



EUROPE

# ***Measuring progress against transnational organised crime***

**Dr Jennifer Rubin**

**Communities, Safety and Justice Programme, RAND Europe**

**February 2012**

# *Overview*

- 1. Growing recognition of the challenge of measuring transnational organised crime**
- 2. Recent progress in measuring hidden activity**
- 3. Developing a new approach to measure transnational organised crime / illicit market activity**
- 4. Operationalising and testing new metrics across a range of transnational organised crime activity and across regions**

# *Overview*

- 1. Growing recognition of the challenge of measuring transnational organised crime**
2. Recent progress in measuring hidden activity
3. Developing a new approach to measure transnational organised crime / illicit market activity
4. Operationalising and testing new metrics across a range of transnational organised crime activity and across regions

## ***Growing recognition of the need to tackle transnational organised crime***

- Estimates vary but drug trafficking, human trafficking, human smuggling and weapons trafficking considered to be high and rising in the EU - as elsewhere
- Concern exists about TOC facilitators, links between TOC and terrorism, infiltration of the licit economy, and more
- Several countries and regions have developed or updated strategies in recent years

**Local to Global:**  
Reducing the Risk  
from Organised Crime

 HM Government

## ***Growing recognition that better measures are needed to evaluate TOC policies and strategies***

- **Evaluation is essential because**
  - **Law enforcement (and other) interventions to tackle TOC are expensive**
  - **Current financial situation requires law enforcement demonstrate impact**

## ***Growing recognition that better measures are needed to evaluate TOC policies and strategies***

- **Evaluation is essential because**
  - Law enforcement (and other) interventions to tackle TOC are expensive
  - Current financial situation requires law enforcement demonstrate impact
- **Evaluation approaches are lagging behind interventions**
- **‘Volumetrics’ tell us more about levels of police activities/ resources than about TOC**

# Overview

1. Growing recognition of the challenge of measuring transnational organised crime
2. Recent progress in measuring hidden activity
3. Developing a new approach to measure transnational organised crime / illicit market activity
4. Operationalising and testing new metrics across a range of transnational organised crime activity and across regions

# *How can we better quantify this 'dark figure'?*

- Better approaches must be developed and drawn upon for measuring TOC's otherwise hidden activity
- An illustrative example from another areas: using Emergency Room data to measure violent crime



