

SWaPOL

Social Work and Policing

Dr. Günter Stummvoll

EUCPN – Conference of the European Crime Prevention Network

28. April 2022, Brussels

Overview



**SOCIAL WORK
AND POLICING**
Vocational Training in Public Order Management

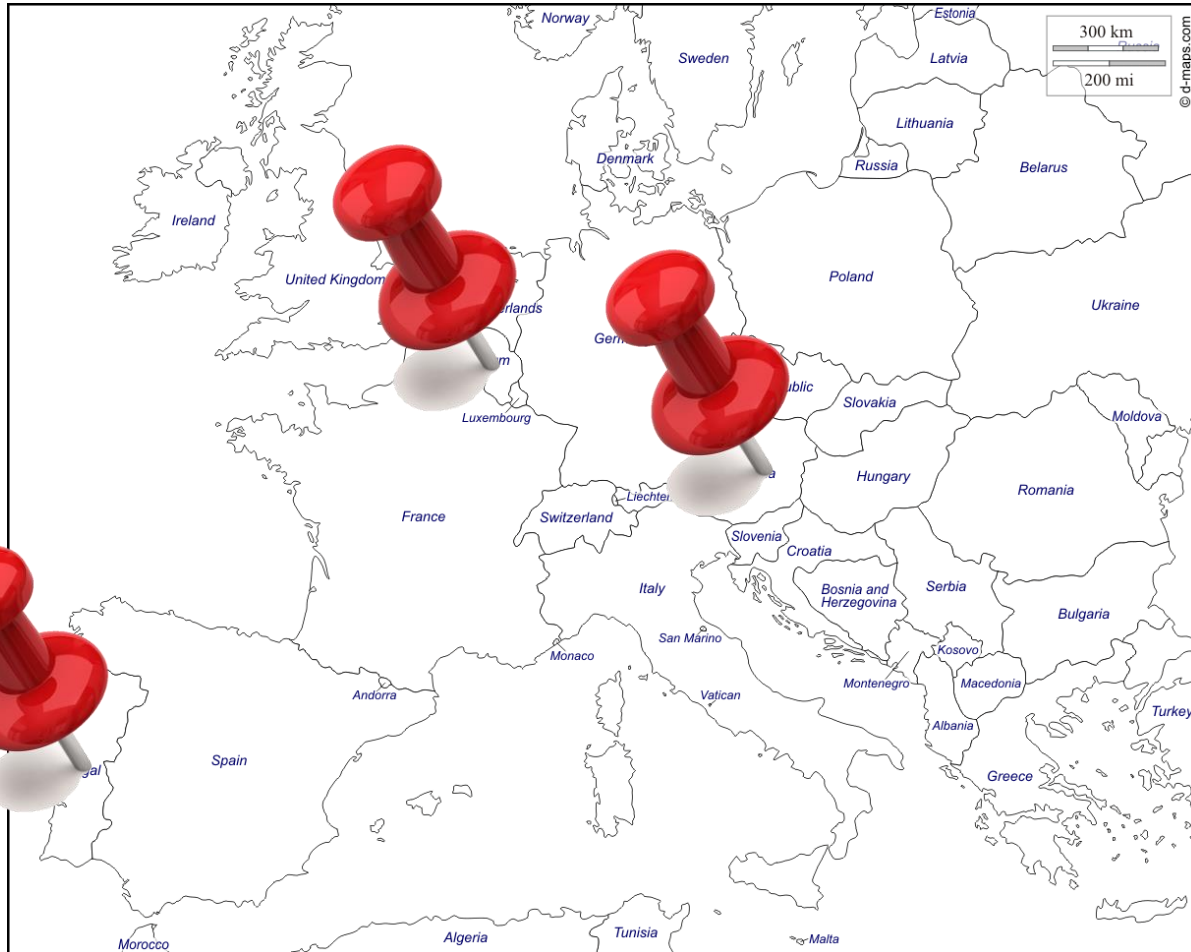


- 1) **A joint vocational training course: SWaPOL (the project)**
- 2) **4 questions to describe the SWaPOL Training**
 - Why is there a need for a joint training for these professions?
 - Who are the target groups for this training?
 - What will be taught?
 - How do we teach it?
- 3) **Conclusions for CP: Ideologies in professions**



