Elena Larrauri has been nominated to be president of the European Society of Criminology in 2008-2009. After many years as professor of criminal law and criminology in the Autonomous University of Barcelona, in September Elena will move to the University Pompeu Fabra, also in Barcelona. Her major research interests include criminological theories, community punishments, and gender dimensions of criminal justice policies. Her main books include La herencia de la criminología crítica (Madrid, Siglo

The seventh annual conference of the European Society of Criminology is approaching. It will be held in buildings of the University of Bologna. Plenary sessions will be held at the ‘Aula Magna Santa Lucia’, located in the historical centre of the town. Built in the 17th century and recently renovated as the University’s Great Hall, “Santa Lucia” is a prestigious venue for meetings and other events. Around the “Santa Lucia”, the “San Giovanni in Monte” complex and the Faculty of Law—a short walk—will host panel sessions and other meetings and initiatives.

The Programme
On June 15 the deadline for submitting paper proposals expired. Interest in participation is high: nearly 400 proposals were received for individual papers and 60 for thematic sessions. The conference programme promises to be rich!

The conference will start on Wednesday, September 26, at 10:00, with the registration of participants and meetings of various ESC working groups. At 18:30 that evening, there will be a Welcome Cocktail Party with the Mayor of Bologna in Palazzo Grassi. The Gala Dinner, to which all participants are invited, will also be held in this ancient building.

On Thursday, September 27, after the Opening Ceremony at 9:00, the conference programme will start.

ESC 2007 in Bologna
By Gian Guido Nobili and Rosella Selmini

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Elena Larrauri for ESC President
By Stephanie van de Goethals

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Imprisonment Rates in Europe
By Marcelo Aebi and Natalia Stadnic

The Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics, better known as SPACE, include data on imprisonment and penal institutions in Council of Europe member states. Data are collected by means of a questionnaire sent to all member states. Validation, which involves a multilevel counterchecking of figures, is undertaken at the University of Lausanne.

The 2005 survey covers 47 countries and territories, the largest number ever. Only Ireland and Andorra failed to participate. Since 2004, the SPACE questionnaire has

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Message from the President

How Useful Research Becomes Boring and What Can Be Done About It

By Kauko Aromaa

Crime victimisation surveys are so well established that even the European Commission and Eurostat have begun to believe them indispensable. A recent European achievement was the long overdue release of the 2005 EU-ICS in February 2007. A new European standard for comparable victimisation surveys is currently being developed within Eurostat, because the European Commission wishes to know how well member countries are performing in regards to crime. The commission has begun to understand that official crime data are not worth much for this purpose, and to recognize that other information sources are needed.

Other types of surveys are also becoming established in European criminology, and in statistics production. Examples include surveys on violence against women, and self-reported delinquency surveys. In comparative research, this has created a situation in which replications are becoming the new standard. Replications, however, important though they are, are becoming boring reading.

Comparative studies in recent years have attracted little interest except among specialists. This resembles the situation with traditional comparative statistics such as the Council of Europe (SPACE; see article by Aebi and Stadnic, in this issue) imprisonment rate comparisons and the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice. These also are boring if not interpreted and problematised.

Why should such new information be boring?

When these initiatives were started, the information they provided was widely considered interesting and relevant. This was because of their novelty: they demonstrated shortcomings of previous knowledge. Today, similar results are no longer new.

When the first Council of Europe imprisonment rate comparisons were published, the consequences were dramatic. For the first time, many countries had to accept that they had an exceptionally high rate, and that this observation had consequences. This is no longer so, as governments are no longer stricken with shame when today’s preposterously high figures are published. They are shrugged off.

When the first findings on self-reported delinquency were published, many earlier ideas were challenged. When such findings were published again, they were no longer surprising. Repeating the news is no news.

When victimisation surveys were introduced, earlier beliefs about victimisation were challenged and changed. Results from subsequent surveys do not provoke much surprise. “We have heard this before” is the likelier reaction.

The first surveys on violence against women had dramatic consequences. But, when such

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European Journal of Criminology Developments

By Julian V. Roberts and Benjamin Goold

The two of us have been in charge of the European Journal of Criminology for about a year. The first issue whose development we oversaw has appeared. It contains an editorial in which we set out some of our hopes and plans for the EJC. This short article discusses a couple of other developments we want ESC members to know about.

Mandate of Journal

The EJC is the official journal of the European Society of Criminology and as such it has a clear mandate to publish scholarship of direct relevance to the European Union. This means we shall generally decline to publish submissions primarily relevant to other jurisdictions, or dealing with issues of no or little relevance to criminology and criminal justice in Europe. In seeking the highest quality of contributors we are especially keen to receive articles that discuss a problem of relevance to multiple jurisdictions in Europe, and particularly submissions that draw upon data collected in more than a single country.

Length of Articles

Although we are hoping, in partnership with Sage publications, one day to move to a fifth issue, at present we publish only four issues per year. This restricts the number of articles that may be published in any given year. Pressure upon available space is exacerbated when we publish a special, themed issue. In addition, we are currently confronted with a considerable backlog of manuscripts that have been accepted for publication but have yet to be published. For all these reasons, we are introducing a word limit of 7,000 words. This includes references and footnotes. In due course we may raise this limit, but for the immediate future we shall review new submissions only if they are within this limit. In exceptional cases we may accept longer contributions, but a compelling argument will need to be made by the contributing author. There is always the option of alerting readers of an EJC article that a longer account of the research is available from the authors.

Potential contributors are asked to review the manuscript submission guidelines published in the journal. The review process is greatly facilitated and expedited when submissions are made in the appropriate format. In our experience this is not always or often the case.