# *How can we better quantify this 'dark figure'?*

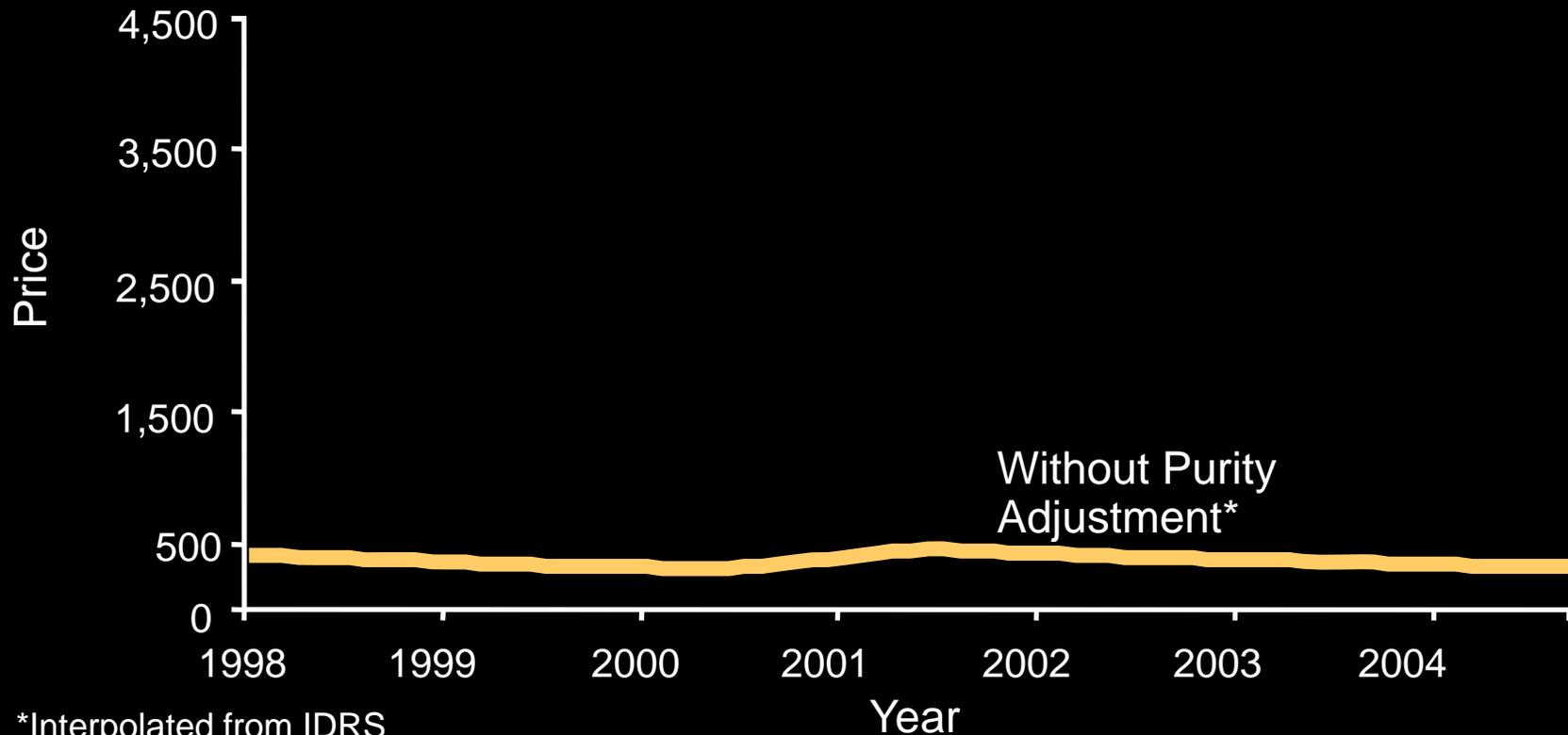
- Better approaches must be developed and drawn upon for measuring TOC's otherwise hidden activity
- An illustrative example from another areas: using Emergency Room data to measure violent crime
  - **Measures that go beyond law enforcement activity may help law enforcement to better measure and inform that activity**



