



European Crime Prevention Network

Work Programme 2022

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1. Background

This EUCPN Work Programme succeeds that of 2021. The Work Programme 2022 is in accordance with Article 4 of the Council Decision 2009/902/JHA and Article 12 of the Rules of Procedures for the EUCPN.

As foreseen in the Multiannual Strategy for the EUCPN, this document defines the activities of the Network to be completed in 2022. Strategic goal I focuses the Network as a supporter and developer of crime prevention within the EU using an evidence-based approach. Four operational goals were identified:

- Operational goal 1: The Network makes evidence-based information accessible
- Operational goal 2: The Network improves the effectiveness of crime prevention activities within the EU
- Operational goal 3: The Network, the Secretariat and the National Representatives are the point of reference for crime prevention in the EU
- Operational goal 4: The Network contributes to the EU policy and strategy of crime prevention

The MAS 2021-2025 also introduces a second strategic goal focusing on improving the Network's internal functioning. Within strategic goal II, four areas of improvements have been identified:

- Area of improvement 1: The evidence-based approach
- Area of improvement 2: Governance
- Area of improvement 3: Target group orientation
- Area of improvement 4: The expertise of the Network

2. Funding

The EUCPN currently relies on the following funding sources:

- EUCPN Secretariat is funded under the 'Internal Security Fund – Police' programme managed by the European Commission
 - o Project from 1 April 2020 – 30 June 2022 with 2.105.263 Euro budget: 5% of the project budget was contributed by the MS through the proportionality principle.

- Project from 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2024 with 2.105.263 Euro budget: 5% of the project budget was contributed by the MS through the proportionality principle.

3. Presidencies

3.1. The French Presidency

The French presidency will focus on the following theme: **“How to prevent young people from entering street gangs?”**

France experiences the rise of gang violence, both in number and in seriousness. In addition, the average age of gangs’ members is dropping. To provide a comprehensive answer to this severe tendency, the French Government has adopted a “Gang plan” (*Plan Bandes*).

The strategy is the result of pool feedbacks from government departments, local representatives and field professionals. The prevention chapter aims to give concerned actors concrete tools to protect minors. It provides solutions to several questions such as: how can local authorities better detect the phenomenon before violence bursts? How to better support children and fight against risk factors such as school dropout and bullying? How to dispense efficient parental support? How to create a multistakeholders environment to exchange data and come up with comprehensive help to families?

One particular area should draw the board’s attention, which is the role that internet and especially social medias are playing in gangs’ violence and the continuous perpetuation of gangs’ rivalry online.

The French presidency strives to pass this knowledge on and improve them by sharing European countries’ best practices in the field.

The French presidency will organize two executive committee meeting, one board meeting and one seminar.

The seminar will tackle the issue of how to prevent young people from entering street gangs.

The French presidency intends to enrich the common knowledge toward social medias’ effect on street gangs, and promote new ways of policing according to this issue.

Agenda:

- March 28th 2022: ExCom
- June 20th 2022: ExCom and BM
- June 21th 2022: seminar

3.2. The Czech Presidency

The Czech Presidency will focus on “**Working with vulnerable crime victims**”. In the Czech Republic, there is an appropriate legislation for victims of crime with special rights for vulnerable victims. We focus a lot on the police's treatment of particularly vulnerable victims (children, seniors, victims of sexual violence, etc.), for whom we have a unique project of Special Interrogation (Interview) Rooms and new methodologies for working with such victims.

We are very interested in exchange experiences and good practices, most importantly in the areas of early identification of victims of crime (especially those particularly vulnerable), prevention of their secondary victimization and how to increase motivation to report crimes and thus to reduce the latency of crime.

This can be achieved, inter alia, by improving the communication skills of law enforcement authorities (mostly, but not only, the police), increasing pro-client access to crime victims, witnesses and persons reporting crime. We can achieve our goal also by increasing trust in working with victims, by using new methodologies for identifying victims and for working with particularly vulnerable victims, and last but not least by raising legal awareness of risk groups (e.g. seniors), etc.