Time to Editorial Decision

Some contributors in recent months have had to endure relatively lengthy delays prior to receiving a decision regarding their submission. The journal is setting a target of four months turnaround – from initial receipt of a manuscript in reviewable format to final editorial decision. This is considerably shorter than many scholarly journals and achieving the target will not always be easy. Reviewing articles is a time-consuming task performed by volunteers and there appears to be considerable variation among reviewers (but not contributors) as to what constitutes a reasonable delay. Accordingly we shall be asking our reviewers to adhere to new reviewing guidelines, and we thank them in advance for their co-operation.

As with all editorial statements, we encourage any feedback on these comments or indeed any aspect of the journal. We recognize that any journal is highly dependent upon the support of its readers.

Julian Roberts and Benjamin Gould are editors of the European Journal of Criminology.

Elena Larrauri for ESC President

Continued from page 1

XXI, 1991, 3rd ed.) and Criminología crítica y violencia de género (Madrid, Trotta, 2007), and with José Cid, Penas Alternativas a la Prisión (Barcelona, Bosch, 1997) and Teorías Criminológicas (Barcelona, Bosch, 2001).

Although Elena’s first languages are Spanish and Catalan, she is also comfortable with English, German, French, and Italian. Over the past 20 years, Elena has translated many books and articles by English and German writers into Spanish. Major books translated include Andrew von Hirsch’s Censure and Sanctions (Oxford 1993) and Stanley Cohen’s Visions of Social Control (Polity 1985). She has also translated other English-language works by Robert J. Sampson, Ralph Taylor, Dario Melossi, Roger Matthews, and René van Swaanningen, and German-language works by Winfried Hassemer and Felix Herzog.

Elena has had extensive experience living, working, teaching, and doing research outside Spain. She has long been interested in South American criminology and has lectured widely in South America. She has also several times taught courses in Colombia, Mexico, and Brazil.

An Alexander von Humboldt Foundation fellowship allowed here several times to work in the Universities of Frankfurt and Berlin (1989–1991; 1993; 2002). With support from a Fulbright-La Caixa Scholarship, she was able to spend the 1986–87 academic year at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She was a visiting professor in the Institute of Criminology, University of Hamburg in 1994, and held appointments as a visiting scholar in the Faculty of Law of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1989, the Institute of Criminology, University of Oslo, in 1996, and at New York University in 1998.

Stefanie van de Goethals is a freelance writer who specialises in interviewing European criminologists.
New Criminology Books from Willan Publishing

**Criminology**
Tim Newburn (LSE)
This is a comprehensive introduction to criminology for students who are either new or relatively new to the subject. This text provides the basis of study for the new undergraduate student of criminology and those who need a foundation knowledge of criminology in other relevant courses. These include access and foundation degree courses run by colleges, university level courses in law, probation, policing, criminal and forensic investigation, and forensic psychology, as well as criminological components of A-level courses in sociology and psychology.
August 2007 928pp (264 x 193 mm)

**Handbook of Criminal Investigation**
Edited by Tim Newburn (LSE), Tom Williamson (formerly University of Portsmouth) and Alan Wright (Keele University)
*Handbook of Criminal Investigation* provides a rigorous and critical approach to not only the process of criminal investigation but also the context in which this takes place, the theory underlying it, and the variety of factors which influence approaches to it. It will be an indispensable source of reference for anybody with an interest in, and needing to know about, criminal investigation. Contributors to the book are drawn from both practitioners in the field and academics.
May 2007 728pp (246 x 171mm)

**Handbook of Probation**
Edited by Loraine Gelsthorpe (University of Cambridge) and Rod Morgan (Visiting Professor, LSE)
This Handbook provides a comprehensive, authoritative and up to date source of information and analysis about all aspects of the work of the Probation Service – an essential text for anybody working in probation, studying the subject as part of a wider criminology or criminal justice course, or training for it. It takes full account of the many changes that the Probation Service has undergone over the last few years, and is currently undergoing as probation becomes part of the broader National Offender Management Service.
May 2007 640pp (246 x 171mm)

**Families Shamed: the consequences of crime for relatives of serious offenders**
Rachel Condry (LSE)
*Families Shamed* draws upon intense qualitative research which combines long, searching interviews with the relatives of serious offenders with ethnographic fieldwork over a period of several years. The book focuses on how relatives make sense of their experiences, individually and collectively: how they described the difficulties they faced; whether they were blamed and shamed and in what manner; how they ‘understood’ the offence and the circumstances which had brought it about; and how they dealt with the contradiction inherent in supporting someone and yet not condoning his or her actions.
May 2007 232pp (234 x 156mm)
ISBN 978-1-84392-207-0 (hardback) £40.00

**Crime, Social Control and Human Rights: From moral panics to states of denial**
*Essays in honour of Stan Cohen*
Edited by David Downes, Paul Rock, Christine Chinkin, Conor Gearty (LSE)
This book of essays in Stanley Cohen’s honour aims to build on and reflect some of his many-sided contributions. It contains chapters by some of the world’s leading thinkers as well as the rising generation of scholars and practitioners whose approach has been shaped in significant respects by his own. This book examines the main themes Stanley Cohen has explored and developed, which are: crime; social control; human rights.
May 2007 472pp (234 x 156mm)
ISBN 978-1-84392-228-5 (hardback) £50.00

**Who to Release? Parole, fairness and criminal justice**
Edited by Nicola Padfield (Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge)
Particular attention is given in this book to the important changes made to the role and working of the Parole Board as a result of the impact of the early release scheme of the Criminal Justice Act 2005, with the Parole Board now deciding in Panels concerned with determinate sentence prisoners, lifers and recalled prisoners. A wide range of significant issues, and case law, has arisen as a result of these changes, which the contributors to this book, leading authorities in the field, aim to explore.
April 2007 288pp (234 x 156mm)
ISBN 978-1-84392-227-8 (hardback) £37.50

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European Developmental & Life-course Criminology

By Paul Nieuwbeerta and Arjan Blockland

The working group was established to stimulate research in Europe on developmental and life-course criminology (DLC) and to promote contact between the various European research groups working on DLC issues.

