



European Crime Prevention Network

Annual Report of activities in 2011

April 2012



1. Background

The European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) was initially set up by the Decision of the Council of the European Union (2001/427/JHA) on 28 May 2001. Its main objective was to develop a platform for EU Member States to exchange experiences, knowledge and best practices in the field of crime prevention, as well as to promote crime prevention activity in EU Member States and at EU level, for the benefit of citizens' security and safety.

In order to address organisational failures and implement recommendations on the structure of the Network identified in the final report of the external evaluation, which was procured by the European Commission and carried out in 2008 and early 2009, the founding legislation was repealed and replaced by a new Council Decision (2009/902/JHA) on 30 November 2009. While some key changes were introduced to assign specific responsibilities to the main agents of the EUCPN, the new legislation kept the objectives and tasks of the EUCPN broadly unchanged. It sets out for the EUCPN to

- Facilitate cooperation, contacts and exchanges of information and experience between actors in the field of crime prevention;
- Collect, assess and communicate evaluated information including good practice on existing crime prevention activities;
- Organise conferences, in particular an annual Best Practice Conference, and other activities, including the annual European Crime Prevention Award, designed to achieve the objectives of the Network and to share widely the results thereof;
- Provide its expertise to the Council and the Commission as required;
- Report to the Council on its activities each year through the Board and the competent working bodies. The Council shall be invited to endorse the report and forward it to the European Parliament;
- Develop and implement a work programme based on a clearly defined strategy that takes account of identifying and responding to relevant crime threats.

The EUCPN is represented by a Board, which consists of nominated National Representatives from each EU Member State and Substitute Representatives. On a case-by-case basis, invited Observers can also take part in Board Meetings. Other crime prevention experts including practitioners and academics may contribute to the work of the EUCPN as nominated Contact points.

The Executive Committee provides support to the Chair and is responsible for developing the EUCPN's strategic approach for approval by the Board. It is responsible for the development and the delivery of the EUCPN Work Programme as well. In 2011 the Executive Committee consisted of representatives of the current



Presidency, the three incoming Presidencies, two selected Member States¹ (Germany and the Netherlands), the EUCPN Secretariat and the representative of the EU Commission.

From 1 January 2011, a newly established EUCPN Secretariat provided administrative, academic and technical support to the EUCPN as a whole as well as specific support services to the Chair and Executive Committee.

2. Summary of the year 2011

Improvement was made by putting into operation the new Secretariat for the EUCPN. During an interim period between 1 January and 1 July 2011, the Secretariat facilitator provided administrative support to the EUCPN chair. On 1 July 2011 the implementation of the project *"Towards a European Centre of Expertise on Crime Prevention"* providing the framework for the operation of the Secretariat was officially started. Following a selection process, the Secretariat team was finally established on 1 November 2011. The team consists of a Coordinator, a Research Officer and of an Administrative Officer, each of whom works on a full-time basis within the framework of the project.

As the final step to implement the regulations of the new Council Decision, a Multiannual Strategy was adopted by the Board, in order to increase the consistency of the activities of the EUCPN. This long-term strategy sets out a concrete schedule of work aimed at streamlining and reinforcing the activities of the EUCPN over the period 2011-2015. As the implementation of the Multiannual Strategy needs to be planned on an annual basis, the Annual Work Programme including actions, projects and tasks to be delivered in 2011 to contribute to the achievement of the goals defined by the strategy was adopted and implemented. In order to constitute the measure of success in relation to the goals of the implementation of the strategy, a document outlining the indicators and methodology of the EUCPN's self-evaluation was adopted by the Board.

On the basis of the newly adopted strategy and its Work Programme for 2011, content-related work performed under the common theme of the Trio of the Spanish, the Belgian and the Hungarian Presidencies *"A secure home in a safe community through prevention, policing and restoration"* was continued in the first half of the year and was closed by an expert seminar in June 2011 in Budapest presenting good practices of community conflict management for an audience of 110 persons.

Further crime preventive activity of the EUCPN took place under the new theme of the current Trio of the Polish, Danish and Cypriot Presidencies *"Against crime - For safer society - For safer youth"* introduced for the next 18 months.

During the Polish Presidency the EUCPN focused on the topic: *"Sport, science and*

¹ The two Member States were selected by the EUCPN Board for 18 months in line with the new Rules of Procedure of the EUCPN, which intends to provide more continuity in the work of the Executive Committee.



arts in the prevention of crime among children and youth". A Best Practice Conference was organised in Warsaw, Poland in December and a thematic paper about this theme was produced by the EUCPN Secretariat.

The time-proportionate implementation of EUCPN projects was continued in 2011. Specific attention was paid to the wide dissemination of the outcomes of the projects.

Considerable efforts have been made by the EUCPN to reinforce its links with its target groups. As a first step, databases of contacts were set up to establish an academic network to support the EUCPN on the one hand, and to reach the target groups of policymakers and practitioners of national and local levels in a more effective way on the other hand.

In order to conceptually renew the EUCPN's communication with its target groups, a Communication Plan was adopted by the Board. The Secretariat has developed an online feedback tool for assessing target group members' satisfaction with, and expectations towards EUCPN events and communication channels. As a significant result of the EUCPN's efforts to renew its communication tools, the EUCPN Newsletter was re-designed and 3 issues were published in 2011. Contents stored on the EUCPN website were further extended and updated.

With the purpose of providing specific ideas and input to crime preventive initiatives at EU level, as well as of increasing the impact of the EUCPN on European policy making, on civil society and on the EU political audience, a Think Tank was set up within the EUCPN and received a mandate from the Board to explore potential partners, elaborate structural partnerships and invest in joint actions with other European institutions, agencies, networks and NGOs.