SOCIAL WORK AND POLICING

Vocational Training in Public order Management



Erasmus+



European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research



Joanneum University for Applied Sciences - Graz

Vienna Police Headquarters



Câmara Municipal de Lisboa – Polícia Municipal de Lisboa

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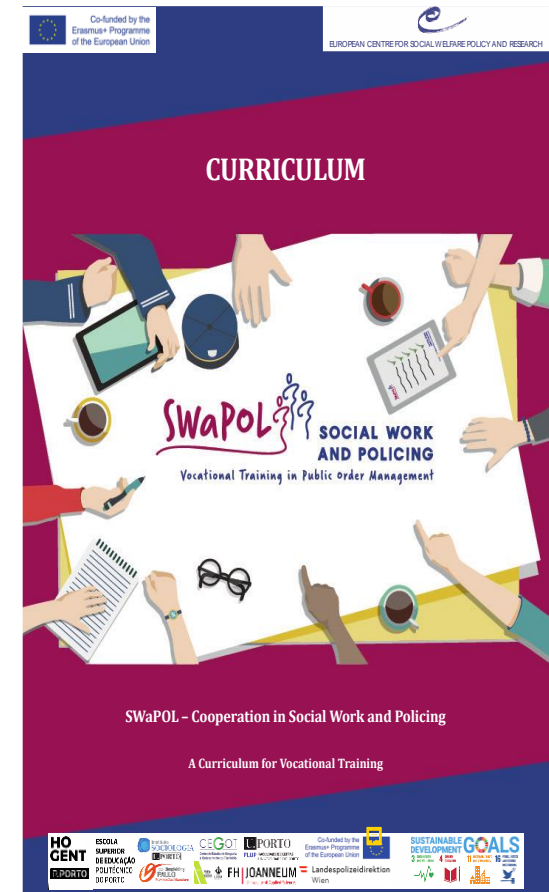
University College Gent

Gent University - Belgian Centre for Policing and Security

Paulo Police Academy Gent

Objectives in the project SWaPOL

1. Development of a training course for continuous vocational education for social workers and police officers
2. Test-run a pilot training in all partner countries
3. Development of a teaching manual <http://www.swapol.eu/>
 - a) Curriculum
 - b) Handbook for Trainers



4 questions about the SWaPOL Training:

1. **Why** is there a need for a joint training for these professions?
2. **Who** exactly are the target groups for this training?
3. **What** will be taught - The Modules 1 / 2 / 3
4. **How** do we teach it?

1. Why is there a need for a joint training for these professions?

1. Thematic overlaps between professions in practice
2. Need for improvement of the cooperation between social work and police
3. Reduction of prejudices between the two professions; building trust relations; clear division of labour and responsibilities
4. Provide an opportunity for reflection on the vocational self-image
5. Sustainable integration of a common training course in the vocational training systems of the two professions.



2. Who exactly are the target groups for this training?

Social Work:

- a) Integration in SW-curriculum: Mature **MA-students** with work experience
- b) Offer as a separate continuous training for **professionals** alongside their job

Police:

Continuous special training for **crime prevention officers**

3. What will be taught?

1. Module 1: Cooperation between social work and police
2. Module 2: Substance use
3. Module 3: Homelessness (and other forms of "social disorder")





Module 1: Cooperation between social work and police

Both professions are concerned with problems of public order such as substance use and crime in the wake of hooliganism, prostitution, domestic violence and others, but sometimes hold different views on respective problem solutions.

Module 1 is designed

- to support exchange occupational cultures, identities and stereotypes
- to compare the legal basis, organisational structures, responsibilities and tactics on both sides.



Social Work definition

“Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledges, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing”.

See <https://www.iassw-aiets.org/>

Community Policing definition

"Community policing focuses on crime and social disorder through the delivery of police services that includes aspects of traditional law enforcement, as well as prevention, problem solving, community engagement and partnerships. The community policing model balances reactive responses to calls for services with proactive problem-solving, centred on the causes of crime and disorder. Community policing requires police and citizens to join together as partners in the course of both identifying and effectively addressing these issues" (Fisher-Stewart 2007, pp. 3-4).

