

Q&A BPC-ECPA 2020

This document is a copy of the questions and answers as written in the chat of the online Best Practice Conference. All the extended information of the projects of the European Crime Prevention Award can be found on the website of the EUCPN.

Knowing and contrasting 'Ndrangheta Dynasties, operational tools against clanbased, mafia-type criminality
by Prof. Dr. Anna Sergi, University of Essex, United Kingdom

Question:

Is there any data regarding the relationship of Ndrangeta with other organized crime structures (mafia, Camorra)?

Answer:

yes they cooperate abroad, less so in Italy, but they have cooperated for BIG things in Italy too.

Question:

I was wondering how the Italian mafia differs from ordinary organized crime groups undermining society? Is that just the cultural/familial structure?

Answer:

Italian mafias aim at profit through acquisition of power - whether it's territorial power or political power, that doesn't matter. They try

Question (asked in the afternoon):

Prof. Sergi, you mentioned community outreach (for example to Chambers of Commerce) as one preventive element. One crucial professional group of interest in this regard are (as you highlighted) lawyers/notaries/tax advisors/accountants, as they are all gatekeepers to protect the legal economy from criminal infiltration. These professions are of course, throughout the EU, already subject to extensive anti-money laundering obligations, but often they still adopt a rather antagonistic attitude towards these obligations (for example by not or only rarely reporting suspicions of money laundering to the authorities). Are you aware of initiatives/mechanisms in Italy (or other countries that you studied) through which authorities engage proactively with the legal profession/notaries/tax advisors/accountants to promote problem awareness and give them the feeling that they are not only subject to legal obligations under anti-money laundering laws, but that they first and foremost partners in the struggle to protect the profession against infiltration by organized crime?

The administrative approach - Family-based crime
by Division Serious and Organised Crime at the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA)

Comment:

for the 'ndrangheta there is actually a willingness to integrate in society

Exit from family-based organised crime. What lessons can be learned from extremism prevention?

by Prof. Dr. Thomas Grumke, University of Applied Sciences for Police and Public Administration in North Rhine-Westphalia

Question:

Don't all organised crime groups have ways to settle conflicts outside of state judicial systems?

Comment:

In Other countries I have studied, ndrangheta clans grow up and become independent from their family in Italy - so it is very much about growth into the host country too

Response:

Clans in Germany often also maintain their relationships in the home country or rely on people there to make business or for decision making purposes

Furthermore the criminated money often gets laundered in countries like Turkey or Lebanon by buying property.

I was saying that even if now clans in Germany rely to connections from home, that is because they are at first generations - their natural evolution might lead to move towards independency as it has happened in other countries

Comment:

For the ones, who are curious about the "Danish Approach" you can start here:
https://stopekstremisme.dk/en?set_language=en&cl=en

ECPA projects

Intact Family camps (Finland)

Question:

Do you have any information on how many families have participated so far? Do you have any feedback from the children themselves? Has there been any noticeable change in their behaviour?

Question:

Thank you for your presentation. I am interested how long the project continues and whether there are some positive police records reducing the criminality? (if any)

Question:

For how long do the families stay at the camp?

Answer:

Family camps are five days.

U-turn (Germany)

Question:

To the Kurve Kriegen team: thanks for the presentation (nice video!). Will the evaluation cover only the project as a whole, or also test the effectiveness of particular actions. I have doubts about the effectiveness of the confrontation with ex-prisoners. Scare tactics for prevention tend not to work.

Answer:

Good points! As to your first question, it was a comprehensive evaluation that covered the process itself, its overall effects, and a cost/benefit analysis. As to our credible ambassador Mr Pollux, this is not a one-size-fits-all approach. It's one of many possible measures that we apply. As of now, maybe 1 out of 10 participants get to meet him. And it's not really a "scare tactic". He demystifies the often glorified prison experience and crime as a whole, talking from his own experience. It's more about providing a direction and offering alternatives.

I have a choice (Croatia)

Question:

Great presentation. Is the media campaign publicly accessible anywhere?

Tickan initiative and the phase model (Sweden):

Question:

Very promising project. Is this tailor-made to one city/municipality, or can this be applied to other cities, e.g. through scaling?

Answer:

The measures we have taken are actually very general. So it is absolutely possible to apply the project to other cities.

Question:

Do you work closely together with the target group of clans?.

Answer:

According to the Danish model SSP, we work with young people in the clan to get them not to choose crime. I also have meetings with the patriarch of the clan where I explain that we can help them leave crime but that we will continue to hunt them down if they do not stop crime

Question:

Do we understand it correctly that this project is mainly repressive in nature? Could this be complemented by preventive measures?

Answer:

We have seen that crime has decreased when we have been repressive. Some of the young clan members have contacted social services and said they want help to start a new life. We work a lot together with the social services. For example, we have two social secretaries who work at our local police station.

Greentown project (Ireland):

Question:

Sounds really promising. Only one question: What kind of incentive do you give young people to give up a) information on their networks and b) the network itself?

Answer: ' What kind of incentive do you give young people to give up a) information on their networks and b) the network itself? - Christopher if I could take these in reverse order. We are basing the Intensive family programme on a successful 'bail' programme that we have evaluated in Ireland using an experiential design. This programme which incorporates Multisystemic Therapy has been very successful in reducing crime and helping young people to make pro-social choices. This evaluation has been published and is available. The overall Greentown programme is not designed to get young people to provide information about the network, simply to reduce network influence by law enforcement and community building measures. For the research supporting Greentown all evidence was secured from police officers not children. However the local police officers were especially selected by police management for their detailed knowledge of individuals on the network

Free to choose (Italy):

Question

intriguing project. 2 questions: 1) Does this project also involve mandatory participation of children of Mafia families? 2) How is the effectiveness of the project measured and evaluated?

Untouchables approach (the Netherlands):

Question:

What's the ratio of professionals to candidates? How many people work one one case?

Question:

Can you say something about the costs involved and the financing? Also, who are the addressees? Which clan structure?

Answer:

The cost were very low. All the costs are regular, except the cost of the project leader. We ask the organisation to join and put the hands together. We prefer one professional per family.

With a thought from the future (Bulgaria):

Question:

Great project, thanks. One question: Could you go into more detail with regard to the "re-education" of children?

Answer:

In 2017 a decree of the Council of Ministers approved the Mechanism for joint work of institutions for coverage and retention in the educational system of children and students of compulsory preschool and school age, which aims to cover minors in the education system. The goal is as more as possible Roma children to get back to school and finish their education. Educated persons are not that liable to a crime behavior.