
Australia	Australian Bureau of Statistics	Crime and Justice	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice
Germany	Bundeskriminalamt	Police Crime Statistics	https://www.bka.de/EN/CurrentInformation/Statistics/PoliceCrimeStatistics/policecrimestatistics_node.html
Indonesia	BPS-Statistics Indonesia	Justice and Crime	https://www.bps.go.id/en/statistics-table?subject=526
Jordan	Public Security Directorate	Digital Statistics	https://www.psd.gov.jo/en-us/content/digital-statistics/
Mexico	National Institute of Statistics and Geography	Censo Nacional de Impartición de Justicia Estatal	https://www.inegi.org.mx/programas/cnije/2023/
Mongolia	National Statistics Office of Mongolia	Justice and Crime	https://1212.mn/en/statistic/statcate/573071/table/573071
Republic of Korea	Korean Institute of Criminology	Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics	https://www.kicj.re.kr/crimestats/portal/main/indexEngPage.do
Rwanda	National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda	Rwanda for SDGs Data Portal – Goal 16	https://sustainabledevelopment-rwanda.github.io/16/
United States of America	Bureau of Justice Statistics	Justice Expenditure and Employment Tool	https://bjs.ojp.gov/jeet
-	UNODC	UNODC Data Portal	https://dataunodc.un.org/

Part II: Methodological guidelines to implement ICCS

Part 1 highlighted the benefits of ICCS and introduced the reader to the road map for ICCS implementation. Part 2 shifts the focus to more technical elements of the ICCS implementation process, namely determining the scope of implementation, constructing a correspondence table, implementing disaggregating variables and producing data according to ICCS.

3 The boundaries of ICCS

This chapter highlights the difference between criminal offences and other infractions of the law in the context of different legal systems. The chapter discusses how ICCS approaches the different national definitions of crime and how to determine which acts to include in the implementation process.

3.1 Criminalized vs. non-criminalized acts

All legal systems establish limits on certain behaviours. These prohibited or non-conformant behaviours can be sanctioned by different legal jurisdictions (e.g., civil law, commercial law or criminal law), but not all of them are within the scope of ICCS. Differentiating between criminalized and non-criminalized acts is key to implement ICCS, as the classification is not intended to classify events that generally constitute purely administrative or civil offences (such as minor traffic violations). Yet, this distinction is one of the biggest challenges faced by countries during ICCS implementation.

The determination is particularly difficult in countries where criminalization can arise from multiple sources, including in the form of federal and state statutes, secondary legislation, as sanctions for a breach of regulatory provisions, and – in common law systems – from judicial decisions.[11] For instance, national legal and institutional arrangements might allow for some acts to be simultaneously addressed by criminal and civil authorities (e.g., a public officer might be under investigation by law enforcement authorities and other public administration officials for the same conduct). Similarly, some institutions might be tasked with areas of work that cover both criminal and administrative offences (e.g., police forces both investigate crimes and administer fines for minor violations).

The main question for defining the boundaries of the subject matter of ICCS is thus which violations from different legal systems should be included as criminal offences in an international classification of crime for statistical purposes.

3.2 How ICCS approaches the different national definitions of crime

ICCS recognizes that while certain common elements, such as harm and wrongfulness, can be associated with crime, they cannot wholly and operationally define it. Moreover, the vast disparity in approaches and sources used in the establishment of criminal laws by different countries makes it impossible to create a consistent and comprehensive definition of crime. Therefore, the approach used by ICCS is to consider "criminal" acts in national and international laws as the universe of acts that are subject to classification. However, the specific classification of such acts (i.e., their allocation to ICCS categories) is based on behavioural descriptions rather than strictly legal specifications derived from criminal law. This behaviour-based approach avoids issues created by legal complexities, resulting in a simplified and globally applicable classification with fewer ambiguities.

In short, it is easier to classify offences that are defined by behaviour and actions rather than by legal definitions and intent. In this way, ICCS aims to place all criminal acts in a single, specific category, which improves the accuracy and the comparability of data, both within and between countries.

This is not to suggest that behaviours and acts deemed criminal can only be found in criminal codes. Offences defined as criminal are established by each country's legal system in both criminal laws and through other types of legislation. Civil or commercial laws, which are not considered criminal in nature, usually devote specific articles or sections to the punishment of acts that are to be tried before a criminal justice authority. Special legislation to combat organized crime, gender-based violence or illicit drug trafficking often include criminal sanctions as well. These special sections or articles can also

be considered crimes if they are sanctioned criminally, even if the parent or overarching law is not properly a criminal law.

3.3 Scope of implementation

What constitutes a crime in one country, could be considered a minor infraction in another, or not a crime at all. Similarly, behaviours included in ICCS might not currently be criminalized in some countries. Hence, in practice, issues of international comparability emerge due to differences among Member States in the criminalization of acts. For example, ICCS section 6 *Acts involving controlled drugs or other psychoactive substances* often presents differences among countries in the criminalization of the same behaviour. If the possession, purchase, use, cultivation or production of certain substances is criminalized in a country, the number of drug-related offences may be high. In another country, where the same acts are decriminalized, the same number would be zero. Not because there are no drug-related acts in the country, but simply because they fall under administrative law or regulations and would not be mapped into ICCS (if strictly adhering to the recommendations below). This can become a substantial issue when interpreting national, regional or global data by ICCS category.

It is important to reiterate that ICCS is not an instrument to shape or change legislation in countries. For statistical purposes, ICCS is designed to include all existing legal provisions that regulate what is considered criminal behaviour and what is not. Its implementation is not conditional on the criminalization of all crime categories contained in the classification. In other words, implementing ICCS does not imply in any way that existing criminal laws have to be changed in order to align with the classification.

The ICCS implementation process is thus shaped by the current national legal context in countries and implementation should only cover offences that are criminalized nationally. Hence, not all ICCS categories will map to the national penal code, but every effort should be made to map every category in the national penal code to ICCS. Ideally, no nationally criminalized offence should be left out of the implementation process. Countries should attempt to map criminalized offences in national law that are not included in ICCS into the residual categories of the classification in order to comprehensively classify all acts that are considered criminal in a national legal context.

Deciding which offences to include and exclude from ICCS implementation can only be done through a thorough analysis of the national legislation and the processes by which these prohibited conducts are registered, investigated, tried and sanctioned. Chapter 4 offers more guidance and concrete steps for mapping national offences into ICCS. The figure below illustrates the breakdown of the different elements to be considered in terms of determining the scope of ICCS implementation.

Table 7 **Recommended ICCS implementation scope**

		National level		
		Criminal offence	Prohibited but not criminalized	Non-offence
ICCS	Included	Include	Include if possible	Exclude
	Excluded	Include if possible: Use residual or broad ICCS categories	Exclude	

As highlighted in the table above, it possible that an offence included in ICCS may not be considered a criminal offence in national law but is instead considered prohibited under administrative regulation. Such infractions can usually be excluded from ICCS implementation unless the category is considered of particular importance in the country. However, when non-criminal infractions correspond with an ICCS category (typically found in ICCS sections 07 – 11) and their exclusion would considerably affect the comparability and interpretation of statistics at the international level, it is recommended to consider producing and publishing such statistics in line with ICCS for statistical purposes.

3.4 Boundaries in the context of different legal systems

Concrete examples that contrast legal provisions considered criminal offences with other infractions offer useful guidance when implementing ICCS. When assessing national legal settings for this purpose, the following questions offer a valuable starting point.

- Which typologies of offences are used and how are they defined (e.g., felony, misdemeanour, contravention, summary offence, regulatory offence or administrative offence)?
- Which ICCS areas are covered by non-criminal regulation or special criminal acts (e.g., tax-related crimes, drug-related crimes or crimes that affect the environment)?
- Do types of offences differ in procedural terms (e.g., the agency establishing the violation, the agency charging the violation, the agency imposing sanctions or the means of appeal)?
- Do types of offences differ by the type or nature of sanctions?

Table 8 below provides examples of how the boundaries of criminal offences are drawn in different national legal systems, based on the specific context of the justice system and on different types of criminal offences that have evolved over time.

Table 8 **Examples of boundaries in the context of different legal systems**

Legal system	Country example	Legal classification	Description	Examples	ICCS boundary
Civil law	France[12]	Crime	Most serious offence punished with 15 years to life imprisonment	Murder, rape	Crimes and délits would be categorized into ICCS, while contraventions may or may not be included in ICCS and should be assigned accordingly
		Délit	Offence of moderate seriousness punished with 2 months to 10 years imprisonment	Manslaughter, theft, sexual assault	
		Contravention Class 1 (least serious) to Class 5 (most serious)	Least serious offence punished with a fine	Threat, minor assault	
Common law	USA[13]	Felony Class A (most serious) to Class E (least serious)	Most serious offence punishable with 1 year imprisonment or more	Arson, embezzlement, kidnapping, murder	Felonies would be categorized into ICCS, misdemeanours may or may not be categorized into ICCS depending on class and infractions are generally excluded
		Misdemeanour Class A (most serious) to Class C (least serious)	Punishable with 5 days to 1 year of imprisonment	Minor assault	
		Infraction	Technically punishable with five days or fewer of imprisonment but mostly punished by fine and often considered a civil offence	Littering, jaywalking, campsite violations	
Religious law	Saudi Arabia[14]	Hudud	Specific crimes (hudud) that face fixed Qur'anic punishment	Theft, robbery, blasphemy, apostasy	All offence types may in principle be categorized into ICCS – the intricate relation

		Qisas	Crimes against an individual or family for which punishment is equal retaliation in the Qur'an	Murder, manslaughter, serious assault	between religious and criminal precepts imply that that certain offences may be more difficult to classify
		Ta'zir	Crimes for which no punishment is specified in the Qur'an and which are punished at the discretion of the judge – nowadays many ta'zir offences are defined by national regulations (nizams)	Bribery, drug abuse, trafficking	
Customary law	Kenya[15] (Common law system that recognizes customary law)	Felony	Crimes punishable with 3 years imprisonment or more	Treason, attempted murder, forgery	Felonies would be categorized into ICCS, misdemeanours may or may not be included in ICCS and should be assigned accordingly, customary law is generally out of scope for ICCS implementation
		Misdemeanour	Any crime which is not a felony	Personation, counterfeiting trademarks, neglect of official duty	
		Customary law	Focus on restorative justice and generally only applicable to civil cases[16]	-	
Mixed	China[17]	Criminal acts	A crime is any act that endangers society and is subject to punishment according to the law	Homicide, fraud, trafficking of weapons	What is considered a criminal act is specified in the criminal law of the People's Republic of China

	Unlawful acts	An act where circumstances are obviously minor and the harm done is not serious punished with an administrative penalty or an administrative sanction by the competent department	and determined by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; Acts considered criminal for which data are regularly produced are recommended to be mapped into ICCS

4 Building a correspondence table

Implementing ICCS in national crime data collections requires the completion of a correspondence table. Such a table identifies the relationship between national crime categories and ICCS categories. The process described in this chapter can serve as a template for mapping the national penal legislation, the categories of a national crime classification or a list of national crime indicators or statistics into ICCS.

The chapter starts with technical advice and subsequently provides concrete steps for mapping into ICCS. It also presents the correspondence table template recommended by UNODC for mapping any national system of crime and criminal justice statistics into ICCS.

4.1 Technical advice

A correspondence table identifies all linkages between ICCS and various types of national crime categories or data. This can include i) national penal legislation, ii) national crime classifications or iii) national crime indicators and statistics. The table systematically explains where, and to what extent, national categories may be found in the ICCS framework. Hence, a correspondence table provides a way to report national crime data as closely as possible to the common standards defined in ICCS without necessarily changing established data recording procedures at the level of the data providers. In short, the correspondence table acts as a translation key between ICCS and national categorizations of crime.