This topic is linked to the Common Horizontal Strategic Goal 7 Prevention and harm reduction, assistance to victims, awareness raising“ in EMPACT 2022+.

In addition the CZ Presidency wants to focus on **graffiti** or **volunteering in crime prevention**.

- **Graffiti** - MS legislation, tools to combat this crime on national and local level, examples of good practice in prevention projects
- **Volunteering in crime prevention** - use of volunteers in crime prevention activities, especially within municipalities and state authorities (police, probation service, prison service, etc.) - conditions in individual countries, (non) existence of a systemic approach and support, examples of good practice

The Czech Presidency will organise one Board Meeting combined with the Best Practice Conference and European Crime Prevention Award (BPC-ECPA), 2 Executive Committees and one jury meeting.

In addition, the Czech Presidency will, in cooperation with the Czech Standardization Agency and European Committee CEN/CENELEC, organise an international conference on “**Urban environment - security threat or opportunity for prevention?**”. During this conference the benefits of the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design/Crime Prevention Through Urban Design and Planning concepts and Technical standards of crime prevention for security and public order in cities will be presented.

Agenda:

- October 6th 2022: international conference on Urban Development
- December 7th 2022: ExCom and BM
- December 8th and 9th: BPC ECPA

4. Activities in the Network in 2022

As stated above, the MAS 2021-2025 has not one but two strategic goals. The first strategic goal contains four operational goals and provides the plans to ensure that the EUCPN's work reflects the needs of the crime prevention field. Secondly, strategic goal II was added to ensure that the EUCPN's activities are supported by an efficient internal structure that adopts a proactive approach to planning, promotes appropriate and efficient working practices, and ensures that core processes are optimised. Four areas of improvement have been identified to improve the internal functioning.

Throughout the MAS 2021-2025 all the operational goals and areas of improvements contain action areas. These action areas are broadly described but it is the objective of the consecutive Work Programmes to detail Network and Secretariat tasks in order to accomplish the action areas and goals.

5. Strategic goal I: The Network will support and develop crime prevention within the EU using an evidence-based approach

According to the Council Decision 2009/902/JHA, the objective of the Network is to: 'contribute to developing the various aspects of crime prevention at the Union level, taking account of the European Union crime preventive strategy, and shall support crime prevention activities at the national and local level.' In order to continue promoting and advancing crime prevention in the EU, the EUCPN commits itself to evidence-based decisions and actions. The Network will support and develop the EU-wide crime prevention field by making factual, objective and reliable information available and supporting its implementation in practice.

Strategic goal I of the EUCPN provides the framework within which the EUCPN Secretariat staff and National Representatives will situate their work, and within which our target groups can see the added value of the Network and the rationale for products and services delivered. It is important to note that, due to the integrated approach to crime prevention, the operational goals are interlinked and mutually complementary.

5.1. Operational goal 1: The Network makes evidence-based information accessible

The Network aims to support evidence-based decisions and actions at the local, national and EU level by providing reliable information concerning crime prevention methodologies and practices. The Network is convinced that the accessibility of sound information is a prerequisite for developing effective policies in crime prevention. Therefore, the Network will act as a platform for this evidence-based information.

Action areas:

5.1.1. Make existing and future research accessible

- **Task EUCPN Secretariat**
 - Relevant research articles will be disseminated through the newsletter and the website.
- **Tasks MS**
 - National Representatives will share relevant research from their research institutions with the Network.
- **Tasks Presidencies**
 - France will organise one thematic seminar, linked to the Board Meeting, to exchange information on **How to prevent young people from entering street gangs?**
 - The Czech Republic will organise the BPC-ECPA on **“Working with vulnerable crime victims”** and an international conference on **“Urban environment - security threat or opportunity for prevention?”**.

