



**ICVS 2010 pilot**

**PROJECT REPORT**

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## Content

<b>Chapter 1 Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 History of the ICVS	4
1.2 Towards the ICVS 2010 – pilot	4
1.3 Project aim	4
<b>Chapter 2 Organisation</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Background and original design	6
2.2 EU tender procedure	6
2.3 Project execution	6
2.4 Organizational remarks	7
<b>Chapter 3 Methodology</b>	<b>8</b>
3.2 Multi mode interviewing	8
3.3 Questionnaire	8
3.4 Fieldwork description	8
3.4.1 Target population and fieldwork period	9
3.4.2 Interview modes for the ICVS 2010	9
3.4.3 Sample per mode	9
3.4.4 Approach strategy	9
3.5 Weighting	9
3.6 Costs	9
3.7 Methodological findings	10
<b>Chapter 4 Survey Findings</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1 Victimization	11
4.1.1 Victimization by country by mode	11
4.1.2 Victimization by gender and by age	12
4.1.3 Victimization rates compared with National Victims Surveys	13
4.1.4 Victimization rates ICVS pilot: Conclusion	14
4.2 Safety feelings	15
<b>Chapter 5 Conclusion</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>19</b>
Appendix 1. Project deliverables	20
Appendix 2. Operational guidelines	21
Appendix 3. Tables	24
Appendix 4. ICVS Conferences	27
Appendix 5. Comments on the technical report	36
Appendix 6. Technical report	37

## **Chapter 1 Introduction**

The first chapter of this project report starts with an overview of the history of the International Crime Victims Surveys and the path towards the pilot study in 2010.

### **1.1 History of the ICVS**

The International Crime Victims Survey was initiated in 1987 by a group of European criminologists (Jan van Dijk, Pat Mayhew, Martin Killias) with expertise in national crime surveys. The main reason to start the ICVS project was because there was a need for reliable crime statistics that could be used for international comparison. Statistics on police-reported crimes were not usable for international comparison because of the differences in legal definitions of crimes across countries. Also, the willingness of the public to report crimes to the police and the recording practices and counting rules of the police varies across countries. Therefore, results of nation-specific crime victims surveys have become the preferred source of information on levels of crime in many countries. National crime victims surveys, however, differ in questionnaires and other key design features. Therefore, the results of these surveys are incomparable across countries.

The ICVS tends to fill the void of comparable information on crime statistics across countries. By using one questionnaire, based upon existing instruments of national crime victims surveys of The Netherlands, England & Wales and Switzerland, the results of the ICVS are somewhat comparable between different countries. Unfortunately, full standardisation of all design aspects has proven to be difficult. Differences in fieldwork concluded mode of interviewing and period in which the fieldwork was done.

Between 1989 and 2005 there have been 5 main rounds of the ICVS. By the end of 2005 over 140 surveys had been done in over 78 different countries (38 nationwide). Over 320.000 citizens were interviewed by phone or in person.

The ICVS provides a measure of common crimes to which the general public is exposed to, including relatively minor offences such as petty theft as well as more serious crimes such as car thefts, sexual assaults or threats/assaults. Due to the small sample sizes (2000 persons interviewed in most countries and 800 in main cities) it was not possible to provide estimates for less frequent offences such as rapes or aggravated assaults. Since the ICVS have been repeated several times in many countries, results can also be used to compare trends in crime over a period of twenty years.

### **1.2 Towards the ICVS 2010 – pilot**

In 2008, after the fifth edition of the ICVS (2005), the position about future international crime victims surveys was reviewed by a small group of International Government Research Directors (IGRD). This group represents the largest Government criminal justice research groups and meets regularly to discuss topics of mutual interest. The group stated that before a next edition of the ICVS took place it was necessary to carry out a pilot study, which focused on minimising costs for the survey and enlarging comparability of the results across countries.

Nowadays, internet interviewing is by far one of the cheapest modes of interviewing. The possibilities of using mixed mode interviewing including the internet to minimise the costs was one of the main topics of the pilot. In addition, to ensure greater comparability, the IGRD felt the fieldwork should be executed over the same period in all participating countries and through a centralized organisation.

To execute the pilot study a grant was obtained under the European Commission's Prevention of and Fight against Crime 2009 programme. Six members of the IGRD agreed to participate in the pilot study. Nicis Institute in the Netherlands was appointed to centrally manage this project and Intomart GfK and TNS Nipo jointly undertook the fieldwork.

### **1.3 Project aim**

The preparations for the pilot study started in 2009 with the application for the grant. The project aim as described in the grant is:

*The purpose of the project is to develop a cost effective methodology and tools for harmonized crime victims surveys in an international context, based on the experiences from previous ICVS surveys and national surveys, in particular the Dutch Victims Survey.*

The methodology for the ICVS 2010 pilot is developed by Nicis Institute and WODC, other project partners contributed by advising on the development.

After the development stage, the methodology was tested in a survey in 6 countries (5 EU MS and 1 non MS) with, depending on the used interview modes, 3.500 or 4.500 respondents per country.

This report describes the results of the pilot study. The aim of this report is to give an description of the project itself (e.g. organization, methodology) and to present the outcomes of the survey in the light of the described project aims.

This project report is part of the deliverables of the project, next to the technical report including other methodological findings of the survey (such as response rates analyses), a toolkit which will provide a basis for conducting comparative victim surveys (including the fieldwork description and questionnaire), the database for the ICVS 2010 and a website on which all information about the ICVS will be available. An overview of all the deliverables are given in appendix 1.

## Chapter 2 Organisation

The following chapter gives an short overview of the organisation of the ICVS 2010 pilot from the start of the project and ends with some organizational considerations and lessons learned.

### 2.1 Background and original design

The new approach for the ICVS 2010 pilot is based on the Dutch Victims Survey which has from 2008 been carried out using a mixed mode approach. Traditionally victim surveys leaned heavy on the very expensive CAPI (face to face) and CATI (telephone) modes, in most cases with the traditional paper and pencil approach additionally. To carry out a victim survey, leading to reliable results on the national level, soon requires a net response of several thousand..

The ICVS 2010 was originally designed as a mixed mode survey based on Internet (CAWI), telephone (CATI) and Paper questionnaire (PAPI) respondents. To avoid a self selecting bias respondents were invited to participate. A random address sample is used for the CAWI part. Each selected address receives an invitation per mail in which the person age 15+ in the household who is having their birthday closet to the interview date was invited to fill in the on-line questionnaire. For the telephone part of the survey Random Digit Dialing is used as sampling technique. Cawi respondents were offered the possibility to ask for a paper questionnaire.

### 2.2 EU tender procedure

Under these conditions a EU tender procedure was started with the aim to select a private company for the complete field work for the project. The procedure did not result in a acceptable bid. Two potential partners responded but none of them met the conditions defined in the technical guidelines.

Because of this the guidelines were adapted through introducing the possibility of using large scale panels to draw a representative sample for 1/3 of the total respondents per country. By this means the very expensive sending of invitation letters can be avoided. Invitation by e-mail was possible because this information and the background characteristics of the respondents was available. A second EU tender procedure based on these new criteria was needed. This resulted in an acceptable bid by a consortium of TNS-NIPO and GFK-Intomart both Dutch partners of TNS and GFK. GFK acted as lead partner.

These unforeseen complications resulted in a considerable delay for the ICVS mainly because of the formal procedures needed for an additional EU tender procedure. This delay was communicated with the European Commission by the IGRD secretariat and accepted.

### 2.3 Project execution

After the start of the field work every participating country was visited by members of the project staff for consultation with the national partners and the field work organization involved. The visits were all well organized and offered the possibility to discuss the field work operations with all national public and private bodies involved. In general the field work operation was carried out as expected. All findings from the field work operation are described in detail in the technical report which was presented at an expert meeting in Liege and is an integral part of the work package.

After the field work the analysis of the data and preparation for the final conference started. The preliminary results were discussed and commented during the meeting in Freiburg, organized together with the Max Planck Institute. After this meeting the final report was written and discussed with the project board.

## 2.4 Organizational remarks

Next to the more technical and statistical remarks elsewhere in this final report some more organizational remarks are placed under this heading

1. EU tender procedures and tender procedures demanded by Dutch law were very time consuming and demanded additional administrative and judicial support by specialists. For this procedure a specialized Dutch firm was hired and made use of the expertise of the Dutch Ministry of Justice. Without this specialized knowledge the tender procedure would not have been successful
2. In a more technical and statistical project like the ICVS there was a tendency to underestimate the cost of simple administrative steps.
3. In the ICVS 2010 approach we tried to reduce the burden of coordination international fieldwork by inviting an international active field work organization with partners in all participating countries. This was done under the assumption that the national partners of this organization accepted their Dutch partner as leading. This worked well in most cases but not always. Field visits were absolutely needed to avoid coordination problems. In some countries we had to intervene personally or with the aid of a national government body for additional coordination measures. For future ICVS projects, this should be taken into account.
4. The ICVS 2010 is set up as a project under the Prince II rules of project management. The project manager was in charge of all operations, technical, administrative and financial. The project board acted as back up under the "management by exception rule". This approach worked very well for this project. One lesson was learned for future projects. Always consider the possibility that essential positions in the project become vacant during the project. The ICVS 2010 project manager left the NICIS organization before the end of the project. Unforeseen efforts were needed to introduce the project to a new project manager.