## *Measuring illicit drug markets - beyond seizures and arrests*

- **What happens to price when supply is scarce?**

Heroin Price (\$) per Raw Gram



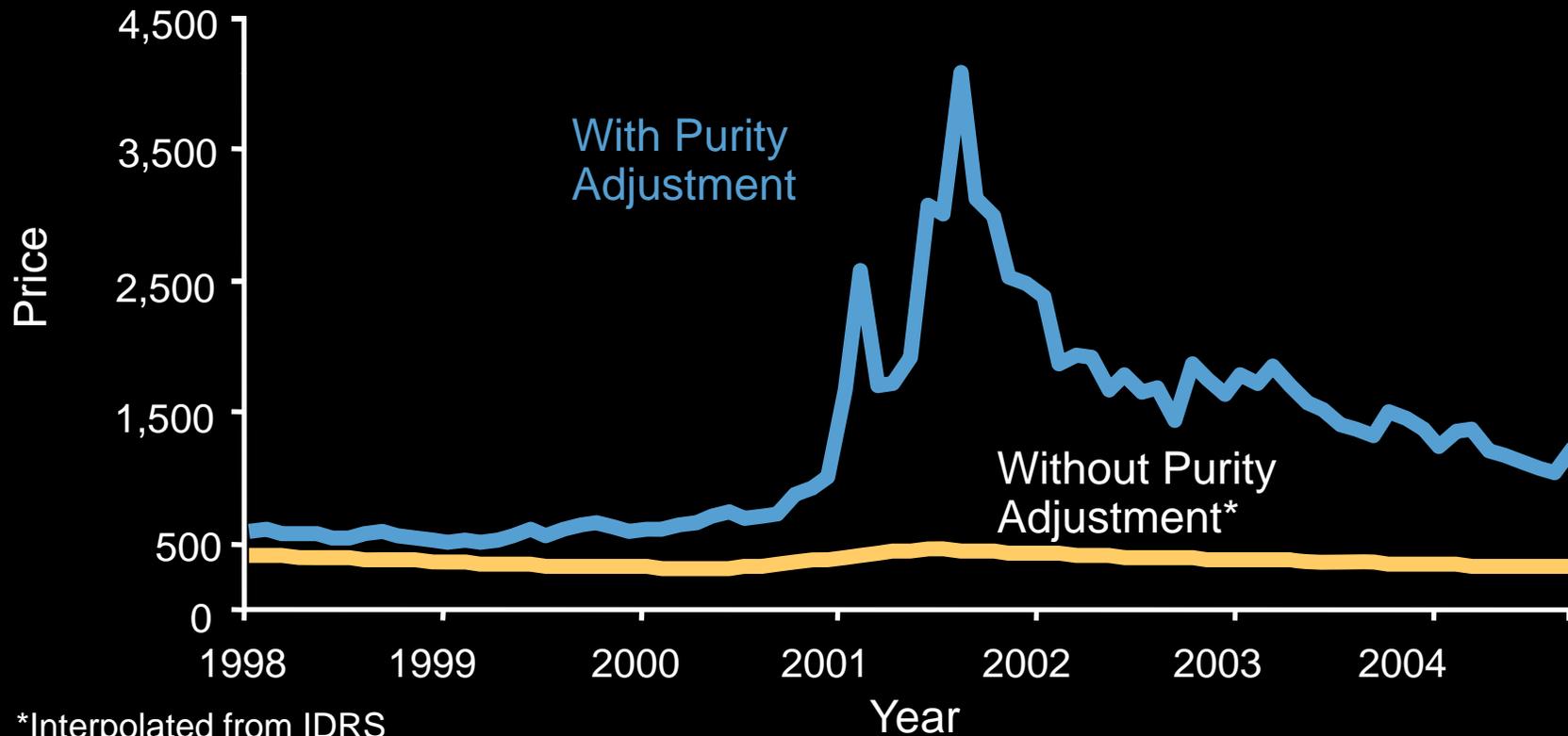
\*Interpolated from IDRS

**RAND**

# Measuring illicit drug markets - beyond seizures and arrests

- What happens to price when supply is scarce?

