

## METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

### Crimes, accused and persons convicted

The data on Crimes, Accused and Persons Convicted are obtained from exhaustive survey through filling in the statistical questionnaire „Card for accused person“ by the pre-trial and trial proceedings and data from administrative source - the Unified Information System for Counteraction to Criminality (UISCC). Covers the activity of regional and district courts within the territory of the country on penal trials of general, private and administrative nature.

**The object of the survey** is the activity of the regional, district, military courts and the Specialized criminal court on penal trials of general, private and administrative nature.

According to the Judiciary System Act (amended and supplemented by SG 32 of 26 April 2022), the Specialized Criminal Court is abolished. Criminal cases of first instance before the Specialised Criminal Court, in which a dispositional hearing has been held, become subject to the jurisdiction of the Sofia City Court and their examination continues by the panel of judges which held the hearing. The judges of the Trial Chambers who have not been reassigned to the Sofia City Court shall be seconded to take part in the examination of the cases until the conclusion of the proceedings on them.

**Units of survey** are crimes, accused and persons convicted with sentence that has come into force during the reference year.

The number of **crimes, accused and persons convicted** includes the information from penal trials with sentence that has come into force during the reference year.

**Crimes with penalties inflicted** include proceedings that finished with conditional or effective sentence irrespective of the number of perpetrators.

A crime committed by more than one person (in complicity) is counted as crime with penalty inflicted when at least one of the accused persons is effective or conditional convicted. In case when all persons have been acquitted, a crime committed in complicity ends with acquittal. A crime is counted as suspended when proceeding against the perpetrator or all perpetrators ends with suspension.

Crimes with penalty inflicted by place of commitment are distributed by districts and municipalities in accordance with the administrative-territorial division of the country. Crimes committed abroad which are under the jurisdiction of courts in the Republic of Bulgaria are included in the total number of crimes.

**Accused persons** include effective and conditionally sentenced persons, as well as acquitted persons, persons released from penalty, and persons against whom the proceedings have been suspended.

**Persons convicted** are those with effective or conditional sentence has come into force.

The age of persons convicted is in completed years by the date of commitment of the crime.

When a crime is committed by several persons, the crime is counted only once, and each perpetrator - individually depending on the results of proceeding. In case there is convicted person for more than one committed crime in one proceeding, the most severe punishment is counted. If a person is convicted for several crimes, the person is counted as the most serious punishable offence and each crime separately according to the respective type of crime.

When in one proceeding, a person is convicted for several crimes committed in different places in the country, the person is counted by the place of commitment for the most severe punishable crime by districts and municipalities in accordance with the administrative-territorial division of the country.

The number of accused and persons convicted does not coincide with the actual number, as during the calendar year, a person may be accused or convicted more than once.

The population estimate as of 31 December 2022 reflects the changes in population numbers and structure recorded in the Census 2021. In this regard, there is a break in the time series for all coefficients for 2022.