## Chapter 3 Methodology

The methodology used for the ICVS 2010 is developed by Nicis Institute and the WODC (Research and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Justice in The Netherlands). Other parties of the project, the UK Home Office, the Swedish Council of Crime Prevention, the Danish Ministry of Justice, the BundesKriminalAmt and the Max Planck Institute from Germany, have contributed by advising on the development of the methodology.

Countries who participated in the ICVS 2010 pilot survey were all members of the IGRD: Canada, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, United Kingdom and Sweden. The fieldwork was jointly done by TNS Nipo and Intomart GfK.

### **3.2 Multi mode interviewing**

For the last edition of the ICVS in 2005 the data collection in most countries have been carried out with computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). Interviews were carried out via fixed landline telephone with exception of Finland. In a few countries the surveys were conducted with face to face interviewing.

To obtain a cost effective method for the collection of data, the use of online data collection was introduced, in addition to CATI. As known, internet interviewing is by far one of the cheapest modes of interviewing. For the pilot, two different approaches of internet interviewing is used: internet (online access) panel interviews (CAWI P) and internet address-bases register interviews (CAWI R). The latter method contains sending an invitation for participating by postal mail, followed by an internet questionnaire.

### **3.3 Questionnaire**

For the ICVS 2010 standardization was an important issue. Without a standardized approach statistical errors may occur, resulting in unpredictable effects on the final results. In the previous editions of the ICVS the questionnaire was fixed, although in practice some (groups of) countries did add their own questions.

A new questionnaire has been developed for the ICVS 2010, based on the questionnaire from previous editions of the ICVS and the Dutch Victims Survey. To achieve as much comparability over time as possible the wording of the questions (e.g. description of crimes) and the order in which the crimes were asked are, with some exceptions, the same as in the old ICVS questionnaire. The structure of the victimization part of the questionnaire have been adjusted in view of the usability of the same questionnaire for the different types of modes used in the ICVS 2010. Also, the order of the topics has changed (safety feelings in front of victimization).

The new standardized questionnaire contains questions about the following topics: safety feelings, victimisation on conventional and non-conventional crimes, security precautions and policing and sentencing. The questionnaire was written in English but has been translated into the following languages: French, German, Danish, Dutch and Swedish.

### **3.4 Fieldwork description<sup>1</sup>**

The principal aim, as stated earlier, is determining crime levels in different countries in a comparable way. To accomplish this it is of high importance that the methodology used in the participating countries is alike. For the ICVS 2010 there were strict operational guidelines defined (see appendix 2 for operational guidelines).

Unfortunately, due to situational differences (for instance availability of national address-based register, coverage of landline telephones, internet penetration) it was not always possible to follow all the guidelines. Moreover the guidelines have been adjusted in the course of time because no fieldwork agency was able to follow all the guidelines as defined at the beginning of the project. The next section gives a description of the fieldwork as it was actually carried out.

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<sup>1</sup> For more detailed description including response rates, see appendix 5 for the technical report



### **3.4.1 Target population and fieldwork period**

The target population of the ICVS 2010 was the adult population (aged 16+), nationally representative for all participating countries in terms of age and gender. Although the period in which the interviewing took place was strictly defined, from May 17 till June 27 2010, in Denmark there was a considerable delay due to miscommunication between the fieldwork agencies.

### **3.4.2 Interview modes for the ICVS 2010**

The ICVS 2010 is a multi-mode study consisting of telephone interviews (CATI), internet (online access) panel interviews (CAWI P) and, in some countries, internet address-based register interviews (CAWI R). For CAWI R it was necessary that a country has a reliable and accessible person based address database. Unfortunately this was not common in every country. Therefore, only two of the six countries (The Netherlands and Denmark) participating in ICVS 2010 used CAWI R for data collection.

### **3.4.3 Sample per mode**

The net sample size per country was set at 2000 for CATI, 1500 for CAWI P and 1000 for CAWI R. The way the sample was drawn differs per country and per mode. For example, a panel was used for CAWI P, but in some countries the fieldwork agency used their own panel, in others they bought the required sample from panel agencies. For CATI the sample was drawn by random digit dialling (randomly generating telephone numbers) or telephone numbers were bought from address database suppliers.

There was no previous guideline for the gross sample size. The gross sample size depends on expected response rates and these rates vary significantly per participating country.

### **3.4.4 Approach strategy**

Three different modes of interviews means three types of approach strategies.

CATI – For CATI telephone numbers were available by RDD or bought databases. The gross sample should be evenly spread over the fieldwork period. Each telephone number is dialled to a maximum of seven times at different times a day and on different weekdays.

CAWI P – The panel members for CAWI P are approached by mail, inviting them to respond by internet (in the mail a link to the questionnaire is available). When not responding a reminder is sent after two weeks. The gross sample should also be evenly spread over the fieldwork period.

CAWI R – The approach strategy for CAWI R is more or less the same as CAWI P, except that the invitation and reminder is sent out by postal mail.

## **3.5 Weighting**

To get reliable outcomes for a country, it is necessary that the respondents are a representative part of the population. For the ICVS the respondents needed to be representative by age, gender and Nuts2 region. To obtain a net sample that is representative on these three characteristics fieldwork agencies used in some countries fixed quota's, meaning setting in advance a maximum for a particular group equal to the national distribution. In other countries the data was weighted afterwards, so after weighting the sample was representative for age, gender and region.

## **3.6 Costs**

It is not possible to give a precise cost overview in order to establish a financial comparison between methods and/or countries. The overall costs made by each country were too dependent on local tariffs, internal agreements, long-term partnerships, bulk deals, negotiated prices and/or similar price agreements.

**Table 1. Methodological summary per country**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Fieldwork agency</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>Net Sample</b>	<b>Sampling frame</b>	<b>Type of quota</b>
<b>Canada</b>	Intomart GfK	CATI	2000	RDD	Weight factor
		CAWI P	1500	Panel	Fixed quota's
<b>Denmark</b>	Intomart GfK	CATI	2000	Address database	Weight factor
		CAWI P	1500	Panel	Fixed quota's
		CAWI R	1000	Address database	Weight factor
<b>Germany</b>	Intomart GfK	CATI	2000	RDD	Weight factor
		CAWI P	1500	Panel	Fixed quota's
<b>The Netherlands</b>	TNS Nipo	CATI	2000	Panel	Weight factor
		CAWI P	1500	Panel	Weight factor
		CAWI R	1000	Address database	Weight factor
<b>United Kingdom</b>	TNS Nipo	CATI	2000	RDD	Weight factor
		CAWI P	1500	Panel	Weight factor
<b>Sweden</b>	TNS Nipo	CATI	2000	Address database	Weight factor
		CAWI P	1500	Panel	Weight factor

### **3.7 Methodological findings**

In this paragraph we discuss the findings of the newly developed methodology for the ICVS and the challenges that were present during the fieldwork.

The new questionnaire has been proven usable for the different types of modes. Although, the questionnaire was meant for paper and pencil interviewing, it was rather easy to construct internet and telephone versions.

The average questionnaire length was 11 minutes for CATI and 9 minutes for CAWI. The questionnaire length for CATI in Germany was significantly higher than the average length (16 minutes). This is caused by the language, German is less direct (using more words).

The respondents had an opportunity to submit general remarks about the questionnaire. There have been very little complaints about the content of the questionnaire. A few German respondents complained that the questions about precautions taken to protect their homes were too private.

The response rates between countries and between modes showed wide variation. Especially the response on CAWI R in the Netherlands was disappointingly low in comparison with the expected response rate. The response rate on CAWI P for Canada was only 3%. Although the expected response rate was low as well (7%), some questions have arisen about this low response rate. Inquire at the fieldwork agency showed that the low response rate was probably caused by a lower panel involvement in Canada. Eventually the net sample was achieved in all countries and for all the modes.

It was felt important that the organisation of the ICVS was centralized enabling a good overview to be maintained. It is often impossible to predict everything that happens during preparation and fieldwork itself in advance. By centralising the organisation, one party is responsible and if necessary can make adjustments and inform other parties. Nevertheless, one must bear in mind that centralized organisation will remain a challenge. Furthermore, the assumption that using one or two fieldwork agencies would lead to more uniformity hasn't been proven right in all the cases. Differences between countries will remain due to for example communication problems (which caused the delay in Denmark).

Although it is not possible to give an exact cost overview for the ICVS 2010, a general rule for pricing of the different methods can be defined: Overall CATI is three times more expensive than CAWI although this depends on the country. Countries with lower income levels are more cost efficient for CATI because the costs for the interview hours are lower. These wages will have less effect on the CAWI costs. Also the desired net response is of influence on the costs, when a higher net response is desired, this will have a higher cost increasing effect on CATI, because of an increase of interview hours.

## Chapter 4 Survey Findings

To see whether the developed methodology was usable for the purpose of determining crime levels (and in the future their trends) between different countries, the data obtained by the survey has been analysed.

The key findings of the most important topics of the ICVS are presented in this chapter. Note that the results presented are not intended to determine absolute crime rates.

The results presented are derived from the database delivered by Intomart GfK. As agreed, Intomart GfK received the cleaned, and where necessary weighted, data file of all participating countries and combined the files into one database. The database and the set-up are available on [www.int-cvs.org](http://www.int-cvs.org).

