



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS



## **QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY**

### **Statistical Report for an Accused Adult against Whom Criminal Proceedings Have Been Validly Concluded (SK-2 form) for 2025**

Organization unit: Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate / Crime Administration System and Social Protection Statistics Department

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June 2026

## 0. Basic information

- Purpose, goal and subject of the survey

The objective is to obtain indicators on accused and convicted adult perpetrators of criminal offences, which are an important tool in studying the structure of criminality and decisions of criminal prosecution bodies.

The content includes demographic data on adult perpetrators (sex, age, occupation, nationality, marital status, educational attainment) as well as data on participation, investigative imprisonment, criminal offence, attempt, acquisition, type of decision, pronounced legal sanctions and other measures and duration of the proceedings. Survey results may serve as a basis for the quality analysis of criminality in the Republic of Croatia. Information on age and sex of a perpetrator, type of criminal offence, pronounced legal sanctions and other measures, duration of proceedings, number of previous convictions, historical comparison of the number of accused and convicted perpetrators by groups of criminal offences can be particularly interesting and useful.

The subject of the survey are adult perpetrators of criminal offences against whom an indictment or a private suit were filed before the court, against whom proceedings have been concluded with a valid court decision by which the proceedings are terminated, the indictment is dropped, the person is acquitted, the accusation is rejected, a mentally incompetent person is assigned to a coercive accommodation or outward treatment or the perpetrator is found guilty.

- Reference period

Calendar year

- Legal acts and other agreements

European level: an agreement between countries (gentlemen's agreement) reached at the Eurostat Working Group on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics enables harmonisation of the methodology between EU Member States, which allows for comparative analysis of crime statistics.

National level:

Official Statistics Act (NN, Nos 25/20, 155/23 and 124/25 – correction)

Criminal Code (NN, Nos 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15 – correction, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21, 114/22, 114/23, 36/24 and 136/25) – defines criminal offences and sanctions

Criminal Procedure Act (NN, Nos 152/08, 76/09, 80/11, 121/11 – revised text, 91/12, 143/12, 56/13, 145/13, 152/14, 70/17, 126/19, 130/20, 80/22, 36/24, 72/25 and 13/26) – regulates conducting of criminal files.

Act on the Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organized Crime (NN, Nos 76/09, 116/10, 145/10, 57/11, 136/12, 148/13, 70/17 and 136/25) – relates to specialised investigations and criminal procedures.

Areas and Seats of Courts Act (NN, Nos 67/18 and 21/22) – defines competence and organisation of courts.

These acts make a legal basis for registering criminal procedures and ensure consistent implementation of the methodology in statistical surveys such as SK-2.

- Classification system

Classification of Criminal Offences of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics (based on articles/paragraphs/items of the Criminal Code and their interrelationship).

National Classification of Occupations, 2010 version – NKZ 10.

- Statistical concepts and definitions

Criminality, in terms of statistical surveys, ranges from reporting a criminal offence to the valid conclusion of the legal proceedings by a public prosecutor's office, that is, by court.

1) Perpetrator – data collected are those on a perpetrator of criminal offence (sex, date and year of birth, occupation, citizenship, marital status, educational attainment and other information). Accused person is an adult person against whom an indictment or a private suit were filed before the court, against whom proceedings have been concluded with a valid court decision by which the proceedings are terminated, the indictment is dropped, the person is acquitted, the accusation is rejected, a mentally incompetent person is assigned to a coercive accommodation or outward treatment or the perpetrator is found guilty. Convicted person is an adult person found guilty against whom the following criminal penalties or other measures have been pronounced: imprisonment, fine, educational measures, or the person is found guilty but no sentence has been imposed.

Age is considered the age a person turned at the time of committing a criminal offence and not the age at the time of reaching the decision.

2) Criminal offence – collected data refer to the criminal offence as defined in the Criminal Code, applied regulation and the year in which the criminal offence was committed as well as information on an attempt and acquisition.

Criminal offence according to the principle of legality laid down in Article 2 of the Criminal Code: "No one shall be punished, and no criminal sanction shall be applied, for conduct which did not constitute a criminal offense under a statute or international law at the time it was committed and for which the type and range of punishment by which the perpetrator can be punished has not been prescribed by statute."