5.1.2. Maintain a link with the academic world

- **Task EUCPN Secretariat**
 - The Secretariat will create an advisory board for the Network to maintain a connection with academic experts, and which is to serve as a sounding board for the Network.
- **Task Presidencies**
 - The presidencies will invite relevant international institutions to their seminar meetings and the BPC-ECPA. The National Representatives and the Secretariat can make suggestions.

5.1.3. Create evidence-based EUCPN output

- **Task EUCPN Secretariat**

- The Network will develop recommendations on approaching challenges of crime problems.
 - The Secretariat will, in cooperation with the French Presidency, organise a workshop with experts specialised on the topic: “**How to prevent young people from entering street gangs?**”. This workshop will give input to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will also write a toolbox on this topic.
 - The Secretariat will, linked to Czech Presidency, organise a workshop with experts specialised on “**Working with vulnerable crime victims**”. The Secretariat will also write a toolbox on this topic.
- The Secretariat will increase its research output by developing a research programme.
 - The EUCPN Secretariat continuously focuses on 3 topics; organised property crime (OPC), trafficking in human beings (THB) and cybercrime.
 - Next to the 3 continuous topics, the EUCPN will direct attention towards EU priorities, national and local topics alike. These topics are linked to the EU Presidency topics.

5.1.4. Bridge the knowledge gap between research, policy and practice

➤ **Task EUCPN Secretariat**

- The Secretariat will publish two myth busters focused on the displacement effect and the cost-benefit of crime prevention. These papers are designed to translate research findings in an easy and concrete format for policymakers and practitioners.
- The Secretariat continues to engage with relevant institutions and respond to requests for inputs.

➤ **Task MS**

- National Representatives are responsible to facilitate the contact of the Secretariat with good practices in their Member States.

➤ **Joined task**

- The Secretariat and the National Representatives will engage with the target groups and consult academic experts while preparing publications or other output. This includes asking for feedback, and bringing their perspective and experience.

5.2. Operational goal 2: The Network improves the effectiveness of crime prevention activities within the EU

The EUCPN has an important responsibility to act as a catalyst for improving the quality and delivery of crime prevention initiatives. Effective initiatives have to be based on evidence on the nature of the problem and what has been shown to work rather than on ideological,

prejudice or value judgements. Moreover, the common understanding of crime prevention will improve by sharing national experiences. The Network not only sets out to exchange information, but also seeks to implement this by creating and supporting effective actions at the local, national and EU level of crime prevention.

Action areas:

5.2.1. Create criteria for effective crime prevention initiatives

Completed in 2021.

5.2.2. Increase the uptake of evidence-based approaches to crime prevention

➤ **Task EUCPN Secretariat**

- The EUCPN Secretariat will develop a training on crime prevention knowledge and evidence.
- The EUCPN Secretariat will create and test an assessment methodology for a new crime prevention registry, using QUALIPREV as its starting point.

➤ **Task MS**

- The National Representatives will promote the use of an evidence-based approach in their respective countries by providing financial and reputational incentives for evidence-based practice through the Best Practices Conference and the European Crime Prevention Award.

➤ **Joined task**

- The EUCPN Secretariat and the National Representatives will communicate about the benefits of evidence-based practice and popularise its benefits.
- The EUCPN Secretariat and the National Representatives will renew the ECPA entry form to maximise knowledge capturing from good practices, using the 5Is¹ framework

5.2.3. Increase the capacity for evaluating crime prevention initiatives

➤ **Task EUCPN Secretariat**

- The EUCPN Secretariat will implement the training on evaluating crime prevention, using a train-the-trainer model.

¹ The 5Is framework is a framework to capture and standardise information on good practice descriptions of crime prevention projects. Professor Paul Eklom originally developed this system for the EUCPN in 2002 and has been updated since then.

