# Need for classification

Frits Huls

Statististics Netherlands

# Netherlands

- SN three statistics:   police  prosecutor  court
- 3 different classifications in publications
- Outside: also different classification
    ministry of Justice and researchers
- 1993 SN standard classification of crimes
   based on penal law
- SN in cooperation with ministry of Justice a standerd publication "Criminality and lawenforcement"

# Europe

- several NSI's: own classifications based on
  Penal law
- European Sorcebook
- Eurostat "Statistics in focus"
- ECRIS
- EULOCS

# International

- UN-CTS since 1978


- Task Force work on the principles and the a framework for an international crime classification system (ICCS)
First report in 2011

# Points of interest

Purpose: standard format used determine the similarity of ideas, events, objects and persons.

Definitional framework for reporting and recording data.

ICCS is event-based (behaviours)

To use for surveys and police statistics
TF uses two approaches:

1. deductive approach: basic principles of statistical classification as applicable to crime classification
    - Exhaustiveness
    - Structure
    - Mutual exclusiveness
    - Description

2. Inductive approach: survey of existing statistical work based on national crime classification schemes

# Points of interest-2

Continuation
after survey two classifications schemes
a. based on legal code definitions
b. mixed approach- based on legal definitions and behavioural criteria

Unit of classification
The TF decided the unit of classification should be the act or event than may consitute a crime.

Being event-based the range of entities classified would have behavioural and contexttual attributes, rather than strictly legal attributes.

Indeed, it is important that crime and criminal justice information systems allow the possibilty to link crime events, perpetratorts and victims.

In this way, a vertical crime event classification could be supplemented by horizontal information on perpetrators and victims

Pitfalls
WILLINGNESS TO REPORT AND TO RECORD
countingrules

# Points of interest-3

Challenges


- Develop a construct in which national situations and approaches can accomodate
- Provide internationaaly acceptable definitions for all the various levels of the classification
- make it suitable so it is implementable
- The crime classification is not only  for crime statistics but it must  be applicale for victimization surveys too