To obtain as much as comparability possible with the previous edition of the ICVS the outcomes are computed in the same manner as ICVS 2005, using for example the same combined variables and the same answer categories for the results. When error margins are presented, these are based on a 90% confidence level<sup>2</sup>.

### 4.1 Victimisation

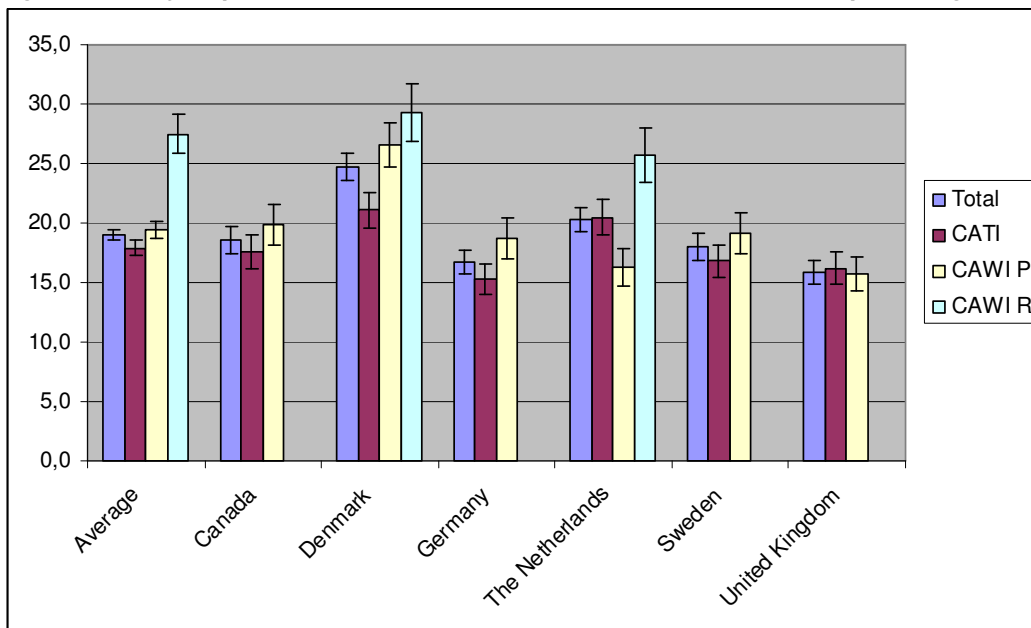
The main part of the ICVS 2010 was about victimisation. Respondents were asked if they have been victim on thirteen different types of crime in total. These thirteen types of crime can be divided in common crimes, like robbery and car theft and non-conventional crimes such as identity fraud. This report focuses solely on the common crimes.

#### 4.1.1 Victimisation by country by mode

In the ICVS (2010 as well as previous editions) the following ten crimes are perceived as common crimes: car theft, theft from a car, theft of motorcycles, bicycle theft, burglary, attempted burglary, robbery, theft of personal property, sexual incidents and assaults and threats. Victimisation on these ten types of crime combined gives an overview for the overall victimisation rate.

In figure 1 the victimisation rates are presented per country and per mode to see whether the different modes used, gave different results.

**Figure 1. One year prevalence victimisation rates on ten common crimes (percentages).**



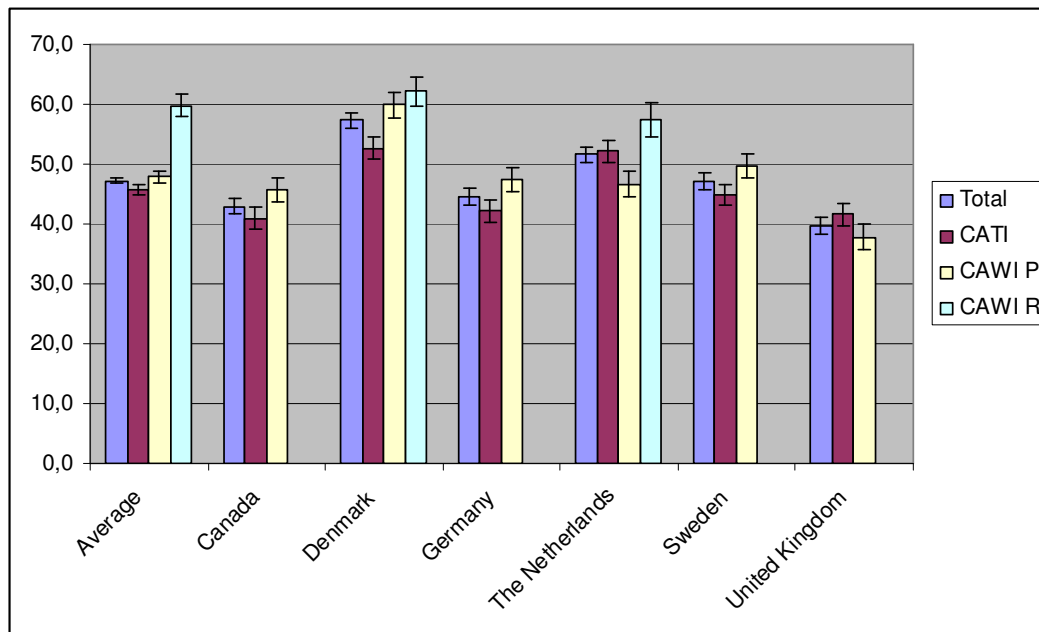
<sup>2</sup> Error margins are also computed as in the ICVS 2005:  $1.65 * \sqrt{[p(100-p)/n]}$

The average victimisation rate on ten common crimes for CAWI P is higher than on CATI. However, as is visible the differences aren't significant. One might say that the victimisation rates on both modes were comparable. The average victimisation rate on CAWI R on the other hand is significantly higher than both CATI and CAWI P.

The victimisation rates per mode within the countries generally shows the same tendency, rates on CATI and CAWI P correspond with each other. Only in Denmark and The Netherlands it seems that the victimisation rates significantly differs per mode. However in Denmark the victimisation rate on CAWI P is significantly higher than CATI and in The Netherlands it is the other way around. The panel approach used by the Netherlands for CATI may be a factor causing differences in victimisation rates.

For control purposes, the results on 5 years prevalence victimisation rates are presented in figure 2. Overall, the findings are alike.