Optioneel: The framework comprises of 5 task streams in the preventive process: Intelligence, Intervention, Implementation, Involvement, Impact

Paul Eklom, Crime Prevention, Security and Community Safety Using the 5is Framework, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011

➤ **Task MS**

- The National Representatives will roll out the training on evaluating crime prevention at the national level

5.2.4. Support concrete initiatives

➤ **Task EUCPN Secretariat**

- The Secretariat will update every month the EU funding information page on the website to give an overview of all possible open calls.
- The Secretariat provides support and evaluations to MS wanting to adapt projects being ECPA winners. In order to do so, extra information will be gathered and translated as much as possible.
- Setting-up collaboration projects with international institutions should be aspired when relevant.

5.3. Operational goal 3: The Network, the Secretariat and the National

Representatives are the point of reference for crime prevention in the EU

There is a wealth of information available through the EUCPN, and this knowledge base will continue to grow in the next years. In the years 2021-2025, the EUCPN is committed to taking major steps to further promote the accessibility of this knowledge and to promote the value of crime prevention as an integral part of any response to crime. The EUCPN will become a one-stop-shop for those who need information, practices, experiences and tools about crime prevention.

Action areas:

5.3.1. Continue championing crime prevention

➤ **Task EUCPN Secretariat**

- The Secretariat will represent the Network on relevant meetings.

➤ **Task MS**

- The National Representative will represent the Network on relevant meetings.

➤ **Joined task**

- The Network will promote the use of crime prevention.
- The content, design and user-friendliness of the EUCPN website will be kept in line with the current web standards.
 - The Secretariat will keep the website up to date and optimise its current functions with the assistance of the Board.

- The MS will make sure that the Secretariat receives regular updates about the information and contacts provided.

5.3.2. Improve the brand awareness of the EUCPN

➤ **Task EUCPN Secretariat**

- The Secretariat shall report to the Board on its activities related to the communication plan and the networking activities. The Secretariat will in particular focus on the following actions in 2022:
 - Further development of the website
 - Promotion of the newsletter (subscription)
 - Organisation of the European Crime Prevention Conference on 28 and 29 April 2022
 - Look into the possibility of podcasts, where criminologists, policymakers and practitioners could discuss crime prevention topics or EUCPN output
 - Translation of EUCPN output

➤ **Task MS**

- The National Representatives shall report to the Board on their activities related to the communication plan and the networking activities. In regards to the actions on which the Secretariat will focus, the National Representatives have the responsibilities to:
 - Publicise the EUCPN output from the website at the national and local level and provide updates on the information on the website (projects, contact page ...)
 - Promote the newsletter within their Member States and share its content through national communication channels
 - Attend and promote the European Crime Prevention Conference
 - Disseminate the EUCPN communication output
 - If needed provide translation
- The National Representatives will promote the BPC ECPA in their Member State

➤ **Presidency task**

- the Presidency will look into the possibility of organising the BPC ECPA as a public event

5.3.3. Be accessible to the target groups of the EUCPN

➤ **Task MS**

- The National Representatives will promote the EUCPN in their respective countries and be available for crime prevention questions. Amongst others, national crime prevention days could be good places to increase the visibility of the EUCPN.

5.3.4. Overcome the existing communication barriers

➤ **Task EUCPN Secretariat**

- The EUCPN Secretariat will communicate in easily understandable language, only using jargon if needed or appropriate and ensure such terms are defined in a glossary.
- The toolboxes produced by the Secretariat will be translated into 4 national languages: English, French, German and the language of the presidency.
- As much other output of the Network will be translated as possible. Special attention will be given to summaries. The National Representatives will exchange good practices regarding the communication between the national, regional and local level.
- Produce attractive and easily accessible output, exploring new and interactive ways of communicating publications such as videos, factsheets, conferences, webinars and podcasts

➤ **Task MS**

- Means of communicating with the target groups will be identified and reinforced in order to enable the channelling-in of interests in a bottom-up direction.
- The National Representatives will promote the webinars of the EUCPN Secretariat

➤ **Joined task:**

- A key EUCPN priority should be to produce good practice material for crime prevention practitioners at a regional and local level. Therefore, The EUCPN will establish a structured upward feedback mechanism which ensures the local level is adequately surveyed. **National Representatives** need to be in contact with the local level. **The Secretariat** will involve the National Crime Prevention Councils meeting to help establish an upward feedback mechanism.
- The Secretariat and the National Representatives will tailor the publications and communications and address segmented target groups (programme managers, front line practitioners, policymakers) ensuring its relevance.