The group’s focus is development of antisocial behaviour within individuals’ lives. These patterns result from a complex interplay between individual and contextual factors, including societal and legal institutions. Since these institutions differ cross-nationally, developmental patterns may differ accordingly.

Contrasting and combining DLC research results from different European countries is thus important to gain detailed knowledge on criminal careers and to test developmental criminological theories.

Fortunately, while much current DLC knowledge is based on data from the U.S., England, and New Zealand, longitudinal projects are underway in various European countries and increasing numbers of European researchers are working on DLC topics. (See: http://www.esc-eurocrim.org/workgroups.shtml for further details).

The first activities will be at the ESC conference in Bologna. On Friday, the working group will organize a lunch meeting where members can get acquainted, learn about research projects underway in various European countries, and discuss possibilities for cross-national collaborations and initiatives. The group has organized a number of thematic paper sessions in which researchers from various European countries (Great Britain, Norway, the Netherlands, Germany) and the U.S. and Australia will present papers on such topics as risk and protective factors, life course transitions and desistance, criminal career models, offence specialization, criminal typologies, and cross-generational transmission of crime.

Interested researchers are invited to join the working group. Just send your name, position, affiliation, and a description of the research project you are working on to edlc.esc@nscr.nl.

For further information, contact Arjan Blokland (ablokland@nscr.nl) or Paul Nieuwbeerta (pnieuwbeerta@nscr.nl)

Juvenile Justice

By Josine Junger-Tas

This was created as an ESC Working group, and we continue to be so. We are, however, trying to obtain special status and funding from the European Commission, so that we can meet twice a year instead of only once at the ESC conferences.

This group’s first book was published in 2006 (Handbook of International Juvenile Justice). The second book, Reforming Juvenile Justice, is underway.

In the group’s third project, we will consider juvenile offenders and victims of neglect, and physical and sexual abuse. This approach is inspired by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC covers both categories of children. Research has shown relationships between, for example, physical or sexual abuse in early childhood and delinquent (violent) behaviour or drug abuse in adolescence.

It is often unclear how judges or other authorities decide to allocate children over 12 to the penal system, or to the youth protection or mental health systems. It is also unclear what roles other intervening parties, such as police, social services, or prosecutors, play. Researchers seldom study the criteria practitioners use. In many countries, judicial and other official practices are often far removed from the rules specified in the law. Little is known about the roles of the different components of the system.

Failing in adequately processing children and young people with serious problems, and in assisting their families, is often the result of insufficient resources, even in countries where there is no lack of resources. The organisation of juvenile justice and youth protection, the philosophies of the two systems, the decision-making process for allocating children to either system, and collaboration among different services, have many shortcomings. Voluntary services offered before the form system comes into action are often far from effective.

What recommendations can be made to improve both systems? Can they be made more effective in serving children at high risk of becoming delinquent, young people with delinquent behaviour, and children who are victims of physical and sexual abuse?

Special mention was made in our Tübingen meeting of children belonging to minority groups. Are they treated in the same way as indigenous children and according to their special needs, as the case may be?

The emphasis this time will be on the practical and concrete aspects of dealings with children and families who have serious problems with society or are in conflict with the law. In other words, how we deal with children as offenders and children as
Victims, actual or potential. Among the questions to be examined:

- **Prevention:** What, health, social, and early education services are offered to children and families on a voluntary basis? How effective are these services in preventing children from (later) being involved in the formal judicial system as offenders or victims?
- **Reporting system:** What warning systems are there concerning delinquency and abuse or neglect of children, and how effective are they?
- **The Police:** Do the police deal with children both as offenders and as victims? Are there ‘best practices’ or protocols for arrest, investigation and interrogation?
- **Human Rights:** If the police interrogate a child as a suspect or as a witness, is there a lawyer or person of confidence present? Are interrogations of children videotaped (such as in the UK)?
- **UN Convention:** To what extent does the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child play a concrete role?
- **Sentencing:** What criteria exist in deciding on youth protection procedures or penal procedures? Are police, prosecutors, and juvenile judge decisions subject to clear criteria and are these effectively applied?
- **Probation:** Is there a juvenile probation service or an organised system of social workers making reports to the judiciary and supporting children and parents before and during treatment?
- **After-care:** Is there an effective after-care system to assist children either after having served their sentence in a penal institution, or after spending time in care?
- **Community sanctions:** Are community programs available, including community service, reparation, restorative programs, mediation, and day-fines?

Are these measures ordered by the court in the juvenile justice system? Are all or some extra-judicial measures meant to prevent further involvement in the system or other judicial interventions, such as placement in a (penal) institution?

Anyone interested in working with us on these issues, write about them, and produce policy recommendations for member states and other authorities, please contact me so we may meet together in Bologna.

For further information, please contact Josine Junger-Tas (jungertas@xs4all.nl).