**Figure 2. Five years prevalence victimisation rates on ten common crimes (percentages)**

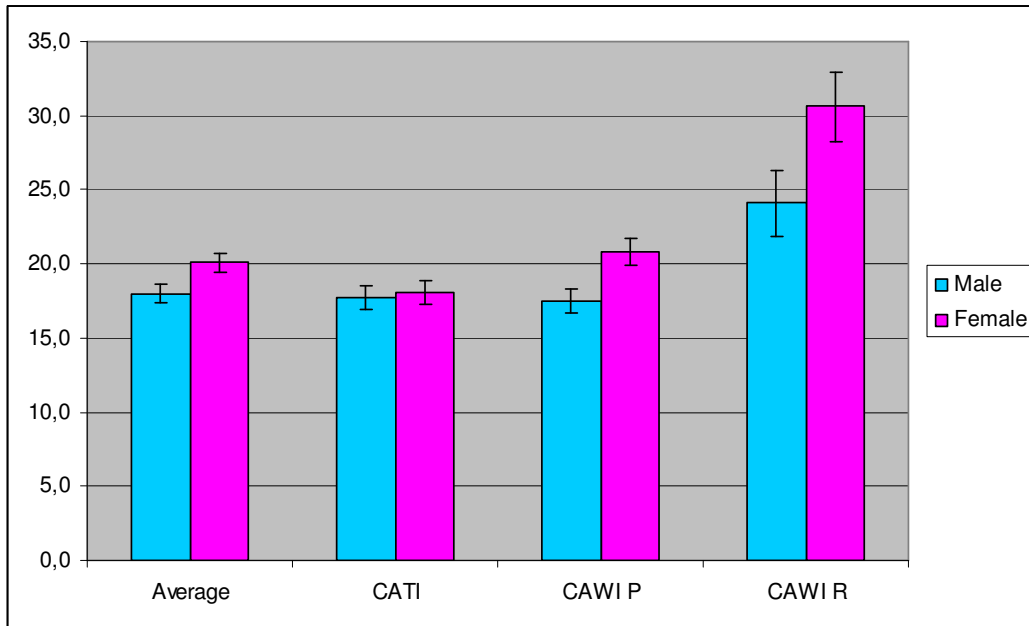


#### 4.1.2 Victimization by gender and by age

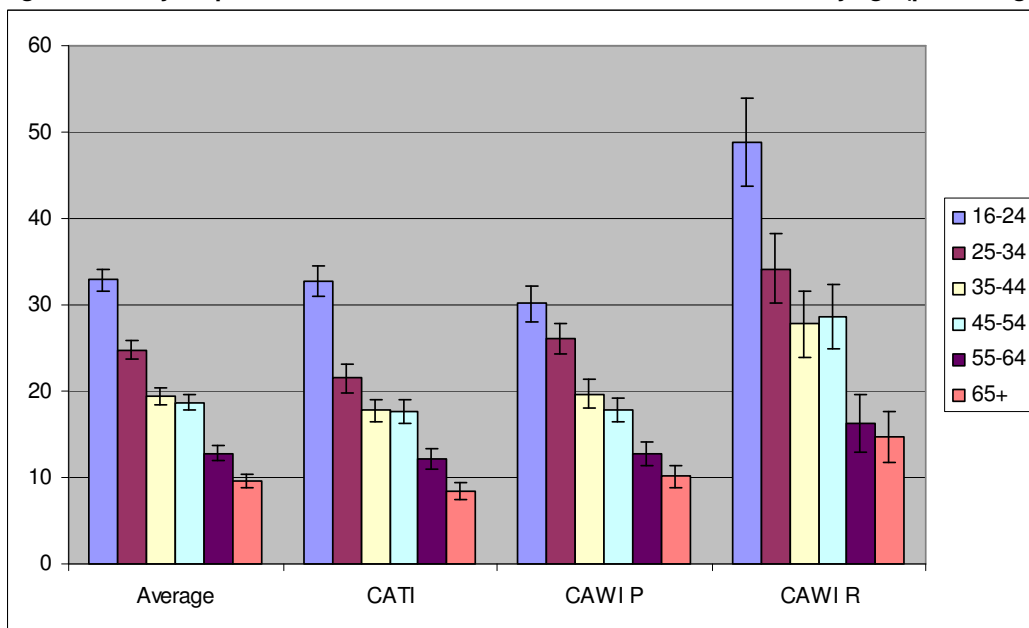
The victimisation rate on common crimes seems gender related. On average the victimisation rate for females were significant higher than for men. When the assumption is made that there are no mode-effects, the distribution should be the same for the different modes. In other words, victimisation rates for women should be higher on all the modes. As seen in figure 3 the victimisation rates for women were indeed higher than for men on all the modes, but the differences were not always significant for CATI interviews.

When the victimisation rate is divided by age, it seems this rate is just like gender, also related to age. People aged from 16 to 25 were one average significantly more victimised than in any of the other age categories. People aged between 35 and 44 were on average as often victim as people between 45 and 54. The same distribution is visible on all the modes. The results are presented in figure 4.

**Figure 3. One year prevalence victimisation rate on ten common crimes by gender (percentages)**



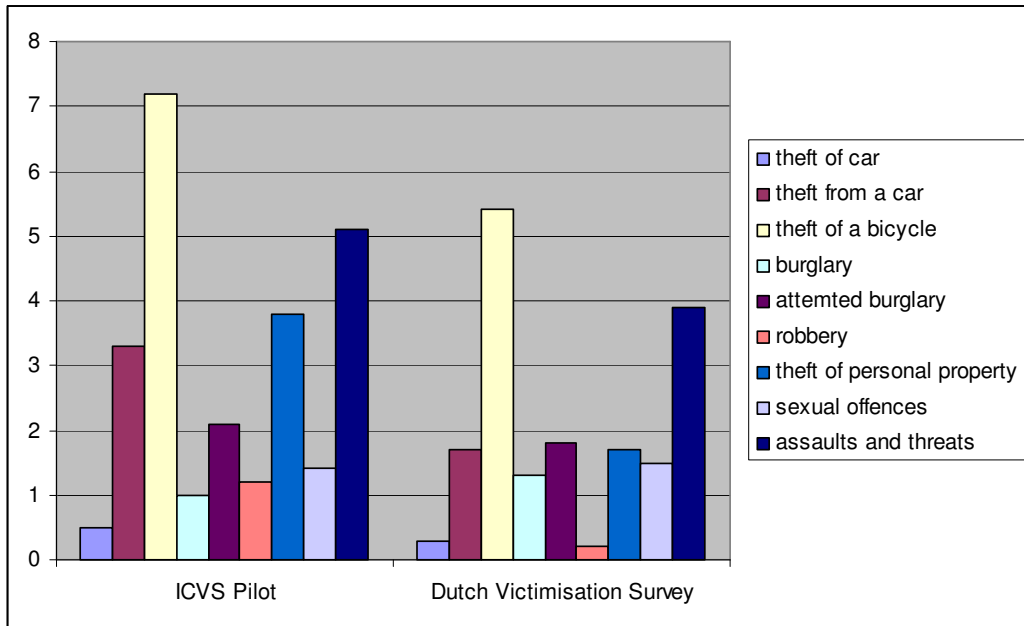
**Figure 4. One year prevalence victimisation rate on ten common crimes by age (percentages)**



#### **4.1.3 Victimization rates compared with National Victims Surveys**

The outcomes for victimisation were also compared with the outcomes of some of the National Victims Surveys. The Dutch Victims Survey is the most suitable for comparing, because of the mixed mode method used in The Netherlands. But, one must bear in mind that the outcomes were not complete comparable, due to methodological differences. This is reflected in the fact that the percentages per crime differs between the Dutch survey and the percentages from the ICVS for the Netherlands. See figure 5 for the victimisation rates on those common crimes that were asked in both surveys. Although the percentages were not alike, figure 5 indicates that the 'ranking' of the crimes are on general the same. In other words, theft of bicycle is the most common crime in both surveys. The ranking for robbery and theft of personal property are not similar, because the definitions of these crimes are not the same in both surveys.

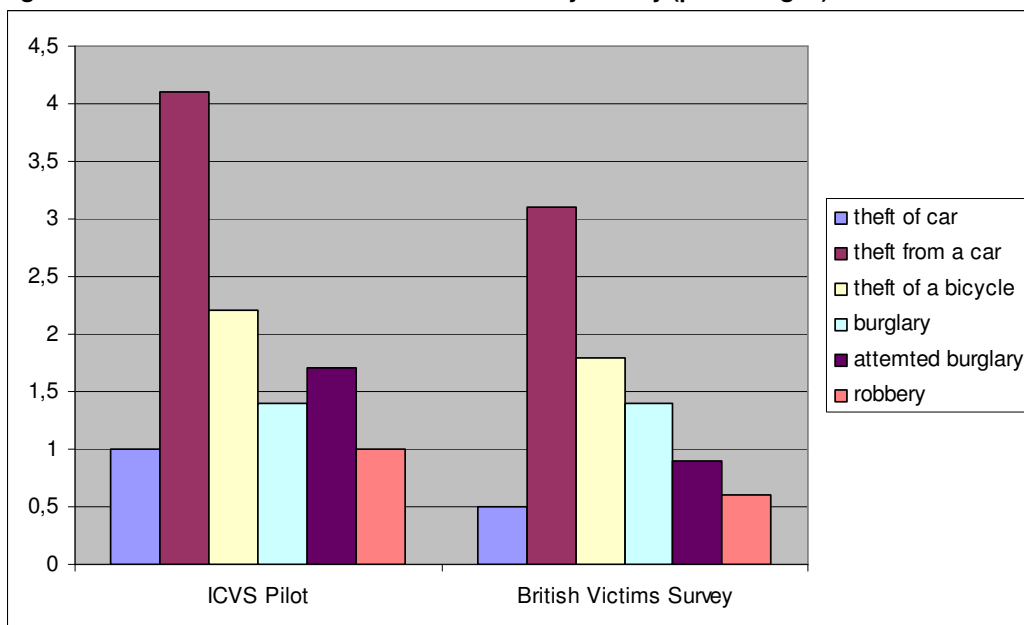
**Figure 5. Victimisation rates on common crimes by survey (percentages)**



\* ICVS Pilot for The Netherlands only

The results on victimisation for the United Kingdom are also compared with the British Crime Victimization Survey (which only covers England & Wales). From the ten common crimes asked in the ICVS it was possible only to compare six of these crimes with the outcomes on the national survey (see figure 6). The 'ranking' of these six crimes are again overall comparable with the exception of theft of a car.

**Figure 6. Victimisation rates on common crimes by survey (percentages)**



\* ICVS Pilot for the UK only

**4.1.4 Victimization rates ICVS pilot: Conclusion**

The analyses above leads to the conclusion that both CATI and CAWI P are appropriate modes to determine victimisation rates. As seen in figure 1 and 2 the victimisation rates for CATI and CAWI P on average and for most participating countries were not significantly different. No mode-effects

seems to appear. Differences shown may due differences in the sampling method (e.g. Panel for CATI in the Netherlands).

Figures 3 and 4 only strengthens this conclusion. For both gender and age the distribution of the results on the different modes are similar.

