

Crime prevention policy	
EU- priority	Organised Property Crime
Country	Finland
Year	2018

1. Overview of the field

Definition of the crime

Organised property crime encompasses a range of different criminal activities carried out predominantly by highly mobile OCGs operating across the EU. Organised burglaries, thefts and robberies as well as motor vehicle crime and the trafficking of cultural goods all fall into this broad category of criminal activity. However the OCGs carrying different types of property crime are also highly diverse.

Assessment of trends and developments

In the first six months of 2018 Finland experienced an slow but steady increase of perpetrators coming from different EU-, and Non-EU-countries than before. Especially Georgian and Albanian based Organised Crime Groups committing OPC have found their way to Finland at the end of 2017 and are now increasing crime statistics particularly in the capitol city area of Helsinki.

Mobile Organised Crime Groups (MOCG´S) are still committing mainly aggravated thefts targeting private households and businesses selling electronic goods. MOCG´S are moving around using either rental cars or cars provided by the group members already residing in Finland and in charge of arranging practicalities like accommodation for other members of the group who are conducting actual crimes in Finland.

Freedom of movement inside EU makes it easier for MOCG´S to travel around and commit crimes and especially Visa-liberalisation between Finland and Georgia was clearly seen as a peak in the crime statistics in Finland where Georgian criminals were almost absent until last six months or so. There are some indicators that Georgian MOCG´S in Finland are closely cooperating with Swedish based Georgian OCG´S and are, at least in some of the cases, led and controlled by them.

Recent overview of statistics and research

OPC related crime statistics have stayed on tolerable level in Finland in the time of overview (01/2017-06/2018), especially if compared to crime statistics in neighbouring countries which have significantly higher numbers.

Crime clearance rate in property crimes is approximately 30%, so 70% of all reported property crimes will be left unsolved. It is estimated that the main reason for such low number on crime clearance rate is at least partly due to fact that perpetrators are foreign Nationalities and leave the country immediately after crime (-s) has been committed so immediate and effective measures cannot be directly aimed at them.

Out of all OPC related criminals who were arrested in Finland 2017, appr. 30% were from foreign background. However, based on Criminal Intelligence information and other indicators, it was estimated that correct percentage of foreign perpetrators committing OPC related crimes in Finland might be as high as 50-60%.

Number of household burglaries (considered as Aggravated Thefts according to Finnish Criminal Law) is a good base indicator for reviewing OPC statistics since most of the OPC related crimes in Finland are such offences. In 2017 total of 1780 household burglaries were committed in Finland, being the lowest number in the last ten years.

2. Crime strategy and coordination

Objectives of the crime strategy

National OPC Crime Prevention Strategy aims at improving situational awareness on National and regional level by further developing quality and rapidity of analysing OPC related cases and identifying possible High-Value targets.

Role of prevention in the crime strategy on state/regional/local level

OPC Crime Prevention is implemented as a part of daily Criminal Intelligence and Criminal Investigation function duties on National and regional level.

Implementation of the policy (which level is responsible for the implementation and how is the implementation coordinated?)

National Bureau of Investigations and 12 Local Police Departments are each individually responsible for the implementation of the policy in their Area of Responsibility. On National level Implementation is coordinated by the Steering-, and Study Group set by the National Police Board.

Stakeholders (working groups, specialised agencies, partners, etc)

Some of the Police Departments have already set up Regional Criminal Analysis Groups whom together with the National level PTR-Centre (Permanent Joint Working Group between Police, Customs and Border Guards) at the National Bureau of Investigation form a network of different National and Regional level experts who cooperate with Organised

Crime and Cross-Border Crime Investigation Units on a daily basis.

Participation in European/ international networks, working groups, etc.

As a part of the National OPC Crime Strategy Finland is the Leader in one of the EUROPOL based EMPACT Crime prevention Projects on Organised Property Crimes targeting Mobile Organised Crime Groups and at the same time studying the legal possibilities to set up a joint ferry passenger list pool in the Baltic Sea Area in order to prevent MOCG related criminality and exchange internal security in the Baltic Sea Region.

Finland is also participating to EUROPOL organised operation Diamond. Diamond was initially composed as a follow-up project to Interpol's 'Pink Panther' project, which ended in 2016. The 'Pink Panther' project focussed only on robberies committed by perpetrators from the Western Balkans. Diamond, however, will even extend its focus, which will not only include criminal networks involved in jewellery robberies, including burglaries, from Europe but also from the Baltic Sea and Western Black Sea areas.

3. Good practices

Overview of recent good practices, prevention programs, etc.

Working Groups dealing with Organised, Cross-Border and OPC related crimes and Criminal Intelligence Function on National and Regional level have seen their Situational briefings, which are held by videoconference on daily basis, very useful and fast way to connect information within different authorities and regions, and get up-to-date case facts without any unnecessary delay.

On a National level some special attention has been paid to prevention of household burglaries by raising public awareness of the phenomenon and informing house owners how to better protect their property. Property protection level in Finland is still quite low compared to other EU-countries and house owners tend to rely solely on proper locking systems in order to protect their property against burglaries. On the other hand Private Security Sector business is one of the most rapidly growing markets in Finland and surveillance and alarm systems are becoming more common all the time.