



EUCPN Newsletter February 2018

This Newsletter is a platform for policymakers, practitioners and everyone who is interested in crime prevention. We are interested in your news, research, good practices and experiences on crime prevention in the Member States and in Europe. Please send your documents in English accompanied by an abstract of 100-150 words to eucpn@bz.eu.

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► Editorial

Dear Reader

On behalf of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, I welcome you to the 2018 Newsletter.



The Presidency of the Council of the EU is a tremendous honour for our country, an exciting challenge and an excellent opportunity to demonstrate our capacity. Bulgaria is an ancient state, a crossroads of different cultures, and a model of coexistence of cultures, religions and ethnicities in a community of tolerance and respect.

The priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency are based on the Trio Presidency Programme of Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria, adopted jointly by the three countries in mid-2017. One of the main priorities in the Programme is related to building an Union of freedom, security and justice, since this issue is high on the EU agenda in recent years.

In the context of crime prevention, the Bulgarian Presidency will address the needs and problems of the individual citizen and his individual sense of security. As a priority, we chose a theme that focuses on a crime affecting the most vulnerable members of our European society. The problem we will focus on and to which we will dedicate our efforts in research and prevention is fraud, with a special focus on phone scams. This crime has affected a growing and diverse range of victims in recent years, generating higher profits for perpetrators and becoming a cross-border activity involving both EU Member States and third countries. This topic will be discussed during the seminar, which will be held on March 15 in Sofia, Bulgaria. During the forum, we plan to present the specifics of the crime, its patterns of execution, the peculiarities of the victims, as well as exchange best preventive practices at local, national and international level.

Under the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, our country will host one Board meeting and two ExCom meetings. Our efforts will be aimed at improving the EUCPN communication strategy as well as developing fruitful cooperation with representatives of national prevention councils in the Member States.

We will follow the principle defined in the motto of the Bulgarian Presidency UNITED WE STAND STRONG and we sincerely believe that the joint efforts of the EUCPN Member States will contribute to enhancing the security of our common EU home.

Hristina Ivanova
Chair EUCPN

► EUCPN output

Thematic Paper no. 12 - Pickpocketing

Recently, the EUCPN - Secretariat published in connection with the theme of the Maltese Presidency a theoretical paper about pickpocketing. The Maltese Presidency, in line with the Trio's subject of Organised Crime, focused on two topics, namely domestic burglaries and pickpocketing, committed by mobile organised crime groups. For the Theoretical Paper and the Toolbox that will follow later, the Maltese Presidency proposed the EUCPN Secretariat to concentrate on the phenomenon 'pickpocketing'.

This paper gives more information about 'organised property crime', whereof pickpocketing is just one phenomenon. Each year, thousands of citizens and especially tourists become victims of pickpockets. Luckily, there are many things you can do to prevent yourself from being pickpocketed. Therefore, this paper provides a brief overview with prevention tips. Furthermore, since it is assumed that itinerant crime groups are responsible for a significant part of the committed pickpocketing, a notable part of this paper focuses on itinerant crime groups in general. Mobile organised crime groups commit a wide variety of crimes, including pickpocketing, and are active in many crime areas. They move quickly around within and across multiple jurisdictions, which makes it tough and difficult to identify and tackle them. A cooperation within an outside the EU is important to identify and dismantle the networks behind these mobile organised crime groups.

A toolbox with legislative measures, existing policies and best practices on the topic will follow.

[Read the paper](#)

EUCPN publications overview 2017

This listing shows which products were released in 2017. It shows a short description of each publication and the link where you can find it on the website.

[View the list](#)

► Research and publications

Jaap De Waard - The Hague: Ministry of Security and Justice, Law Enforcement Department, Unit for General Crime Policy

What Works?: A systematic overview of recently published meta evaluations / synthesis studies within the knowledge domains of Situational Crime Prevention, Policing, and Criminal Justice Interventions, 1997-2017

This document presents a summary overview of knowledge on effective preventive and repressive criminal justice interventions and measures. The goal is to provide a systematic overview of recently published meta evaluations and synthesis studies of proven effective and ineffective measures and interventions. This will allow a policy to be pursued based on reliable facts, thorough analyses and useful concepts and insights from science and practice: so-called 'evidence based crime policies'. It will also provide a description of a number of core factors and characteristics which determine the efficacy and effectiveness of those interventions and measures.