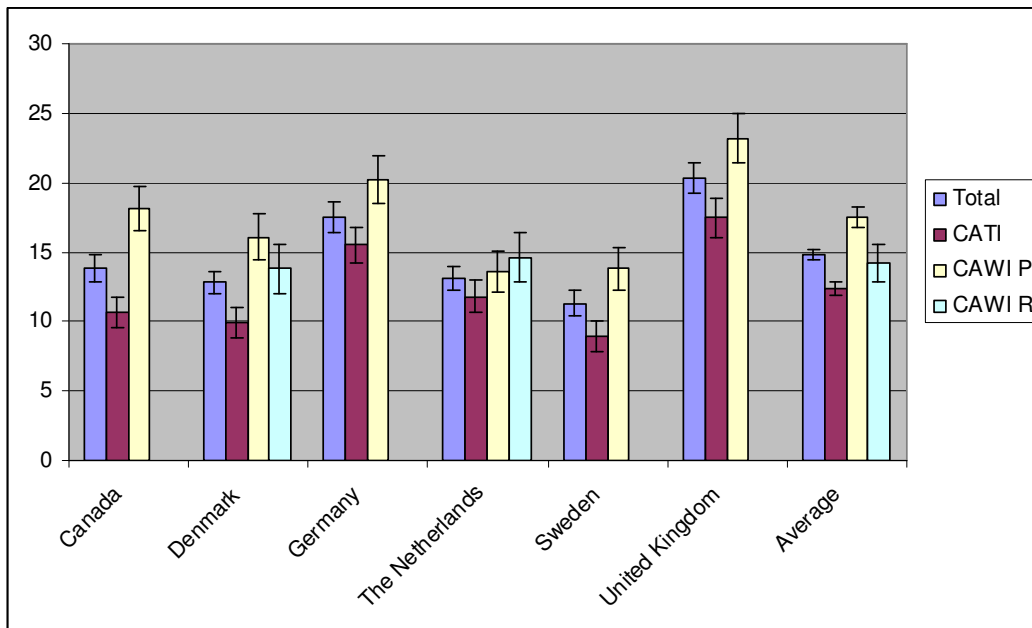
The comparison with the national surveys finally, shows that the 'ranking' of the crimes in the ICVS are per country similar to the 'ranking' in the national victims surveys and for some offences the victimisation rates are not significantly different..

#### 4.2 Safety feelings

Next to victimisation the other main topic of the survey is safety feelings. Therefore, a short analysis has been done on the data for safety feelings as well. As in the previous edition of the ICVS, the ICVS 2010 contains questions to determine whether respondents were feeling safe in their own neighbourhood or in their homes. One of the questions that was asked in both editions is 'How safe do you feel walking alone in your area after dark?'

As seen in figure 7, on average people responding on the internet indicate more often that they feel slightly to very unsafe. The results for almost all participating countries are the same: in comparison with the outcomes on CATI, a significant higher percentage of people on the internet says they feel slightly/very unsafe walking alone in the dark in their own area. These outcomes point into the direction of the presence of an effect of mode effects.

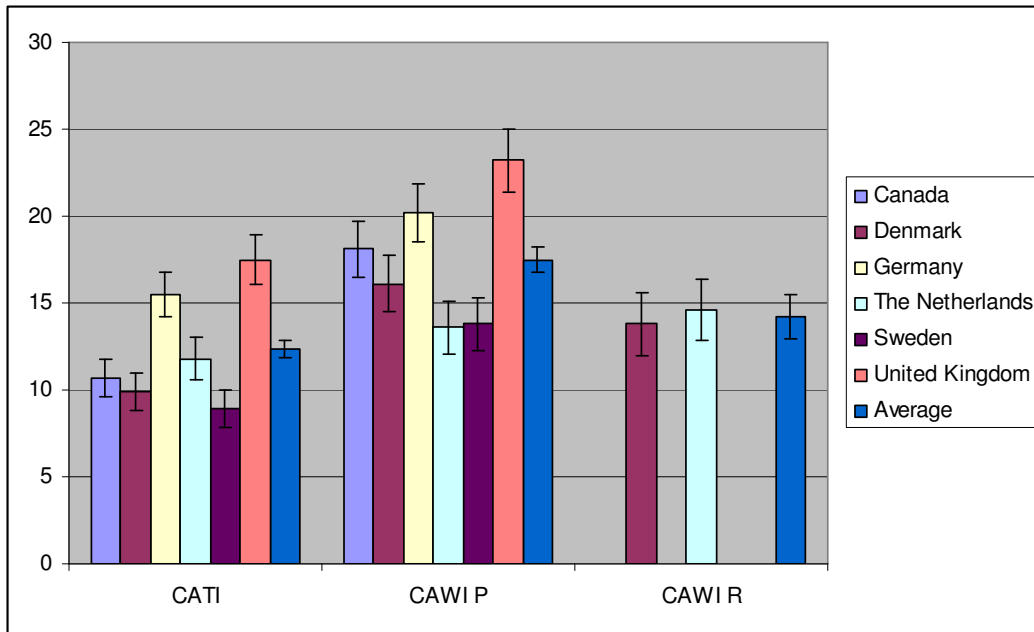
**Figure 7. Percentage of people feeling slightly/very unsafe walking alone in the dark in own area**



Because of the differences per mode it is important to determine if the outcomes within the modes are, although on another level, comparable. In other words, is the pattern of outcomes per country alike for all the modes. See figure below.

When comparing the percentages between countries, the bar charts for CATI and CAWI P have the same pattern. Only the levels are different. Therefore, when taking into account the higher level, both modes still could be a reliable mode to determine if people are feeling unsafe in their own neighbourhood after dark.

**Figure 8. Percentage of people feeling slightly/very unsafe walking alone in the dark in own area per mode.**





## Chapter 5 Conclusion

The main project aim was to develop a cost effective methodology and tools for a harmonized crime victims survey in an international context, based on the experiences from previous ICVS surveys and national surveys.

While the project did succeed in providing the deliverables, as described in this report and presented in the appendices, in these concluding remarks on the success of the project as a whole the two most important questions to address are:

1. Is the methodology as used in the project indeed cost effective?
2. Is the reliability of the sampling methods and interviewing modes used sufficient?

About the cost effectiveness the following remarks can be made due to the findings of the project:

- Not unexpectedly, the Internet interviewing mode is - at least in terms of carrying out the interview and processing the answers – very cost effective indeed.
- The costs of the telephone interviewing mode were – due to a relatively small questionnaire – not too high.
- However, due to a very low response rate in the Internet mode when using an address based register as a sample base, the low costs for Internet interviewing could only be achieved in combination with a panel from which the sample was drawn. The first tendering of the fieldwork was not successful because it did not give subscribers the possibility of using panels.
- The use of panels could well be inevitable for Victim Surveys in the future, at least for more developed countries. For various reasons: (1) Face – to face interviewing is too expensive, (2) response rates when addressing respondents taken from a general register are low and declining and (3) (for telephone interviewing) Random Digit Dialling is getting more restricted in some countries and (4) more respondents have put themselves on special registers not to be disturbed by phone interviewers.

It is very hard to formulate definitive conclusions on the reliability of the methodology. Some remarks can be made:

- With some exceptions, response rates were reasonable and apparently did not affect the reliability too much.
- In two countries Internet mode was (also) done with a sample from an address based register. This resulted in low response rates and very different results.
- In general (and with some exceptions) victimization and feelings of unsafety are higher with the Internet mode (ignoring the Internet mode where the sampling was done via an address register). This can be the combination of two effects: a mode effect and a sampling effect because all Internet modes were in combination with a panel while - with only one exception – telephone mode was not panel based.
- It is not clear what the mode effects exactly are. We observe some, but not too large differences between telephone and Internet. While it is impossible to know which modes are closer to 'reality', the use of both modes simultaneously (in a stable proportion) is to be preferred.
- During the project it was (again) obvious that a very strong central coordination is an absolute necessity in order to achieve harmonization. Any deviation from the predefined methodology (sampling method, interview instructions, number of 'recalls', wording of the questionnaire, etc.) is an unnecessary cause of incomparability.

As an overall conclusion for the project we can say that the methodology is indeed cost-effective and there are no clear indications that the reliability is not sufficient.

Having said that, it is obviously true that cost and quality are not independent from each other. Face to face interviewing with a sample drawn from a reliable person based register is generally felt as the most reliable way to do a survey. However, this will be simply too expensive for most countries. This brings us to the two main recommendations based on the findings in the project:

1. A cost effective survey can only be achieved with a large proportion of the response using the Internet mode. To reach more diversity in the type of respondents (more representativeness) telephone mode should be used as well. Because the exact mode effects between these two modes are not sufficiently clear, more research is needed in this regard.

2. Acknowledging the fact that a sample from a general register will always be more representative than a sample from a panel, we would strongly advise to consider using panels as well. The advantages (higher response rates, shorter questionnaires needed because some information is already present, etc.) could well outweigh the disadvantages (lower sample quality).

## **Appendices**

- 1. Project deliverables**
- 2. Operational guidelines**
- 3. Tables**
- 4. ICVS Conferences**
- 5. Comments on technical report**
- 6. Technical Report**

## Appendix 1. Project deliverables

Actual deliverables by Nicis Institute as defined in the agreement between Nicis Institute and WODC and in EC application.

