

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data on crimes and persons convicted are obtained by processing of the information on the activity of the regional, district and military courts on penal trials.

The number of crimes and persons convicted for certain reference year includes those with sentence that has come into force during the same year.

Persons convicted, conditionally sentenced persons, as well as acquitted persons, persons released from punishment, and persons against whom legal proceedings have been terminated are included in the total number of defendants.

Persons convicted with all kinds of inflicted penalty, including conditionally sentenced persons are included in the total number of persons convicted.

The crimes concluded with penalty inflicted include all crimes with inflicted penalty regardless they had been committed by one or more persons.

In case of complicity, a crime is considered to have been concluded with penalty inflicted if even when only one of the defendants has been convicted or conditionally sentenced.

A crime committed in complicity ends with acquittal in case when all persons have been acquitted.

Penal proceedings in case of a crime are considered to have been terminated with the termination of legal proceedings against the perpetrator or all perpetrators.

Preparation of crimes is included in the total number of attempted crimes.

In case of the conviction of a person for a number of crimes, data on the penalty inflicted on the person are provided for the most serious punishable offence, and data on each individual crime – according to the respective type of crime. If according to the verdict in each case penal proceedings concerning these crimes have been concluded with an inflicted penalty, a conditional sentence, acquittal or termination of proceedings, data on each crime are provided under the respective verdict.

For instance, if a person had committed robbery of property, theft of property and fraud - the person has been convicted for the first two crimes, and acquitted for the third one. The person is considered convicted for robbery of property (the most serious punishable offence), while data on crimes have been reported according to the respective type of crime: the first one - as a robbery of property; the second one - as theft of property; and the third one - as fraud ended by acquittal.

In case a number of persons commit a crime, data on the crime itself are provided only once, while those concerning each perpetrator are given depending on the respective verdict.

The total number of defendants and persons convicted does not coincide with the actual number of defendants and persons convicted, as for the duration of the reporting year a person may appear a number of times as a defendant or person convicted.

In terms of the territorial distribution of persons convicted, the place of committing the most serious punishable offence is taken into account or the area of the last committed crime. As regards the continuing crime the territorial distribution is made by taking into account the last actions.

Crimes committed abroad and subject to the jurisdiction of Courts in the Republic of Bulgaria are included in the total number of crimes.

Data about crimes with penalty inflicted and persons convicted are given by districts, municipalities, cities and villages in accordance with the administrative-territorial division of the country according to the place of committing a crime.

All socio-economic indicators characterizing persons convicted refer to the moment of committing a crime.

The age of persons convicted is given in completed years. Persons who have completed 14, but not 18 years are considered as juveniles.

In cases when the person convicted has committed more than one crime, the table about imposed penalties indicates the penalty on an aggregate.

Convicted juvenile persons are included in the total number of persons convicted in spite of data on juveniles are differentiated.

Crimes for which an amnesty has been granted by virtue of amnesty laws adopted by the National Assembly in May, November and December (published respectively in 'State Gazette', No. No. 37, 91 and 99/1990) are not included in the data on crimes and persons convicted.

Data on crimes and persons convicted in 2008 are obtained on the basis of the NSI statistical survey data and data from administrative source (Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria - National Investigative Service).