

LISBON

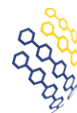
30 SEPT - 1 OCT

EUROPEAN CRIME PREVENTION CONFERENCE

youth recruitment into organised crime
the administrative approach



Funded by
the European Union



EUCPN
EUROPEAN CRIME PREVENTION NETWORK

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Photography by Francois Mercer

About the conference

The European Crime Prevention Conference is a biennial conference organised by the Secretariat of the EUCPN-ENAA and funded by the European Commission. The Conference offers a forum to share knowledge and experiences regarding crime prevention across the European Union. It welcomes policymakers, practitioners and academics, but maintains a consistent focus on the frontline.



Dates:
30 September and 1 October

Venue:
VIP Executive Entrecampos Hotel & Conference
Avenida 5 de Outubro, 295, 1600-035 Lisboa, Portugal

Conference language:
English

Registration:
<https://forms.office.com/e/aSVpFN78BD>

Contact:
eucpn.conference@ibz.eu or
<https://eucpn.org/events/ecpc2026>

Overview

European Crime Prevention Conference

30 Sept – 1 Oct
Lisbon, Portugal

Day 1

- 09:00 Registration
- 09:30 Welcome and opening speech by Portugal and the European Commission
- 10:00 Plenary session 1: Exploring youth recruitment into organised crime and the administrative approach
- 10:45 Coffee break
- 11:15 Breakout session 1:
 - Understanding youth pathways into organised crime
 - Lessons learned from implementing the administrative approach
 - EU-wide cooperation against organised crime
- 12:45 Lunch and poster presentations
- 13:45 Breakout session 2:
 - Alternative initiatives to traditional justice responses
 - Applying administrative measures in practice
 - Safe futures – preventing youth recruitment and participation in European drug markets (Hosted by EUDA)
- 15:15 Coffee break
- 15:45 Plenary session 2: National policy frameworks for preventing organised crime
- 16:45 End of day 1

Day 2

- 09:00 Registration
- 09:30 Plenary session 3: Challenges in information sharing for multi-agency cooperation
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 Breakout session 3:
 - Addressing youth recruitment through community efforts
 - Strengthening the administrative approach through best practices
 - Preventing online recruitment of young people
- 12:30 Plenary session 4: Keynote speakers
- 13:00 Closing remarks by Portugal
- 13:15 End of day 2

preliminary

Programme

Day 1: Wednesday 30 September 2026

09:00 Registration

09:30 Welcome and opening speech by Portugal and the European Commission

10:00 Plenary session 1: **Exploring youth recruitment into organised crime and the administrative approach**

EUCPN-ENAA Secretariat

Sheila Adjiembaks, Professor Criminology (the Netherlands)

In the first plenary session, we will introduce the conference themes, provide an analysis of the key issues and discuss why these topics require focused attention.

10:45 Coffee break

11:15 Session 1

Understanding youth pathways into organised crime

Maxime Hennen, EUCPN-ENAA SEC

Kyle Ott, HEUNI (Finland)

Youth recruitment into organised crime is a complex phenomenon shaped by a range of interconnected risk factors at the individual, family and community levels. While none of these factors alone can predict involvement, their accumulation significantly increases a young person's vulnerability to recruitment. This process is not uniform, but instead ranges from voluntary entry to coercion and exploitation, and can occur through both in-person contacts and online approaches. In particular, social media has transformed recruitment methods, expanding the reach and speed at which young people can be recruited into organised crime.

Lessons learned from implementing the administrative approach

Chloé Prigent, EUCPN-ENAA SEC

Beatrice Abondio, Ministry of Home Affairs (Luxembourg)

Paweł Piaskowski, Ministry of the Interior and Administration (Poland)

The administrative approach varies widely and evolves at different rates, making a strict step-by-step programme difficult. Differences in governmental structures and competences add to the challenge. This session draws on early experiences from Luxembourg and Poland, highlighting recommended steps for practitioners starting to implement the approach. A full legal framework is not required – it is possible to start small and gradually adapt the approach to your own context.

EU-wide cooperation against organised crime

Salomé Millant, OCTOPUS

This session explores how cooperation within the EU can strengthen efforts to prevent organised crime. It highlights how cross-border collaboration can improve coordination and support the development of shared prevention strategies across different contexts. Speakers from several initiatives will present their work and share practical insights into approaches to reduce the recruitment of young people into criminal networks.

