



European Crime Prevention Network

Work Programme 2024

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Funded by ISF-Police

1. Background

This EUCPN Work Programme succeeds that of 2023. The Work Programme 2024 is in accordance with Article 4 of the Council Decision 2009/902/JHA and Article 12 of the Rules of Procedures for the EUCPN. The EUCPN Secretariat is funded by ISF – Police until the end of June 2024. Therefore **this Work Programme only covers the first half of 2024**. As soon as the new project starts a new Work Programme will be prepared.

As foreseen in the Multiannual Strategy for the EUCPN, this document defines the activities of the Network to be completed in the first half of 2024. 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 Networks 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 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.



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3. Presidency

3.1. The Belgian Presidency

The DG Security and Prevention aims to strengthen European multidisciplinary cooperation in security and safety. Besides police and private security agencies, community guards, volunteers (such as football stewards) and citizens also help ensure security.

Specifically, we would focus on the themes of 'information exchange' and 'citizen participation in safety/security'.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

It is important for experts from public administrations to cooperate with peers from other EU Member States to exchange information and learn from each other. To achieve this, it is necessary to establish partnerships, networks or consultation platforms with policy partners in the other EU Member States in order to jointly tackle cross-border crime phenomena.

In the field of football security, we aim to create a broad platform for non-personal information sharing of policy challenges, initiatives, experiences and good practices regarding the fight against football-related misconduct and violence. This exchange between policymakers, and where useful with external stakeholders, will build on the work of the Benelux Platform sub-working group under the Belgian Presidency in the framework of the Benelux-WG SENN-FOOT.

With regard to private security, we will create a European network of experts in the field of private security at the competent public authorities of the EU Member States, with the aim of ensuring an inflow between governments (i.e. exchanging insights and best practices to improve procedures and regulations). This network would also focus on gathering knowledge on a European vision for the deployment of private security with a focus on reliability and quality. The kick-off of this network took place on 21 November 2023 with the participation of 10 EU Member States and we want to extend this further to the other Member States.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN SAFETY/SECURITY



This theme concerns the role of citizens in the integral security policy: how they can contribute to a safer society. Also in virtual world: how can citizens be involved for this purpose?

This topic is a priority of the Belgian minister of Home Affairs and in the Federal Framework on Integral Security 2022 – 2024.

We are drawing up guidelines for local authorities on how to engage/involve citizens in the local security policy. In addition, we will create a toolbox with inspirational practices for the different types of volunteering in crime prevention.

During our conference, we will present these guidelines and some practices from the toolbox.

Finally, we would like to focus on strengthening the relationship between citizens and security professions like football stewards and locale security guards. The objective is to work on the prevention of violence against security professions, e.g. during football matches.

Task from the MultiAnnual Strategy

The chosen operational goal is to enhance the evidence-based approach and further promote the uptake of evidence based initiatives and policies.

Agenda:

- March 12th 2024: Executive Committee
- April 23th 2024: European Platform Football security
- May 29th 2024: Executive Committee and Board Meeting
- May 30th 2024: seminar



4. Activities in the Network in 2024

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.

Make existing and future research accessible		
Task	Responsible party	MS
Relevant research articles will be disseminated through the newsletter and the website	SEC	/
National Representatives will share relevant research from their research institutions with the Network and the Secretariat on a regular basis.	NR	
Belgium will organise one thematic seminar, linked to the Board Meeting, to exchange information on “xx”.	PRES	BE

Maintain a link with the academic world		
Task	Responsible party	MS
The Secretariat will consult the advisory board for the Network in order to maintain a connection with academic experts.	SEC	/



The presidency will invite relevant international institutions to their seminar meeting. The National Representatives and the Secretariat can make suggestions.	PRES	BE
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Create evidence-based EUCPN output		
Task	Responsible party	MS
<p>The Network will develop recommendations on approaching challenges of crime problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat will, in cooperation with the Belgian Presidency, organise a meeting with experts specialised on the topic: “citizen participation in safety/security”. The Secretariat will write a toolbox for the Belgian presidency. 	SEC	/
<p>The Secretariat will increase its research output by developing a research programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat will focus on all relevant crime areas, while prioritising those determined by the Board; 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 and EMPACT topics. 	SEC	/



Bridge the knowledge gap between research, policy and practice

Task	Responsible party	MS
<p>The Secretariat will publish three research papers to bridge the research policy gap:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. myths surrounding the administrative approach 2. myths on the evaluation of crime prevention initiatives, 3. yet to be determined. <p>These papers are designed to translate research findings in an easy and concrete format for policymakers and practitioners.</p>	SEC	/
<p>The Secretariat will publish two recommendation papers in the context of EMPACT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the prevention of firearms trafficking 2. the prevention of youth involvement in organised crime 	SEC	/
<p>The Secretariat will publish a manual on QUALIPREV, to help practitioners and policymakers use the crime prevention assessment tool.</p>	SEC	/
<p>The Secretariat continues to engage with relevant institutions and respond to requests for inputs.</p>	SEC	/
<p>National Representatives are responsible to facilitate the contact of the Secretariat with good practices in their Member States</p>	NR	
<p>The Secretariat and the National Representatives will engage with the target groups and consult academic experts while preparing publications or other</p>	SEC + NR	



output. This includes asking for feedback, and bringing their perspective and experience.		
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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.

