CLEAR–HOLD–BUILD

Giving young people a future before organised crime does

Community-oriented prevention in Brussels-West

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EUCPN CONFERENCE 2026

Organised crime offers a fast, visible “career”

Prevention must offer a credible alternative that is earlier, closer and more persistent.

Money & status	Immediate rewards
Belonging	A ready-made identity
Low entry barriers	Simple tasks, online contact
Pressure & coercion	Exit becomes harder

One sequence, one neighbourhood, one shared outcome

Clear creates space. Hold protects it. Build makes change durable.

Remove the criminal network’s grip, not the community

Precision, intelligence and legitimacy are prevention assets.

Target the network

Focus on organisers, facilitators, assets and territorial control.

Map youth exposure

Identify recruitment locations, roles and online-offline links.

Communicate purpose

Explain that the action protects residents and creates room for recovery.

Make the lawful presence more reliable than the criminal one

Stability is created through relationships, guardianship and fast problem-solving.

1. **Visible presence**

   Neighbourhood police and partners remain accessible.

2. **Rapid repair**

   Address nuisance, intimidation and degraded public space.

3. **Trusted contact**

   Youth workers, schools and families can escalate concerns.

4. **Shared rhythm**

   Short feedback loops and regular hotspot reviews.

A future must be tangible, not rhetorical

Protective factors become powerful when they are bundled into one supported pathway.

LEARN	School return or training
WORK	A legal route to income
BELONG	Sport, culture, mentoring
FAMILY	Parent support and resilience
CONTRIBUTE	A positive role in the neighbourhood

From first contact to a supported return

Fast accountability, individual assessment and a named guide.

1. **48-hour contact** — Engage the young person and parents quickly.
2. **Shared assessment** — Risks, strengths, education, peers, family and safety.
3. **One plan** — Clear obligations plus tailored support.
4. **Named guide** — One consistent professional stays alongside the family.
5. **Progress review** — Adapt support; recognise milestones; respond to setbacks.

FAMILY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD REINTEGRATION

Do not extract the young person from the community. Reconnect them to it.

Parents need support; the neighbourhood needs a visible success story.

Belonging is the protective infrastructure

THE PARTNERSHIP ARCHITECTURE

Police cannot deliver Build, but police can help hold the coalition together

Clear ownership, shared milestones and lawful information-sharing.

01 Hotspot team

Own the place

- Problem analysis
- Network disruption
- Operational feedback

02 Youth pathway

Own the case

- First-offender route
- Family plan
- Named guide

03 Community coalition

Own the future

- Schools & employers
- Youth & prevention
- Residents & local government

ONE OUTCOME: less recruitment, safer public space, stronger trust

MEASURE WHAT MATTERS

Success is not only arrests. It is reduced criminal opportunity and increased legitimate opportunity.

CLEAR

- Network disruption
- Reduced visible recruitment
- Assets and facilitators identified

HOLD

- No rapid replacement
- Resident confidence
- Faster partner response

BUILD

- School or training continuity
- Family engagement
- Safe, sustained non-offending pathway

Evaluate the pathway, not isolated activities

THE CHOICE

If we do not offer a perspective, organised crime will.

Clear the grip.
Hold the space.
Build the future.

Thank you