Heroin Price (\$) per Raw Gram



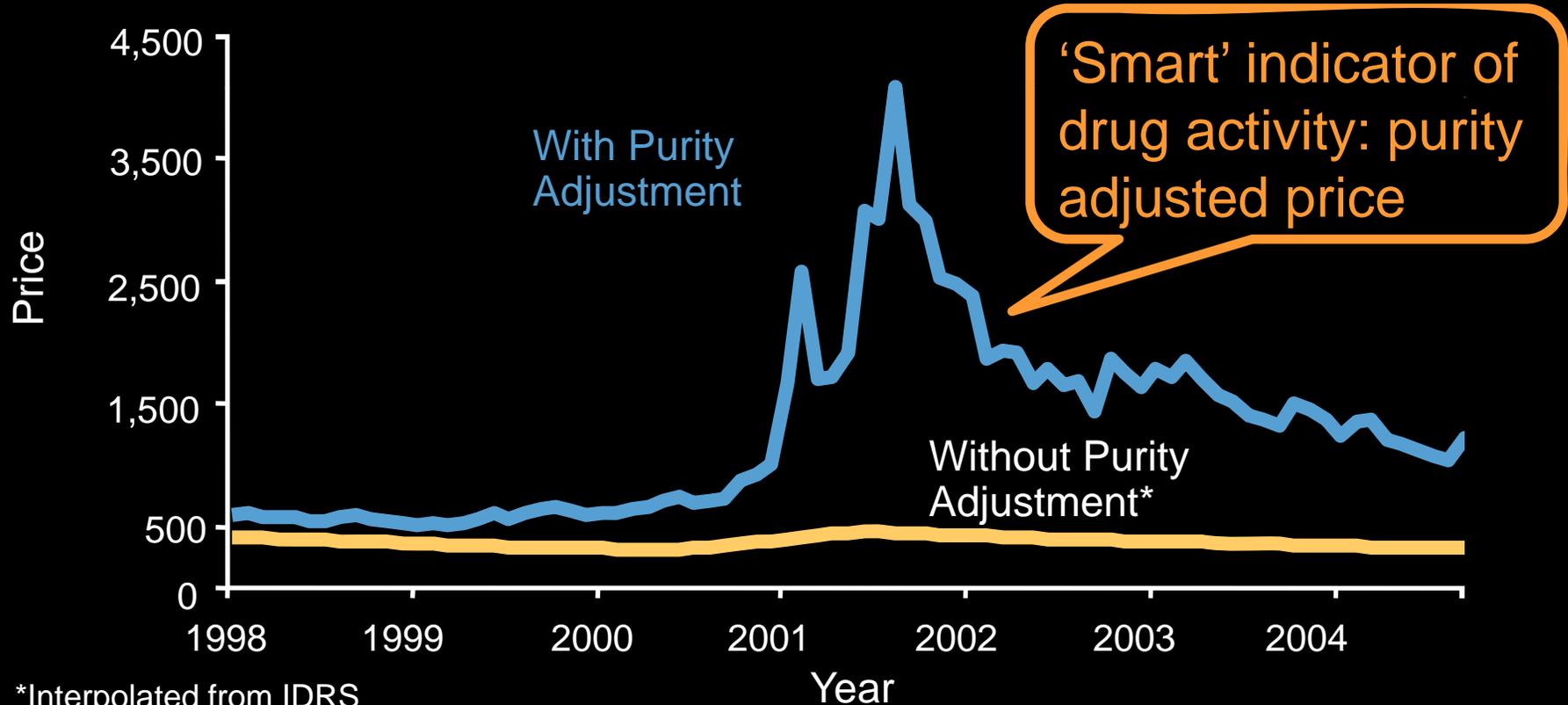
\*Interpolated from IDRS

RAND

# Measuring illicit drug markets - beyond seizures and arrests

- What happens to price when supply is scarce?

Heroin Price (\$) per Raw Gram



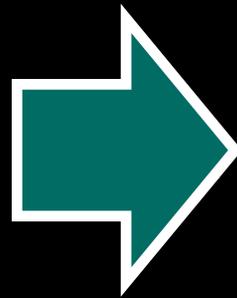
\*Interpolated from IDRS

RAND

# Overview

1. Growing recognition of the challenge of measuring transnational organised crime
2. Recent progress in measuring hidden activity
- 3. Developing a new approach to measure transnational organised crime / illicit market activity**
4. Operationalising and testing new metrics across a range of transnational organised crime activity and across regions

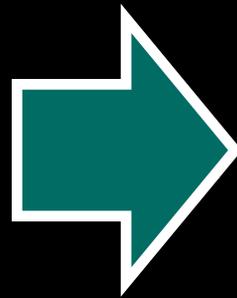
**To focus law enforcement (and other) resources a more 'granular' picture of local activity is needed**



***“It seems especially important ... to detect patterns of regional differences in black market activity on a continuous basis”***

Von Lampe (2005), 'Assessing organized crime: Provisional situation report on trafficking in contraband cigarettes', *Trends in Organized Crime* 9(2) pp. 8-15

**To focus law enforcement (and other) resources a more 'granular' picture of local activity is needed**



***“It seems especially important ... to detect patterns of regional differences in black market activity on a continuous basis”***

Von Lampe (2005), 'Assessing organized crime: Provisional situation report on trafficking in contraband cigarettes', *Trends in Organized Crime* 9(2) pp. 8-15