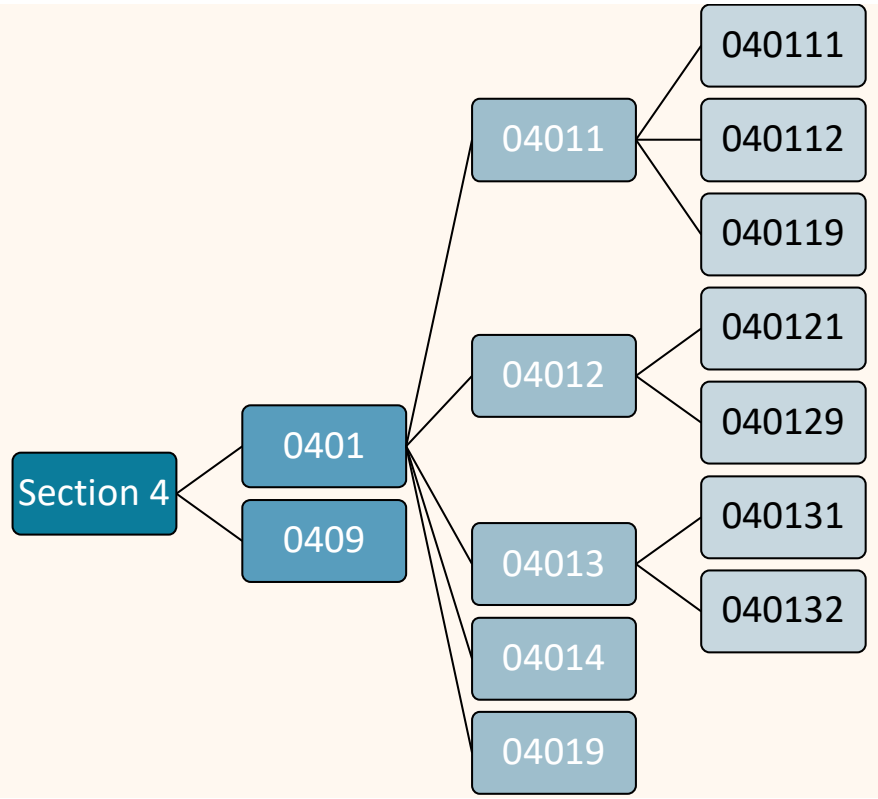
The process of creating a correspondence table is referred to as mapping. It entails linking each national offence category to a corresponding offence category in ICCS. Any given penal code article, crime classification category or crime indicator or statistic determined to be in the scope of implementation should be allocated to a corresponding ICCS category. National crime indicators that are disaggregated by specific variables – such as the age, sex or intoxication status of the perpetrator – should not be mapped separately. Such offence characteristics can be included by utilizing disaggregating variables (see chapter 5). Hence, during the mapping process these items would be linked to an aggregate ICCS category. For example, if two national crime indicators distinguish between theft of personal property from a person based on the sex of the victim (i.e., male and female), both indicators would be mapped to the ICCS category 050221 *Theft of personal property from a person*.

When implementing ICCS, the aim should always be to map a given penal code article, classification category or crime indicator at the lowest hierarchical level possible, requiring in-depth knowledge of both ICCS and the national categorization of crime. This is done by finding the most appropriate and detailed ICCS category to match with the national penal code article, classification category or crime indicator. If an item cannot be linked at the lowest hierarchical level, a match should be identified at a more aggregate ICCS level. However, keep in mind that mapping the most detailed national penal code articles, classification categories or crime indicators or statistics into the most detailed corresponding categories of ICCS will produce more accurate results than mapping to a higher, more aggregated level of the ICCS hierarchy.

4.1.1 ICCS Hierarchy

As noted in chapter 1, one of the design principles of ICCS is its hierarchical structure. This implies that more detailed, lower-level categories can be aggregated into broader, higher-level categories. Figure 4 shows this principle graphically for section 4 of ICCS.

Figure 4 **Hierarchical structure of ICCS section 4**



Section 4 is composed of two divisions, namely ICCS categories 0401 *Robbery* and 0409 *Other acts against property involving violence or threat against a person*. The total number of offences under section 4 can thus be obtained by summing up the offence counts of categories 0401 and 0409. The same principle applies to lower-level categories. Note that offences should only be counted once. For example, if a national category is matched with ICCS category 040111 *Robbery from the person in a public location*, it should only be counted under this ICCS category despite the fact that it also matches with higher-level ICCS categories in order to avoid double counting.

Therefore, in principle, the sum of sub-categories will always be equal to the offence count of their respective higher-level parent category. However, in practice this may not always hold. During the mapping process, it may not always be possible to match all national categories with a respective ICCS category at the lowest level. Therefore, higher-level ICCS categories may contain national categories that are not present at the lower level.

It is recommended to limit the mapping of any national category to a single ICCS level and always respect the hierarchical structure of the classification. Moreover, when implementing ICCS, the aim should always be to map a given national category at the lowest ICCS hierarchical level possible (at least at the level of divisions or level 2). Prior familiarization with ICCS, its structure and rationale are thus a pre-requisite for successfully completing the mapping process. Every effort should be made to

ensure the team in charge of the mapping process has both an in-depth knowledge of ICCS and of the national categories considered in scope for implementation.

4.1.2 Match types

The mapping process entails linking the national categories in question to categories in ICCS. Broadly speaking there are three types of matches that can occur, namely i) one-to-one, ii) many-to-one, and iii) one-to-many. All three are briefly noted here to illustrate the matching process.

One-to-one matches involve a direct relationship between the national category and ICCS. For example, the national category under consideration may be an offence labeled serious assault that exactly follows the ICCS definition of category 020111 *Serious assault*. In this case the national category can be directly mapped into the corresponding ICCS category.

Figure 5 **Example of one-to-one matching**

However, as noted above, it can also be the case that multiple national categories may correspond to a single ICCS category (many-to-one) or, conversely, a national category may correspond with multiple ICCS categories (one-to-many).

Many-to-one relationships can occur when the national categories contain a high level of detail on a specific offence category or when national categories are defined by ICCS disaggregating variables. For example, if online fraud is a separate national indicator that is not included in the traditional fraud indicator, both items should be categorized under 0701 *Fraud* in ICCS. The cybercrime-related disaggregating variable in ICCS allows for the distinctions between the two forms of fraud.

These types of matches are straightforward to deal with, as it simply involves mapping multiple national categories into the corresponding ICCS category. As with one-to-one matches, it is key that each national crime category is mapped only once in the correspondence table and has a unique correspondence with ICCS. In other words, every national crime category should only be linked to a single ICCS category.

Figure 6 **Example of many-to-one matching**

One-to-many relationships are more challenging to address. This type of match links a single national category with multiple ICCS categories, meaning there is no unique link to ICCS. From a statistical point of view this is problematic, as it may inadvertently lead to problems such as double counting or the inconsistent classification of offences. It is recommended to avoid creating one-to-many matches whenever possible. Consider whether additional information (e.g., microdata or disaggregating variables) exist so that correspondence with a single ICCS category can be established. If such additional data are not available, the match should be comprehensively documented and the national

category should be assigned to the ICCS category that is a reasonably close approximation – resulting in a "fuzzy" match rather than an exact match.

In case of a one-to-many match, it is important to recognize the hierarchical structure of ICCS, with broader categories encompassing more specific subcategories. Perhaps a one-to-one match could be found with a broader, higher-level ICCS category. This requires careful consideration of the relationships between categories and the classification's hierarchical structure should always be preserved to maintain consistency and accuracy.

In more advanced statistical systems, it may be possible to design a procedure to distribute the offence count of a national category between multiple ICCS categories. However, this should be extensively documented and appropriate guidance for data producers and users should be developed to ensure the established procedure is followed closely and the produced statistics are consistent. In general, this approach is not recommended and countries are strongly encouraged to find unique matches with ICCS instead.

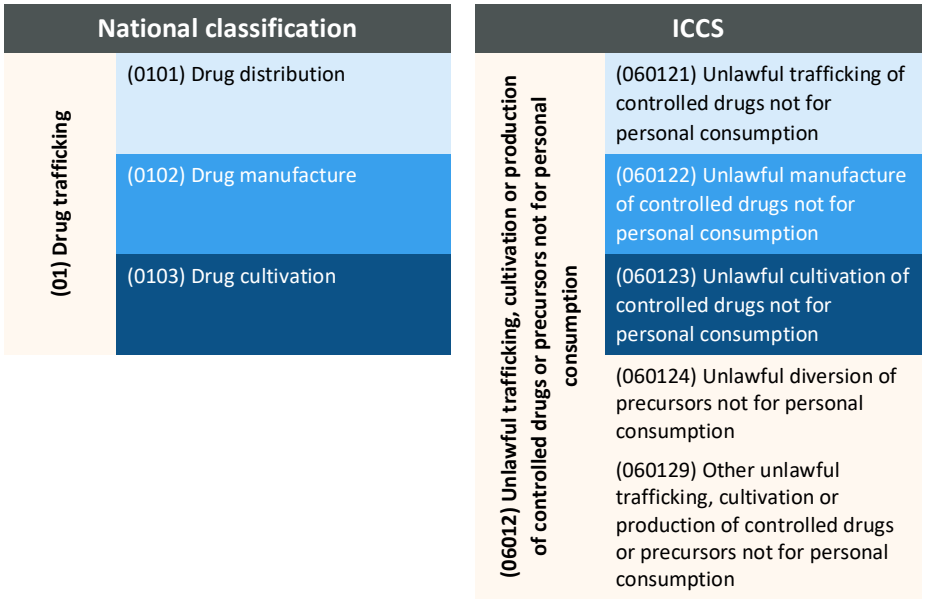
Figure 7 **Example of one-to-many matching**

Establishing a unique match with ICCS can be particularly challenging when a national penal code article is quite broad in nature or contains very specific sub-sections. In such instances a single article may cover multiple acts/behaviours that might each relate to a different ICCS category. It is recommended to establish a unique match with ICCS whenever feasible by identifying the most relevant behaviour within the penal code article. For this reason, the team working on the correspondence table should be comprised of statisticians, practitioners, legal experts and data analysts from the national statistical office and relevant criminal justice institutions. Their combined knowledge and experience could help identify the best match for the most relevant behaviour, taking into account the spirit or intent of the legislation or the traditional interpretation of such a crime in common legal practice.

Once a suitable match has been established, countries are encouraged to clearly identify and describe any inconsistencies, discrepancies or possible overlaps as methodological notes in the correspondence table template (see section 4.3). The methodological notes should also include a description of the other behaviours that are included in the match. Moreover, these details should be carefully documented in the metadata in order for data users to better understand the applied solution and limitations of the data (see box 3 for more information on metadata).

If record systems are detailed enough and statistical capacity is sufficiently developed to be able to distinguish between different sub-sections of the same penal code article, it once again becomes possible to establish unique one-to-one matches for each individual sub-section with specific ICCS categories. Should countries opt for such a detailed matching, it is important to consider adding further guidance and methodological notes to the correspondence of national crime classifications and national crime statistics that are the product of those detailed penal code articles, as national crime classifications and indicators may not have such detailed disaggregations.

Figure 8 **National crime categories fully mapped to level 4 ICCS categories**



To illustrate the different kinds of matches, Figure 8 provides an example of how national crime categories can be mapped into ICCS categories. The subcategories of the national category 01 *Drug trafficking* are directly mapped into the relevant subcategories of ICCS category 06012 *Unlawful trafficking, cultivation or production of controlled drugs or precursors not for personal consumption*. In this case, there is a one-to-one match on the most detailed level of both classifications.

However, due to a lack of standardized concepts and the interdependent relationship between crime statistics and legislation, the structure of national crime statistics can vary widely and data are often not available at the most detailed level. Oftentimes a close review of the most detailed codes contained within more aggregate national categories will be required to determine how one code or the sum of several codes can be used as a reasonably close approximation of an ICCS category. If national data are only available in aggregate form in the above example (i.e., data are only available for category 01 *Drug trafficking* as a whole), the category of the national classification would have to be linked to aggregate category 06012 of ICCS. Hence, it would not be possible to link the lower-level categories and make more fine-grained distinctions within the drug trafficking category, such as separating the number of offences related to drug distribution from the number of offences related to drug cultivation.

Further complicating the mapping process, it will not always be the case that aggregate categories of the national classification provide a full match to a single ICCS category as noted above. An example of a possible mismatch between national codes and ICCS is highlighted below in Figure 9. In this example, the aggregate national category 01 *Controlled drug* offences encompasses drug distribution, manufacture, cultivation and use and possession for personal consumption. This category approximates ICCS category 06012 as in the previous example. However, the national category now contains drug use and possession for personal consumption, while ICCS classifies this under aggregate category 06011. Provided disaggregated data are available, national category 0104 *Drug use and*

possession for personal consumption should be split from the 01 *Controlled drug offences* category in the national classification to achieve one-to-one matches with ICCS – allowing codes at the most detailed level to be linked. However, if disaggregated data are not available, mapping must take place at a more aggregate level, resulting in a "fuzzy" match with ICCS category 06012 and a less accurate mapping outcome.

Figure 9 **Partial match between aggregated national crime category and level 3 ICCS categories**

National classification		ICCS	
(01) Controlled drug offences	(0101) Drug distribution	**(06011) Unlawful possession, purchase, use, cultivation or production of controlled drugs for personal consumption**	
	(0102) Drug manufacture	**(06012) Unlawful trafficking, cultivation or production of controlled drugs or precursors not for personal consumption**	(060121) Unlawful trafficking of controlled drugs not for personal consumption
	(0103) Drug cultivation		(060122) Unlawful manufacture of controlled drugs not for personal consumption
	(0104) Drug use and possession for personal consumption		(060123) Unlawful cultivation of controlled drugs not for personal consumption
			(060124) Unlawful diversion of precursors not for personal consumption
			(060129) Other unlawful trafficking, cultivation or production of controlled drugs or precursors not for personal consumption

4.1.3 ICCS mapping guidance

Terminology

ICCS uses behavioural descriptions of criminal acts and events rather than legal provisions. Hence, in ICCS, common terminology and offence names that are widely recognized and defined in criminal legislation – such as 'rape', 'harassment' or 'burglary' – are given specific definitions intended for statistical purposes. While these definitions might differ from the common legal uses of the terms, the event-based approach avoids the complexities of legal definitions and provides globally applicable terminology.