3) Data on court's decision – type of decision and reasons – the criminal procedure may be concluded by a valid court's decision on the rejection of an indictment, termination of criminal procedure, judgement of acquittal, judgement rejecting charges, decision concerning mentally incompetent persons, or the accused person is found guilty (including judgements based on mutual agreement of parties involved).

4) Criminal penalties and other measures – After the conclusion of criminal proceedings, the accused person can be convicted and in that case an imprisonment, a fine, an educational measure or a juvenile imprisonment is pronounced, or the person is found guilty but no sentence is imposed. If a perpetrator commits more criminal offences with one or more acts for which he/she is simultaneously charged, it is considered a merger of criminal offences. The court determines a penalty according to the law for each criminal offence and then pronounces a single penalty for all offences committed. Younger adult perpetrator (18 to 21 years of age) who committed a criminal offence as an adult may be sentenced by a court to juvenile imprisonment or educational measures. If the younger adult perpetrator turns 21 years of age during the proceedings, the court may pronounce imprisonment instead of juvenile imprisonment.

5) Date of filing the crime report, date of filing a charge and date of making valid decision – Date of filing the crime report is the date of the receipt of the crime report in the public prosecutor's office. Date of filing a charge is an exact date when a charge or a private lawsuit has been registered in the court's register, whereas date of making valid decision is the date when the court made a valid decision based on the indictment.

- Statistical units

The statistical unit is an accused adult perpetrator of a criminal offence against whom criminal proceedings have been validly concluded.

- Statistical population

Statistical population include accused adult perpetrators of criminal offences against whom criminal proceedings have been validly concluded, and who can be perpetrators, accomplices, instigators or assistants.

## 1. Relevance

### 1.1. Data users

National users: ministries and other state administration bodies, civil society organisations specialised in combat against violence, academic community, the media

International users: Eurostat, (Statistical Office of the European Union), UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

#### 1.1.1. User needs

National users: ministries and other state administration bodies are primarily interested in data on accused and convicted persons for the purpose of preparing reports or declarations related to international documents (e.g., for corruptive criminal offences, criminal offences with elements of violence, etc.).

Regular data users of justice administration statistics are persons who are already familiar with this domain to a relevant degree (professors, judges, state attorneys, students). For this reason, their needs cannot be fully satisfied by providing basic statistical aggregates since they mostly use these data either for present and analyse a certain phenomenon or as a basis of certain legal or organisational adjustments. In addition, a level of detail of the SK-2 survey is also important because users of these statistics are mostly experts in the domain of material and processing criminal justice. Therefore, the level of information they have on their disposal, the nature of their questions and needs is potentially more complex than statistics that are of primary importance for broader public.

International users: Every year, Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union), the UN Office for Drugs and Crime send a voluminous joint questionnaire to countries entitled "UNODC Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS questionnaire)".

#### 1.1.2. User satisfaction

The first survey on satisfaction of users of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics was carried out in 2013, then in 2015 and 2022, and the most recent one at the end of 2024. The results can be checked out on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics – [User satisfaction surveys](#).

### 1.2. Completeness

The domain encompassed by the SK-2 survey is legally regulated. Criminal prosecution and criminal procedure are regulated primarily by the Criminal Procedure Act, which is an organic law. That law strictly regulates aspects which are an important part of the SK-2 form (whether a criminal prosecution is carried out on the basis of official duty or not, which decisions can be made by court and on which grounds, etc.). Volume of information, including a general volume of information that may make a basis for data collection, which criminal prosecution bodies are authorised to require from an accused person, is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Act (primarily in its articles 272 and 413). Article 202 provides a definition frame for the preparation and implementation of statistical definitions for the SK-2 survey. The Criminal Code, which contains a catalogue of criminal offences (and serves as a basis for the Classification of criminal offences of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics) is also an organic law. Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union) and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime send a voluminous joint questionnaire to countries entitled "UNODC Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS questionnaire)" is currently the main methodological framework used in justice administration statistics, which allows for international comparability of data. The definitions of criminal offences are in line with the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, which ensures consistency in pairing of national criminal offences with their international categories.

SK-2 survey results make a basis for filling in a part of the questionnaire that refer to accused and convicted persons, by which the statistical data processing is harmonised with the European standards.