Module 1

	Social work	Police
Organisation structure	Single private or public associations Religious connection Medical connection Administrative connection	Hierarchical and administrative Differentiated into departments of various responsibilities
Responsibilities	Solution to social problems Safeguarding opportunities for life Individuals and human interaction in families, peer groups and communities Reduction of social inequalities	Peace keeping Protection against danger Law enforcement Protection of individual rights Prevention and conflict resolution
The legal basis	Basic Human Rights Child and youth welfare act The right to assistance in personal development and self-responsibility Provision of good living conditions	Federal police codes Protection of life, freedom and property Crime prevention and counselling Settlement of disputes Victim protection
Work tactics	Protection and promotion of human rights Low-threshold work Active in their approach Support Care-work Consultation	Intervention upon calling Duty to investigation Principle of proportionality Monopoly on the use of force Consultation



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Module 2: Substance use of young people in the nightlife

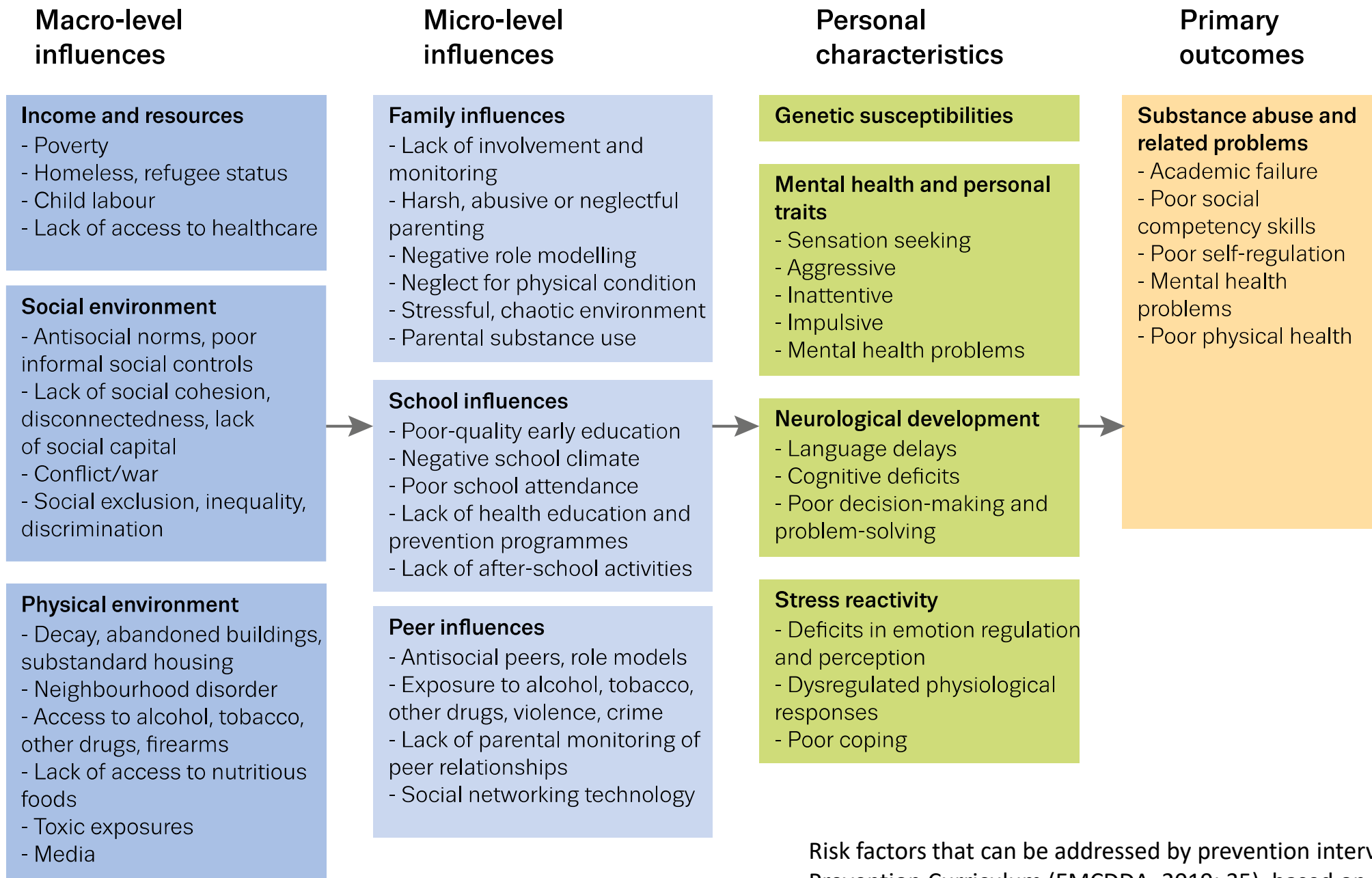
SW: Problem of health and welfare

HARM REDUCTION and SUPPORT

POL: Problem of crime (dealing, smuggling)

LAW ENFORCEMENT and SURVEILLANCE

Joint prevention programmes based on understanding of comprehensive risk models:

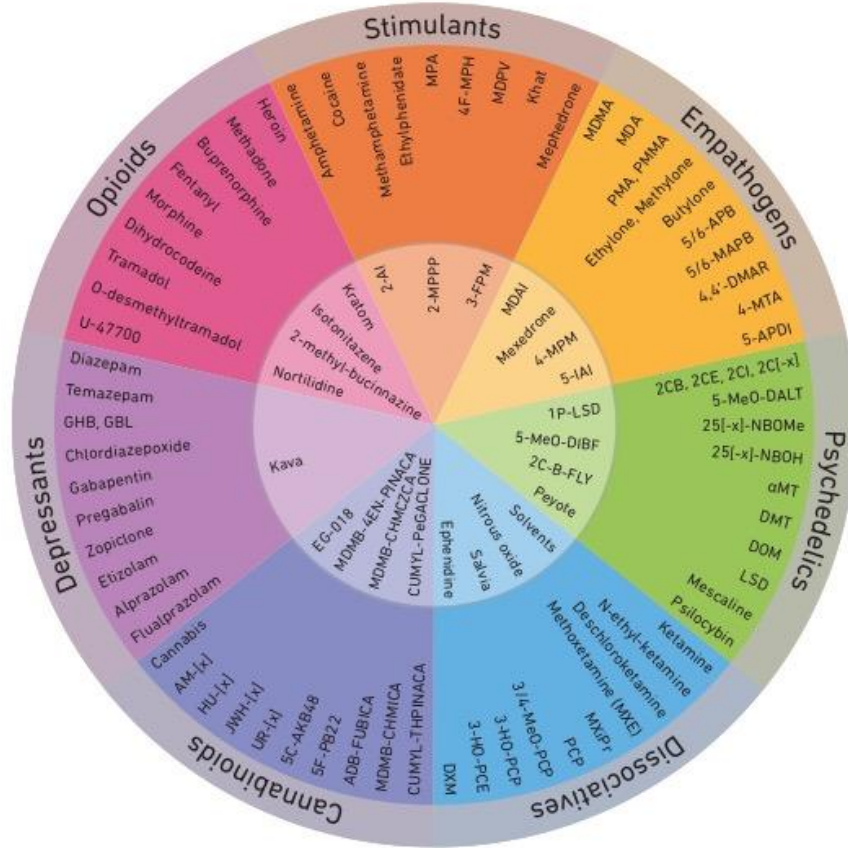


Risk factors that can be addressed by prevention interventions. Source: European Prevention Curriculum (EMCDDA, 2019: 35), based on UNODC (2013).

The Drugs Wheel

A new model for substance awareness

[UK version 2.0.8 • 30/08/2020]



Outer ring: Controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 or The Human Medicines Regulations 2012

Inner ring: Controlled under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016