Therefore, when mapping national categories or indicators into ICCS, the national use and definition of terms and names need to be checked for consistency and comparability with their use in ICCS. Comparing shorthand names alone is insufficient for mapping a national offence, as the meaning and definition of shorthand terms in ICCS may be different from those used in national legal systems. The full act/event descriptions and all explanatory notes included in ICCS need to be taken into careful consideration. Annex 2 of ICCS provides an alphabetical index, which lists all offences captured in ICCS to quickly and accurately identify the most appropriate ICCS code.

Mapping national categories entails the use and analysis of their complete definitions. For criminal legislation and national penal code articles, it is recommended to use the full wording of each article. For existing national crime classifications, the full definition of each category should be considered. Last, for crime indicators and statistical data, the definitions included in their respective metadata should be consulted.

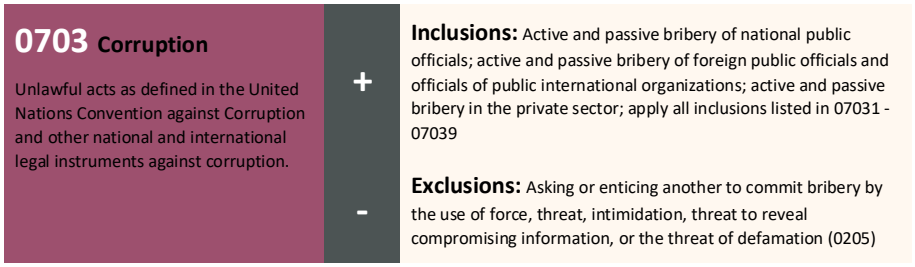
Inclusions and exclusions

As noted in chapter 1, ICCS provides guidance to identify the best possible match. Each category features a non-exhaustive list of inclusions, which are examples of offences or acts/events that are to be mapped into the respective category. These examples are not subcategories but important or common offences belonging to the respective category. They aim to provide practical guidance for the allocation of national offences or offence categories when building a correspondence table. Bear in mind that, as noted above, the terms used in the inclusions might differ from how concepts are used in the national legal system (especially when using a non-English, translated version of ICCS).

Most categories also have a list of exclusions, which are examples of offences or acts that are classified elsewhere, despite similarities to the category. Each example offers a code referring to the category in which the excluded offence should be allocated instead. Together, exclusions and inclusions reinforce mutual exclusivity – i.e., they clarify the borders between categories to ensure offences are assigned to one category only.

For example, ICCS category 0703 *Corruption* states that both active and passive bribery of national public officials is included within its hierarchy. However, a course of action demanded from a person by another person through the use of force, threat, intimidation, threat to reveal compromising information, or the threat of defamation should be excluded from this category. Instead, such acts should be classified under ICCS category 0205 *Coercion*.

Figure 10 **Example of ICCS inclusions and exclusions**



Residual categories

While ICCS is an exhaustive classification to the extent feasible, it is unlikely to have the same level of detail as national categorizations of crime. Nonetheless, ICCS provides all necessary categories to accommodate the various manifestations of all basic underlying criminal behaviours. Residual categories play a prominent role in achieving this.

Oftentimes differences between similar national categories refer to details or circumstances that do not alter the core underlying conduct or behaviour that is being criminalized. For instance, countries may have several similar national categories describing similar acts or behaviours where the only real difference is the use of a firearm, the sex of the victim or the age of the perpetrator. In these cases,

the corresponding ICCS category remains the same and those differences can be captured through disaggregating variables.

However, sometimes the underlying behaviour is decidedly different from the categories offered by ICCS. Such cases should be mapped to residual categories within their family whenever possible. Most parent categories of ICCS contain residual sub-categories represented by the word "other" in the category name (e.g., ICCS category 07019 *Other acts of fraud*) for cases where a national category cannot be mapped into an established category. National categories should be mapped into these residual categories as sparingly as possible and only upon a thorough review of the full classification to ensure that a category is not overlooked.

Adding additional categories

Depending on the needs of the criminal justice system and the level of detail found in the definitions of national categories, countries may consider expanding the ICCS hierarchy and add categories that are of particular national interest. However, when doing so, countries should strictly adhere to the principles governing ICCS. This implies respecting the hierarchical structure of ICCS, ensuring mutual exclusivity between categories, and following the coding scheme set by ICCS. Should countries venture down this road, it is highly recommended that they create new sub-categories only for existing ICCS categories at either level 3 or 4 without children (i.e. no further sub-categories exist). Under no circumstances should new categories be created within already populated hierarchical levels as this could potentially gravely affect international comparability and compatibility with future revisions of ICCS.

Figure 11 provides an example of creating new children for the parent category 07032 *Embezzlement*. The category is divided into two new categories that distinguish the sector in which the act is committed. The parent category specifies embezzlement for both the public and private sectors. By adding the additional subcategories, it is possible to differentiate between the two. This addition is possible because it respects the hierarchical structure of ICCS, ensures mutual exclusivity and follows the ICCS coding scheme. Moreover, category 07032 *Embezzlement* does not have subcategories in the current iteration of ICCS.

Figure 11 **Example of additional categories in section 7**

Section 7 Acts involving fraud, deception or corruption
0703 Corruption
07032 Embezzlement Embezzlement, misappropriation or diversion by a public official or a person who directs or works in a private sector entity of any property, public or private funds or securities or any other thing of value entrusted to the public official or person by virtue of his or her position.
070321 Embezzlement in the public sector Embezzlement, misappropriation or diversion by a public official of any property, public or private funds or securities or any other thing of value entrusted to the public official or person by virtue of his or her position.

	070322 Embezzlement in the private sector Embezzlement, misappropriation or diversion by a person who directs or works in a private sector entity of any property, public or private funds or securities or any other thing of value entrusted to the public official or person by virtue of his or her position.

4.2 Step-by-step process

The steps detailed below offer a guide for the mapping of national criminal offences and crime indicators to ICCS. To facilitate the process, it is recommended to use the correspondence table template developed by UNODC. This will make it easier to compare national mappings with those of other countries. In this way, other countries can understand comparability of key offences when conducting cross-country analysis and it further assists UNODC in providing more targeted advice.

The steps also illustrate the process of identifying the 'best match' for a particular code. While this can seem like an opaque process, it is best thought of as a logical process of elimination. It involves working from the lowest level of detail to the highest to find the best conceptual fit or looking at the descriptions and inclusions and exclusions to find the category where the core behaviour of the offence has the strongest overlap. Another way of checking the logic of the mapping process is to consider how countries that have already completed their mapping allocated certain offences.

Please note that the process outlined in this section refers only to the development of the correspondence table and is meant to be undertaken within the framework of the overall national implementation process of ICCS. For further information on the activities leading to the development of a correspondence table, see chapter 2.

Table 9 **Building a correspondence table step-by-step**

Step	Instructions
1.	Before proceeding, ensure a national working group has been formed and a workplan has been drafted that clearly determines the scope of implementation as detailed in phases 1 and 2 of the implementation process. As an initial step, it is also beneficial to translate ICCS into the national language.
2.	It is recommended to create a technical task force under the national working group dedicated to developing the correspondence table. Involve personnel from criminal justice institutions, statisticians, legal experts and data analysts in the process to ensure all perspective are considered.
3.	Review the existing national classification, national penal code and other relevant legislation, or list of crime data (henceforth "the national categories") determined to be in scope of the implementation process (see chapter 3). The national categories also include relevant articles that might be included in other laws or data sets provided by national authorities other than the police, the prosecution service, the courts and the prison system. Understand the structure, categories and definitions of the national categories before proceeding. In addition, it may be useful to acquire and review any existing official documentation and coding manuals for the national classification.

4.	Identify and understand the definitions, structure and categories of ICCS. Critical to this step is the familiarization with the lists of inclusions and exclusions for every category.
5.	Adopt a template for the correspondence table. It is strongly recommended to use the template provided by UNODC. Should a country want to modify it or develop a template of their own, they must ensure that, at a minimum, there are dedicated columns to accommodate reference data (law, article, section), the description (definition) of every national crime category, the coding and description of the corresponding ICCS categories, and methodological notes. To facilitate the use and interpretability of the correspondence table, every national category should be recorded individually in a separate row of the correspondence table. Avoid lumping several categories into a single row, even if they all have the exact same correspondence. The mapping process may involve one-to-one, one-to-many and many-to-one relationships between ICCS categories and the national categories. Refer to the guidance provided in section 4.1.2. to determine how to address each match type. To reiterate, it is strongly recommended to avoid creating many-to-one matches between a single national category and multiple ICCS categories. Always attempt to find a unique match with a single ICCS category, even if the result is a "fuzzy" match.
6.	Initiate the mapping process to establish relationships between the national categories and ICCS using the correspondence table template. Countries are advised to consult with subject matter experts to review complex or difficult mappings as early as possible. Expert input may define ad hoc mapping criteria which must be consistently applied to the whole correspondence table. Setting these criteria as early as possible may avoid difficulties further along in the process. Start with the most detailed categories of the national system and find the most relevant ICCS category by looking for its shorthand name in ICCS, the correspondence table template or the alphabetical index in annex 2 of ICCS. Find the most appropriate level 1 ICCS category and continue with more detailed level 2 and level 3 ICCS categories. If possible, go down to the lowest level 4 ICCS category to find a match for the national article, category or indicator. As a rule, correspondence should be established at the lowest possible hierarchical level of ICCS. Consult the definition of the ICCS category and compare it to the definition or description provided in the national system. Always check the list of inclusions provided in ICCS to confirm a match or find a better match in the list of exclusions. If a country has signed and ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (A/RES/58/4), the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25) or other relevant UN Conventions, some mapping might be simplified. Check if your country is party to these conventions, whether the offences criminalized in the conventions are criminalized in national law according to the text of the conventions and whether statistical data on the criminalized offences are produced (see annex 1 for a brief overview of UN conventions and ICCS mapping).
7.	Attribute all residual items not mapped to an ICCS category into the ICCS category 'other crime' at the appropriate level (for example, 07019 *Other acts of fraud*). National

	categories should be mapped into these residual categories as sparingly as possible, and only upon a thorough review of the full classification to ensure that an existing ICCS category is not overlooked. In case no correspondence between a national category and ICCS can be achieved, consider creating new national statistical categories or revising existing ones to facilitate alignment with ICCS for statistical purposes. Any remaining unmapped articles, categories or indicators should be mapped to ICCS category 1109 *Other criminal acts not elsewhere classified* and be reported to UNODC for potential inclusion in a future revision of ICCS.
8.	Document the mapping decisions made for each category in the correspondence table template as accurately as possible, including the rationale behind the chosen mapping and notes where necessary for transparency and future reference. The correspondence table should become a stand-alone document that anyone can easily interpret; particularly those who were not part of its development.
9.	Upon finalization of the correspondence table, verify that all relevant national categories were successfully included in the table, and that each of them has been mapped to an ICCS category.
10.	Validate the mapping exercise through a consultation with external subject matter experts and representatives from relevant criminal justice agencies. Solicit feedback on the proposed mapping and revise as necessary based on expert input and consensus. Countries may also wish to share the correspondence table with other sectors such as civil society organizations, academia and other institutions that work with crime and criminal justice data.
11.	It is important to acknowledge that the mapping process is often an iterative process that may require multiple rounds of review, refinement and validation. In addition, be prepared to periodically revisit and revise the correspondence table based on feedback, new information or changes to either the national categories or ICCS. It may be worthwhile to establish procedures for maintaining and revising the correspondence table on a regular basis or as needed.

4.3 UNODC correspondence table template

The correspondence table template developed for ICCS is an Excel file. The eleven level 1 sections of ICCS each have their own sheet in the correspondence table template with the number and the title of the category on top of the sheet. Each sheet has three main columns and several sub-columns. These columns identify the respective national and ICCS categories that are being linked. The correspondence table template includes all ICCS offence categories.

Avoid creating a country specific correspondence table. The correspondence table template contains everything required to complete the ICCS mapping. Crucially, it also facilitates comparing a mapping with those prepared by other countries and helps UNODC provide advice to any questions you may have. The correspondence table template can be downloaded directly from the UNODC website.

During the mapping, additional rows will likely have to be added to the template to accommodate and map all national offence categories. The current manual also provides a limited mapping of articles of

international conventions to ICCS. If the conventions listed in annex 1 have been implemented in national criminal law, the annex provides additional assistance for mapping national criminal code articles or offence categories to ICCS.

