PREVENT

Building capacity against high-risk criminal networks in the EU: from an improved intelligence picture towards an integrated prevention approach

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Project team

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FIADYS

bra National Council for Crime Prevention

LIBERA CONTRO LE MAFIE

BASTA!

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

Federal Police

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA MINISTERIO DE JUSTICIA SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE JUSTICIA

SAWB

diesis network

Comitato don Peppe Diana

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1060

COMUNE DI NAPOLI

General and specific objectives

General objective:

To tackle **high-risk criminal networks** by contributing to an improved intelligence picture, enhancing the understanding of their infiltration into the legal economy, and promoting an integrated prevention approach.

SO1: Enhance Intelligence on HRCNs

SO2: Promote Administrative Approaches

SO3:

Boost Social Reuse of Confiscated Assets

SO4: **Expand Collaboration on Asset Confiscation and Reuse**

From shared intelligence to shared prevention

Organised crime crosses borders. Cooperation across European, national and local levels can strengthen prevention by improving the understanding of criminal networks and developing integrated responses.

SAFER
STRONGER
MORE RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES

WP2

SEE THE NETWORK

Improve the intelligence picture of high-risk criminal networks through common approaches and comparable evidence.

→

WP3

UNDERSTAND THE ECOSYSTEM

Look at criminal use of the legitimate economy, businesses, financial structures and local environments.

→

WP4

ACT TOGETHER

Connect law enforcement with administrative, regulatory and local authorities to address vulnerabilities.

→

WP5–6

BUILD ALTERNATIVES

Explore social reuse of confiscated assets and local socio-economic approaches that can support prevention.

EUROPEAN LEVEL
Shared methods · mutual learning · cooperation

NATIONAL / INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL
Connected authorities · information · capacity

LOCAL LEVEL
Administrative action · social economy · prevention

EUROPEAN COOPERATION → SHARED INTELLIGENCE → COORDINATED ACTION → LOCAL PREVENTION

WP2 - Data from eleven sites

Sites

- Belgium: Antwerp, Brussels-South and Ghent
- Bulgaria: Sofia
- Italy: Naples and Caserta region
- The Netherlands: Utrecht
- Spain: Madrid
- Sweden: Stockholm
- France: Paris
- Germany: Frankfurt

WP2 Main findings

- Criminal networks are fluid
- Risk depends on vulnerabilities and consequences in surrounding environment

➡ Cooperation helps connect different pieces of knowledge

No single model

- Family / clan based
- Leader-centered
- Flexible partnerships
- Specialised service providers
- Crime as a service
- Transnational cells
- More formal, hierarchical organisations

Whole network is hard to see

- Network size is difficult to establish
- Interviewees may know a market or a network but rarely the two
- Crime markets and criminal groups are often analysed separately
- Information beyond individual investigations can be limited
- International dimensions difficult to capture

WP3 - Data from nine sites

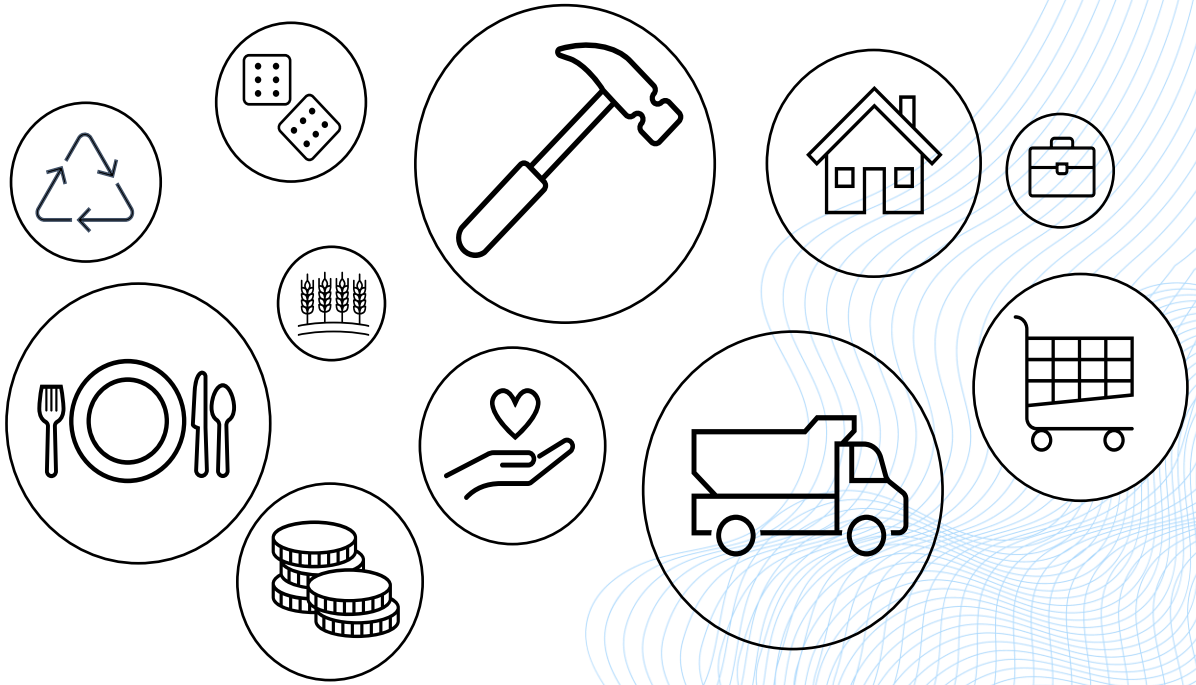
Sites

- Belgium: Antwerp, Brussels
- Bulgaria: Sofia
- Italy: Caserta region
- The Netherlands: Utrecht
- Spain: Madrid
- Sweden: Stockholm
- France: Paris
- Germany: Frankfurt

WP3 Main findings

- Multifunctional role of legitimate businesses within criminal business models
- Some sectors recur, but vulnerability is cross-sectoral
- Criminal networks build economic “spiderwebs”
- Money laundering is central
- Criminal methods are adaptive

➡ Need for multidisciplinary information sharing and joint action



WP5 Main findings

- Two models of social reuse are emerging – direct and indirect reuse
- Information on confiscated assets is fragmented
- Legal and institutional frameworks differ substantially
- Reuse requires cooperation and capacity beyond asset recovery authorities
- Social reuse can turn confiscation into a prevention resource

Effective reuse requires coordination between asset-recovery authorities, municipalities, civil society/social-economy organisations and other local actors

Published reports

Assessing National Risks, Comparative Insights from 18 European Countries

Preventive and Administrative Measures Against High-Risk Criminal Networks. Overview of Policies and Gaps at the European, National, and Local Scale.

Social Economy Policies for Combating Organised Crime

Project updates and upcoming deliverables

PREVENT LinkedIn page

Thank you!

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