12:45 lunch break and poster sessions

13:45 Session 2

Alternative initiatives to traditional justice responses

Sarah Bosman, EUCPN-ENAA SEC

Prevention with Authority local level (The Netherlands)

Bernie Meally, Foróige Programme (Ireland)

This session explores evidence-based approaches to preventing recruitment into organised crime. It examines how targeted interventions can address individuals most at risk of involvement in organised crime, and help redirect young people away from harmful pathways. It will also consider approaches that combine accountability with support, addressing the personal, social and environmental factors that contribute to offending behaviour while maintaining strong links to education, family and community. Examples will illustrate common principles and practical applications across different contexts.

Applying administrative measures in practice

Chloé Prigent, EUCPN-ENAA SEC

Tommy Holst, Municipality Odense (Denmark)

This session will highlight several administrative measures and initiatives, including joint inspections (the “working apart together” method), non-conviction-based confiscation, integrity checks, revoking licences, closing businesses and dissolving associations, administrative fines and exclusion from public tenders.

Safe futures — preventing youth recruitment and participation in European drug markets

(Hosted by EUDA)

15:15 coffee break

15:45 Plenary session 2: **National policy frameworks for preventing organised crime**
(Panel discussion)

EUCPN-ENAA Secretariat

Celia Bobet, LIMITS (France)

Nour Gjaltema, Prevention with Authority (The Netherlands)

This panel discussion explores how national frameworks support the prevention of organised crime through coordinated, evidence-based, multi-disciplinary approaches. Speakers will share experiences of tailoring strategies to different contexts and strengthening cooperation among partners to reduce youth involvement in criminal activities.

16:45 End of day 1

preliminary

Programme

Day 2: Thursday 1 October 2026

09:00 Registration

09:30 Plenary session 3: **challenges in information sharing for multi-agency cooperation**
(Panel discussion)

Sarah Bosman, EUCPN-ENAA Secretariat (Moderator)

Caroline Strong, Irish Association of Social Workers (Ireland)

Marie Jonevret, Swedish Police Authority (Sweden)

Effective cooperation relies on information sharing between administrative and law enforcement partners, but challenges remain. Legal constraints, differing interpretations of confidentiality, and limited awareness mean that intelligence is not always systematically exchanged, even where frameworks exist, which can weaken multi-agency cooperation. Coordination can therefore be difficult, and as organised crime often operates across borders, cooperation between Member States is also essential.

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Session 3:

Addressing youth recruitment through community efforts

Maxime Hennen , EUCPN-ENAA SEC
Mounir Ezzoubi, LIMITS (France)
Didier Demelin - Police Brussels West (Belgium)
Catharina Törnqvist, Rätt Kurva (Sweden)
Safe School Programme (Portugal)

This session explores evidence-based approaches to preventing recruitment into organised crime, with a focus on **community and family dynamics**. These approaches build trust and shared responsibility between police, young people and local communities, while addressing risk factors that increase vulnerability to recruitment. Interventions support positive change within families, with outcomes shaped by the quality of care and the local context. Initiatives from several EU Member States will present practical approaches and lessons learned.

Strengthening the administrative approach through best practices

Preventing online recruitment of young people

EUCPN-ENAA Secretariat

Carla Costa and Francisco Luís, National Unit for Combating Cybercrime and Technological Crime (Portugal)

The role of social media and digital communication in the recruitment of young people into organised crime is both complex and concerning. These platforms give criminals unprecedented reach, anonymity and opportunities to exploit vulnerable youth. As organised crime increasingly adapts to the digital environment, prevention and intervention strategies must evolve in response. Understanding how online platforms facilitate recruitment, and how to prevent it, is therefore essential. Addressing this issue requires a coordinated, proactive approach involving all sectors of society, including technology companies, educators, parents and policymakers.

12:30 Plenary session 4: **keynote speakers**

Martin Donker, Ministry of Justice and Security (The Netherlands)

Sergio Santon, Carabinieri (Italy)

Concluding remarks looking ahead, based on insights and recommendations from the plenary and breakout sessions.

13:00 Closing remarks by Portugal

13:15 Lunch end of day 2