Table 10 **Structure of correspondence table template**

Columns and sub-columns	Details
ICCS Offence Category	
Code	Pre-filled
Level	Pre-filled
Description	Pre-filled
Definition	Pre-filled
Inclusions	Pre-filled
Exclusions	Pre-filled
National Penal Code/Crime classification/Crime statistics	
Law / Classification / Framework	Fill with the name of the legislation, the name of the national classification, or the name of the indicator framework used in national crime statistics.
Article / Category / Indicator	Fill with the article of the offence in the national legislation, the category in the national crime classification, or the indicator or variable number used in national crime statistics.
Section / Subcategory / Disaggregation	Fill with the section of the offence in the national criminal code or other legislation, the subcategory in the national crime classification, or the disaggregation used in national crime statistics.
Description	Fill with the name of the offence, the name of the category, or the name of the indicator used in national crime statistics.
Notes	Fill with notes describing the rationale of the correspondence decision, discrepancies in definitions, and any possible overlap with other categories. It is highly recommended that countries strive to fill this column in as detailed a fashion as possible. Ideally, every correspondence should have explanatory and methodological notes.

"Fuzzy" matches

As noted in sections 4.1 and 4.2, it is critical to identify complex or difficult matches. ICCS is built to cover most criminal offences, but due to the wide variation in how criminal offences are designated

between countries, it is likely that every country will encounter some compatibility issues between categories in their national classification and ICCS during the mapping process. To allow ICCS-based statistics to be as comparable as possible, capturing and illustrating these "fuzzy" matches is crucial. It is highly recommended to document the details of such matches in the correspondence table template. When disseminating a national crime indicator or category that has a complex match as an ICCS-compliant statistic, it is vital to include information on the mapping as metadata to effectively communicate the definitions applied, offences included, method used to compute the offence count and any potential limitations for international comparability.

Consider the national category *Theft of motor vehicle parts or contents*. This category could technically be mapped to two separate ICCS categories:

- 050213 *Theft of parts of a motorized land vehicle*, which includes theft of car tires, motors, transmission, windows, and other parts.
- 050222 *Theft of personal property from a vehicle*, which includes siphoning gas or oil, theft of a purse from a vehicle, theft of an electronic device from a vehicle, theft of a GPS device, or theft of any other item in the vehicle.

In this example the national classification does not distinguish between parts and contents of a motor vehicle and no additional information (such as microdata or disaggregating variables) exist to enable the attribution to a single ICCS category. Therefore, the national crime category is technically a match to both ICCS categories. An expert determination will have to be made to assign the national category to the ICCS category that forms a reasonably close approximation. The match should be noted in the correspondence table and the details behind the decision should be provided.

Rather than choosing between the two possible ICCS categories that match the national category, another possible approach to address the partial match is to map the national category to a single ICCS category at a higher, more aggregated level. For the example above, this would imply mapping the national category to ICCS category 0502 *Theft*. As this may lead to inconsistencies when summing lower-level categories into higher-level category, it should be noted in the comments field which additional offences are included at the higher level of aggregation and why.

Box 3 **Essentials of metadata**

In general terms, metadata are data that define and describe other data. More specifically, they are data and other documentation that describe statistical data and statistical processes in a standardized way by providing information on data sources, methods, definitions, classifications and data quality. The use and management of metadata are essential for ensuring data quality and promoting efficient data exchange, a shared understanding of the data and data comparability. This is further underlined by principle 3 of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (A/RES/68/261), which states that, to facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

A distinction can be made between structural and reference metadata. Structural metadata consist of identifiers and descriptors essential for organizing and processing a statistical data set, such as titles, variable names, descriptions, and more. Reference metadata, on the other hand, describe the statistical concepts and methodologies (for example, sampling, collecting methods, cleaning process) used for the collection and production of data and provide information on data quality (for example, timeliness and accuracy).

An example of structural metadata is the use of the variable "intentional homicide" both by the police and the prosecution service. If both data providers collect data for this offence type either by ICCS category or the unified national classification, this will facilitate the tracking of the number of offences registered by the police that lead to prosecution, which further enables the interoperability of (aggregated) data sets from different data providers. If the individual data providers utilize different methodologies for data collection and data aggregation, however, the data will not be directly comparable despite utilizing the same data structure, since the reference metadata differ. For example, the police may include both honour killings and dowry-related deaths in their intentional homicide statistics while the prosecution service may explicitly exclude these two criminal offences from their intentional homicide data. Depending on the method of data aggregation, the reported numbers could differ substantially.

It is therefore essential to have a national consensus on the statistical classifications, concepts and methodologies applied – in line with international definitions, standards and norms whenever applicable – when collecting, producing and disseminating data. Always documenting and publishing this information as the official reference metadata is recommended. Only then can data comparability between different data providers and criminal justice institutions be guaranteed.

Several international organizations have drawn up guidelines and standards for documenting and exchanging metadata. Examples include:

- **Data Documentation Initiative** (DDI) is a standard for documenting statistical data sets to facilitate re-use. For more information, see https://ddialliance.org/.
- **ISO/IEC 11179** documents the standardization and registration of metadata to make data understandable and shareable.
- **Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange** (SDMX) is a set of technical standards to facilitate the exchange of data and metadata between organizations and computer systems. For more information, see https://sdmx.org/.
- **ISO 19115** defines the schema required for describing geographic information and services by means of metadata.

Matching penal codes, classification categories or crime indicators

As repeatedly emphasized in this chapter, depending on the implementation scope and objective set in the national work plan, different items can be matched with ICCS through a correspondence table. For example, if a country has an existing national crime classification, correspondence may be established between the national classification and ICCS. If, however, the country does not have an existing national crime classification, correspondence may be established directly with articles from the penal code. If the objective of ICCS implementation is to align existing statistical outputs with ICCS for purposes of international reporting, existing statistical outputs can also be directly matched with ICCS through a correspondence table. To illustrate, the example below highlights how both different articles of the German penal code as well as different categories from the national crime classification match with ICCS category 0101 *Intentional homicide*.

Whether to match penal code articles, national crime categories or crime indicators depends on the national context and needs. Either option can ensure a country produces ICCS compliant crime and criminal justice statistics after successful completion of the correspondence table.

Table 11 **Matching Germany criminal code articles and statistical offence categories with ICCS**

Code	Definition	German criminal code[18]	BKA catalogue of criminal offences[19]
0101	Unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury	Section 211 (1) Murder under specific aggravating circumstances	010000
		Section 212 (1) or (2) Murder	020010
		Section 213 Less serious case of murder	020020
		Section 216 (1) Killing upon request	020030
		Section 227 (1) Bodily harm resulting in death	221010
		Section 231 (1) Taking part in a brawl leading to death	221020

5 Disaggregating variables

Criminal justice systems typically collect a range of contextual information on each criminal offence, such as the sex and age of the victim and offender, the location of the crime, and whether drugs and alcohol were involved. This information can be collected to better understand the complexities of each offence and develop more effective evidence-informed policies. In the world of data and statistics such information is known as disaggregating variables and they refer to the crime characteristics important for an enhanced understanding of the drivers of crime, such as descriptions of the individual crime event and the characteristics of victims and perpetrators. A minimum set of standardized disaggregating variables is recommended in ICCS for the recording of each crime event in order to derive disaggregated data that allow for a meaningful analysis of victims, perpetrators and other offence characteristics.

Table 12 provides an overview of the minimum set of disaggregating variables proposed in ICCS to describe each crime incident more fully or to describe perpetrator and victim characteristics in more detail. The acronyms in front of each category title provide a shorthand description for naming these variables in crime records. Note that each of the variables may only be relevant for selected offence categories.

Table 12 **Disaggregating variables**

Event disaggregations	Victim disaggregations	Perpetrator disaggregations
At – Attempted / Completed	**SV** – Sex of victim	**SP** – Sex of perpetrator
We – Type of weapon used	**AV** – Age of victim	**AP** – Age of perpetrator
SiC – Situational context	**STV** – Age status victim	**STP** – Age status of perpetrator
Geo – Geographic location	**ViP** – Victim-perpetrator relationship	**ViP** – Victim-perpetrator relationship
DaT – Date and time	**Cit** – Citizenship	**Cit** – Citizenship
Lo – Type of location	**LS** – Legal status of victim	**LS** – Legal status of perpetrator
Mot – Motive	**Int** – Intoxication status of victim	**Int** – Intoxication status of perpetrator
Cy – Cybercrime related	**ES** – Economic sector of business victim	**EASt** – Economic activity status of perpetrator
Rep – Reported by		**Rec** – Recidivist status of perpetrator

Source: International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).

Along with disaggregating variables for the event, the victim and the perpetrator, ICCS introduces so-called data inclusions that provide more detail on an individual's involvement in an offence. The implementation of data inclusions depends on how threatening to commit a crime, being an accessory or accomplice to a crime or inciting a crime are treated at the national level. If these elements are not defined in the penal code, it is unlikely that they can be identified in the data. Implementing countries should consider these data inclusions as optional, depending on their ability to distinguish offences committed/attempted by a primary perpetrator from ones facilitated in a form mentioned under the data inclusion variables. This requires precise knowledge of the composition of the available data. The information under the data inclusions can be stored as metadata (e.g., "the number of serious assault perpetrators also includes accomplices to the crime") or in additional disaggregating variables at the

microdata level (e.g., a variable “offender type” that distinguishes between the primary offender, accomplices, accessories and instigators).

5.1 Benefits of disaggregating variables

The collection of disaggregating variables allows data to be broken down into more detailed components. This provides a more granular view of the data and allows researchers and analysts to examine specific factors that may influence crime patterns or trends. Disaggregating variables also allow for the identification of differences or patterns within and between different subgroups of the population. In this manner, the data can help identify more complex relationships and facilitate the development of more targeted interventions.

Most disaggregating variables will provide useful breakdowns only in relation to certain criminal offences. For example, the attempted/completed variable (At) does not apply to 0101 *Intentional homicide*, as only completed intentional homicides should be counted. The variable also does not apply to 0102 *Attempted intentional homicide*, as only attempted homicides should be counted under this category. However, for other crime types, most disaggregating variables will provide policy relevant information on specific crime characteristics.

As the information related to disaggregating variables is to be captured while recording the criminal offence in question, their application is facilitated (or impeded) by the design of the recording instrument. In a comprehensive reporting system maintained by the police, for example, all relevant disaggregating variables should be available for recording purposes.

Ideally, statistics produced from crime and criminal justice data would draw from an events-based data system. This implies a "unit records" database that allows the tracking of individual cases, victims and offenders throughout the criminal justice system (for more information on unit record data and the difference with aggregate data, see chapter 6). The disaggregating variables can be combined and aggregated at every desired level of detail in an events-based system. For example, this would allow a manager to request a summary count of all burglary cases occurring in the past 6 months in a specific neighbourhood disaggregated by the sex and age group of the victim.

Box 4 **Example of availability of disaggregated data from Germany**

The German Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt) reports on police investigations in the annual Police Crime Statistics (Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik (PKS))[20], which is based on a dedicated offence catalogue and on microdata received from counterparts in all federal units. The German Police Crime Statistics include information on type and count of criminal offences, location and time of occurrence, clearance rate, age, sex, nationality and other socio-demographic characteristics of suspects.

Among the statistical tabulations of published offences, information is included on:

- Counts of all offences with breakdowns of attempts, locations grouped by size, presence or use of a firearm, clearance rate, and suspect.
- Time of occurrence, breakdowns by the month of occurrence, breakdowns by criminal offences committed by "Internet", and more details on cleared cases involving suspects by age and sex, acting alone, recidivist status, under the influence of illicit drugs, under the influence of alcohol, and use of a firearm.

In systems where the collection, transmission and aggregation of data are automated through electronic capture, storage, transfer and compilation, data may easily be reorganized to allow for the capture and retrieval of every possible detail. For example, all relevant details of a criminal offence, such as the characteristics of the offender and the victim, can be captured and stored electronically in an individual record. When capturing microdata with such granularity, data can be aggregated and collated in many ways to produce tabulations of various desired combinations. Multiple types of statistical outputs can be obtained, for example, by disaggregating individual offences (e.g., corruption offences by economic sector or trafficking in persons by citizenship of the victims) or by using disaggregating variables in combination with several crime categories (e.g., by considering the sex and age of victims of all "violent offences" or the location of all "property crimes").

In each national crime recording system, the number, structure and application of disaggregating variables differs and is often determined by factors such as:

- Recording and processing capacities at both the subnational and national levels.
- The level of development and sophistication of the national crime statistics system.
- The degree of automation and digitalization of data collection.
- Specific policy needs.