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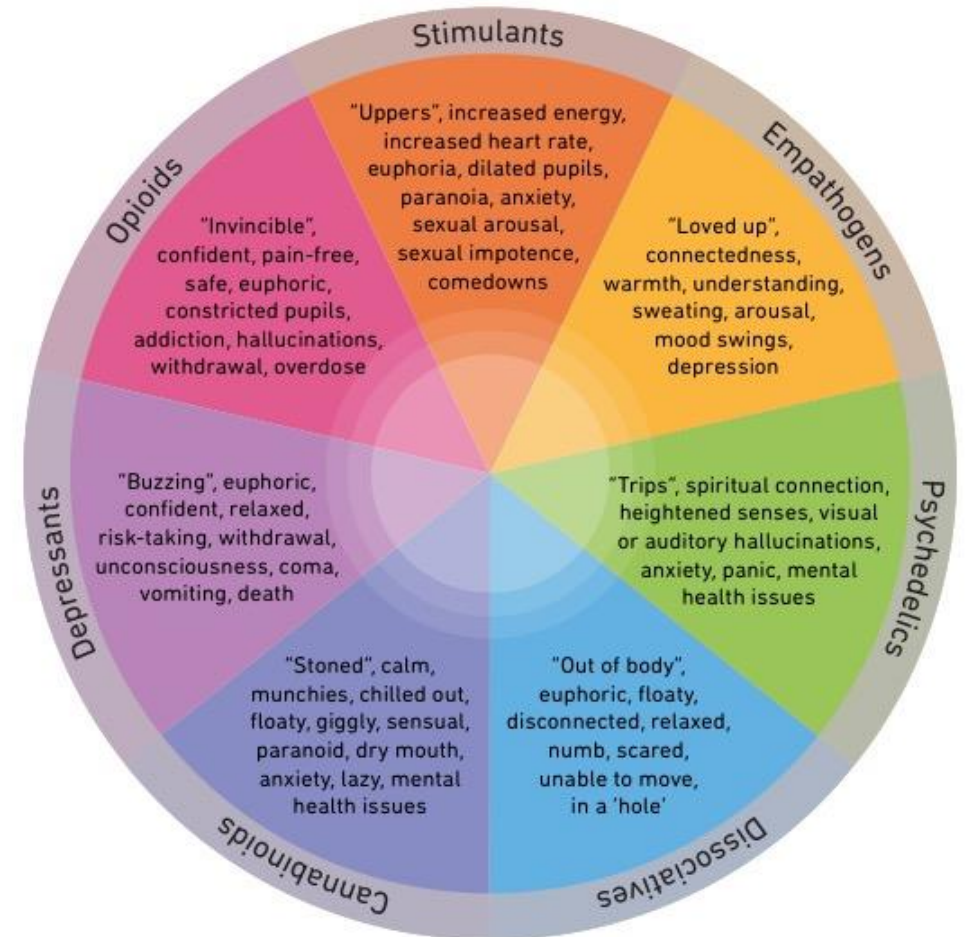
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Designed in collaboration with DrugWatch: an informal association of charities, organisations and individuals who share an interest in establishing a robust early warning system in the UK for all types of drugs.



The Drugs Wheel

A new model for substance awareness

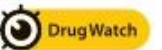


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Module 3: Homelessness

FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organizations Working with the Homeless, claims there is a continuum between the status of homelessness and a stable home that contains and conceals many facets of the problem (Toro & Janisse, 2004).

In direct confrontation with homeless persons, also with beggars, mentally ill and intoxicated persons, irritation can turn into discomfort and fear. Some people experience this confrontation as intrusive and turn to the police to complain about drunkenness, begging, racketeering, noisiness - and homelessness as signs of social disorder in public space.

Police and social workers must join forces to act as conflict managers and peace-keeping officers.

4. How do we teach it? Didactical elements in the SWaPOL training:

Professional keynote inputs	Exercises and games	Excursions and field work
Social work and social pedagogy	Meet & Greet at the Marketplace	Observation study: Social area analysis
Community Policing and crime prevention	The "Derdians" (interactive role-play on cultures)	Guided homelessness city tours (A: "Shades Tours" / "Backstreet-Guides")
Social area management	Word cloud using "mentimeter" and "Kahoot"	Visit drug help centres
Prevention of addiction	Photographs and film clips	Visit homelessness facilities
Drug law	Drugs-wheel	
First Aid in cases of substance overdose	Impro-theatre, role-play	
FEANTSA typology on homelessness	Newspaper articles for discussion	
Projects of the city council	"World-Café", "Fishbowl", poster presentations	