Increase the uptake of evidence-based approaches to crime prevention		
Task	Responsible party	MS
The EUCPN Secretariat will develop a half-day training on the key concepts of crime prevention, discussing basic crime prevention theory and methods. It will serve as precursor training to the training on evaluating crime prevention initiatives, and should reach a wider audience.	SEC	/
The EUCPN Secretariat will pilot and assess the new crime prevention registry, ensuring a user-friendly design. This will be based on the minimum criteria defined in the Evidence-based strategy (adopted Dec. 2021) and will use QUALIPREV as the main assessment tool. It will incorporate design choices proposed by the Working group Evidence-based approach, and the Secretariat	SEC + WG EBA	/



will continue to consult the Working group in creating the registry.		
The EUCPN Secretariat will organise a webinar on the use of QUALIPREV	SEC	
The Secretariat will see to it that the products and publications of the Network promote only crime prevention initiatives which according to QUALIPREV can be considered effective or likely effective, and thus receive such a label in the new registry. The Advisory board will be consulted in case of doubt.	SEC + advisory board	
The National Representatives will share with the Secretariat any information they have regarding effective or promising evidence-based crime prevention initiatives.	NR	
The National Representatives will promote the use of an evidence-based approach in their respective countries by providing financial incentives for evidence-based practice through the Best Practices Conference and the European Crime Prevention Award.	NR	
The national Representatives provide social incentives that support the formation of professional norms favouring evidence-based practice, e.g. by communicating about the successes of evidence-based prevention.	NR	
The EUCPN Secretariat and the National Representatives will communicate about the benefits of evidence-based practice and popularise its benefits.	SEC + NR	
The Secretariat in partnership with the National Representatives offer technical assistance to practitioners and policy makers wishing to make use of evidence or to conduct an evaluation (i.e. through the available templates on the website and in the form of feedback).	SEC + NR	



Increase the capacity for evaluating crime prevention initiatives

Task	Responsible party	MS
The EUCPN Secretariat will provide evidence-based council (in the form of tools and templates) for practitioners and policy makers wishing to focus on evidence-based prevention or to conduct an evaluation.	SEC	/
The EUCPN Secretariat continues to deliver the one and a half day training on evaluating crime prevention initiatives (in English, In Brussels or in the respective Member State) if so requested by the National Representatives. The NRs inform the Secretariat if there is an interest in the training, indicating the size and make-up of the target group. NRs also assist in the practical organisation of the training.	SEC + NR	
The Secretariat will investigate the possibility of organising a trainer's training for the training on evaluating crime prevention initiatives, including the translation of the training material. NRs inform the Secretariat if there is an interest in this model (allowing for the training to take place in national languages). Together with the Secretariat, NRs will identify capable trainers who meet the trainer requirements.	SEC + NR	

Support concrete initiatives

Task	Responsible party	MS
The Secretariat will update every month the EU funding information page on the website to give an overview of all possible open calls	SEC	/



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.

Continue championing crime prevention		
Task	Responsible party	MS
The Secretariat will represent the Network on relevant meetings.	SEC	/
The National Representative will represent the Network on relevant meetings.	NR	
The Network will promote the use of crime prevention	SEC + NR	
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.	SEC	/
The MS will make sure that the Secretariat receives regular updates about the information and contacts provided for the website	NR	



Improve the brand awareness of the EUCPN – implementation of the communication plan		
Task	Responsible party	MS
Attract more visitors to the EUCPN website and make the necessary (design) adjustments to the database	SEC	/
Develop a video on the evidence-based strategy and the evaluation of crime prevention initiatives	SEC	/
Translate and edit EUCPN output, that already has been published during the project	SEC	/
Organise the European Crime Prevention Conference on the 17th and 18th of April in Tallinn	SEC	/
Develop podcasts and webinars ENAA 18 January 14-15:00: roadmap EUCPN 25 January 11-12:00 : toolbox ES 22 February 10-11.30: working Evidence Based /Qualiprev 14 March 10.30-11:00: mythbuster Administrative Approach 7 May 11-11.30: mythbuster evaluation In cooperation with CEPOL February: webinar toolbox May: busting crime prevention myths	SEC	/
The National Representatives shall report to the Board on their activities related	NR	



to the communication plan and the networking activities		
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 ...)	NR	
Disseminate the EUCPN communication output	NR	
Disseminate the translations of EUCPN output	NR	
Attend and promote the European Crime Prevention Conference	NR	
Disseminate the information regarding the podcasts and webinars	NR	
The European Commission will support and promote the European Crime Prevention Conference	COM	/