1. *Finalized methodology and questionnaire.*  
This was an integral part of the agreement between Nicis Institute and the field work consortium selected through the tender procedure; technical guidelines and (translated) questionnaire are also part of the tool kit which is an element of the ICVS website.
2. *Organization of the tender procedure for the selection of an organization that will conduct the fieldwork.*  
Two EC tender procedures were carried out. The first procedure did not result in an acceptable offer under the financial conditions. The second procedure resulted in the selection of one fieldwork organization. The other party objected. After legal consultation an agreement was reached with a dedicated consortium of both fieldwork organizations involved. In both stages of the tender procedure Nicis Institute used the services of a specialized Dutch consultancy firm. [Suggest we leave this out as commercial information]
3. *Evaluation of the tender procedure with all partners and the final contracting.*  
Evaluation of the procedure and the final selection was carried out by Nicis Institute together with the project board.
4. *Communication with the fieldwork contractor,; the participating countries and monitoring and quality assurance of the actual fieldwork.*  
Communication with the contracting consortium was the responsibility of the Nicis project manager. They paid field visits to all the locations where the fieldwork was carried out. These visits included the representatives of the official government representatives from each of the participating countries, with exception of Canada. Only for reasons of efficiency the Canadian official representatives visited the fieldwork organization themselves. Their findings were communicated with the project manager. In almost all of the field visits the project leader was accompanied by a member of the project board. Due this close monitoring of the fieldwork it was possible to make a good quality assessment of the methods used and techniques.
5. *Responsibility for the production of a technical report describing the details of fieldwork and its results.*  
The technical report itself was drafted by the fieldwork consortium and monitored by the project manager. The technical report is presented by the consortium at the Liege meeting. Based on discussions during that meeting the report was adapted and will be published on the ICVS website.
6. *Organization of an expert meeting.*  
In this meeting in Liege (September 2010) the technical report as mentioned under heading 5 was presented and discussed.
7. *Carrying out analysis, produce reports and disseminate results as described in the annex to the EC application.*  
These activities are all carried out by Nicis Institute under the supervision of the project board. The findings are presented at the Freiburg conference in October 2010. The final version of the project report is published on the ICVS website.
8. *Coordination of the organization of a final conference to be organized by a partner from Germany.*  
The final conference in Freiburg was organized by the Max Planck Institute in close cooperation with the project manager. Minutes will be published on the ICVS web site.
9. *Coordination of the development of a database and website. The actual technical development of the website will be the responsibility of the WODC.*  
Due to unforeseen capacity problems at WODC, Nicis is asked to completely develop the website and data base for WODC. The website will be fully operational on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The data is accessible through SPSS and SPSS setups.
10. *Building and disseminating a toolkit containing all details for possible use by other countries for future ICVS projects.*  
The toolkit consists of a set of documents. Technical requirements for the fieldwork, questionnaires in the working languages of the ICVS, detailed guidelines for the use of the questionnaires SPSS setups usable for the analysis of the rough dataset. The toolkit will be an integral part of the ICVS website

## Appendix 2. Operational guidelines<sup>3</sup>

### 1. Introduction

Five editions have currently been carried out of the International Crime Victims Survey (ICVS). It was first established in 1989 to answer the need for reliable crime statistics to use for international comparisons since it had been found that crime surveys in individual countries could not provide comparative data. The original work was coordinated by a group from the WODC (Netherlands), Home Office (UK) and the University of Lausanne. Subsequently the coordination of this work mainly rested with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. The fifth survey was partly based on data from a survey for the majority of EU countries carried out by Gallup and co-financed by the European Commission (EU-ICS).

### 2 Methodology

The methodology presented here is focused on a survey for members of the International Government Research Directors Group who will act as Board for the project. However, as has been mentioned, the future intention will be that other countries should share the methodology as well which means that some design decisions are taken with that possibility in mind.

#### 2.1 General remarks

The principal aim of the ICVS is determining crime levels and their trends in different countries in a comparable way. This does not necessarily mean that the methodology used in every participating country has to be identical. Due to situational differences (availability of a national person-based register, coverage of landline telephones, internet use etc.) some differences may occur. This was also seen in the previous editions of the ICVS, where the interview method was not always by telephone. In addition, countries, or even groups of countries like those participating in the EU-ICS, added their own questions to the questionnaire.

Although the flexibility in methodology (sampling or interview methods) may be necessary, the intention is that the participating IGRD countries should use the same methodology .

#### 2.2 Sampling method

The first question to address is the sample size. The previous editions of the ICVS had a (net) sample size of 2,000 per country with oversampling in the main cities which resulted in rather large confidence intervals for individual crime types.

For the 2010 ICVS the net representative country sample size has been set at 4,000.

One of the most important issues, because it is closely related to the interview mode, is the way the sample will be taken. This is highly dependent on the technical and administrative possibilities within a country and not surprisingly the sampling method varied in previous surveys between countries in previous editions. Two considerations are important here:

- 1) Preferably the sample should be on the level of an individual. Only if this is not possible a person within the household (or living at the same address) is acceptable.<sup>4</sup>
- 2) Since the interview methods proposed will be multi mode and based on CAWI and CATI interviews (see next section) it is highly desirable to know the address of the individual or household.

This means that the preferred way of taking a sample is from a national person-based register, giving the address (as well as possibly the sex and age and some other background information) of the respondent. Stratification is possible in this way.

For the 2010 survey, the use of large-scale panels for the CAWI part of the survey will be tested. Therefore, up to a maximum of 50% (1,000) of the CAWI response, the use of these panels is accepted. The advantage of the use of panels is that, if the panel is representative for the total population, it is comparable with a person-based sample. Another advantage is that higher response

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<sup>3</sup> As used for the tender procedure

<sup>4</sup> Or, should the individual not be available, another person in the same household/living at the same address could be the respondent

rates are foreseen. If panels are used for a country, a detailed description of the panel (e.g. size, representativeness, stratification possibilities) must be a part of the final offer.

If the use of Internet panels in a country is not possible and a person-based register cannot be used, the sampling of the CAWI part of the survey should be based on an address-based register. For the CATI part of the survey random digit dialling (RDD) is the only sampling method possible.

To summarise the guidelines for the sampling method are therefore:

The sample is drawn in two stages, each resulting in the following net response:

- 2,000 for the CAWI mode of which 1,000 may be drawn from a panel;
- 2,000 for the telephone (CATI) mode.

The gross sample size depends on the expected response rates. This will vary significantly per participating country so a general guideline cannot be given

If a panel approach is chosen as part of the CAWI mode, a maximum of 50% of the CAWI sample may be drawn from a panel, the make-up/composition of the panel needs to be described in detail.

In all cases the sample should be stratified by Nuts 2 region. In this way a distinction between more urban and more rural location of the respondents is possible

## **2.3 Interview method(s)**

### **CAWI Modus**

Because the sample is register or panel-based, an address is known and therefore the process starts with an invitation by post to complete the questionnaire by Internet (CAWI). One of the advantages of CAWI is that it offers less freedom in handling the questionnaire and thus decreases the chances of erroneous answers (e.g. multi answers on single answer question.). Therefore special attention should be given to the routing of the programmed questionnaire.

The steps to be taken are the following:

- 1) A letter is sent to the respondent (or, if the respondent is not known by name the letter will be addressed to the member of the household 16 years or older who is the first to have his/her birthday), introducing the survey and inviting them to respond by Internet. In the letter an Internet address and a personal code is given.
- 2) Special attention has to be given to promote the use of the Internet. Next to the quality of the introductory letter, incentives are a way to reach that goal. A proposal from the selected field work organization on this is expected.
- 3) If there is no reply after two weeks a reminder should be sent.

The period in which the interviewing takes place is strictly defined. For the ICVS 2010 this is January 15 – April 15 2010 . In each month of this 3-month period one-third of the gross sample should be handled.

Should a panel approach be used, the proposal from the field work organization has to contain:

- A general description of the panel
- Description of the representativeness of the panel and how these are chosen from the full panel membership.
  
- Available background characteristics of the panel members
- An explanation as to how the panel survey will be undertaken

### **CATI Modus**

For the CATI modus Random Digit Dialling should be used. The interview period is January 15 – April 15 2010. The gross sample should be split evenly over the three months . The CATI interviews should be conducted by a professional outbound operator taking into account the sensitivity of some of the

questions. Each selected telephone number is dialled to a maximum of seven times at different times a day and at different weekdays.

A proposal is expected from the field work organization to be selected on

- stratification (Nuts 2)
- the mix between land lines and mobile numbers
- the actual sampling method of the telephone numbers.

#### **2.4 The questionnaire**

In the previous editions of the ICVS the questionnaire was fixed, although in practice some (groups of) countries did add their own questions. For the 2010 ICVS standardisation is an important issue. Without a standardised approach statistical errors (mode effects, country effects, surveying effects) may occur, resulting in unpredictable effects on the final results. Therefore a standardized questionnaire has to be used.

The questionnaire is not a completely new one: to achieve as much comparability over time as possible the wording of the questions (description of crimes) and the order in which the crimes asked for are placed are, with some exceptions, the same as the ICVS questionnaire from the fifth edition.

See Appendix 1 for the 2010 questionnaire. Although this is a questionnaire meant for paper interviewing (a mode which is NOT used in the ICVS), the Internet- and telephone questionnaires can easily be constructed from this one. The construction of the Internet- and telephone questionnaires is part of the activities of the survey organization to be selected in the tender procedure

#### **2.5 Translation**

The questionnaire is agreed on in the English version. A translation is necessary for the non-English speaking participating countries. The translation of the questionnaire is part of the activities of the survey organization to be selected in the tender procedure. The translation has to be accorded by a certified organization and by the IGRD member organization per country.

#### **2.6 Quality management, data collection, analysis and publications**

During the field work period the field work organization has to report briefly and monthly on findings, response rates, encountered problems and actions taken. In the report insight is given regarding respondents characteristics (age, gender, marital status, geographical location (Nuts2)).

Field visits by the project team and by representatives from the IGRD member country are possible. After the survey and after an extensive quality check (was the survey carried out according to the prescribed methodology?) with feedback from the participating countries the micro-data will be stored centrally. Also meta-data on the survey, as well as on the individual responses will be added. e.g. sampling method, date of interview.

A technical publication with the main findings of the field work for all participating IRD countries will be produced by the field work organization soon after the survey (May 2010). A more comprehensive report, also including results per country and more in general will be published at a later stage, in the autumn of 2010.