Continued on next page
The initial meeting took place at the ESC Conference in Tübingen. Members come from academic institutions, departments, and organisations from across Europe. The working group provides a forum to discuss, develop, and collaborate on new and innovative research with other early stage researchers and senior academics.

The second meeting will take place in Bologna on 26 September 2007 from 14:00-18:00. The focus will be on developing the group and allowing members to present work in progress. A roundtable discussion will be led by a senior academic on how to apply for and obtain research funding. We have developed web pages for the group and will discuss how this can be developed further.

We hope the group will facilitate pan-European collaborations, leading to a conference or colloquium and future funding bids.

For further details, please contact Jenny Johnstone (j.johnstone@law.gla.ac.uk) or Lisa Burns (l.k.burns@sheffield.ac.uk) for registration and poster submission forms. Or visit our web pages at: http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/project.php?id=8

International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD2)
By Josine Junger-Tas

The ISRD-2 study has been undertaken in 33 countries. These are mainly European, including old and new EU member states. Non-EU member states are also participating including Norway, Switzerland, Russia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Armenia. Canada and the US, as well as Venezuela, Surinam, the Dutch Antilles, and Aruba, are also among the participants.

Most participants had to find local funding, but fortunately the European Commission was prepared to fund six new EU member states which were unable to find funding.

Having learned from the first study of 13 countries (Josine Junger-Tas, Ineke Haen Marshall, and Denis Ribeaud, 2003, Delinquency in an International Perspective, Criminal Justice Press), the organization of ISRD-2 was considerably tightened to standardize the whole process, from a strictly common core questionnaire to sampling methods, survey administration, data cleaning, data-entry, and analysis, so that merging the 33 databases will not present daunting problems.

A steering group was created and two workshops were held each year to discuss methodological problems and find common solutions. We were lucky that excellent methodologists, including Dirk Enzmann (Germany), Susan Mcvie (Scotland), and Ineke Marshall (US), were prepared to take a leading role. They provided such material as a sampling protocol, guidelines for the interview process and Epi-data (a format for each country’s technical report on procedures followed and national report on the outcomes), and a worksheet for collecting national structural indicators. Individual participants were helped to solve specific problems. The methodology has proven to be so complex but interesting, as suggested by a representative of the European Commission, that we plan a special publication on the process.

Because of problems related to efforts to maximize standardization in such divergent countries as the US and Armenia, we were not able to follow a tight time schedule established at the beginning. As the first outcomes of the country reports are now forthcoming, we are more than pleased. Indeed, a second publication is planned containing summaries of all country outcomes. Other publications will deal with key comparative findings, and comparative subjects of interest, such as gender, ethnic minorities, schools, and gangs.

The ESC conference in Bologna is a perfect occasion to present interesting ISRD-2 results from different countries. We have organized three panels including 13 presentations. These will cover general survey outcomes (Canada; Switzerland); a comparative study in all Scandinavian countries (Finland); the schools (Belgium-Flanders; Venezuela); parent versus peer socialization effects (Germany; Czech Republic); gangs (Italy and France); health problems (Belgium-Walloon); ethnicity and delinquency (Netherlands); attitudes to violence (US); and methodological issues (Germany).

Due to the many planning workshops, held each time in a different place, an intense collaboration and friendship developed among participants from all over the world. In addition to the guidance and individual assistance given by the steering group, countries also supported each other and worked together in comparing outcomes. It is this fantastic collaboration among so many motivated and enthusiastic researchers that I liked most.

For further information, contact Josine Junger-Tas (jungertas@xs4all.nl).
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European Research Group on National Reconviction Rates

The second meeting of the European Research Group on National Reconviction rates (ERNR) was held at the ESC annual meeting in Tübingen on 29th August 2006.

ERNR Goals

Prior to this meeting a seminar on national reconviction rates was held on the 9th and 10th of March, 2006 in The Hague. Ten of 14 European countries with studies on national reconviction rates were present. Each participant gave a short presentation on reconviction rates in his or her country. A discussion followed on how to compare the different rates. ERNR’s goal was formulated as publication on international comparisons of reconviction rates in the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics in 2008.

Tübingen Meeting

The second meeting was held in Tübingen. Representatives of Iceland and Austria were also present. A few new members joined the research group. (See list of participants at the end of this document). Michael Martin from Canada, a special guest, shared his experiences on forming a research group on this topic. The day before the meeting, David Levin, another special guest, presented findings from his cross-state study of recidivism in the United States. Both guests will be kept informed about ERNR’s work. Also present was Dr. Richard Blath, counsellor for the federal Ministry of Justice in Germany; he is a member of the EUCPN, another committee working on the comparison of crime statistics.

A paper by Bouke Wartna on international comparisons was discussed. The method of choice depends on the level of detail at which the differences between the participating countries are handled. A distinction is made between a global approach and a more specific approach.

Under the specific approach, offences counted as acts of recidivism will have to be listed for each country, in order to understand the exact differences between data in participating countries. A subgroup will be formed to focus on this approach. The following actions were approved:

- Dr Richard Blath (Germany) will be contacted. He has been working on lists of offence types in different countries that might be used for making comparisons.
- Arletta Plunkett (Sweden) will be contacted to learn whether EU initiatives, possibly Eurostat, might be germane to the research group’s work. Eurostat may maintain specific lists of national laws and similar material.

Under the global approach, differences in the judicial systems and in available data and research of the participating countries must be clarified at the outset. The majority of research group members support this more global approach. The following actions were approved:

- Netherlands representatives will spell out details of all the concepts used to measure recidivism, and the Dutch system of penal law will be described roughly.
- This document will be sent to all participating countries, possibly to be used as an example for their own descriptions of their national recidivism research.
- When all the countries have finished these descriptions, a discussion will follow on which comparisons can and will be made.

