“No matter the subject, the EUCPN is your first point of contact regarding crime prevention.”
Prevention of pickpocketing

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PICKPOCKETING IN THE EU
EUROPEAN CRIME PREVENTION NETWORK

EUCPN Toolbox Series
No. 11

Prevention of pickpocketing within the EU – policy & practices

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The unnoticed theft of items that are carried on the body of the victim

Incorrectly romanticized

Sever consequences on community level
01 Who?

Lone wolfs, yet mostly in organised groups

Young drug users as lone wolfs

Fundamentally linked with mobile OCGs
  big sore point: not always seen as the organised crime it is

Profile: active in property crime, often Eastern European and high degree of mobility

Tourists are vulnerable targets
How?

Hotspots: tourist attractions, escalators and queues, public transport...

Prominent timing: sports games, concerts, religious celebrations, summer months, winter months...

Recurring scenario’s to distract
High dark number for pickpocketing

High rate of non-reporting

Hidden in crime statistics
A SUCCESSFUL APPROACH ON TWO TRACKS
A successful approach on two tracks

FIRST TRACK
Concrete recommendations for a successful pickpocketing prevention campaign

SECOND TRACK
Crucial need for cross-border and cross-entity cooperation and information sharing
DRIVERS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO ORGANISE A CAMPAIGN

Clear image reflects impact and serves as eye-opener

Safeguarding of tourism

International image
First track

BARRIERS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO ORGANISE A CAMPAIGN

Lack of resources

Lack of political will
03 First track

Spray templates
First track

Warning of concert goers via social media
First track

Anti-pickpocketing bells
First track

Heat map
Watch out
03 First track

Do not let them fool you
03 First track

Hands of my bag
03 First track

Safe in the city
03 First track

Sticker “You have been caught by the police”
Never let the perception of impunity prevail

   Word gets out quickly

   Also the opposite is true

Unfortunate consequence: displacement effect
Second track

Need for a united European front that recognises it as organised crime

Cooperation and information sharing across borders

Cooperation between police and judicial side

Need for efficient exchange of information
Second track

Need for efficient exchange of information

EIS – Europol Information System

Pickpocketing Expert Network

AP Furtum

Joint Actions

International Pickpocketing Conferences
TO REMEMBER
03 To remember

Pickpocketing is more severe than first meets the eye

Pickpocketing is organised crime

Awareness campaigns to prevent victimisation

Thorough cooperation and information exchange
  Across borders
  Across law enforcement and judicial bodies
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