- **The challenge: finding measures which are independent of law enforcement but detailed enough to capture otherwise hidden changes**

**RAND**

## *An example from natural science: counting grey and red squirrel populations*

- Squirrels are difficult to count because they move around, the timid ones hide, and so on



# *An example from natural science: counting grey and red squirrel populations*

- Squirrels are difficult to count because they move around, the timid ones hide, and so on
- But red and grey squirrels prefer to eat different tree cones
  - Norway Spruce: preferred by red
  - Large-seeded broadleaves: preferred by grey



- Red squirrels
- Grey squirrels
- Red and grey squirrels

# *An example from natural science: counting grey and red squirrel populations*

- Squirrels are difficult to count because they move around, the timid ones hide, and so on
- But red and grey squirrels prefer to eat different tree cones
  - Norway Spruce: preferred by red
  - Large-seeded broadleaves: preferred by grey



■ Red squirrels  
■ Grey squirrels  
■ Red and grey squirrels

- **Solution: count squirrel-eaten cones in given habitats**

# *Implications for measuring levels of illicit market activities*

Identify traces of everyday activity in the 'ecosystems' of illicit markets: what are the equivalents to squirrels' cones?



# *Implications for measuring levels of illicit market activities*

Identify traces of everyday activity in the 'ecosystems' of illicit markets: what are the equivalents to squirrels' cones?