The data collection in the criminal statistics domain is not mandatory, but it is foreseen in the Resolution 1984/48 of UN Economic and Social Council of 25 May 1984. Eurostat got a mandate within The Hague Programme from 2004: strengthening freedom, security and justice in the European Union for development of comparable statistics on crime and administration of justice. The system is being improved and enlarged as a part of the implementation of the Stockholm Programme from 2009: An Open and Secure Europe Serving and Protecting the Citizens. In 2012, the Commission set down the main strategies to be adopted in order to improve the data collection in the crime statistics domain in the form of an action plan for statistics for the period from 2011 to 2015. The following mandatory data sets is conducted by Eurostat on behalf of the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs: data sets on Human trafficking: Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA; data sets on Migrant smuggling in line with Directive 2002/90/EC of 28 November 2002 defining the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence, as well as the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling (2021 – 2025); data sets on cybercrime in line with the Directive 2013/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 August 2013 on attacks against information systems and replacing Council Framework Decision 2005/222/JHA.

#### 1.2.1. Data completeness rate

The indicator is not applicable.

## 2. Accuracy and reliability

### 2.1. Sampling error

Not applicable (the survey is not based on the sample).

#### 2.1.1. Sampling error indicators

The indicator is not applicable.

### 2.2. Non-sampling error

No errors were detected in relation to overcoverage and undercoverage. The survey coverage is full, since it is regulated by national legal acts and no non-response errors by units occurred. Nonresponse related errors for key variables are resolved by contacting reporting units. Imputations are not implemented.

#### 2.2.1. Coverage error

The coverage is full. Namely, this survey is not based on the sample, while coverage is regulated by legal acts (primarily by the Act on Areas and Seats of Courts).

#### 2.2.2. Over-coverage rate

The indicator is not applicable.

#### 2.2.3. Measurement error

Data for the SK-2 survey are collected via the eSpis court case management system of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation, with a predefined variable structure. For most of the research categories, response modalities are predefined, most often in the form of drop-down menus, which allows for consistent data recording. An automated navigation system, depending on the answer to a particular question, directs the respondent to the next relevant question and allows blocking responses to inapplicable questions.

Submission of the SK-2 report via eSpis is not possible without entering all mandatory data, which ensures the completeness and accuracy of statistical records. The collected data are loaded in a

structured format that corresponds to the matrix prepared in the Generator data storage and processing database, which eliminates input errors.

In the Generator database, data are automatically updated with each new upload, while standardised tables have been prepared in accordance with the structure of statistical results intended for regular dissemination.

Also, the items of the classification of criminal offences in use are aligned, except in cases where this is not possible, with the previous classification of criminal offences, thus ensuring consistency and continuity in justice statistics.

#### 2.2.4. Non-response error

In early April 2025, data download began via the eSpis system of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation.

The competent municipal/county court fills in the data via the eSpis system for each accused person for whom it made a valid decision in the criminal procedure.

The submission of the SK-2 report via the eSpis system is not possible unless all requested data are provided.

#### 2.2.5. Unit non-response rate

The indicator is not applicable.

#### 2.2.6. Item non-response rate

The indicator is not applicable.

#### 2.2.7. Processing error

Imputations are not implemented, whereas the missing or misclassified data are resolved by contacting the reporting units.

#### 2.2.8. Imputation rate

The indicator is not applicable.

#### 2.2.9. Model assumption error

Not applicable, because the survey is not based on the sample.

### 2.3. Data revision

#### 2.3.1. Data revision – policy

The users of statistical data are informed about revisions on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, on the link [General Revision Policy of the CBS](#).

#### 2.3.2. Data revision – practice

Provisional figures are not published in this survey and therefore regular revisions are not applicable. If necessary, a correction of released statistical data can be issued.

#### 2.3.3. Data revision – average size

The indicator is not applicable.

### 2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Seasonal adjustment of data is not carried out.

### **3. Timeliness and Punctuality**

#### **3.1. Timeliness**

Basic results: T + 4 months

Detailed results: T + 5 months

##### 3.1.1. Time lag – first results

The indicator is not applicable.

##### 3.1.2. Time lag – final results

Timeliness of final results is T + 4 months.

#### **3.2. Punctuality**

There are no deviations between planned and realised issues.

##### 3.2.1. Punctuality – delivery and publication

The indicator is not applicable.

### **4. Accessibility and clarity**

The First Releases (basic data) and PC-Axis databases are issued at the annual level and they are available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

#### **4.1. News release**

Regular dissemination – First Release [Adult Perpetrators of Criminal Offences, by Type of Decision, 2025](#)

#### **4.2. On-line database**

PC-Axis databases Perpetrators of criminal offences – adult.