It is highly recommended to ensure that the national crime statistics system is recording data at the individual record level to support a comprehensive structure of disaggregating variables with the involvement of all relevant criminal justice institutions. Please refer to the UNODC *Guidelines for the Governance of Statistical Data in the Criminal Justice System* for more information on developing and governing a system of criminal justice statistics.[21]

Box 5 Disaggregated crime data from the United States of America

In the United States, criminal offence data are collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) programme in order to generate reliable statistics for use in law enforcement and provide information for researchers, the media and the public. Managed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the programme has been providing crime statistics since the 1930s. The data are accessible through the crime data explorer hosted by the FBI.[22]

Since 1 January 2021, the way data are reported to the programme has changed significantly. Data are no longer reported through the Summary Reporting System (SRS) – an aggregate monthly tally of crimes – but through the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which was developed in the 1980s. The most significant difference between NIBRS and the SRS system is the degree of detail in reporting. Through SRS, law enforcement agencies tallied the monthly counts of the number of crimes known to law enforcement for 10 offence categories based on the most serious offence reported for each crime incident. Through NIBRS, law enforcement agencies report data on each offence (up to 10 per incident) and arrest within 28 offence categories made up of 71 specific crimes called Group A offences. For each of the Group A offences that comes to its attention, law enforcement collects administrative, offence, property, victim, offender and arrestee information.[23]

To ensure that these data are uniformly reported, the FBI provides contributing law enforcement agencies with a handbook explaining how to classify and score offences and provides uniform crime offence definitions. Acknowledging that offence definitions may vary from state to state, the FBI cautions agencies not to report offences according to local or state statutes but to the federal

guidelines provided in the handbook. The accuracy of the statistics depends primarily on the adherence of each contributor to the established standards of reporting.

Participation in the FBI UCR programme is voluntary for state and local agencies. The FBI does not have the authority to mandate state and local agencies to report data to the UCR programme. Federal agencies, by contrast, have a statutory mandate to report data to the UCR programme.

To use the example of robbery offences recorded for UCR, data are available on a range of disaggregating variables, including the type of weapon involved, location type, victim's relationship to the offender, and victim and offender demographics. These disaggregations allow for additional insight into the modus operandi of the offence. In addition, data on persons arrested are available by sex, age and race. While sex and age are important disaggregations for offenders as well as for victims, in the context of ICCS, race (which may be highly meaningful to collect on a national level) is less relevant at the international level and difficult to standardize. According to ICCS, the provision of the age status and the citizenship of offenders and victims are more relevant for crime statistics, as they are based on a clear legal determination.

5.2 Definitions

Commented [MK1]: Candidate for removal. Essentially repeats what is in ICCS.

This section provides definitions for the ICCS disaggregating variables. Understanding how to apply disaggregating variables is essential when operationalizing and integrating them into national crime and criminal justice data recording systems. Note that this information can also be found in the main ICCS document.

As noted, most of the disaggregating variables only provide useful breakdowns in relation to certain criminal offences. For example, the attempted/completed tag (At) is not relevant to ICCS categories 0101 *Intentional homicide* and 0102 *Attempted intentional homicide* as these categories refer to crimes that are either completed or attempted by definition. Most ICCS disaggregating variables offer the "not applicable" and "not known" options to account for situations where certain disaggregating variables either have no relevance or the requested information is simply unknown.

For example, in a case of 02051 *Extortion or blackmail*, the "not applicable" category should be used for variable SiC (situational context) when the perpetrator is not part of an organized criminal group, a gang, a terrorist group, acting on behalf of a business, an intimate partner or family member of the victim, or committing other crimes in connection with the extortion. In short, any case of extortion or blackmail that is committed by an unrelated and unaffiliated perpetrator should be categorized "not applicable" under SiC. The category "not known" should only be used if the situational context of the offence is not known and could not be determined in the course of the investigation.

5.2.1 Event disaggregations

At – Attempted/completed	
This variable distinguishes between criminal offences that were attempted and completed. Attempted offences usually involve evidence of intent to commit an offence and some conduct towards the completion of the offence.	
Category	*Description*
1. Attempted	The offence was attempted.
2. Completed	The offence was completed.
3. Not applicable	-
4. Not known	-

We – Type of weapon used	
This variable distinguishes violent crime by the main type of weapon used in an offence	
Category	*Description*
1. Firearm	As established in the Firearms Protocol, this includes any portable barrelled weapon that expels, is designed to expel, or may be readily converted to expel a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive, excluding antique firearms or their replicas.[24]
2. Knife or other sharp object	Knife is an instrument composed of a blade fixed into a handle
3. Other means	Other means, at minimum, includes blunt weapons, objects used as weapons, bow and arrow, crossbow, throwing weapons/objects, explosives, hand or fist weapons, martial arts weapons not amounting to a knife or sharp object.
4. Unknown means	The weapon used by the perpetrator is not identified.
5. Not applicable	-
6. Not known	-

SiC – Situational context	
This variable provides information on significant types of criminal actors involved in an offence. It can be used to record additional information on offences committed in the context of other criminal activities or other social interactions.	
Category	*Description*
1. Organized crime[25] related	Participation in an organized criminal group was an integral part of the modus operandi of the crime. An organized criminal group is a structured group of three or more persons, existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit. A structured group is not randomly formed for the immediate commission of an offence and that does not need to have formally defined roles for its members, continuity of its membership or a developed structure. A serious crime implies conduct constituting an offence punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of at least four years or a more serious penalty.
2. Gang-related	Participation in a gang was an integral part of the modus operandi of the crime. A gang is a group of persons that is defined by a set of characteristics including durability over time, street-oriented lifestyle, youthfulness of members, involvement in illegal activities and group identity. Definitions used by national law enforcement bodies may include additional elements and may in some cases deviate from this generic definition.
3. Corporate crime-related	Participation in a corporate or business entity was an integral party of the modus operandi of the crime.
4. Intimate partner/family-related	Intimate partner/family-related crimes are distinguished by the nature of the relationship between perpetrator and victim.
5. Terrorism-related	Participation in a terrorist group was an integral part of the modus operandi of the crime. A terrorist group is a group that engages in terrorist offences. As established in the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, [26] a terrorist offence means any act established in accordance with the universal legal instruments against terrorism, or otherwise intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking an active part in the hostilities of a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a Government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act.

6.	Civil unrest	Civil unrest refers to a situation of collective violent hostilities between two or more parties within a country that do not amount to an internal armed conflict.
7.	Other crime	-
8.	Not applicable	-
9.	Not known	-

Geo – Geographical location

This variable identifies the geographical location of an offence. This can either be any sub-national division used in any country or refer to offences committed outside of a country that fall under extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Category		*Description*
1.	Required geographical division of country (1st, 2nd, etc. levels)	Includes all administrative, political, or geographical subdivisions of a country. Any sub-national entities in use can be applied under this option.
2.	Extraterritorial	The geographical location of the crime determines the exact geographical reference where the crime was committed, an extraterritoriality reference should be applied if the crime was committed in another country or international waters but recorded in the reporting country due to investigations and prosecutions under extraterritorial jurisdiction. Extraterritoriality is the ability for countries to consider an offence committed abroad to be an offence committed within their borders.
3.	Not applicable	-
4.	Not known	-

Rep – Reported by	
This variable enables the analysis of reporting channels for recorded offences, such as whether certain offences are frequently reported by victims or witnesses or more often detected by the police.	
Category	*Description*
1. Victim	-
2. Witness (non-victim)	-
3. Police	-
4. Other law enforcement	-
5. Criminal justice institution	-
6. Not known	-

DaT – Date and time	
This variable records the date and time on which a criminal offence occurred. It can be used to construct indicators of interest. For example, the number of burglaries occurring during a certain time period of the day. For international comparability it is recommended to record the data and time in line with ISO 8601 using a 24-hour clock.	
Category	*Description*
-	ISO 8601 format: YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM (Year-Month-Day Hour:Minute)

Lo – Location of the crime	
This variable provides data on crime locations by type and allows for the identification of typical or common settings of crime such as the home or prisons. It supplements the Geo variable by providing the type of premises/location.	
Category	*Description*
1. Private residential premises	Private residential premises (house/ private dwelling), at minimum, is real estate owned, rented, or leased by a person.
2. Open area, street or public transport	-
3. Schools or other educational institutions	-
4. Prisons, penal institutions or correctional institutions	-
5. Institutional care settings	Institutional care settings include hospitals, psychiatric facilities, residential care/retirement homes, remand homes and other institutional care facilities.
6. Other commercial or public non-residential premises	Other commercial or public non-residential premises includes business premises open to the public (retail stores, cafés and restaurants, clubs, banks, service stations, malls, etc.); business premises closed to the public (office buildings, warehouses, production facilities, construction sites, machine parks, farm land, etc.); public non-residential premises open to the public (museums, libraries, public services, etc.); and other public non-residential premises not open to the public (government offices, public works, military installations, etc.).
7. Other	-
8. Not known	-

Mot – Motive	
The variable highlights several policy-relevant motives for committing an offence, particularly specific hate crimes in which the victim is specifically targeted because of their characteristics, attributes, beliefs or values.	
Category	*Description*
1. Illicit gain	-
2. Hate crime	Hate crime is a crime in which the victim is specifically targeted because of their characteristics and ascribed attributes or beliefs and values. Characteristics and ascribed attributes, at minimum, include sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, language, ethnic origin, disability and/or race. Beliefs or values, at minimum, include religious beliefs, political views, and/or economic and social views. Gender-based crimes and crimes with an explicit or implicit political agenda should be excluded.
3. Gender-based	Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. See also the new *Statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls.*[27]
4. Interpersonal conflict	Interpersonal conflict refers to the dissonances that occur when human/social relationships come under strain (including from friction due to social and cultural norms).
5. Political agenda	Political agenda, at minimum, is the set of issues laid out by ideological or political groups that tries to influence current and near-future political news and debate.
6. Other motive	-
7. Not applicable	-
8. Not known	-

Cy – Cybercrime related	
This variable serves to identify various offences committed with the use of a computer (for example, internet fraud or cyber-stalking).	
Category	*Description*
1. Cybercrime related[28]	Applied if the use of computer data or computer systems was an integral part of the modus operandi of the crime. Computer data, at a minimum, are any representation of facts/information/concepts in a machine-readable form suitable for processing by a computer programme or system. A computer programme is a series of instructions in machine readable form that enable a computer system to process computer data. A computer system, at a minimum, is a device (or interconnected devices) which, pursuant to a computer programme, is capable of processing computer data.
2. Non-cybercrime related	-
3. Not applicable	-
4. Not known	-

5.2.2 Victim disaggregations

SV – Sex of victim	
This variable indicates the biological characteristics that define men and women as per the definition of sex by the WHO and not the socially constructed characteristics of women and men known as gender.[29]	
Category	*Description*
1. Male	-
2. Female	-
3. Not applicable	-
4. Not known	-

AV – Age of victim	
This variable records the age since birth of the victim in full years, aggregated into 15-year age groups.	
Category	*Description*
1. 0-14	-
2. 15-29	-
3. 30-44	-
4. 45-59	-
5. 60+	-
6. Not known	-

STV – Age status of victim	
This variable refers to the demarcation, usually the age of majority, that separates adults from minors. Age status refers to the legal status a person has under national law.	
Category	*Description*
1. Minor	As established in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, [30] a minor (child) means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.
2. Adult	-
3. Not applicable	-
4. Not known	-

ViP – Victim-perpetrator relationship	
This variable refers to the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator and indicates important contextual information about the situation and possible motives for the offence.	
Category	*Description*
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	Such as a doctor, nurse, police officer, etc.
9. Other offender known to victim	-
10. Offender unknown to victim	-
11. Relationship not known	-

Cit – Citizenship of victim	
This variable refers to the particular legal bond between an individual and his or her State, acquired by birth or naturalization, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to national legislation. Persons with dual citizenship should be included in the category "national citizen".	
Category	*Description*
1. National citizen	-
2. Foreign citizen	-
3. Not applicable	-
4. Not known	-

LS – Legal status of victim	
This variable is used to signify the status of an individual, a company or other entity defined by law that is the victim of the offence. The variable has two main categories, (1) being a natural person, which is any human being. A natural person is distinguished in law from a legal person, which is (2) a legal entity.	
Category	*Description*
1. Natural person	A natural person is a human being as distinguished in law from a legal person.
a. Private individual	A private individual is a natural person who is not a public official.
b. Public official	A public official is any natural person who performs a public function or provides a public service as defined in domestic law. This value should be used only when the victim is a public official who experienced the crime while exerting his/her public function.
2. Legal entity	A legal entity is either a private or a public entity.
a. Private entity	A private entity is a lawful association, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust or individual that has the capacity to enter into agreements or contracts, assume obligations and be accountable for illegal activities.
b. Public entity	A public entity is a federal, state or local government department, institution or agency.
3. Other entity	-
4. Not known	-

Int – Intoxication status of victim	
This variable indicates whether the victim was intoxicated with controlled drugs or other psychoactive substances during the time of victimization.	
Category	*Description*
1. Alcohol	-
2. Illicit drugs	-
3. Both	-
4. Other	-
5. Not applicable	-
6. Not known	-