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Ideologies in professions

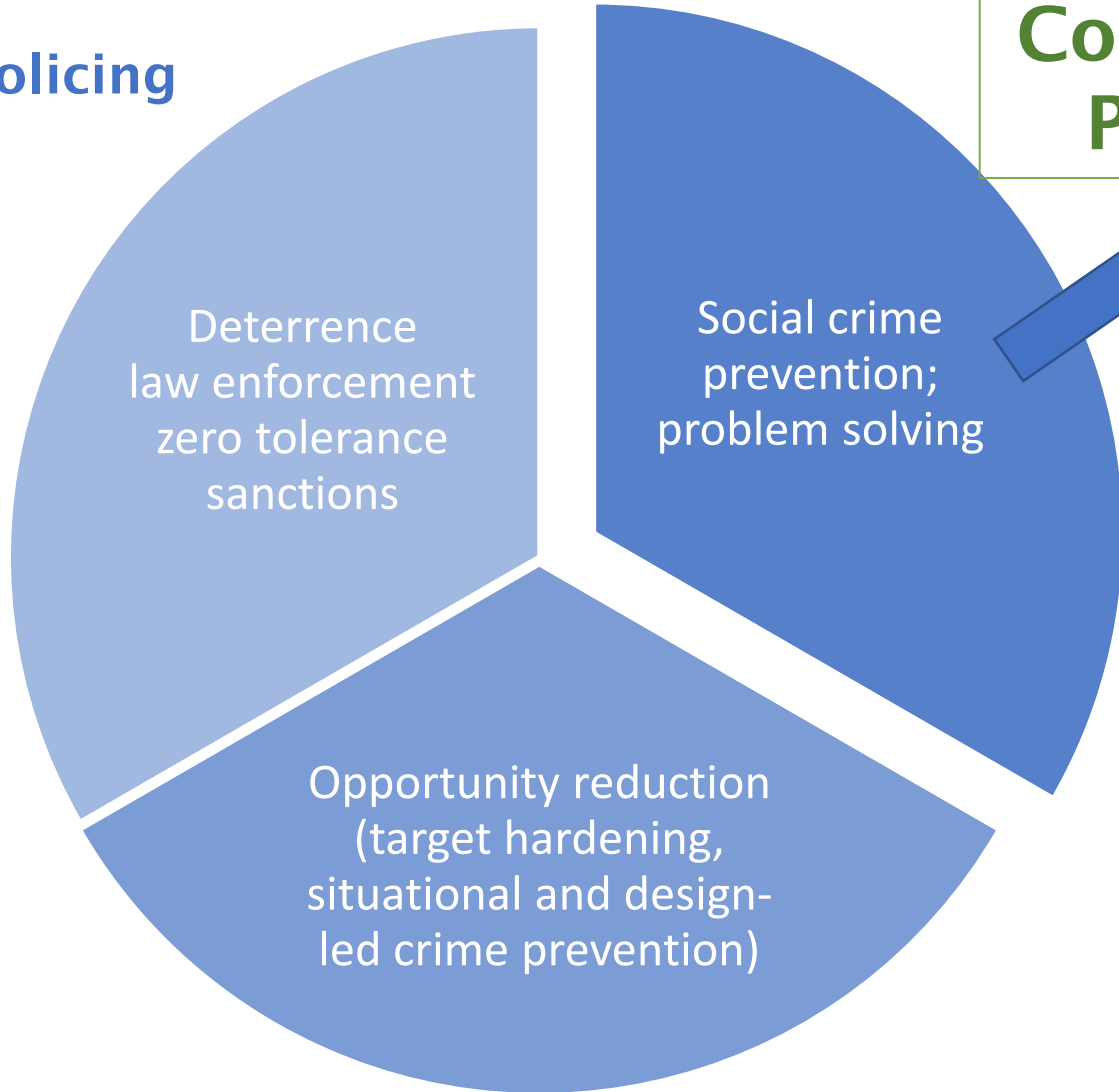
Professions are not as coherent in their ideologies, functions, responsibilities and work ethics as we first thought or as their stereotypes may suggest.

The juxtaposition of progressive social workers who see the police as allies in an unjust political system, with rational choice proponents in the police who advocate deterrence and who see social workers as protectors of offenders, is likely to lead to heated debates.