5.4. Operational goal 4: The Network contributes to the EU policy and strategy of crime prevention.

Crime prevention has to be an integral part of any holistic approach to crime. An important priority for the Network is to provide support for those who define policy at the EU level. Crime prevention needs to be included in all related strategies and policies. The EUCPN is committed to proactively promote crime prevention in any EU crime strategy or policy.

Action areas:

5.4.1. (Continually) advocate for making crime prevention an integral part of the response to crime

➤ Task EUCPN Secretariat

- The EUCPN Secretariat will increase its activity in EMPACT 2022+ and will act as coordinator of Strategic Goal 7: prevention and harm reduction in
- Policy requests between Member States will be stimulated. Therefore, the Secretariat will provide evidence-based counsel to Network requests.

➤ Task MS

- The National Representatives will increase the contact with their national counterparts in the relevant working groups of the EU Council to further support recommendations made by the EUCPN.

➤ Task Presidency

- The Presidency will increase the contact with their national counterparts in the relevant working groups of the EU Council to further support recommendations made by the EUCPN.

➤ Joined task

- The Network will evaluate the level of follow-up of the recommendations made in the different output of the Secretariat.

5.4.2. Take part in discussions on EU crime strategies and policies

➤ Task MS

- The EUCPN wants to be included in EU discussions on crime strategies and policies. National Representatives will proactively contact their counterparts in relevant working groups to facilitate this.
- The National Representatives will update their information on the policy of different crime prevention phenomena for the policy database.

➤ Task Presidency

- The Presidencies will invite the Board to identify one relevant EU and MS topic per year addressing LEWP and the European Commission with results.

- The Presidency in office will inform LEWP about the main activities and recommendations proposed by the EUCPN.

➤ **Task EC**

- The Commissions' annual working programme will be put on the agenda for discussion at the Executive Committee and Board Meeting following its adoption by the Commission.

5.4.3. Create EU-wide effective actions

➤ **Task EUCPN Secretariat**

- The EUCPN Secretariat will (co)lead actions in EMPACT Organised Property Crime, Firearms Trafficking, Synthetic Drugs, Environmental Crime, Child Sexual Exploitation and online fraud
- The EUCPN Secretariat will participate in the preventive actions in EMPACT Cyber Attacks, Cocaine Cannabis and Heroin and Trafficking in Human Beings.
- A European Focus day on domestic burglary will be organised.

➤ **Task MS**

- The MS are responsible for the dissemination and promoting of the activities related to EMPACT at the national level

➤ **Joined task**

- The Network will take an active role in certain EU funded project such as INDEED, ISF Sword and Frontline Politeia.

5.4.4. Coordinate the various crime prevention activities and actors at the EU level

➤ **Joined task**

- The Network will maintaining successful partnerships with European and international organisations.

6. Strategic goal II: The Network improves its internal functioning

The consecutive external evaluations have stated that the EUCPN made an impact on the EU crime prevention field, but also discovered some limiting factors in the functioning of the Network. Increasing the Member States' engagement - which is sometimes very sporadic at

present - is increasingly one of the biggest opportunities for expanding the impact of the Network.

The second strategic goal focuses on the internal improvements necessary to enhance the Network's functioning. It presents 4 areas of improvement. The areas of improvement deal, first of all, with how the evidence-based approach will be developed and implemented in the Network's endeavours. Secondly, the governing structure of the Network will be discussed to improve the internal working environment. Furthermore, an improved orientation towards the target groups will be envisioned and lastly, the expertise of the Network will be demarcated.

6.1. Area of improvement 1: The evidence-based approach

The increased focus on evidence-based approaches within the work of the Network is put forward as one of the most important areas of improvement in order to accomplish the Network's strategic and operational goals. It is recognised that the focus on evidence-based knowledge and activities needs to be at the heart and centre of the Network's endeavours.

