

MMECC • MAINSTREAMING METHODOLOGY FOR THE ESTIMATION OF THE COSTS OF CRIME

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BACKGROUND

In many countries, the approach to assessing the cost of crime and its prevention lacks rigour and is highly subjective. A more scientific way of collecting and analysing data would aid understanding the socio-economic impact of illicit behaviour and ensure the most effective use of manpower and financial resources.

In 2007 the European Commission awarded the Centre for Criminal Justice Economics and Psychology of the University of York (UK) to conduct the project entitled MMECC - *Mainstreaming Methodology for the Estimation of the Costs of Crime*. The project is financed under the VI Framework Programme for Scientific Research and Technological Development and is carried out in partnership with the Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada (Spain), the Home Office Economics & Resource Allocation Unit (UK), Matrix Research & Consultancy Ltd (UK), the National Institute of Justice (USA), the National Police Board (Sweden), Pompeu Fabra University (Spain), the School of Law of the University of Manchester (UK), Transcrime/Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano (Italy) and WODC (the Netherlands). Its aim is to extend awareness of methodologies for estimating the costs of crime by developing a cost model based on good practice and a learning environment with reference data useful in helping policy makers and practitioners from the Member States to use the model in their countries.

An international conference is being organised to disseminate the results of the study. It will be held on 5th December 2008 at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan.

AIM AND ORGANISATION OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference will present the findings which have emerged during the study. The event will therefore be the occasion to present to EU and Member States' criminal justice policymakers, statistical experts and academics the cost model for estimating the costs of crime developed in the context of MMECC project and guidelines on using the estimates for analysis of the effectiveness of criminal justice interventions and practice. It will also be an important opportunity to monitor how useful and user-friendly the learning environment is.

The programme will be announced at the end of September. The event will be organised in two main sessions. There will be a morning session where the key issues arising during the study, together with the cost model developed, will be presented. During the afternoon session, case studies illustrating how the cost model could be applied in selected Member States will be discussed; the feasibility of its implementation in other countries will be examined with Member States' delegates, together with the related data needs.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The conference is addressed to EU officials and national policymakers interested in current methodologies and best practices for estimating the costs of crime and in applying them to analyses of the cost-benefit and cost effectiveness of criminal justice policies. Statisticians handling, at the EU and MS level, crime and other socio-economic data useful for implementing the MMECC cost model may be interested in the findings from the study, as well as academics with a scientific and professional interest in the topic.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Chiara Turturo
at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore • TRANSCRIME
Mail: transcrime@unicatt.it
Phone: +39 02 72343715/16 • Fax: +39 02 72343721



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