The main results will also be presented on a website and all data will be made available for researchers. Only the technical report is the responsibility of the field work organization.

### **3 Organization, Project Management**

The success of the project will depend on the close control and monitoring of its progress and quality. Therefore a 'Service Organization' for the coordination, data management and dissemination etc. of the ICVS is founded. Nicis Institute (a Dutch institute, also hosting the Dutch national victim survey) is hosting the ICVS Service Organization (ICSO).

Appendix 3. Tables<sup>5</sup>

Table 1. One year prevalence victimisation rates on common crimes (percentages)

	overall victimisation for 10 crimes	theft of car	theft from a car	theft of a motorcycle	theft of a bicycle	burglary	attempted burglary	robbery	theft of personal property	sexual offences against women	sexual offences against men	assaults and threats
<b>Canada</b>	<b>18,6</b>	<b>1,2</b>	<b>5,5</b>	<b>0,3</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,1</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>4,3</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3,6</b>
<i>Cati</i>	17,6	1,4	5,6	0,4	2,9	1,3	1,6	1,4	4	2	0,6	3,5
<i>Cawi P</i>	19,9	1,1	5,3	0,3	3,7	3	2,8	1,5	4,7	5,1	1,5	3,7
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>24,7</b>	<b>1,6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,1</b>	<b>9,1</b>	<b>3,6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4,8</b>	<b>1,8</b>	<b>0,5</b>	<b>4,9</b>
<i>Cati</i>	21,1	0,8	3	0,6	7,7	3,6	1,8	0,9	3,9	0,7	0	4,1
<i>Cawi P</i>	26,6	2,1	3,9	1,5	9,4	4	2,4	1,5	5,7	2,4	1,1	5,3
<i>Cawi R</i>	29,3	2,3	6,1	1,8	11,5	2,9	1,6	0,5	4,9	3,1	0,7	5,8
<b>Germany</b>	<b>16,7</b>	<b>0,3</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>0,2</b>	<b>4,8</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>2,1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3,7</b>	<b>1,9</b>	<b>0,4</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Cati</i>	15,3	0,2	1,9	0,1	4,2	1,2	1,9	0,9	3,4	1,7	0,1	4
<i>Cawi P</i>	18,7	0,4	3,9	0,3	5,6	1,4	2,5	1,1	4,3	2,2	0,8	4,1
<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>20,3</b>	<b>0,5</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>0,5</b>	<b>7,2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,1</b>	<b>1,2</b>	<b>3,8</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>0,2</b>	<b>5,1</b>
<i>Cati</i>	20,5	0,5	3,2	0,2	7,4	0,8	1,6	1,3	3,3	1,1	0,2	5,7
<i>Cawi P</i>	16,3	0,3	2,5	0,3	6	1	1,9	1,1	3	0,7	0,3	3,8
<i>Cawi R</i>	25,7	0,6	4,8	1,1	8,5	1,5	3,1	1,3	5,7	3,1	0,2	5,8
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0,4</b>	<b>2,1</b>	<b>0,4</b>	<b>6,8</b>	<b>1,1</b>	<b>0,9</b>	<b>0,6</b>	<b>3,1</b>	<b>2,3</b>	<b>0,5</b>	<b>4,8</b>
<i>Cati</i>	16,8	0,5	1,4	0,3	6,7	1	0,7	0,7	3,1	1,9	0,2	4,5
<i>Cawi P</i>	19,2	0,4	2,7	0,5	7	1,1	1,2	0,5	3,2	2,8	0,9	5,2
<b>UK</b>	<b>15,9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4,1</b>	<b>0,3</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3,2</b>	<b>2,1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4,9</b>
<i>Cati</i>	16,2	0,5	4,2	0,3	2,3	1,5	2,1	0,9	3	1,8	1	5,2
<i>Cawi P</i>	15,7	1,5	3,9	0,3	2,2	1,3	1,3	1	3,4	2,4	1	4,6

<sup>5</sup> More tables available on [www.int-cvs.org](http://www.int-cvs.org)



**Table 2: Five year prevalence victimisation rates in countries (percentages)**

	<b>overall victimisation for 10 crimes</b>	<b>theft of car</b>	<b>theft from a car</b>	<b>theft of a motorcycle</b>	<b>theft of a bicycle</b>	<b>burglary</b>	<b>attempted burglary</b>	<b>robbery</b>	<b>theft of personal property</b>	<b>sexual offences against women</b>	<b>sexual offences against men</b>	<b>assaults and threats</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5,7</b>	<b>17,6</b>	<b>7,4</b>	<b>16,2</b>	<b>6,9</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>12,3</b>	<b>8,7</b>	<b>2,7</b>	<b>9,7</b>
<i>Cati</i>	41	5,1	16,9	5,5	15	5,6	5,7	2,7	11,3	6,1	1,6	8,9
<i>Cawi P</i>	45,7	6,4	18,6	10,3	17,9	8,7	7,7	4	13,7	12,3	3,7	10,8
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>57,3</b>	<b>6,9</b>	<b>15,9</b>	<b>16,8</b>	<b>28,9</b>	<b>11,4</b>	<b>6,8</b>	<b>2,9</b>	<b>15,8</b>	<b>5,4</b>	<b>1,9</b>	<b>12,5</b>
<i>Cati</i>	52,7	4,8	13	11,4	26,1	10,6	5,3	2,8	13,2	2,7	0,5	9,9
<i>Cawi P</i>	59,9	9,9	18,2	20,6	30,1	12,9	8,9	3,3	17,5	6,5	3	14,1
<i>Cawi R</i>	62,2	6,4	18,2	21,1	32,4	10,8	6,4	2,5	18,4	9,2	2,2	15,2
<b>Germany</b>	<b>44,5</b>	<b>1,5</b>	<b>13,8</b>	<b>3,9</b>	<b>18,7</b>	<b>5,4</b>	<b>6,2</b>	<b>2,9</b>	<b>14,5</b>	<b>6,6</b>	<b>1,5</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Cati</i>	42,2	1,5	12,6	3,3	16,5	5,4	5,6	2,8	14	5,1	0,9	11,3
<i>Cawi P</i>	47,4	1,6	15,3	4,7	21,6	5,5	7,1	2,9	15,1	8,6	2,1	12,9
<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>51,6</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>16,2</b>	<b>8,9</b>	<b>24,1</b>	<b>5,2</b>	<b>7,3</b>	<b>3,7</b>	<b>12,5</b>	<b>4,6</b>	<b>0,8</b>	<b>12,5</b>
<i>Cati</i>	52,2	1,8	15,6	6,4	23,7	4,8	7,2	4	12,6	3,7	0,3	13
<i>Cawi P</i>	46,7	2,5	14	9,9	21,8	5	6,9	3,1	11,6	3,1	1,5	9,8
<i>Cawi R</i>	57,5	5	20,5	12,2	28	6,2	8,1	4,1	13,7	8,4	0,7	15,1
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>47,2</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>13,4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21,7</b>	<b>3,7</b>	<b>3,6</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>12,7</b>	<b>7,6</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>13,4</b>
<i>Cati</i>	44,9	3,5	10,4	4,7	20,2	3,7	3,3	2,4	12,1	4,8	0,8	11,8
<i>Cawi P</i>	49,7	3,2	16,5	7,7	23,3	3,7	3,9	2,1	13,4	10,6	2	15,2
<b>UK</b>	<b>39,7</b>	<b>4,5</b>	<b>14,2</b>	<b>12,6</b>	<b>12,2</b>	<b>5,7</b>	<b>6,6</b>	<b>2,9</b>	<b>11,5</b>	<b>6,1</b>	<b>2,4</b>	<b>12,3</b>
<i>Cati</i>	41,6	3,7	14,5	12,7	12,6	5,7	7,1	3,4	11,6	5,6	2,3	14,3
<i>Cawi P</i>	37,8	5,3	13,9	12,4	11,7	5,8	6	2,4	11,5	6,5	2,5	10,2

**Table 3. Safety feelings (percentages)**

	Feeling slightly/very unsafe walking alone in own area after dark	Feeling that other family members are slightly/very unsafe walking alone in own area after dark	Chances of burglary over the next twelve months are (very) likely	Over the last twelve months from time to time till often months in contact with drug related problems in own area
<b>Canada</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<i>Cati</i>	10.7	15.2	13	15.6
<i>Cawi P</i>	18.1	23.7	10.8	16.9
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>8.4</b>
<i>Cati</i>	9.9	13.5	32	7.1
<i>Cawi P</i>	16.1	22.5	28	8.5
<i>Cawi R</i>	13.8	19.9	26.5	10.7
<b>Germany</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<i>Cati</i>	15.5	17.8	15.6	6.2
<i>Cawi P</i>	20.2	24	10.5	6.1
<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11.5</b>
<i>Cati</i>	11.8	12.7	15.7	11.5
<i>Cawi P</i>	13.6	13.4	8.5	10.2
<i>Cawi R</i>	14.6	15.2	10.5	13.3
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<i>Cati</i>	8.9	8.2	17.7	4
<i>Cawi P</i>	13.8	12.8	10.6	4.9
<b>UK</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>15.4</b>
<i>Cati</i>	17.5	23.3	20.8	16.2
<i>Cawi P</i>	23.2	32.2	13.5	14.5