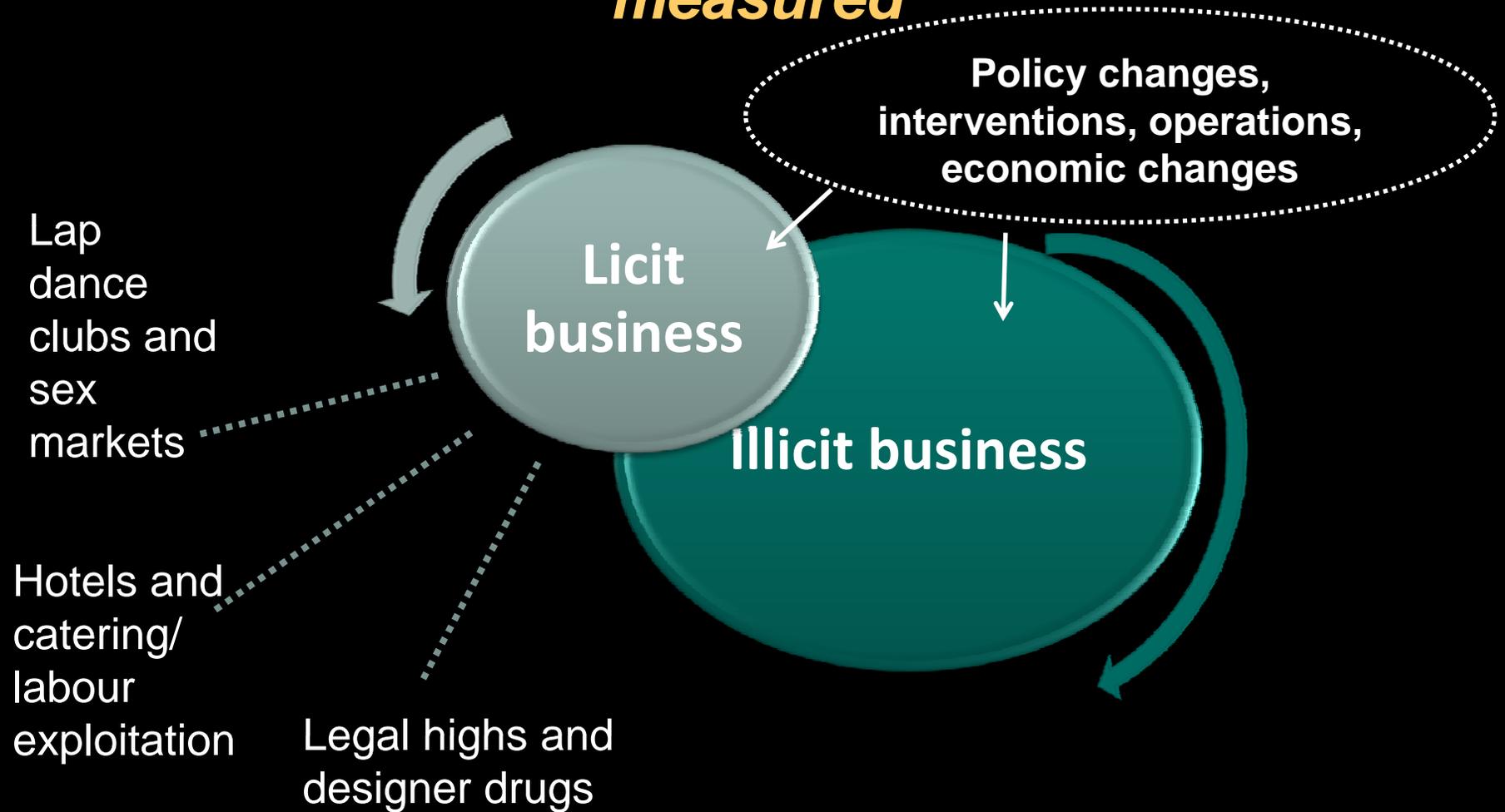


- Identify existing data that records the traces of those activities
  - For example 'Street Level Up' in the UK
- Draw on data less contingent to law enforcement activity
  - But map against existing criminal justice system data to observe relationships and impacts