Action areas:

6.1.1. Create a task force

Completed in 2021

6.1.2. Decide on transparent criteria for assessing the evidence base of crime prevention practices

Completed in 2021

6.1.3. Transparent criteria for assessing the evidence base of crime prevention practices will be implemented in all aspects of EUCPN

See 1.2.1.

6.1.4. Promote adoption of these criteria in national strategies and funding opportunities

Will be implemented in the 2023, 2024 or 2025.

6.2. Area of improvement 2: Governance

Each of the three external evaluations that have been performed over the years discovered limiting factors in this structure and expressed the need to improve the governance of the Network. The EUCPN, therefore, commits itself to tackling these governance issues in order

to create a strong and clear structure. Specifically, the role of the National Representatives, the division of tasks and the hosting structure of the Secretariat have come into focus.

Action areas:

6.2.1. Clarify the different roles and tasks of the EUCPN members

Completed in 2021 by the WG Governance

6.2.2. Promote the appointment of well-equipped National Representatives

➤ **Task Secretariat**

- The Secretariat will organise introduction meetings for new National Representatives

➤ **Task MS**

- A buddy/mentoring system for new National Representatives will be set up
- New Working Groups, in which National Representatives will take an active role, will be set up

➤ **Task Presidency:**

- The CZ Presidency will look into the possibilities of improving the coverage and involvement of the national and local level with the principles and outputs of EUCPN through the National Representatives and translations. The CZ Presidency suggests to **incorporate payments from the ISF Police grant to the Member States** in order to finance National Representatives and to finance translations of the output of the EUCPN Secretariat by the MS

6.2.3. Leave room for content discussions during Board Meetings

➤ **Task EUCPN Secretariat**

- Written procedures will be used more extensively.

➤ **Task MS**

- The MS will inform the Secretariat on which agenda topics they want to receive a written procedure instead of a discussion during the Board

➤ **Task ExCom**

- The Executive Committee will prepare the administrative decisions for the Network.

➤ **Task Presidency:**

- The presidency will ask the members of the Board for suggestions relating to crime prevention policies, practices and research.
- The French Presidency will organise a discussion on several crime prevention topics during the second half of the Board Meeting in June.

6.2.4. Discuss the hosting structure of the Secretariat

➤ **Task MS**

- The Working Group Governance will discuss this in consultation with the European Commission

6.3. Area of improvement 3: Target group orientation

The Network's target groups are focused on three different levels of governance: the local, the national and the European level.

Action areas:

6.3.1. Continuous link to international stakeholders

➤ **Secretariat Task:**

- A stakeholders meeting will be organised.
- A meeting for National Crime Prevention Councils will be organised.
- The creation of 'Memorandum's of Understanding' will be aspired with key stakeholders.

6.3.2. Improved focus on the local level

➤ **Secretariat task:**

- The Secretariat will also invite local practitioners and experts when organising expert meetings.
- The Secretariat will provide a list of crime prevention priorities to the National Representatives

➤ **Task MS:**

- The National Representatives will promote the EUCPN and its output to the local level.
- The National Representatives will draw up lists of National Contact Points per crime prevention priorities.

6.4. Area of improvement 4: The expertise of the Network

The evidence-based approach discussion should already lead to greater expertise within the Network. Statements from the Network need to be a kind of benchmark for what is good, what works and what is not good or does not work.

Action areas:

6.4.1. Create an advisory board

➤ **Joined task**

- A contact list will be created containing experts in various fields.
- The advisory board will serve as a sounding board for the Network.

➤ **Secretariat task**

- In the research phase of major publications, the Secretariat will consult the contact list

6.4.2. Establish a balance between EU and local priorities

➤ **Task ExCom**

- The Executive Committee will discuss how the balance between the EU and local priorities will be created.

6.4.3. Strengthen the link between local and EU priority topics

See 2.3.2