ES – Economic sector of business victim
This variable indicates the sector of economic activity when the victim is a legal entity, such as a business. The categories should correspond to the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev.4.[31]

5.2.3 Perpetrator disaggregations

SP – Sex of perpetrator	
This variable indicates the biological characteristics that define men and women as per the definition of sex by the WHO and not the socially constructed characteristics of women and men known as gender.[32]	
Category	*Description*
1. Male	-
2. Female	-
3. Not applicable	-
4. Not known	-

AP – Age of perpetrator	
This variable records the age since birth of the perpetrator in full years, aggregated into 15-year age groups.	
Category	*Description*
1. 0-14	-
2. 15-29	-
3. 30-44	-
4. 45-59	-
5. 60+	-
6. Not known	-

STP – Age status of perpetrator	
This variable refers to the demarcation, usually the age of majority, that separates adults from minors. Age status refers to the legal status a person has under national law.	
Category	*Description*
1. Minor	As established in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, [33] a minor (child) means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.
2. Adult	-
3. Not applicable	-
4. Not known	-

ViP – Victim-perpetrator relationship	
This variable refers to the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator and indicates important contextual information about the situation and possible motives for the offence.	
Category	*Description*
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	Such as a doctor, nurse, police officer, etc.
9. Other offender known to victim	-
10. Offender unknown to victim	-
11. Relationship not known	-

Cit – Citizenship of perpetrator	
This variable refers to the particular legal bond between an individual and his or her State, acquired by birth or naturalization, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to national legislation. Persons with dual citizenship should be included in the category "national citizen".	
Category	*Description*
1. National citizen	-
2. Foreign citizen	-
3. Not applicable	-
4. Not known	-

LS – Legal status of perpetrator	
This variable is used to signify the status of an individual, a company or other entity defined by law that is the perpetrator of the offence. The variable has two main categories, (1) being a natural person, which is any human being. A natural person is distinguished in law from a legal person, which is (2) a legal entity.	
Category	*Description*
1. Natural person	A natural person is a human being as distinguished in law from a legal person.
a. Private individual	A private individual is a natural person who is not a public official.
b. Public official	A public official is any natural person who performs a public function or provides a public service as defined in domestic law. This value should be used only when the victim is a public official who experienced the crime while exerting his/her public function.
2. Legal entity	A legal entity is either a private or a public entity.
a. Private entity	A private entity is a lawful association, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust or individual that has the capacity to enter into agreements or contracts, assume obligations and be accountable for illegal activities.
b. Public entity	A public entity is a federal, state or local government department, institution or agency.
3. Other entity	-
4. Not known	-

Int – Intoxication status of perpetrator	
This variable indicates whether the perpetrator was intoxicated with controlled drugs or other psychoactive substances during commission of the offence.	
Category	*Description*
1. Alcohol	-
2. Illicit drugs	-
3. Both	-
4. Other	-
5. Not applicable	-
6. Not known	-

Rec – Repeat offender/recidivist	
This variable indicates whether the perpetrator of the offence was a recidivist. Recidivism refers to perpetrators who reoffend during the follow-up period. The exact definition differs across jurisdictions as both the follow-up period and the acts that are included vary.	
Category	*Description*
1. Recidivist	-
2. Non-recidivist	-
3. Not applicable	-
4. Not known	-

EAST – Economic activity status of perpetrator	
This variable records the economic activity status of the perpetrator at the time of committing the offence. It provides important contextual information for the socioeconomic analysis of crime.	
Category	*Description*
1. Dependent employment	-
2. Self-employment	-
3. Employer	-
4. Unemployed	-
5. Student/apprentice	-
6. Housekeeper	-
7. Retired/disabled	-
8. Not known	-

5.2.4 Data descriptions/inclusions

Data descriptions/inclusions	
Variable	*Description*
Th – Threats included	Threatening behaviour, at minimum, is an intentional behaviour that causes fear of injury or harm. Includes any type of threatening behaviour if it is believed that the threat could be enacted.
AA – Aiding/abetting/ accessory included	Aiding, abetting and accessory refers to not being present when the crime was committed, but having knowledge of the crime before or after the event, and may assist in its commission through advice, actions or financial support.
Ac – Accomplice included	Accomplice refers to being present during the committed crime and assisting in its commission through advice, actions or financial support.
CP – Conspiracy/planning included	Conspire, consort or plan with other persons to commit a criminal offence.
In – Incitement to commit crime included	Incitement to commit a crime is provoking unlawful behaviour or convincing a person to behave unlawfully

5.3 Additional frameworks

The standard disaggregating variables included in ICCS offer a solid starting point for analysis. However, due to their general nature, these variables will not be able to provide sufficient detail for analytical purposes when focusing on very specific crimes. To begin to address this, the UNODC has developed additional guidance for the specific crimes of trafficking in persons and femicide.

The *International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons* offers a more detailed classification for trafficking in persons and a number of additional disaggregating variables to facilitate the production and dissemination of high-quality administrative data relating to various aspects of the crime of trafficking in persons.[34] Countries that are impacted by this crime are strongly encouraged to adopt the classification and expand upon ICCS.

The *Statistical Framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls* was developed to provide a comprehensive statistical framework to measure such killings.[35] Besides providing a statistical definition for femicide, the framework identifies a typology of gender-related killings and the list of variables that can be used to identify and count the various types of such killings. The proposed definition and typology are aligned to the structure and framework of ICCS, which can therefore be applied independently from the specific national legislation on such crimes. The framework also identifies the disaggregating variables that should be collected for providing information on victims, perpetrators and the State response to the gender-related killings of women and girls.

5.4 Implementing disaggregating variables

Typically, a wide variety of disaggregating variables are used in the production of national crime and criminal justice statistics. These could be used to construct criminal offence counts that disaggregate offences by the sex of the offender, offences by the time of occurrence, victims of specific offences by age, etc. As argued in section 5.1, such data disaggregations can provide critical information to criminal justice institutions and policymakers in the fight against crime. To make disaggregations practically useful, it is important to ensure standardization of categories and alignment between agencies. If one agency captures the sex of the offender while another does not or if agencies publish data on the age of offenders using different and overlapping age categories, the data will not be directly comparable and of limited use. Therefore, in order to alleviate this problem, ICCS introduces the basic set of disaggregating variables and their associated categories highlighted in the current chapter.

Incorporating the ICCS recommended set of disaggregating variables may require countries to make small changes to existing data recording systems, fundamentally alter data recording systems or design new systems from the ground up while implementing ICCS. If a national system of disaggregating variables is already in place, a recommended first step is to establish correspondence between the existing national system and the ICCS disaggregating variables through the creation of a dedicated correspondence table for disaggregating variables. An abridged version of the process outlined in section 4.2 can be applied to achieve this. The table in annex 2 illustrates this process by presenting the correspondence between location type as used in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in the United States of America and ICCS.[36]

Existing database and coding systems/manuals may also need to be updated to reflect the changes. Databases might need restructuring or modification to accommodate the new disaggregating variables and the coding system defined by ICCS. In addition, any software used for recording and collecting data may require an updated to ensure data suppliers can provide these data in line with ICCS. User manuals or coding guidelines will have to be brought up to date to reflect the new situation.

Finally, updating or implementing a system of disaggregating variables will likely require additional training for relevant personnel as they should be familiarized with the new disaggregations and learn how to code correctly in data entry systems to ensure data quality.

Once the ICCS disaggregating variables have been successfully implemented, data analysts will be able to provide more tailored analyses that can meet very specific (inter)national demands. Table 13 below provides a basic illustration of a limited set of disaggregating variables for two separate criminal offences. The first row features a serious assault (020111) where the victim is a 27-year-old man who was befriended with the 31-year-old female perpetrator. The second row highlights a burglary of a permanent private residence (050121) where the victim is a 42-year-old woman and the perpetrator is as of yet unknown.

Table 13 **Example of data recording system utilizing ICCS disaggregating variables**

Offence		*Victim*			*Perpetrator*		
National	*ICCS*	*Sex of victim*	*Age of victim*	*Victim-perpetrator relationship*	*Sex of perpetrator*	*Age of perpetrator*	*Victim-perpetrator relationship*
COVA01	020111	1	27	5	2	31	5
COLP05	050121	2	42	11	-	-	11

Source: Fictive example.

This example showcases how to record a limited set of individual data points. However, the power of ICCS lies in the generation of policy-relevant crime and criminal justice statistics. If all criminal offences and the associated disaggregating variables are recorded in a similar manner, a data analyst would quickly be able to produce statistics on, for example, the number of burglaries occurring during the past year in a specific location or the percentage of adult female victims of serious assault during the past month. In other words, disaggregating variables allow for a granular look at criminal offences through event, victim and perpetrator characteristics and, in this way, provide policy-relevant insights.

For disaggregating variables to provide the highest added value to a data recording system, it is vital to not only guarantee data quality but ensure all relevant stakeholders both within and across institutions are aware of and agree with the coding system for disaggregating variables. The power of statistics draws from large numbers of observations to provide robust insights. Hence, only when all stakeholders record disaggregating variables in line with agreed standards will it be possible to generate truly valuable insights that can feed into policymaking discussions.

Homicide as a special case

The gradual implementation of ICCS can bring greater accuracy and comparability of crime and criminal justice data, including on intentional homicide and other unlawful killings. In ICCS, intentional homicide is defined as the ‘‘Unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury”. This definition implies that, for statistical purposes, all unlawful killings of a person by another person committed with intent should be considered as intentional homicides, irrespective of definitions provided by national legislation or practices.

Once a particular killing is classified and counted as an intentional homicide, more detailed quantitative information on the context and offence mechanisms is needed to help design better evidence-based policies for preventing and responding to this offence type. The standard

disaggregating variables for events, victims and perpetrators provide a solid starting point. In addition, ICCS identifies three classification criteria as particularly relevant to characterize and define intentional homicide in more detail for comparative and analytical purposes: 1) the situational context, 2) the relationship between victim and perpetrator and 3) the mechanism of killing. These three criteria have been applied to construct specific disaggregations only applicable to intentional homicide (see tables III, IV and V of ICCS for more details) and are considered of particular relevance to understanding the drivers of lethal violence and help develop crime prevention policies.

6 Producing data according to ICCS

A key benefit of the implementation of ICCS is the production of policy relevant and (inter)nationally comparable statistical outputs. The goal of the implementation process is for each country to produce crime and criminal justice statistics that comply with ICCS, while gradually broadening the scope and detail of the data. Depending on the chosen implementation strategy in a particular country and its existing crime and criminal justice statistics system, it may be advisable to integrate ICCS into the statistical production process in incremental steps and build capacity over time. The United Nations Surveys of Crime Trends and Operations of the Criminal Justice System (UN-CTS) serve as an important benchmark for the achievement of this goal, as it provides an ICCS-compliant list of offences and indicators for which data should be provided on an annual basis.

6.1 Prioritization

During the implementation of ICCS, countries may choose to limit the production of statistics to specific prioritized criminal offences to ensure the efficient utilization of resources and meet immediate policy needs. This prioritization involves identifying key areas of concern or particular types of crime that are of high priority for data collection and analysis during the development of the implementation scope. Countries may determine which offences are prioritized based on factors such as the prevalence or severity of certain offences, emerging (inter)national trends in criminal activity or policy priorities aimed at addressing specific social or public safety issues.

By initially focusing on a subset of criminal offences, countries can streamline the implementation process and allocate resources effectively, ensuring that data collection efforts are targeted and meaningful. Once the prioritized offences are adequately addressed and statistics are consistently and accurately produced, countries can consider expanding statistical coverage to include additional criminal offences in an incremental manner. In this manner, the coverage and granularity of national crime statistics are gradually expanded over time. This phased approach allows countries to adapt to evolving needs and priorities while maximizing the utility and relevance of crime statistics for informed decision-making and policy development.

