EUCPN
EUROPEAN CRIME PREVENTION NETWORK

Session 2:

Alternative initiatives to traditional justice responses

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01 *Focused deterrence*

What is Focused deterrence?

→ Majority of serious violence results from a small group of people

It requires 3 key elements:

Implementation guideline

Eight steps to implement FD

1. Preparation & identification:
    - Determine the issue
    - Create intervention group
    - Identify target group
2. Implementation:
    - Involve community
    - Use clear deterrent communication
    - Prepare swift consequences
    - Offer support
3. Monitor developments

Call-in meetings with target group:

- Scope
- Location
- Outreach method

Focused deterrence

Implementation challenges

Adapt FD to local context

- Tailor to community
- Use existing legislation
- Include in larger systematic approach

Balance offering support with deterrence

- Right message to the right people
- Divide roles among stakeholders

Cooperate with stakeholders

- Clear plan on aim & implementation
- Avoid distrust
- Provide resources

Reaching the target group

- Use available local tools (e.g. trusted community actors & channels)

02

Youth diversion schemes

What is youth diversion?

Remove a child from the criminal justice system & redirect them to alternatives to avoid a criminal record

→ community-based organisations
→ social services
→ restorative programmes

"Alternatives to judicial proceedings such as mediation, diversion (of judicial mechanisms) and alternative dispute resolution should be encouraged whenever these may best serve the child's best interests"

Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child friendly justice (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 17 November 2010)

Why use diversion to fight delinquency?

Adolescence is a stage of risk-taking & impulsivity

Harsh punishments can stigmatise & push further into crime

→ offer a constructive alternative promoting accountability and addressing the underlying causes of their behaviour

Why use diversion to fight delinquency?

Benefits	Challenges
• Reduced recidivism and support for rehabilitation • Efficient resource use and alleviating burdens on the courts • Preservation of education and social life • Minimising negative consequences of formal justice	• Guaranteeing legal safeguards • Expanding eligibility criteria • Preventing net-widening • Ensuring appropriate interventions tailored to each child • Streamlining the referral process • Improving collaboration among stakeholders

Conclusion

- Target small group of people committing majority of crime
- Disruption + deterring + offering support & credible alternatives outside criminal justice processes
- Challenge:
  - Tailoring to local context/person
  - Improve collaboration
  - Preventing net-widening

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Thank you

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