Our main goal is to publish annotated tables with national reconviction rates from different countries in 2008. If this cannot be achieved, an alternative plan could be to publish a chapter in the European Sourcebook based on existing data.

Some countries have data and wish to participate in the ERNR, but lack the resources to do the necessary work. The Netherlands will examine possibilities of sponsorship by Aegis or another EU funding agency.

The Research and Documentation Centre of the Netherlands Ministry of Justice will coordinate arrangements for a follow-up meeting. It will be decided when and where. One possibility is the 2007 ESC annual meeting.

ERNR Participants in Tübingen

Daniel Fink (Switzerland)
Annie Kensey (France)
Jörg-Martin Jehle (Germany)
Sabine Hohmann-Fricke (Germany)
Michael Martin, special guest (Canada)
Paul Smit (the Netherlands)
Nikolaj Tollenaar (the Netherlands)
Bouke Wartna (the Netherlands)
Laura Nijssen (the Netherlands)

New ERNR Members Present in Tübingen

Seamus McMullan (Northern Ireland) (replacing Eddie Finn)
Ville Hinkkanen (Finland) (replacing Kyno Hyphen)
Margret Saemundsdottir (Iceland)
Bruno Aubusson de Cavarlay (France)
Richard Blath (Germany)
Christian Grafl (Austria)
Arletta Plunkett (Sweden) (replacing Lars Krantz)
included questions about the structure of imprisonment. The main goal is to clarify what is counted in each country. In some countries, the total number of detainees includes persons held in institutions for juvenile offenders. In others, counts include persons held in institutions for drug-addicted offenders or in psychiatric institutions or hospitals, asylum seekers or illegal aliens held for administrative reasons, or persons serving their sentences under electronic monitoring.

Cross-national comparisons are thus not as straightforward as they may seem. Unfortunately, some countries did not answer all questions or were unable to indicate the number of persons included under each category.

The analysis presented here should be interpreted cautiously. The 2006 survey, currently being conducted, has been improved and next year’s data should be better.

Absolute Numbers

The first SPACE indicator is the total number of people in detention (pre-trial, convicted, sentenced, or other). On 1st September 2005, 1,742,584 persons were in detention in Europe, 217 persons per 100,000 inhabitants.2

Russia (823,672 detainees), Ukraine (179,519), Monaco (34), Lichtenstein (10), and San Marino (1) are not included in most analyses because they represent extreme values. Two-thirds of the countries hold fewer than 10,000 persons. The average number is 17,506. Adding the five excluded countries, the average would be 37,077.

Cross-national comparisons can be made only on the basis of rates per 100,000 inhabitants. These rates are set out in figure 2.

Imprisonment rates

Figure 2 allows comparisons not only between countries but across regions and provides a comprehensive picture of the distribution of imprisonment across the continent. In calculating the averages for geographical areas, we omitted the three most extreme values (Russia, Lichtenstein, and San Marino).

The nine countries with the highest imprisonment rates (more than 200 per 100,000) are in eastern Europe (Russia: 576.8; Ukraine: 381.1; Estonia: 327.4; Latvia: 313.4; Moldova: 297.9; Lithuania: 233.4; Poland: 216.5; Azerbaijan: 203.3; and Georgia: 200.6). Fewer than 100 detainees per 100,000 are held in 21 countries but they are scattered across Europe. This group includes Slovenia (56.7), Norway, United Kingdom, France, Monaco, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Switzerland with 112. South-Eastern Europe and the Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey) have a mean of 95 followed closely by Southern Europe (Spain, Portugal, Italy, Malta, Cyprus, Greece, and Slovenia) with 92. Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland) had the lowest average (67). There are, however, big differences within clusters. In
Southern Europe there are two countries with high rates (Spain and Portugal with 142 and 122 per 100,000, respectively), a subgroup with low prison rates (Slovenia: 57; Malta: 74; Greece: 87; Cyprus: 79), and Italy in between (102).

Changes, 2004 to 2005
Table 1 presents changes from 2004 to 2005, showing countries with increases and decreases of more than 5 percent, and those falling in between.

The category “Increase of more than 5 percent” includes some countries with the lowest rates (Finland, Denmark, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Croatia). Bosnia and Herzegovina with 54 per 100,000 inhabitants experienced an increase of 12.1. Something similar happened in Finland (73 prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants) with a rise of 10.6 percent, Denmark (76.4) of 9.6 percent, and Croatia (78.5) of 22.5 percent.

Five of seven countries in the category “Decrease of more than 5 percent” are in Eastern Europe. This is probably an indicator of improvements in their penal systems. Countries like Switzerland, Slovenia, Hungary, and Germany experienced relative stability.

Trends, 2000 to 2005
Figure 4 shows annual percentage changes 2000 to 2005. This chart is calculated by adjusting the annual variation for each country. Missing data were estimated using the average of values of the available years in the database (see note 4).

The twelve relatively stable countries (annual changes between +2 percent and -2 percent) are Italy (+1.6 percent), Scotland (+1.4 percent), Belgium (+1.0 percent), Switzerland (+0.1 percent), Germany (+0.1 percent), Estonia (+0.2 percent), Hungary (+0.2 percent), Slovenia (-0.5 percent), Ireland (-0.7 percent), Ukraine (-1.2 percent), Portugal (-2.0 percent), and Azerbaijan (-2.0 percent).