Information on databases is available at [PX-Web - Select database](#).

It is published once a year, at the beginning of May (data refer to the previous calendar year).

#### **4.3. Micro-data access**

Conditions under which certain users can have access to microdata are regulated by the [Ordinance on the Conditions and Terms of Access and Use of Confidential Statistical Data of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for Scientific Purposes](#) (NN, No. 5/23).

#### **4.4. Documentation on methodology**

Basic notes on methodology are given in the First Release [Adult Perpetrators of Criminal Offences, by Type of Decision, 2025](#) (in the part Notes on Methodology) and in the PC-Axis databases Perpetrators of Criminal offences – Adult (a part of Notes on Methodology), which are available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

## **5. Comparability over time**

### **5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flows statistics**

Not applicable.

### **5.2. Comparability - over time**

Criminal Code impacts comparability over time of main statistical indicators in the SK-2 survey, since it contains a catalogue of almost all criminal offences in the national system of criminal justice.

The current Criminal Code (NN, Nos 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15 – correction, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21, 114/22, 114/23, 36/24 and 136/25) entered into force on 1 January 2013. Prior to this Act, beginning with 1998, the previous Penalty Code was in force (NN, No. 110/97 and later amendments).

In order to achieve methodological consistency of data, identical criminal offences that can be found in various criminal codes are paired and expressed according to the classification of the actual Criminal Code. Criminal offences that cannot be methodologically adjusted are presented separately in the statistical analyses of the SK-2 survey.

Passing of a new Criminal Code can have an important impact on the SK-2 survey data if particular criminal offences have been transferred into the area of misdemeanour legislature, which affects their statistical records. These methodological changes are always explained to users in order to achieve consistency in the analysis of trends of criminal procedures.

#### **5.2.1. Length of comparable time series**

Length of comparable time series is 29 years.

#### **5.2.2. Reasons for break in time series**

There were no breaks in time series of the SK-2 survey so far. The main reason is the methodology of the production of the new classification of criminal offences, which is usually created when the new Criminal Code enters into force. While updating the classification of criminal offences, items from the actual classification are paired with items from a previous classification of criminal offences (which was developed on the basis of the then valid Criminal Code), providing that their contents are identical. This ensures the continuity of records as well as data comparison in different legal cycles. Criminal offences that cannot be methodologically adjusted are presented separately in order to ensure transparency and accuracy of data within the SK-2 survey. Further on, if a previous Criminal Code is applied to the perpetrator due to the more lenient law principle, his or her criminal offences can be presented according to a new classification of criminal offences, which helps in maintaining the statistical consistency and enables the analysis of legal changes in time series of the SK-2 survey.

### **5.3. Coherence – subannual and annual statistics**

The indicator is not applicable.

### **5.4. Coherence – national accounts**

The indicator is not applicable.

### **5.5. Coherence – administrative sources**

The indicator is not applicable.

## **6. Cost and burden**

### **6.1. Cost**

As part of the activities of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (eSpis, Activity 13) in 2024, a series of activities were undertaken to replace the collection of data for the SK-2 survey from the previous printed form with direct download from the administrative databases of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation. The implementation of the activities was completed at the end of March 2025, and data download using the eSpis system of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation began in early April 2025.

Thanks to a digitalised data collection system, data collection costs are minimum, while updates to the questionnaire are adjusted to legal changes.

Costs of data processing and dissemination include the following:

- a proportional part of costs refers to working hours per person engaged in the SK-2 survey in the Crime Administration System and Social Protection Statistics Department
- a certain contingent of man-hours for persons engaged in this survey in the Publishing Department,
- resources of the Information Technology Directorate, who are in charge of maintenance of web questionnaire and regular annual adjustment for this survey in the database for storage and processing of data, i.e. the Generator.

Integrated data collection system ensures a continuous methodological consistency, whereas automated mechanisms of updating and validation enable a reliable statistical analysis of the SK-2 survey.

### **6.2. Burden**

Burden on reporting units depends on the number of accused/convicted persons in a calendar year. The statistical report SK-2 consists of 34 questions, which is filled in by marking one of the offered answers.

The submission periodicity is the whole year, so the burden is evenly arranged and reporting fatigue avoided.