When adopting a phased approach to ICCS implementation, it may be worthwhile to consider prioritizing the crimes included in the UN-CTS. In the UN-CTS, statistics on a group of core offences are requested annually, while a second group of rotating offences alternate in a two-year cycle as highlighted in table 15. Countries may also strive to produce statistics for each of these criminal offences along the different stages of the criminal justice system and produce counts on:

- The number of (reported) criminal offences
- The number of persons brought into formal contact
- The number of persons prosecuted
- The number of persons convicted
- The number of persons entering prisons
- The number of persons held in prisons

Table 14 **UN-CTS annual and rotating offence categories**

ICCS Section	Annual offences	Rotating offences
01	Intentional homicide (0101) Attempted intentional homicide (0102)	
02	Serious assault (020111) Kidnapping (020221)	Acts intended to induce fear or emotional distress (0208)
03	Sexual violence (0301) Rape (03011) Sexual assault (03012) Other acts of sexual violence (03019) Sexual exploitation (0302)	Child pornography (030221)
04	Robbery (0401)	
05		Burglary (0501) Theft (0502) Theft of a motorized vehicle or parts thereof (05021)
06	Unlawful acts involving controlled drugs or precursors (0601) Unlawful possession, purchase, use, cultivation or production of controlled drugs for personal consumption (06011) Unlawful trafficking, cultivation or production of controlled drugs or precursors not for personal consumption (06012)	
07	Corruption (0703) Bribery (07031) Other acts of corruption (07032-07039)	Fraud (0701) Money-laundering (07041)
08	Smuggling of migrants offences (08051)	
09	Trafficking of weapons and explosives (09012)	Unlawful access to a computer system (09031)

ICCS Section	Annual offences	Rotating offences
	Participation in an organized criminal group (09051) Participation in a terrorist group (09061) Financing of terrorism (09062)	Unlawful interference with a computer system or computer data (09032) Unlawful interception or access of computer data (09033)
10	-	Acts that cause environmental pollution or degradation (1001) Acts involving the movement or dumping of waste (1002) Trade or possession of protected or prohibited species of fauna and flora (1003) Acts that result in the depletion of degradation of natural resources (1004)
11	-	-

While data for all crime types can be highly valuable, the above categories reflect those areas where there is greatest demand for both nationally and internationally comparable data. Therefore, prioritizing implementation for these offences will likely yield greater returns for analytical and policy development purposes.

While the highlighted offence types offer a starting point to improve the quality, consistency and comparability of crime data, ICCS can also be a tool to collect data for a better understanding of the drivers and enablers of crime. This is particularly true when data are accompanied by the set of disaggregating variables proposed in ICCS. For example, the use of the disaggregating variables in crime statistics allows for the identification and analysis of criminal offences by context (e.g., related to organized crime, gangs or terrorism), by motive (e.g., hate crimes, gender-based or economic motive) or by sex and age of the victim. Similarly, the other disaggregating variables presented in detail in chapter 5 can be utilized to produce highly granular statistics on any desired level of detail. Hence, including disaggregations in published statistics can bring significant added value to the users of the statistical outputs.

The availability and quality of data on additional context-specific characteristics of criminal offences is still limited in many countries, even for a crime as commonly legislated and recorded as intentional homicide. There is also a great deal of variation across countries in their coverage of these additional elements. The inclusion of context-specific disaggregating variables consistent with the ICCS will therefore enhance the analytical value of data for preventing and countering crime.

6.2 Acquiring data and generating statistics

Any statistical data production requires the establishment of clear roles and responsibilities to manage the data lifecycle, including the collection, storage, access, maintenance and (re-)use of data. The data lifecycle could be centrally managed through the National Statistical Office as the custodian of the National Statistical System or, in a more decentralized statistical system, through stand-alone data collections produced by different criminal justice agencies. The regular supply of high-quality data in a predetermined format will need to be established to ensure that data suppliers will provide data to the agency responsible for data production on a regular basis – allowing for the generation and dissemination of statistics. Such an agreement should clarify the roles and responsibilities of each party involved in the process. For example, there could be rules to govern by what date are to be provided to the coordinating entity, by when and what format the data should take. This could take the form of either an informal or formal agreement. One way of formalizing this process is to establish a memorandum of understanding in order to facilitate the sharing of data between institutions.

To ensure the support of stakeholders throughout the process – particularly if ICCS is being implemented incrementally – a country could label the resulting crime and criminal justice statistics as "experimental" while they are under development. These statistics would ideally still be publicly released, but the label provides a clear signal to the users of these data that they are subject to change as the statistics mature. This can help reassure partner agencies who may be unsure about releasing figures into the public domain that are still under development. An experimental label may be removed at a later stage by, for example, the judgement call of the NSO and the agreement of partner agencies.

One way of organizing the business processes needed to produce statistics is described in the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).[37] Developed under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), this model provides a standard framework and harmonized terminology aimed at helping organizations modernize their statistical production processes. Its uses include:

- Providing a structure for documentation
- Providing a framework for process quality assessment and improvement
- Better integrating work on metadata and quality
- Measuring operational costs and system performance

For a more detailed discussion on the governance of administrative data and the production of statistics in the criminal justice sector, please refer to the *Guidelines on the Governance of Statistical Data in the Criminal Justice Sector*.[38]

6.3 Generating statistical outputs from aggregate or unit record data

Unit record data (or event-based data) provide data for each individual offence while aggregate data combine multiple individual data records into a more summarized representation, such as the total number of offences of a specific type over the last year. Unit record data are so called microdata and allow for the greatest flexibility in the production, dissemination and use of crime and criminal justice statistics. In addition, unit record data greatly enhance opportunities to verify data quality through validation rules and procedures. With access to all relevant information about each record, it is possible to identify and correct a wide range of potential data quality problems that can be obscured in aggregate data.

In an aggregate data collection system, by contrast, offence counts are only available based on fixed and predetermined categories. To illustrate, suppose that three time periods are defined for the

length of court proceedings in the production of aggregate data: less than six months, six months to one year and greater than one year. It is then possible to determine the distribution of the length of proceedings for cases featuring specific offences across these three categories. Hence, there would be a count of the total number of cases that took less than six months to complete. However, it would not be possible to identify how many cases had a length of proceedings of less than one month or more than 2 years as these time periods are not part of the predetermined categories.

In a unit record data collection system, on the other hand, data are available at the individual record level. Using the previous example of the length of court proceedings, a unit record data-collection approach would provide information on the date of the first court appearance and date of case disposition for each case featuring specific offences. With these two dates available for all cases heard in court, it is possible to calculate the length of proceedings for each individual case. It is then simply a matter of defining which time periods are of interest for the production of statistics and querying the database to find out how many cases fall into each category. Using unit record data, it would also be possible, for example, to determine the average case duration and calculate this statistic for any specific subgroup of defendants or offence category or any other indicator of interest.

6.4 Explaining the impact of ICCS implementation on existing statistics

For countries with existing crime and criminal justice statistics, the introduction of ICCS may require an explanation of changes to reported statistics. It is likely that there will be some differences in the presentation and distribution of offences that will need to be illustrated and explained to data users. This is especially relevant when publishing the crime statistics both in line with the existing local classification and ICCS. Users will require guidance to understand the differences between the two data series and their advantages and disadvantages in supporting their analysis.

When replacing an existing statistical crime classification with ICCS, it may constitute a break in the series if it is not possible to recode data from prior years. In this case, it may be desirable to temporarily allow for parallel coding to both ICCS and the previous classification for several years. This would illustrate the differences between the two classifications to data users. For some countries, adoption of ICCS has made a significant difference in the reported statistics for key categories of crime as highlighted in box 6 below.

Steps to consider when releasing updated statistics in line with ICCS:

- Identify key differences between the old statistics and the new statistics in line with ICCS and provide a side-by-side comparison for data users.
- Provide context and highlight the benefits to help stakeholders understand the rationale behind the transition to ICCS. Arguments could include the need to harmonize statistics between agencies, enhance the accuracy and reliability of statistics, and improve the comparability with international data.
- Engage data users in the transition process by actively soliciting their feedback and addressing their concerns. This will foster buy-in and collaboration among stakeholders and provide reassurance about the validity and reliability of the data.
- Organize a workshop, seminar or training to help stakeholders understand the changes in the statistics and how to interpret the data effectively.
- Communicate the changes clearly by providing detailed documentation on changes in definitions, coding rules and data collection methods. In addition, it is also crucial to provide a summary of changes in accessible language that avoids technical jargon and can easily be understood by policymakers, researchers and the general public.

Box 6 **Impact of ICCS adoption on international reporting**

As ICCS provides a framework for the systematic production and comparison of statistical data across different jurisdictions, data reported according to ICCS definitions should improve international comparability compared to data reported according to national definitions. In the 2017 UN-CTS data collection, more countries reported data in line with the definitions and categories of the ICCS. At the same time, the data collection also highlighted that more work was needed to collect consistent data on non-conventional crimes included in the ICCS and the UN-CTS.

An example of how changes in the definition can affect the numbers reported to UNODC was the 2016 UN-CTS submission by the Russian Federation. The Ministry of Internal Affairs revised the numbers reported for 0101 *Intentional homicide* and 020111 *Serious assault* in the years 2010 to 2014.

Table 15 **Change in intentional homicide data from the Russian Federation after ICCS implementation**

	2010	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*
Old value	13 555	12 641	11 835	10 935	10 425
New value	22 897	21 506	19 881	18 464	17 414
Difference	**+9 342**	**+8 865**	**+8 046**	**+7 529**	**+6 989**

Source: UN-CTS

The number of intentional homicide offences increased due to the inclusion of all offences according to Article 111 (4) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (deliberate infliction of serious harm to health, which resulted in the death of the victim through negligence). Accordingly, the number of serious assault offences decreased by the identical number of offences, as all the offences under Article 111 (4) were classified as intentional homicide.

Table 16 **Change in serious assault data from the Russian Federation after ICCS implementation**

	2010	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*
Old value	39 745	38 512	37 091	34 786	32 899
New value	30 403	29 647	29 045	27 257	25 910
Difference	**-9 342**	**-8 865**	**-8 046**	**-7 529**	**-6 989**

Source: UN-CTS

A similar change in the numbers was observed in the 2015 UN-CTS submission from Germany. The German Bundeskriminalamt revised the numbers reported for 0101 *Intentional homicide* offences and 020111 *Serious assault* offences in the years 2009 to 2013.

In the German correspondence table, intentional homicide includes completed acts of Murder under specific aggravating circumstances (sect. 211 PC), Murder (sect. 212), Murder under mitigating circumstances (sect. 213), killing a person at the person's own request (sect. 216) and bodily injury resulting in death (sects. 227, 231), but excludes among others homicide by negligence (sect. 222), rape/sexual coercion attended by death (sect. 178) and robbery resulting in death (sect. 251). Because the previously reported number of offences (2009 to 2013) excluded bodily injury resulting in death, a revised figure was provided for every year since 2009.

Table 17 **Change in intentional homicide data from Germany after ICCS implementation**

	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*
Old value	628	601	614	538	531
New value	721	699	689	619	623
Difference	**+93**	**+98**	**+75**	**+81**	**+92**

Source: UN-CTS

The number of intentional homicide offences increased due to the inclusion of bodily injury resulting in death in the definition of intentional homicide. As a result, the number of serious assault offences decreased. The decrease was, however, not only due to the inclusion of bodily injury resulting in death in the intentional homicide category, but also due to other changes in the definition of serious assault.

The data included dangerous and serious bodily injury (sects. 224, 226, 231 PC) as well as female genital mutilation (sect. 226a PC) but excluded bodily injury resulting in death (sects. 227, 231 PC), mistreatment of persons under offender´s care (sect. 225 PC), slight bodily injury with intent (Sect. 223 PC) and negligent/unintentionally bodily injury (sect. 229 PC). Because the previously reported number of cases (2009 to 2013) was based on the offences 'dangerous and serious bodily injury' as well as 'slight bodily injury with intent', a revised figure was provided for every year since 2009.

Table 18 **Change in serious assault data from Germany after ICCS implementation**

	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*
Old value	519 010	515 853	513 458	520 005	506 616
New value	149 301	142 903	139 091	136 077	127 869
Difference	**-369 709**	**-372 950**	**-374 367**	**-383 928**	**-378 747**

Source: UN-CTS

An even more significant relative decrease in the number of serious assault offences was found in the Swedish submission of UN-CTS 2016. The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) revised the numbers reported for 020111 *Serious assault* offences in the years 2010 to 2014. Previously reported values referred to reported assault including serious and minor assault.

Table 19 **Change in serious assault data from Sweden after ICCS implementation**

	2010	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*
Old value	87 854	89 457	87 052	80 374	83 324
New value	5 594	5 684	5 338	4 659	4 570
Difference	**-82 260**	**-83 773**	**-81 714**	**-75 715**	**-78 754**

Source: UN-CTS

The adoption of the ICCS definition of serious assault decreased the respective serious assault offences reported by the Russian Federation by 22 per cent, the numbers reported by Germany by 73 per cent and the number of serious assaults reported by Sweden by 94 per cent.

Note: The numbers used in this box may have been subject to further revision in later UN-CTS waves and are used for illustrative purposes only.

6.5 Designing new statistical outputs and releasing your statistics

If the implementation of ICCS results in the production of national crime statistics for the first time, new statistical products will also need to be designed, developed and disseminated. When designing your outputs, you may wish to:

- Use the UN-CTS as a starting point, as these data will need to be produced on an annual basis to meet international reporting requirements.
- Consult widely with criminal justice system stakeholders and other government partners to identify data gaps and data needs that can be met through the new statistical data collection.
- Consult with researchers and criminal justice practitioners about their information needs.
- Take inspiration from crime and criminal justice statistics that are being produced by other countries.

These inputs will provide an indication of the kinds of statistics that can provide the highest added value to their users. It is important to emphasize that the statistics are meant to have strategic value for decision-making and data users alike. By consulting widely with stakeholders, it is possible to break data silos and ensure the produced statistics are meeting the needs of users and are in high demand. The collected input will likely include a range of specific applied counting units, contextual and offence information, preferences around the frequency of statistical releases and potentially even format.

