Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy
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Crime proofing and threat assessment - a methodological approach - differences and similarities

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EU Forum on the prevention of organised crime

Workshop: A strategy on crime and terrorism proofing and the assessment of the threat from organised crime

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Overview

- > **1. EU-definitions**
- > **2. Common features**
- > **3. Methodological consequences**
- > **4. Risk assessment methodology for organised crime?**
- > **5. Best practices**
- > **6. A common methodology?**
- > **7. Conclusions**

1. EU-definitions

> ## Crime proofing:

>> "*Testing legislative proposals as regards the **crime opportunities** they might create.*" (Commission 2000 and 2002)

>> "*The scanning of loopholes and **crime facilitating opportunities** .... applied to the legislation making process*" (Commission and Europol 2001)

> ## Threat/risk assessment:

>> "*Identifying and **examining vulnerable areas of the society** that are, or could be exploited (by criminals)*" (Europol Analytical Guidelines)

2. Common features

> identification crime opportunities and vulnerabilities

> in legislation (crime proofing) and in the society as a whole (threat assessment)

> future oriented (opportunities that *might be* exploited by organised crime)

> allows for preventive action (priority setting)

3. Methodological consequences

> **Need for a methodology to:**

>> *define* **opportunities and vulnerabilities (future oriented)**

>> *measure and rank* **the opportunities and vulnerabilities (defining priorities)**

>> **be used for preventing (organised)** *crime*

> **A risk assessment methodology for organised crime?**

4. Risk assessment methodology for OC?

> **A. Basic concepts**

>> **Risk = likelihood x consequence**
>> **Likelihood = probability and frequency (threat)**
>> **Consequence = harm (impact)**

> **B. Organised crime risk assessment**

>> **oc threat x oc impact**

5. Best practices (1)

> **A. Crime proofing**

>> **Max-Planck-Institute comparative study (*Criminal Preventive Risk Assessment in the Law-Making Procedure* - Falcone project 1999/140)**

>> **interesting examples of best practices (Scandinavian countries, Belgium…) but,**

>> **no real *organised crime* risk assessments**

>> **no specific *methodological background***

5. Best practices (2)

› **B. General organised crime risk assessment**

  › **a. New Belgian methodology for the annual report on organised crime**

    › *Reporting on organised crime. A shift from description to explanation in the Belgian annual reports on organised crime* (IRCP, 2001)

  › **b. MS and EU-initiatives to change the methodology of the annual Organised Crime Situation Report (OCSR)**

    › e.g. EU-Action Plan (Crimorg 133, December 2001)

5. Best practices (3)

> **c. Project "*Developing a methodology for measuring organised crime in the EU. Part one. A pilot study in Belgium, Italy, Sweden and the European Union*" (EU Hippokrates Project 2001/HIP/015 directed by IRCP, partners Transcrime and Swedish Council for Crime Prevention)**

>> importance of harm/impact studies for risk assessment on organised crime

>> best practices in Sweden (e.g. risk assessment in customs service) and Belgium (recent study on the harm of crime)

6. A common methodology?

> **Belgian/EU risk assessment methodology for oc:**

>> 1. Organised crime groups
>> 2. Counter strategies
>> 3. Illicit market scan
>> 4. Licit market scan

>>> ? organised crime proofing

>>>> oc-task environment vulnerability studies
>>>> See e.g. Phil Williams, J. Albanese, M. Levi, E. Savona, IRCP-Antwerp study 2002…

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7. Conclusions

› **Risk assessment methodology as common framework**
› **Legislation is a part of the task environment of oc**
› **Mutual influence task environment and oc-crime capacity (threat)**
› **Link oc crime proofing to licit sector analysis**
   › prioritise oc crime proofing
› **Combine knowledge oc-capacity with knowledge of vulnerability of legislation**
› **need for multidisciplinary approach (law enforcement, academics, private sector…)**