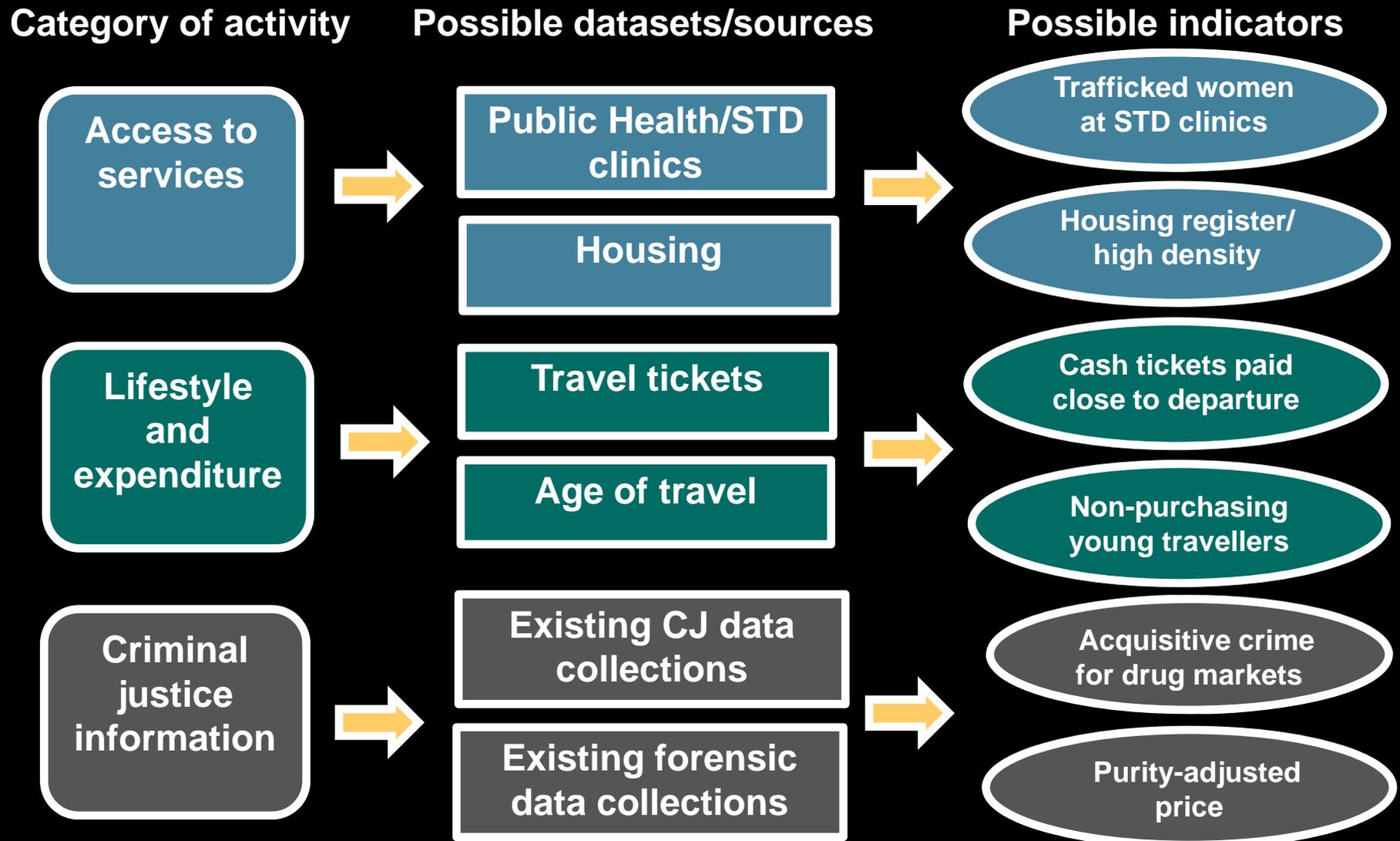
# Overview

1. Growing recognition of the challenge of measuring transnational organised crime
2. Recent progress in measuring hidden activity
3. Developing a new approach to measure transnational organised crime / illicit market activity
4. Operationalising and testing new metrics across a range of transnational organised crime activity and across regions