A systematic classification is used via which the scientific knowledge is subdivided into three knowledge domains:

- Situational Crime Prevention (61 meta evaluations);
- Policing (51 meta evaluations); and
- Criminal Justice Interventions (147 meta evaluations).

Within these three knowledge domains, some 259 recently published meta evaluations are summed up chronologically.

[Read the overview](#)

EUROPOL

How illegal drugs sustain organised crime in the EU

Drug markets remain the largest organised crime in the EU. More than one third of the criminal groups active in the EU are involved in the production, trafficking or distribution of various types of drugs. The trade in illicit drugs generates multi-billion euro profits for the groups involved in this criminal activity. The EU retail drug market is estimated to be worth at least EUR 24 billion a year. The immense profits generated from the trade in drugs fund various other criminal activities allowing OCGs to thrive and develop their criminal enterprises at the expense of the health, prosperity and security of EU citizens. OCGs involved in drug trafficking rely heavily on corruption to facilitate their trafficking activities. They also make use of fraudulent documents such as fake import or company registration certificates to import illicit drugs among legal goods, to procure (pre-)precursors and purchase equipment used as part of production processes.

[Read the publication](#)

EFUS

Preventing Discriminatory Violence at the Local Level: Practices and Recommendations

Discriminatory violence is widespread across Europe and poses a real threat to citizen safety, social cohesion and integration. Comprehensive responses are needed at the local level to enhance knowledge and raise awareness, empower communities and prevent incidents, to support victims and foster multi-stakeholder cooperation. This publication introduces the concept of discriminatory violence, documents 50 promising European local practices, and provides recommendations for local stakeholders on how to successfully counter hate, intolerance and prejudices.

[Read the practices and recommendations](#)

► Member States' good practices

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Police as well as other institutions in the Czech Republic work on preventing elders from being phone scammed as they are especially vulnerable to becoming victims of fraud. Perpetrators often use the so called "grandchild legend" tactics when they contact a victim by phone introducing themselves as a relative in financial problems, asking for help. Another problem is the so called telemarketing, when a contract is concluded on phone, in the belief that a contract cannot be concluded orally. The Consumers Defense Association of Moravia and Silesia warns of frauds as part of the project "Do not open and do not go!". It distributes pamphlets titled "Be careful who is calling you!". Another initiative dealing with phone threats to the elderly is [Senior Academy](#), the winner of the ECPA 2016. One of the topics of its 13th academy year is the Civil Code and terms and conditions of contracts concluded on phone. Also, in its Absolvant's Lists, it published a phone number structure guide to help seniors avoid making expensive calls.

SC EFPA Crisis, Disaster and Trauma psychology Symposium
After an interval of three years, the symposium of the Standing Committee for Crisis, Disaster and Trauma Psychology EFPA was held once again at the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic.
For information and all presentations from Symposium you can see: <http://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/international-symposium-of-crisis-and-disaster-psychologists-in-prague.aspx>
Related to project EUNAD IP - you can also find short movie "Working with Victims with Special Communication Needs" - see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2obE09xs8dU&t=10s>

Among other information, one organization was introduced: **V-Europe**. V-Europe association of victims of terrorism, was created by victims of terrorism in November 2016 as a reaction on the Belgian terrorist attacks in Zaventem (Brussels Airport) and the metro station Maelbeek, and all what happened afterwards (or the lack of it). Today they have about 180 members, mostly victims and their relatives from the 22/3/2016 attacks, but as well victims and relatives of the other terrorist attacks: Bamako 20/11/2015, Liege attack 13/12/2011 and The Brabant Wallon killers 1982-85. The last two events were not yet officially recognised as terrorist attacks but the devastating effect on public has all the characteristics of terrorism.