All these countries except Azerbaijan, Estonia, Germany, and Switzerland reported overcrowding in 2005. Thus, the relatively stable situation in many countries does not mean that their prisons are not overcrowded.

Of 25 countries that experienced an annual rise of more than two percent, 15 are in western Europe. Using a photographic metaphor, the evolution of imprisonment rates between 2000 and 2005 showed in figure 3 is the negative of the imprisonment rates revealed in figure 2.

Rates are decreasing in countries with the highest population rates (Eastern Europe), while they are increasing in countries traditionally having low or medium rates (Western Europe).

Even when there are increases in Central or Eastern European countries, they are similar to those observed in Western European countries. For example, Sweden (+4.6 percent) has almost the same indicator as Moldova (+4.5 percent). The same is true for France (+3.6 percent) and Poland (+3.7 percent).

The “Normalization” of Finnish Imprisonment Rates
Since the early 1990s, the decrease in Finnish imprisonment rates during the last quarter of the 20th Century was often discussed. This decrease has been portrayed as the result of statutory reforms and changes in sentencing practices and prison use.

Since 2000, the Finnish prison population has begun to increase. This upward trend has been explained partly by a rise in the number of foreign prisoners. However, the percentage of foreign prisoners in Finland remains quite low (7.5 percent) compared to the western European average (27.5 percent).

The success of Finnish penal policy may be due to a particular geographical and sociolinguistic situation. For example, there may have
we compared the percentages of Foreigners in Prisons half of the 1990s. Prisoners started only in the second but the percentage increase in foreign prisoners in 1983 and 61,269 in 2005 (14,659 multiplied its imprisonment rate by foreign prisoners. For example, Spain necessarily due to increases in imprisonment rates in both countries other things being equal, the homogenous population, and all suggests that with a more trends suggest relative stability. This different evolutions, the overall percentages had increased to 7.5 percent, and Finland: 7.5 percent). One thing is obvious: The highest percentages of foreign prisoners are concentrated in western European countries. The average percentage of foreign prisoners in western Europe is compared with 36 percent in Switzerland. In 2005 these percentages had increased to 7.5 percent in Finland and to 70.5 in Switzerland while imprisonment rates per 100,000 inhabitants were 73 (the same as in 1988) in both.

We analysed the whole time series, instead of concentrating on two extremes, by calculating annual adjusted variations in rates per 100,000 inhabitants. Despite very different evolutions, the overall trends suggest relative stability. This suggests that with a more homogenous population, and all other things being equal, the imprisonment rates in both countries would have decreased. This does not mean that increases in rates are necessarily due to increases in foreign prisoners. For example, Spain multiplied its imprisonment rate by four between 1983 and 2005 (14,659 prisoners in 1983 and 61,269 in 2005) but the percentage increase in foreign prisoners started only in the second half of the 1990s.

Foreigners in Prisons
To give a more complete picture, we compared the percentages of foreigners in the prisons of each country. Excepting Estonia and Luxembourg, the 10 countries that present the highest percentages of foreigners (Monaco: 88.2, Luxembourg: 71.4, Switzerland: 70.5, Cyprus: 45.6, Austria: 45.4, Greece: 41.6, Belgium: 41.2, Estonia: 40.4, Italy: 33, and Malta: 30.5) are below the average European imprisonment rate of 145 per 100,000 population and below the median rate (106). One possible explanation is that countries with a relatively high number of foreign prisoners send fewer national citizens to prison (e.g., they may use alternatives to imprisonment more often for their citizens).

These examples show that differences in European imprisonment rates cannot be explained in terms only of the percentage of foreign prisoners. One thing is obvious: The highest percentages of foreign prisoners are concentrated in western European countries. The average percentage of foreign prisoners in western Europe is 27.5 percent, while in other countries it is 6.4 percent. Among this second group, only Estonia has a high foreign percentage (40.4 percent). This is probably explained by the particular status of Russian residents, as countries located around Estonia have relatively low rates of foreigners in prisons (Latvia: 0.4 percent, Russia: 2.7 percent, and Finland: 7.5 percent).

Four of the seven countries (Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, and Belgium) with the highest percentages of foreign imprisonment (over 40 percent) are classified by the International Monetary Fund among the fifteen countries with the highest per capita Gross Domestic Product. Some of these countries are “transit” areas for low cost workforces, especially from eastern Europe, trying to reach southern European countries that offer seasonal or non-qualified jobs.

Data Comparability
To make comparisons more reliable, in this section we take into account differences in counting rules. The great majority of countries count only people held in facilities managed by the prison administration, but Azerbaijan, Cyprus, and Switzerland count others. Whenever possible (i.e., when the country indicated the number of prisoners counted under this heading) we deducted persons held elsewhere from the total number indicated by these countries. Similarly, persons held in institutions for juvenile offenders appear in data provided by 31 countries, but not by 16 others (Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, Poland, San Marino, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, England and Wales, and Scotland).

Also 32 countries out of 47 do not include people held in institutions for drug-addicted offenders and 21 countries do not count mentally ill prisoners in psychiatric institutions. In addition, nine countries (Belgium, BH: Republika Srpska, Cyprus, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and North...
Imprisonment Rates in the Council of Europe

Continued from previous page

Ireland) include asylum seekers or illegal aliens held for administrative reasons.

Finally, only six countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain) include people serving their sentences under electronic monitoring. In figure 5 we take account of these differences and present adjusted rates of all detainees per 100 places, as well as of pre-trial detainees per 100 places.