***Cross over into the licit economy, and possible interactions with specific licit markets can also be measured***

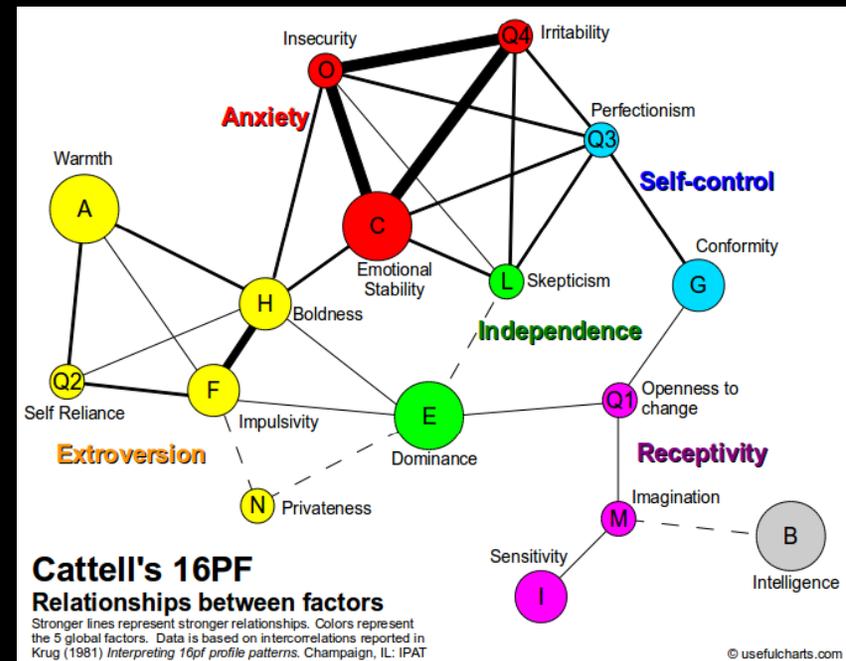


# Schematic of indicator development process



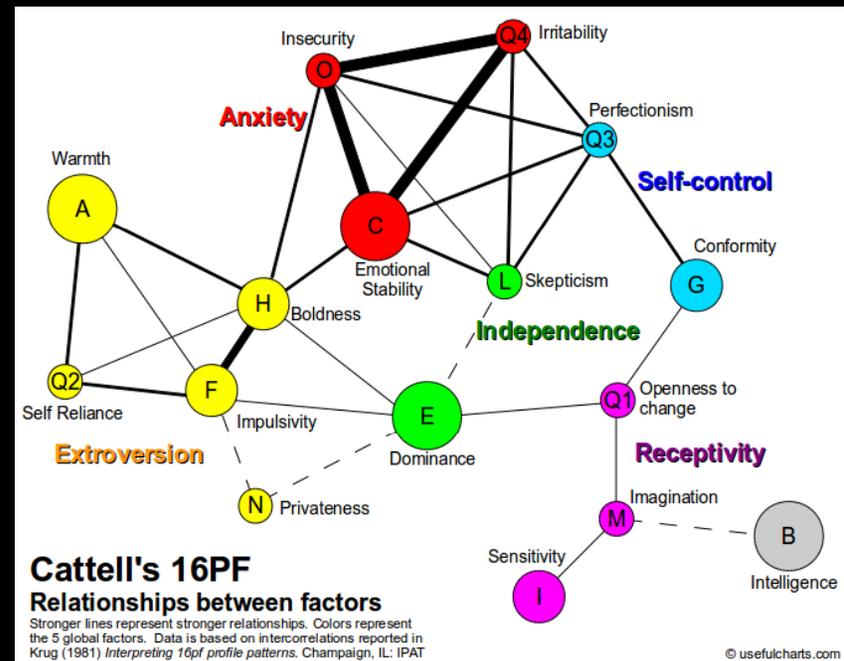
# Develop clusters of indicators across areas and see how they move over time

- If criminal networks are 'polymorphous' and nimble then see how they move to assess balloon effects and substitutions
  - Geographically
  - Substantively



# Develop clusters of indicators across areas and see how they move over time

- If criminal networks are 'polymorphous' and nimble then see how they move to assess balloon effects and substitutions
  - Geographically
  - Substantively
- Factor analysis helps identify clusters moving together
  - Cattell, Eysenck and personality
  - Putnam's powerful social capital indicators



# Some data linkages to assess



Data about local drugs markets



Data about local cash withdrawals or cash card usage



Data about brothel use



Data about STDs



Data about travel/ticket purchases



Data about legal highs



Mobile communications data



Data about lap dance clubs – baseline versus test sites



STD epidemiological data from other local areas



Other expenditure data...

## ***Towards a more robust empirical picture of...***

- **Levels of TOC and illicit market activities across a range of areas - *illicit drugs, trafficking in human beings, smuggling***

## ***Towards a more robust empirical picture of...***

- **Levels of TOC and illicit market activities across a range of areas - *illicit drugs, trafficking in human beings, smuggling***
- **How these activities relate to and impact on each other - *geographically, substantively***

## ***Towards a more robust empirical picture of...***

- **Levels of TOC and illicit market activities across a range of areas - *illicit drugs, trafficking in human beings, smuggling***
- **How these activities relate to and impact on each other - *geographically, substantively***
- **How these illicit activities relate to licit market activities**

## ***Towards a more robust empirical picture of...***

- **Levels of TOC and illicit market activities across a range of areas - *illicit drugs, trafficking in human beings, smuggling***
- **How these activities relate to and impact on each other - *geographically, substantively***
- **How these illicit activities relate to licit market activities**
- **What happens to TOC and illicit activities in response to different law enforcement and other interventions**

## ***Towards a more robust empirical picture of...***

- **Levels of TOC and illicit market activities across a range of areas - *illicit drugs, trafficking in human beings, smuggling***
- **How these activities relate to and impact on each other - *geographically, substantively***
- **How these illicit activities relate to licit market activities**
- **What happens to TOC and illicit activities in response to different law enforcement and other interventions**
- **How TOC and illicit activities relate to other possible drivers - *economic shocks, diaspora movements, geopolitical dynamics***



EUROPE