- V-Europe is a peer to peer support organisation, but much more than that because of the specific situation in Belgium.
- V-Europe plays an important role in communication of victim's needs towards the government and other entities involved in support of victims of terrorism.
- V-Europe is working together with the government in the Taskforce.
- V-Europe works closely with other victims' associations, especially with AVT in France, AVT in Spain.
- V-Europe brings victims together, trying to find answers to their questions, support each other, provide the comfort of understanding, sharing experiences, legal advice. Together they navigate through the choppy seas of emotions and together they climb the high mountains of administrative tasks...
- Their goal is to be there for the victims and to achieve tangible results.

FINLAND

The Finnish Council for Crime Prevention gathered recommendations on fraud prevention

The number of fraud offences has been increasing drastically in the 2010s both in Finland and in many other European countries. According to the statistics compiled by the police, the number of frauds and attempted frauds has doubled in Finland between the years 2010 and 2016. National Council for Crime Prevention appointed a working group to draw up a review charting the current forms and frequency of fraud offences in Finland and examining the possible means to prevent them. The review focuses on three types of fraud targeted at private persons: online marketplace fraud, identity theft and fraud targeted at older people. The working group stated that one of the most effective measure to prevent fraud is to provide active and proactive information through various channels so that it reaches different target groups, also older people.

Their review and recommendations: <http://rikoksentorjunta.fi/en/fraud-offences-and-their-prevention>

GREECE

The Greek Police, in order to protect the citizens from their deception, issues relevant press releases, disclosing case details and used Modus Operandi, to the mass information media and the social media that it manages.
At the same time, regional Police Services organize awareness-raising events throughout the country providing information and education to citizens, while providing instructions for complaints in fraud cases.
The Greek Police also has produced and projected through television and radio stations with nationwide coverage, messages in the context of information campaigns for citizens' protection.

Fraud on the pretext of conducting on-line checks in a Large Software Company Support Center, as engineers:

The offenders, pretending to be the engineers of a Large Software Support Center, indicate to people that are willing to help solving technical problems on their computer or to verify the authenticity of the installed programs on their computer so they can continue using them. In this context, they ask citizens to install a remote access program on their computer. In this way, they accessed the personal data stored on unsuspecting victim's computer. Therefore, it is reminded to citizens that they have to be especially careful, not to respond to these calls and to not reveal personal information and data to various perpetrators.
Unwanted – missed calls and mobile messages from unknown phone numbers from abroad:
These are missed – unwanted phone calls (SPAM) from unknown premium rate numbers, which are, in purpose, carried out midnight hours to appear deliberately as unanswered. Specifically, according to complaints submitted to Cyber Crime Division of the Hellenic Police, mobile subscribers have received missed calls from Bosnia - Herzegovina and Maldives, with dialing codes (00387) and (00960), respectively.
Read more at: <http://www.asivnomia.gr/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=74672&Itemid=1961&lang=option=content&task=view&id=74672&Itemid=1961&lang=>

Fraud cases against shops selling pre-paid cards:

The offenders come in telephone contact with landowners of small shops (eg mini-market, kiosks, etc.), pretending to be technical staff, inform them that their prepaid card machine presents a technical problem.
Then, they point out that, in order to resolve this problem, the landowners have to print a certain number of prepaid cards (usually 3-4 cards worth € 100.00) and give them the PIN numbers.
Prospective victims are persuaded and give PIN numbers, while the call ends with the offender informing them that within a few hours the problem will be restored.
Since then, all communication with the victims has ceased.
Read more at: <http://cyberalert.gr/exichnisi-y-pothesis-exapatiseon-se-v/>

Fraud on the pretext of a car accident in which a relative is involved:

The offenders make sudden phone calls to them, sometimes pretending to be hospital doctors or lawyers or police officers, arguing falsely that their close family member (usually their child) has accidentally caused a car accident, resulting in death or severe injury to a minor child.
In order to avoid the imprisonment of their relatives and to disengage from the upcoming criminal consequences, they require the payment of substantial sums of money, varying in size, adjustable in each case depending on the receptiveness and credulity of the victims.
To become more convincing, other partners are involved in the telephone communication, depending on the gender of their relative, pretending them, inquiring for help and exerting unbearable psychological pressure on the victims. Then, if the victims are convinced, they appear in their home to receive the money, or they make an appointment at a place and time predetermined by the offenders, near the house. It should be noted that in the case of car accidents the Police authorities are always subject to lawful and foreseeable actions, under the guidance of the local prosecuting authorities and in no case there is derogation from them, with the payment of money sums.