While all countries will approach this differently based on their needs and requirements, a minimum statistical product could include:

- A set of headline measures to provide an indication of what is occurring and provide guidance to those not wishing to delve into the data.
- A summary in plain language to assist a layperson in understanding the main trends.
- A set of data tables on prioritized criminal offences.
- Infographics or visual representations of the data.
- Metadata that provide details on definitions, counting units, comparability issues where appropriate and any other information a data user would require to be able to sensibly interpret the statistics.

Further aspects to consider are ensuring that statistical data releases are announced in advance and providing equal and simultaneous access to all users. One way of operationalizing this is to create a publicly available and easily accessible release calendar that contains information on the releases planned in the upcoming 12 months. Any changes to this release calendar could then be announced in advance with a justification. To further promote uptake and use, the data could be released in open and machine-readable formats to allow for their use, reuse and redistribution by anyone, anytime, anywhere as noted in the Open Data Charter Principles.[39] Moreover, data visualization tools, GIS solutions and APIs are other frequently used options to disseminate data and make results more actionable.

Once ICCS-complaint crime and criminal justice statistics have been developed and approved, they can be made public and submitted to the international community through UN-CTS reporting. These statistics can often generate interest not just from data users and researchers but also from the general public and the media. A media release will assist in ensuring that the key messages are identified by journalists. Providing journalists with quotes from a spokesperson, key facts and figures will assist them in finding the story and reduce the likelihood of misinterpretation of statistics. Ensuring key spokespersons from the agencies reflected in your crime and justice statistics are briefed on the data prior to release will ensure they are supportive of the data release process and are not

caught unprepared if queried by the media as to the statistics and their meaning. This will ensure key partners have confidence in the statistical production process and are more likely to continue to supply key data and support the public release of crime and criminal justice statistics.

Annex 1: Mapping selected Conventions to ICCS offence categories

Table 20 **Mapping United Nations Convention Against Corruption Articles to ICCS categories**

ICCS category	*UNCAC Article*
070311 Active bribery	Article 15(a) Article 16(1) Article 21(a)
070312 Passive bribery	Article 15(b) Article 16(2) Article 21(b)
07032 Embezzlement	Article 17 Article 22
07033 Abuse of functions	Article 19
07034 Trading in influence	Article 18
07035 Illicit enrichment	Article 20
07041 Money laundering	Article 23
08061 Obstruction of justice	Article 25

Table 21 **Mapping United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime Articles to ICCS categories**

ICCS category	*UNTOC Article*
070311 Active bribery	Article 8(1)(a)
070312 Passive bribery	Article 8(1)(b)
07041 Money Laundering	Article 6
08061 Obstruction of justice	Article 23
09051 Participation in an organized criminal group	Article 5

Table 22 **Mapping the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children to ICCS categories**

ICCS category	*Article*
0204 Trafficking in persons	Article 5

Table 23 **Mapping the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air to ICCS categories**

ICCS category	*Article*
08051 Smuggling of migrants offences	Article 6

Table 24 **Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunication to ICCS categories**

ICCS categories	*Article*
090119 Other acts related to possession or use of weapons and explosives	Article 5(1)(c)
090121 Trafficking of firearms	Article 5(1)(a) Article 5(1)(b)

Table 25 **Mapping other UN Conventions to ICCS categories**

ICCS categories	*Convention and Article*
020222 Illegal restraint	International Convention against the taking of hostages Article 1 and Article 2
020223 Hijacking	Convention for the suppression of unlawful seizure of aircraft Article 1 and Article 2
09061 Participation in a terrorist group	International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism Article 2 and Article 4
09062 Financing of terrorism	International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism Article 2 and Article 4
11011 Torture	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Article 1 and Article 4

Annex 2: Disaggregating variable correspondence example

Table 26 **Example of correspondence table for location type between NIBRS and ICCS classification systems**

NIBRS	ICCS
01 Air/Bus/Train Terminal	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
02 Bank/Savings and Loan	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
03 Bar/Nightclub	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
04 Church/Synagogue/Temple/Mosque	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
05 Commercial/Office Building	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
06 Construction Site	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
07 Convenience Store	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
08 Department/Discount Store	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
09 Drug Store/Doctor's Office/Hospital	5 Institutional care setting
10 Field/Woods	2 Open area, street or public transport
11 Government/Public Building	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
12 Grocery/Supermarket	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
13 Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk	2 Open area, street or public transport
14 Hotel/Motel/Etc.	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
15 Jail/Prison/Penitentiary/Corrections Facility	4 Prisons, penal institutions or correctional institutions
16 Lake/Waterway/Beach	2 Open area, street or public transport
17 Liquor Store	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
18 Parking/Drop Lot/Garage	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
19 Rental Storage Facility	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
20 Residence/Home	1 Private residential premises
21 Restaurant	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
23 Service/Gas Station	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
24 Specialty Store	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
25 Other/Unknown	7 Other; 8 Not known
37 Abandoned/Condemned Structure	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
38 Amusement Park	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
39 Arena/Stadium/Fairgrounds/Coliseum	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
40 ATM Separate from Bank	2 Open area, street or public transport
41 Auto Dealership New/Used	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
42 Camp/Campground	2 Open area, street or public transport
44 Daycare Facility	5 Institutional care setting
45 Dock/Wharf/Freight/Modal Terminal	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
46 Farm Facility	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises

47 Gambling Facility/Casino/Race Track	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
48 Industrial Site	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
49 Military Installation	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
50 Park/Playground	2 Open area, street or public transport
51 Rest Area	2 Open area, street or public transport
52 School – College/University	3 Schools or other educational institutions
53 School – Elementary/Secondary	3 Schools or other educational institutions
54 Shelter – Mission/Homeless	5 Institutional care setting
55 Shopping Mall	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
56 Tribal Lands	7 Other
57 Community Center	6 Other commercial or public non-residential premises
58 Cyberspace	7 Other

Annex 3: Case Studies

Colombia: Process of adopting the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)

The National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), which is the statistical authority in Colombia and the governing and coordinating body of the National Statistical System, led the process of adopting ICCS to the Colombian context in cooperation with the entities of the justice, security and defence sector and with the support of UNODC Colombia and the UNODC-INEGI Center of Excellence. In 2018, given the lack of harmonization of concepts and comparable statistics at the local and international level, the opportunity to adapt ICCS arose to improve the statistical production process of the criminal justice sector through the development of a common conceptual framework based on Law 599 of 2000 (Colombian criminal code).

A working team for the adoption of ICCS was created consisting of professionals in statistical standards and classifications within the Directorate of Regulation, Planning, Standardization and Normalization (DIRPEN) of DANE. This team was in charge of reading, understanding and analyzing the classification and the Colombian penal code to make a preliminary proposal for the adoption of both the concepts and the structure and explanatory notes of the international ICCS to the Colombian context based on the Colombian penal code. This analysis also included the mapping of the classification categories against the articles of the Colombian penal code. DANE carried out the adoption following the recommendations of the UNODC and prepared two Excel files: a file with the disaggregated structure of the classification with explanatory notes and correspondence tables and a file with the associated concepts and their referents for each section of the classification.

Based on this preliminary proposal, the Center of Excellence and UNODC Colombia were requested to conduct an ICCS awareness raising workshop among sector entities in July 2019 in Bogota. The workshop trained the participating entities of the justice, security and defence sector in their understanding of the principles, concepts, structure and uses of ICCS. The aim was to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics in Colombia along three main axes: i) improve the comparability of statistics at national and international level, ii) stress the importance of the harmonization of concepts on crime in the sector, and iii) clarify the role of DANE and other relevant entities in the process of ICCS implementation in Colombia through joint work agreements and the establishment of an implementation road map.

For the convening of this workshop, formal invitation letters were prepared for the leaders of the justice, security and defence sector entities by DANE. Entities were also asked to designate two suitable focal points (thematic experts) who would participate in subsequent round table sessions for the implementation of ICCS. The invitation included a proposed work schedule from July 2019 to July 2020. The round tables would be held every 15 days at DANE's facilities from 8am to 12pm. Before starting the round tables, DANE mapped the most relevant entities for each ICCS section according to their mission and relevance in the production of official crime statistics. The most relevant entities in the production of official crime statistics, such as the Police, the Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Defence, participated in all the scheduled meetings.

It should be noted that prior to the start of each round table, the DANE ICCS team reviewed and prepared files containing the structure, explanatory notes and concepts of the section to be worked on and shared them three days before each meeting. During the round tables, the entities supported

the verification of the correspondence between ICCS and the Colombian Criminal Code, participated in the elaboration of the conceptual framework and contributed in the revision and drafting of the explanatory notes as well as the inclusions and exclusions. The Excel files were adjusted as the roundtable discussions progressed, which would serve as input for the preparation of the final document of the national classification.

Once the round tables were completed, the ICCS team of DANE consolidated the input and produced a PDF file. Subsequently, the adapted classification document was sent for approval to DANE's Statistical Classifications Committee. With this endorsement, a public consultation was carried out on the DANE web page where the detailed structure of the classification and the draft resolution were uploaded in order to receive comments from all interested citizens. At the end of the consultation, the ICCS team reviewed the comments and responded to them by accepting or rejecting the proposed adjustments under technical criteria. Once the adjustments were made, the final document and the resolution were uploaded on the DANE web page. The classification adapted for Colombia in December 2020 was named International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes adapted for Colombia (ICCS A.C.).

In order to facilitate the implementation of the adapted ICCS by the entities, the ICCS team of DANE uploaded supporting documents to the DANE web page, including two Excel files:

- A correspondence table showing the correspondence between ICCS and ICCS A.C.
- A correspondence table showing the correspondence between ICCS A.C. and the Colombian Penal Code.

In 2021, the need to update the adapted classification became evident after a consultation with the entities of the sector and taking into account a resolution that proposed the annual maintenance of the classification. For this purpose, virtual round tables were convened with the focal points of the entities of the justice, security and defence sector. During the round tables, proposals were discussed and adjusted jointly with the participants of the entities with the objective of reaching consensus on the topics subject to adjustments: i) adding disaggregating variables, ii) removing categories that generated duplicity in the recording of information, iii) transferring categories and updating inclusions and exclusions according to changes in the law, and iv) improving the description of categories and adjusting explanatory notes in the correspondence tables.

For each round table, minutes were prepared to record the agreements reached at the tables. Likewise, for the maintenance process, the ICCS team of DANE built an Excel log to keep track of the process, where the changes of form and substance in the structure, explanatory notes and correspondence tables of each section were recorded, as well as their justification. The updated classification was called International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes Adapted for Colombia 2022 (ICCS A.C. 2022) and the same process was followed for the consolidation of the final document and its officialization as for the first adaptation of the classification in 2020.

Kyrgyzstan: Promoting interoperability through ICCS adoption

Kyrgyzstan is working to further modernize its crime statistics systems, with the ultimate goal of bringing the system in line with the International Crime Classification for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).

Since 2019, the UNODC has been working with national counterparts to improve the e-crime system and integrate relevant statistical systems under the established Unified Crime Register in Kyrgyzstan. The Unified Crime Register (formerly known as the Unified Register of Crimes and Misdemeanours) is embedded in the law under Article 5(31) of the 2021 Code of Criminal Procedure, where it is defined as "an electronic database into which data shall be entered with respect to the beginning of pre-trial proceedings, procedural actions and decisions, movement of the case, applicants and participants of criminal court proceedings". The law requires the police, prosecutors, judges and other officials whose conduct is governed by it to record or transmit the necessary information to the system in a timely manner.

To ensure the system is aligned with ICCS, an expert group mapped the national crime classification (based on the revised Criminal Code of 2019) against the International Crime Classification. This resulted in the draft national crime classification of 2019. The crime classification is being used by the National Statistics Committee (NSC) for data consolidation and reporting purposes. However, the classification needs to be further updated and aligned with ICCS, considering the 2021 revision of the Criminal Code and additional disaggregation variables (e.g., age, gender) that need to be introduced.

In 2020, as part of this process, a group of experts – including representatives of the NSC, the Supreme Court and several independent experts – facilitated the consolidation of the national administrative data statistics systems, including data integration with the Supreme Court system and the elimination of inconsistencies in the Unified Crime Register.

Since 2021, the UNODC has actively worked with the national partners to improve the collection and analysis of crime data and to assist them in building the capacity of national statistical staff. As a result, Kyrgyzstan has become one of the leaders in the region in revising its approaches to Gender Based Violence and Trafficking in persons data. Crime and justice statistics are based on administrative data sources collected by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Justice Department, the General Prosecutor's Office and the State Penitentiary Service. In addition, data on the activities of crisis centres, shelters, "aksakal" courts, and centres providing social and psychological assistance to the population are collected by the territorial state statistical bodies.

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