Be accessible to the target groups of the EUCPN

Task	Responsible party	MS
The National Representatives will promote the EUCPN in their respective countries and be available for crime prevention questions	NR	
MS will invite the EUCPN Secretariat to participate in national crime prevention days to increase the visibility of the EUCPN	NR	

Overcome the existing communication barriers

Task	Responsible party	MS
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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.	SEC	/
The toolbox produced by the Secretariat will be translated into 4 national languages: English, French, German and the language of the presidency.	SEC	/
As much other output of the Network will be translated as possible. The National Representatives will exchange good practices regarding the communication between the national, regional and local level.	SEC	/
The National Representatives will check the quality of the translations	NR	
Produce attractive and easily accessible output, exploring interactive ways of communicating publications such as videos, factsheets, conferences, webinars and podcasts	SEC	/
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.	SEC + NR	

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.



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

Task	Responsible party	MS
The EUCPN Secretariat will continue its activity in EMPACT 2023+ and will act as coordinator of Strategic Goal 7: Prevention and harm reduction, assistance to victims, awareness raising	SEC	/
Policy requests between Member States will be stimulated. Therefore, the Secretariat will provide evidence-based counsel to Network requests.	SEC	/
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.	NR	
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.	PRES	BE

Take part in discussions on EU crime strategies and policies

Task	Responsible party	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.	SEC + NR	
The National Representatives will answer to questionnaires send out by the Secretariat in the context of the toolbox.	NR	



The Presidency will contact the Chair of LEWP in order to present one relevant EU and MS topic.	PRES	BE
The Presidency will inform LEWP about the main activities and recommendations proposed by the EUCPN.	PRES	BE
The progress and implementation of the Commissions' Organised Crime Strategy and Action Plans will be put on the agenda for discussion at the Executive Committee and Board Meeting	COM	COM
The EC will inform the Network about the discussions on crime prevention strategies and policies that are taking place at the EU level.	COM	COM

Create EU-wide effective actions

Task	Responsible party	MS
The EUCPN Secretariat will (co)lead actions in EMPACT Organised Property Crime, Firearms Trafficking, Synthetic Drugs, Cocaine Cannabis and Heroin, Environmental Crime, Child Sexual Exploitation, Cyber Attacks, and Online Fraud Schemes	SEC	/
The EUCPN Secretariat will participate in the preventive actions in EMPACT High Risk Criminal Networks and Trafficking in Human Beings.	SEC	/
The Network will take an active role in certain EU funded project such as INDEED, Engage 2 innovate, InterCop and 2PS.	SEC + NR	



The MS are responsible for the dissemination and promoting of the activities related to EMPACT at the national level	NR	
A European Focus day on domestic burglary will be organised.	SEC + NR + EMAPCT OPC	

Coordinate the various crime prevention activities and actors at the EU level		
Task	Responsible party	MS
The Network will maintaining successful partnerships with European and international organisations.	SEC + NR	

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.

Promote adoption of criteria for assessing the evidence base of crime prevention practices in national strategies and funding opportunities		
Task	Responsible party	MS
The MS will adopt the criteria for assessing the evidence base of crime prevention practices in national strategies and funding opportunities	NR	

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.

Promote the appointment of well-equipped National Representatives		
Task	Responsible party	MS
The Secretariat will organise introduction meetings for new National Representatives	SEC	/



NR help new NR of SUBs as a buddy	NR	
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Leave room for content discussions during Board Meetings		
Task	Responsible party	MS
Written procedures will be used more extensively.	SEC	/
The MS will inform the Secretariat on which agenda topics they want to receive a written procedure instead of a discussion during the Board	NR	/
The Executive Committee will prepare the administrative decisions for the Network	ExCom	ExCom
The Presidency will ask the members of the Board for suggestions relating to crime prevention policies, practices and research.	PRES	BE

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.

Continuous link to international stakeholders		
Task	Responsible party	MS
A stakeholders meeting will be organised	SEC	/
A meeting for National Crime Prevention Councils will be organised.	SEC	/



The creation of 'Memorandum's of Understanding' will be aspired with key stakeholders. For 2024 the SEC aims to create a MoU with Efus	SEC	/
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Improved focus on the local level		
Task	Responsible party	MS
The Secretariat will also invite local practitioners and experts when organising expert meetings by using the contact list.	SEC	/
The National Representatives will promote the EUCPN and its output to the local level.	NR	
The National Representatives will draw up lists of National Contact Points per crime prevention priorities. This list will be handled as a restricted document and will not be shared publically.	NR	

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.

Create an advisory board		
Task	Responsible party	MS
The advisory board will serve as a sounding board for the Network.	SEC	/





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