Fraud with the method of hospitalization of a relative in a hospital:

The offenders make sudden phone calls to the candidate victims and, taking advantage of the inconvenience they cause, announce that a close relative has been urgently driven to a hospital due to a car accident or some other extraordinary reason and demanding money for immediate medical act, usually surgery.
In addition, they ask candidate victims to go straight to a specific point, where they are "waiting for" a nurse or employee of the National Emergency Center to receive the money and deliver them as soon as possible to the doctors.
Victims usually use the same telephone device in which they received the call for calling their relatives in the cell phone, who "supposedly" is hospitalized in critical condition. In their confusion they do not realize that the "line" is still open with the offenders, who did not end the previous call. The offenders pretend to respond to the victims' call and "confirm" the bad news, for example, presenting an operator holding the patient's cell phone.

Fraud against priests by the method of the alleged disbursement of Social Insurance Institution or the settlement of various financial and insurance pending matters:

Offenders choose the candidate victims (priests, clergy, monks) and usually contact them by telephone, inform them that the disbursement from Social Insurance Institution to the religious worship they represent (church, Holy Monastery, etc.) is pending. In other cases, the offenders communicate with retired priests and inform them that all the necessary actions have been initiated for the disbursement of the lump sum pending in their name. In order to achieve the release of the aforementioned funds, they are asked to pay a sum of money to an account in order to begin their disbursement procedures. Victims are persuaded and pay the indicated amount, waiting for the payment of the allowance. At this point the offenders disappear and cut off every communication with their victims.

Fraud on the pretext of mediation for the disbursement of a loan from credit institution:

In this case, the offenders appear to be eminent citizens, Bank Partners, who, taking advantage of their personal acquaintances with Credit Institutions, can mediate for the disbursement of a loan, bypassing the TIRESIAS system.
In order to initiate the loan disbursement process, the offenders ask their victims to pay a sum of money for the expenses. Once the victim has deposited the agreed amount in a Bank account indicated to him, the offender slowly begins to avoid contacting with the victim until he disappears. It has been noticed that the offenders usually attract their prospective victims by posting ads in local newspapers or through common acquaintances who have also fallen victim before they become aware of it.

Fraud on the pretext of bank deposit saver:

The offenders mostly communicate with the victims and pretend to be either the Directors of Credit Institutions or have "links" with them. They persuade them that they can protect their bank deposits from an imminent "haircut". Thus, they ask them to deposit their money in a specific account, in order to take all the necessary steps to protect them. Since then, they disappear.
Read more at: <http://www.asivnomia.gr/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=9878&Itemid=619&lang=option=content&task=view&id=9878&Itemid=619&lang=>

► Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location
06 February 2018	The Safer Internet Day	
21-23 March 2018	Masterclass K9 detection dogs	Netherlands
17 April 2018	8th Annual International Symposium on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling	Brussels, Belgium
16-18 May 2018	Counterterrorism (CT) and Applied Intelligence Courses (7th Edition)	The Hague, Netherlands
11-12 June 2018	23rd German Congress on Crime Prevention	Dresden, Germany
12-14 June 2018	Stockholm Prize in Criminology 2018	Stockholm, Sweden
14-16 June 2018	10th international EFRJ Conference (Tirana 2018)	Tirana, Albania
12-14 September 2018	Masterclass K9 detection dogs	Netherlands
25-27 September 2018	Fundamental Rights Forum 2018	Vienna, Austria
5-7 December 2018	Counterterrorism (CT) and Applied Intelligence course (8th edition)	The Hague, Netherlands

For more information on one of these events, click [here](#).

► Preview

The next edition of the EUCPN Newsletter in April 2018 will focus on Frauds (with focus on phone scams). We kindly invite readers to share their news and information on European crime prevention issues with the EUCPN Secretariat by sending contributions (in English, 100-150 words abstract) to eucpn@bz.eu

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