Figure 3 shows that 21 out of 47 countries experienced overcrowding in 2005 (i.e., the number of prisoners was higher than the number of available places). The 10 countries with the highest overcrowding were Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Poland, Ukraine, Finland, and France. Three (Italy, Hungary, and Ukraine) had relatively stable annual variation in rates from 2000 to 2005. According to information provided, no significant legislative changes occurred between 2004 and 2005 that influenced the trends in Italy and Hungary; in Ukraine, 39,847 people were amnestied or released on parole.

Among the 25 countries experiencing increased rates during 2000-2005, 13 were overcrowded in 2005. Among these, the highest numbers of pre-trial detainees per 100 places can be found in Georgia, Bulgaria, and France.

We compared France with Poland. They had annual average variations over six years of 3.6 percent and 3.7 percent respectively. Both had similar rates of prison overcrowding in 2005. In France, however, there were approximately two times more pre-trial detainees than in Poland.

To investigate this we compared the duration of the sentences imposed in each country. In Poland, people sentenced to long-term imprisonment (more than five years) account for 16.6 percent of the convicted prison population, compared to 37.5 percent in France.

Taking into account that pre-trial investigation should take longer for cases requiring a heavier penalty, it seems reasonable that relatively more individuals are in pre-trial detention in France than in Poland.

Conclusion

The 2005 survey of the Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics showed 1,742,584 persons in detention in Europe on 1st September 2005. This is 217 persons per 100,000 inhabitants and an average of 37,077 prisoners per country. Twenty-one of 47 countries were experiencing prison overcrowding.

The highest rates were in Eastern Europe, followed by the Caucasian countries, the Central European countries, the Western European countries, the South-Eastern and Balkan countries, and the Southern European countries. The lower rates are in the Scandinavian countries. Between 2004 and 2005, countries having the largest imprisonment rate increases were mainly those with low rates. The largest decreases were among Eastern European countries that traditionally have the highest rates. During 2000-2005, 15 of 25 countries with increases were Western European.

In sum, imprisonment rates tend to decrease in Eastern Europe and to increase in Western Europe.
European countries have the highest percentages of foreign prisoners, but this is not necessarily the cause of their high imprisonment rates. Unfortunately, Finland can no longer be presented as an example of a successful penal policy for the rest of Europe as its imprisonment has been increasing after reaching its lowest point in 1999. Current trends in Finland are similar to those in most offenders or in psychiatric institutions or hospitals, asylum seekers or illegal aliens held for administrative reasons, and persons serving their sentences under electronic monitoring. Future editions of SPACE will try to establish more precisely the numbers of persons in each category.

Notes
1 SPACE was created in 1983 by calculation of the mean: England and Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Republic of Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, France, Monaco, Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Italy, San Marino, Spain, Portugal, Andorra, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Greece and Malta. Ireland and Andorra did not participate. We excluded data from Liechtenstein, San

Western European countries.

The latest editions of the Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics include data on the counting rules applied in each country. Comparisons of imprisonment rates are not straightforward because the categories of prisoners included vary between countries. The main differences come from the following categories, which are sometimes included and sometimes excluded: persons held in institutions for juvenile offenders, persons held in institutions for drug addicted persons, held in psychiatric institutions or hospitals, asylum seekers or illegal aliens held for administrative reasons, and persons serving their sentences under electronic monitoring. Future editions of SPACE will try to establish more precisely the numbers of persons in each category.

Notes
1 SPACE was created in 1983 by
2 When data were not available on 1 September, countries sent information on the closest available date.
3 Lappi-Seppälä, T. “Imprisonment and Penal Policy in Finland.” Criminology in Europe: Newsletter of the European Society of Criminology 4/1 (February 2005), with references.
4 According to the current understanding of Western Europe, we included the following countries in

Figure 4
Prison densities per 100 places of the total number of detainees and the prisoners not serving a final sentence in 2005 year (not considering persons held for the administrative reasons or mental ill prisoners). 1

1 Untried prisoners (no court decision yet reached), prisoners convicted but not yet sentenced, sentenced prisoners who have appealed or who are within the statutory time limit for doing so.

Pierre Tournier and has been overseen by Marcelo F. Aebi since 2002.

Marcelo F. Aebi is professor of criminology and Natalia Stadnic is researcher in criminology at the University of Lausanne, School of Criminal Sciences, Institute of Criminology and Criminal Law.
Message from the President

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Studies became abundant, results that initially produced much debate and disbelief were already part of a general body of knowledge. Subsequent, mostly small changes and differences in victimisation prevalences provoked brief comments or less.

When the EU-ICS, co-financed by the EU, was recently released, reactions were modest even in England where the opposition tried to capitalise on the results, as England and Wales had quite high rates in the comparison.

Surveys, when used in this fashion, are a modern form of statistics, rather than scientific research. This is not to say that they are made badly (although also such instances are known). To the contrary, they are produced with an increasing level of professionalism and skill. The problem is that they focus on indicator thinking: the assumption is that the overall victimisation prevalences are the central and most relevant crime features to be monitored and reported.

There is nothing inherently wrong with indicator thinking as such. Its shortcoming, besides focusing on trivial averages, is that it is seriously undermining the potential of survey research and expensive data sets. As time series pile up, the same basic follow-ups need to be carried out over and over again. Development of new approaches and perspectives must wait, because the basic reporting needs to be done.

After a change in world view caused by a new research perspective has taken hold, something else is needed to make replications interesting from research—and news—perspectives. This has often not been fully recognised. However well-planned and methodologically advanced a survey may be, its findings will attract little attention if it focuses and comments only on prevalence variations.