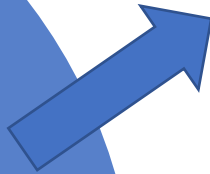
On the other hand, collaboration between conventional *social workers*, who emphasise family support programmes and individual development in a local community, and *police officers*, who show an understanding for social deprivation and poverty can lead to promising outcomes in crime prevention partnerships.

Ideologies in professions

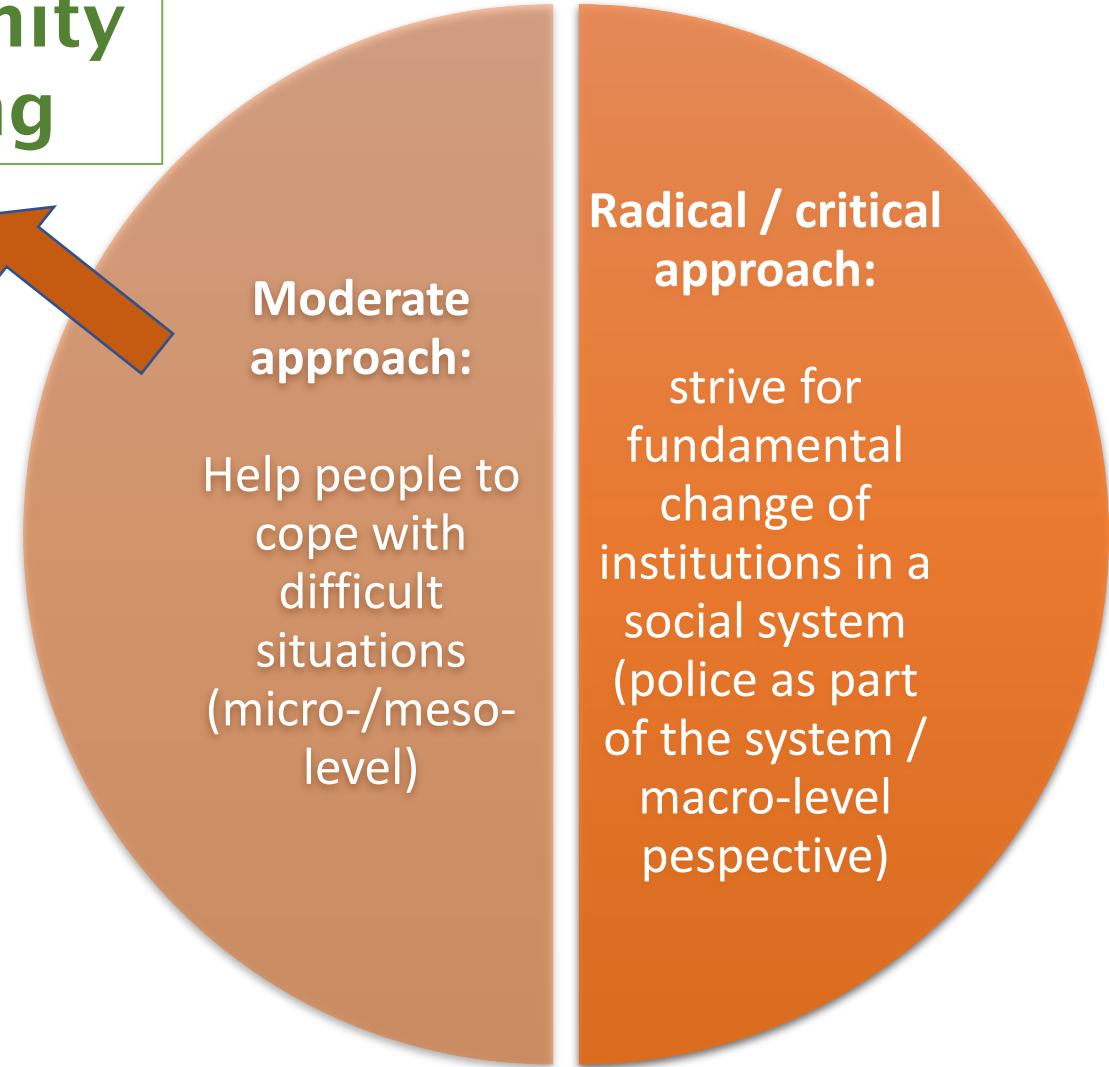
Policing



Community Policing



Social Work





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Thank you for your attention!

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