#### Appendix 4. ICVS Conferences



#### ***Programme Expert Meeting International Crime Victims Survey (Liege September 8<sup>th</sup> 2010)***

10.00 – 10.30	Welcome and coffee/tea
10.30 – 11.45	Presentation by fieldwork parties GfK/TNS consortium + Q&A
11.45 – 13.00	Presentation of technical report and results by Nicis Institute + Q&A
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.00	Room for discussion, questions, remarks, recommendations, etc.
15.00	End of meeting, coffee/tea and sweets

\*\* No minutes available

**Participant list Expert Meeting ICVS  
Liege, 8 September 2010**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Position</b>
Alvazzi del Frate, Anna	Small Arms Survey	Senior researcher
Barclay, Gordon	Home Office	Senior statistician
Breukelman, Marije	Nicis Institute	Project manager ICVS
Dijk, van, Jan	University of Tilburg	Professor
Dijk, van, Tom	Intomart GfK	Director policy research
Erskine, Richard	Department of Justice Northern Ireland	Principal Statistician
Guzy, Nathalie	Bundeskriminalamt/Federal Criminal Police Office	Scientific assistant
Hummelsheim, Dina	Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law	Senior researcher
Jansen, Marlies	Intomart GfK	Team coordinator
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***Final Conference – Freiburg, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010***

09:00	Coffee and registration
10:00	Start of meeting, word of welcome by the IGRD secretariat
10:00	Presentation of ICVS 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fieldwork organization</li><li>• Technical report</li><li>• First conclusions</li></ul>
11:10	Coffee break
11:30	Results of the ICVS 2010 based on analysis of <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CATI</li><li>• CAWI</li></ul>
12:15	Discussion on the use of panels
13:00	Lunch Break
14:00	Future of ICVS → recommendations by participants
14:45	Website and next steps
15:15	Round table
15:30	End of meeting

## Participant list Final Conference ICVS

Freiburg, 13 October 2010

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## Minutes ICVS final conference – Freiburg, 13 October 2010

### Word of welcome from Gordon Barclay

- Explanation on IGRD
- Start of ICVS, getting Nicis Institute involved
- Application for EC grant
- Contracting fieldwork parties
- Execution of survey and then dissemination of results and giving input
- Input valued very much, please feel free to speak your mind
- Explanation of programme

### Presentation of ICVS 2010 (Dick Meuldijk, Nicis Institute)

- What is Nicis Institute
- How Nicis Institute got involved
- Refer to presentation of Intomart GfK
- Used fieldwork method
  - Traditional versus modern methods: face to face, CAPI, PAPI -> CAWI (web) and panels.
  - Background information: previous sweeps of the ICVS
  - Forced to use panels because we underestimated the costs for CAWI R (sending out letters, etc). Another reason is the uncertain future of the use of RDD (issues of privacy, 'stalking').
  - So, because of the new mixed-mode method, the ICVS 2010 is a pilot, investigating new possibilities for future use. Executing a victimisation survey on a large scale and at the same time having only limited financial means.
  - Uniformity important: two private companies (both part of large international consortia) with means to ensure cooperation.
- Methodology explained: CAWI R, CAWI P, and CATI. CAWI R only for NL and Denmark because those countries have readily available population registers.
- Fieldwork: how it was conducted. Dick refers to website of ICVS for more info.
- Response overview: surprise at 3% response rate for Canada (CAWI P).
  - Response rates are VERY different for various countries
  - Jan van Dijk (University of Tilburg): why did you allow such a wide variation in sampling? Nicis seems to have been very relaxed about standardisation.
  - Dick Meuldijk: it was to test the usability of the different modes. This has been decided upon by the IGRD.
  - Paul Smit (WODC): it was also a matter of money, looking for a cost-effective method of sampling. We compromised on quality, but we want to compare
  - Jan van Dijk: level of standardisation has declined. Useful to test CAWI, compare it to CATI, but there is too much variation within modes.
  - Henk Foekema (TNS NIPO): best sample is a random sample. Every element then has the same chance of being drawn into the sample. Reality is that with RDD there are very low response rates. In the future, RDD will probably be forbidden in a lot of countries. Therefore, it being an experiment, panels were introduced. Results prove that we need very strict definitions on how the sample is drawn, thereby making sure that countries are comparative.
  - Michael Baurmann (BKA): if we cannot explain the differences, then the pilot is not worth anything.
  - Dina Hummelsheim (MPI): the problem is not the differences between the modes, but we need to know something about the bias (we don't know anything about that).



- Dick Meuldijk: a conclusion might be that the more traditional methods are no longer viable to use.
- Jan van Dijk: do not allow the most sophisticated countries to use the most advanced techniques, leave that for the more poorer countries.
- Athina Karvounaraki (European Commission DG Home Affairs): not tenable in a political environment.
- Anna Alvazzi del Frate (Small Arms Survey): do not throw anything away, it is valuable knowledge. The most trivial statement is that more research is needed. We need to take differences into account and work with things that are interesting for us. We have not yet spoken about indicators. We need the numbers. We have to work on the bias and try to understand more what type of meaning these things have. It is a valuable experiment and we need to start from here. How do we get indicators, figures etc?
- Dietrich Oberwittler (MPI): high response rate from panels may not make us happy, because we do not know how the panels were constructed. How do you define representativeness??? The way that regional spread is realised is not very convincing.
- Henk Foekema: high response rate is result of effort, time and money. Depends on method (face to face better than online, incentives, etc). It also depends on the subject.

#### Results ICVS 2010 (Razia Ghauharali, Nicis Institute)

##### Keep in mind

- Mode switch
- Sampling switch
- Change in questionnaire
- Time effects?
- Changes in society?

More research is needed and needs to be put in perspective (other related studies/findings), this may guide us when making choices for the future...

- Jan van Dijk: results are encouraging when comparing to Liege conversation. Jan is still inclined to compare on CATI only. Data hint at distortion with CAWI.
- John van Kesteren: you need the data reviewed by national experts.

#### Presentation and discussion on the use of panels (Henk Foekema)

See presentation.

## ICVS RECOMMENDATIONS

### I. ORGANISATION INPUT

- Better documentation of sampling and fieldwork
- Get the national statistics offices involved, they have something to contribute
- Use national survey information as well
- Tease out methodological differences and effects (compare them separately)
- The future depends on money!
- Strong central coordination
- Maybe conduct this survey each year and not every five years, and see the exact changes for these years, and see what special phenomena happen and then try to tell why
- Broaden the number of nations participating
- Make the aims of the survey much more effective
- Do this research in developing countries in order to find different results
- How to involve other countries...we need an ICVS Secretariat/Board and a data master.
- Centralise database and build clear documentation
- Better documentation of methodological issues (generating panel and sample, etc.)

### II. METHODOLOGICAL REMARKS

- Try to combine methodological analyses with theoretical reasoning
- More questions, especially about background information, nationality, schools finished, income, etc. Why have they been cut? This should be standard in surveys.
- Facts are most important, ensure that the answer is real.
- Once the micro data set is available, I think we could consider also having the precise levels (pre-calculated) for different types of indicators the user wants to create.
- The technical description of the sampling schemes and the weighting procedures could be of value too.
- Response rates, representative sample, comparability, coverage of migrant/immigrants,
- Online but with high-quality panels
- More orientation on well-developed survey methodology of international studies, especially the ESS (European Social Survey).
- Very positive experience, more effort has to be put in exploring the effects of the different modes.
- Clear reporting of the methodology is also necessary as well as improvement of the comparability.
- Estimates of overall cost for a EU27 exercise would be helpful.
- Highlight the need to live with different modes of data collection –there is a big potential if the ‘non-comparable’ label is removed. We may propose a ‘differently comparable’ model for victimisation surveys.
- Publish results in visible places (not only website, also have articles in peer reviews journals, etc.)
- If we want to make international comparisons I would prefer to mainly work with one method. Mode mixes make it difficult to compare results.
- Mix the modes and compare results (Face 2 face, CATI and CAWI)
- CAWI is not yet ready in most countries, so CATI remains the first priority.
- There is no way back to traditional surveying methods. We should move towards broadening mixed-mode applications.
- More analysis of the mode effects (deeper analysis) -> based on the current information, no recommendations are possible.

-> Continue experiment? We need detailed analysis to be able to say something about that. We need to find out the effects of the mode.

#### Presentation of ICVS-2 Website

- Anna Alvazzi del Frate: if this is the website, a lot of countries will think: why were we not allowed to participate, was this not just a pilot. In short: it needs to be clear that this was the ICVS-2 pilot. It is not the website of THE ICVS.
- Athina Karvounaraki: change logo to DG Home Affairs (was JLS, now Home Affairs).

#### Conclusion

The IGRD will take all comments into account and decide on the future of the ICVS in this way in November 2010.

## **Appendix 5. Comments on the technical report**

After the fieldwork had finished and the technical report had been delivered the project board received some comments on the technical report. The project board itself had some comments as well. For documentation purposes and future use, these comments are summarized.

- Why are the low response rates on CAWI P for Canada so low (expected as well as actual rates)? Does this influence the quality of the results?
- How are the panels composed? What is the quality of the used panels, more detailed information would be preferred.
- The technical description of the sampling schemes and the weighting procedures could be of value.

## **Appendix 6. Technical report**

The technical report is available on the website.