Prevalence rates are vulnerable to small technical disturbances, and often fluctuate up and down, producing conflicting trend descriptions or misleading comparisons. Furthermore, prevalences are boring because they fail to explain and make understandable the contents and the contexts of the phenomena under scrutiny.

A minimum requirement should be that surveys examine structures and distributions: in this way, even simple averages could be given new content and become better problematised. In survey research, distributions and structures are much less vulnerable to slight differences in research design than are simplistic parameters that describe the prevalence of the phenomenon.

Decent, professionally made surveys on different crime phenomena offer many kinds of opportunities for further analysis. I give only one example. Multiple victimisation is important to identify and understand for purposes of prevention. It can be studied by analysing distributions. Survey data can provide valuable information for prevention by revealing accumulation mechanisms. Such simple features would bring new interest to the results in that they can help to concretise what a given prevalence means and how it comes about. Another way to make better use of survey data is to invest in topic-specific research reports, which are often neglected. Such reports could dwell on a particular detail of the rich latent possibilities of any survey.

A remedy would be a larger concentration of resources on more in-depth analyses of the surveys. This is not easily achieved. It is ironic that routine basic reporting is not good enough to financiers to convince them that further resources are required to produce more useful results. To create better possibilities for useful research providing better interpretation and use of the surveys, it would make sense to transfer responsibility for routine replication surveys to statistical authorities.

After all, it is statistical information that is wanted; however statistical authorities in many countries have been reluctant to acknowledge their obvious responsibility for such work. Indeed, more than one such authority has explicitly indicated that these kinds of data are not their responsibility.

Thus, statistics authorities have to be convinced of their responsibility for crime data, including standard surveys. The European Commission and Eurostat can be expected to play an important role in this development, as typically conservative authorities often do not accept surveys as an important source of routine statistical information.

Once this has been achieved, researchers should be encouraged to make the best use of the survey data and other crime data that are available. Simple descriptive statistical uses will lead to an under-exploitation of tremendously expensive data. Cooperation between statistics authorities and research bodies is an obvious necessity. Both statistics authorities and researchers have some responsibility for the often low level of current co-operation.

The ESC conferences are providing opportunities for dialogue on such issues. Research should be facilitated rather than hampered by statistics authorities, whether by becoming involved themselves or supporting external research efforts. Statistical data are public property and should be treated accordingly.

Future ESC conferences can offer an important forum for such deliberations. As yet, there has not been much attendance from statistics authorities as they often do not see themselves as criminologists. I am positive that ESC members could influence this situation by encouraging their statistics authorities to attend and present.

Researchers and statistics authorities need one other dearly, and it would be in the best interest of both to see their cause as a common one. This should be even if current tendencies of division of labour and specialisation suggest a separation of the two.
Three plenary sessions have been scheduled:
· The Impact of Crime Prevention on Crime Trends, chaired by Ernesto Savona;
· Ethnicity, Multiculturalism, and Religion chaired by Michael Tonry;
· Criminology and the Criminal Justice System in Italy, chaired by Uberto Gatti.

Plenary speakers will include some of the most famous scholars on these issues, including Kitty Calavita, Ronald Clarke, Richard Tremblay, Dario Melossi, David Nelken, Tamar Pitch, Stefano Maffei, and Isabella Merzagora.

The thematic sessions also promise to be fascinating. A wide range of issues will be debated in 60 thematic panels proposed mainly by European scholars, but also some from the United States and Canada. These include, to mention a few: reflections about critical criminology today, sponsored by Theoretical Criminology; an examination of fear of crime and “governing through crime” in Europe and United States; two panels organized by the Working Group on Public Opinion and Justice; and four panels organized by the EUGPSRN Working Group on crime, communities, and the politics of public safety in Europe, the conference’s core issue.

Conference activities will take place all day September 27 and 28. Panel sessions will also take place on Saturday, September 29 through early afternoon, followed by the Closing Ceremony.

Social Events
Participants and accompanying persons are invited to attend the optional Gala Dinner scheduled for Thursday, 27 September, from 21:00 to 24:00, in the magnificent Palazzo Grassi. The palace is one of the few surviving examples of Medieval urban configuration in Bologna. Its arcade is supported by wooden beams in the typical ‘crutch’ shape. The main gateway has a pointed arch lintel, and the one-light windows are decorated with terracotta. The 15th-century inner courtyard contains intaglio works by the sculptress Properzia de Rossi. The Madonna with Child, a 6th century terracotta, also deserves mention. The patrician chapel contains stucco decorations by Giuseppe Mazza and seventeenth century ornamentation by Ercole Graziani.

Bologna is famous for its cooking. The Gala Dinner menu will feature traditional local specialties with a selection of hot and cold dishes, including some particularly prepared for vegetarians. A selection of non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages will be served.

The all-inclusive price is 60.00 Euros per person. The all-inclusive price is 60.00 Euros per person.

You can download a registration form from the conference website (http://www.eurocrim2007.org/) and fax it to Marcelo Aebi, Executive Secretary (Fax no. +41 21 692 4605) or forward it by email to secretariat@esc-eurocrim.org.

ACCOMMODATION IN BOLOGNA
Accommodation options are available on the conference website (http://www.eurocrim2007.org/). You may book directly with the hotels. On-line booking via the Conference Secretariat is also available.

Early booking is strongly advised.

The Working Group on European Developmental and Life Course Criminology, launched in the spring, has organized five panels. The Quantitative Criminology Working Group, the Working Group on Juvenile Justice, Eurogang, the Homicide-Suicide Project, and IARJC have all organized one or more thematic sessions.

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ESC in Bologna

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here are a few photographs of beautiful Bologna. We hope to see you there.
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