3. Delivery against the EUCPN Work Programme 2011

The Multiannual Strategy identifies four strategic goals for the period 2011–2015. Annual actions, tasks and projects serving the achievement of the strategic goals were consolidated into the Annual Work Programme 2011 that was taken note of by the Council document 7135/1/11 REV 1 GENVAL 17 CRIMORG 19 ENFOPOL 43 in April 2011.

3.1. Towards becoming a point of reference in crime prevention

Actions and tasks completed by the EUCPN under this goal in 2011 mainly targeted to provide a solid basis for renewing its communication. The EUCPN first reinforced its links with all relevant Member States' academics, policy makers and professionals, who could contribute to or benefit from the work of EUCPN.

- With the involvement of National Representatives, the Secretariat has explored different schools and scientific workshops of criminology and crime prevention in Member States. As a result, an academic network to support the EUCPN was set up and would be continuously updated by the Secretariat.



- In order to directly communicate with and be able to assess the needs and satisfaction of the target groups the EUCPN has set up a database of contacts of policymakers and practitioners of local, national, European and international levels. The database partly consists of data provided by the target group members following the dissemination of an online self-completion form by the National Representatives and partly consists of contact data collected by the former Research Officer that could be included. The database currently contains contact data of 865 persons/organisations from the EU. The contact database is hosted and used by the Secretariat for the above purposes, while data referring to the particular Member State could be used by National Representatives.

In order to substantially improve its communication with the target groups, a Communication Plan was adopted by the EUCPN Board defining the principles and tools of communication. And finally, an online feedback tool was developed to provide possibility for target group members' to directly indicate their satisfaction with and expectations towards the professional events and the communication channels of the EUCPN.

As a significant result of the EUCPN's efforts to renew its communication tools, the EUCPN Newsletter was re-designed both in its outlay and in its content. During 2011 3 issues were published, and all these issues were directly disseminated among those included in the contact database, who expressed their interest in receiving news from the EUCPN. Thus the last issues of the EUCPN Newsletter have reached an audience of 241 persons/organisations all over the EU.

With the establishment of the EUCPN Secretariat the hosting and the maintenance of the EUCPN website, which has been generously provided by the United Kingdom in the last years, was transferred to Belgium. Contents stored on the EUCPN website were continuously extended and updated. From 1 June 2011 until 30 November, there was a monthly average of 11 937 visitors, with a total number of 71 623 visits. The three most popular pages (excluding the homepage) were the list of the national contact points, the good practice documents and the ECPA – 2004 results. On the first of December, the research page enclosed 27 research projects and 7 systematic reviews, the event overview on the Members area contained 8 documents, the news column held 24 stories, the Member States' crime prevention strategy page contained entries from 17 Member States and the good practice page had 155 entries. The Member States' crime prevention policy page represented 36% of the possible maximum number of policy pages. 35.3% of these pages are due for review. Within these pages, most entries derived from the domestic violence policy page with entries from 14 Member States and the smallest number of entries came from the policy pages on public perception of safety, robbery and vehicle crime, with entries from 7 Member States.

In order to raise the widest possible awareness on the importance of crime prevention from a cost-benefit aspect, the EUCPN was committed to disseminate



information on the costs and damages caused to the society by crime. Therefore the results of the project that adapted the methodology of estimating the economic costs of crime, which is used in the United Kingdom, in Hungary was widely disseminated, partly through the channels of the EUCPN and partly through publication in an international journal. Furthermore information exchange among Member States was carried out to map how this methodology could be applied in other Member State as well.

At the December Board Meeting the Board Members discussed how to illustrate the crime prevention concept. The aim of making an illustration of the broad concept of crime prevention used by the EUCPN is to improve the networks communication with the target groups. Sometimes it can initially be difficult to get hold of the idea of crime prevention. An illustration can therefore be a tool in the process of approaching new partners both for the EUCPN itself for instance when teaching at CEPOL or for the local policy makers and practitioners when approaching new partners. Besides, an illustration could make the EUCPN website more interesting. The work continues in 2012.

3.2. Disseminating qualitative knowledge of crime prevention

Actions, tasks and projects completed under this goal were aimed at gathering, generating and delivering substantial information on crime prevention within the themes adopted by the concerned Trios of presidencies.

3.2.1 Trio Spain, Belgium and Hungary: “A secure home in a safe community through prevention, policing and restoration”

Under the common theme of the Trio of the Spanish, the Belgian and the Hungarian Presidencies “A secure home in a safe community through prevention, policing and restoration” in the first half of the year, a comprehensive publication on the outcomes of discussions on the prevention of domestic violence, domestic burglary, and cyber crime, on new safety professions and on neighbourhood mediation was presented and disseminated to the crime prevention audience.

In order to prepare the EUCPN thematic seminar, which was the last EUCPN event under this theme, information exchange through a World Café discussion was carried out by the Hungarian Presidency among Member States to find out what kinds of community conflicts occur in the different Member States and what prevention projects are running to address such conflicts. The thematic seminar under the Hungarian Presidency was organised in June 2011 in Budapest to present “*Good Practices of Community Conflict Management*”, where the focus was placed on issues of community safety and prevention measures at community level. Participants from Hungary and from other EU Member States had the opportunity to discuss good practices in plenary sessions, panel discussions and in 4 interactive workshops on:

- Restorative practices;



- Complex approaches to increase community safety;
- Practices for community development;
- Alternative means of addressing community conflicts.

Preliminary conclusions of the seminar were presented to the GENVAL on 22 June 2011. Presentations and other seminar-related material are available on the EUCPN website.

To overview links with and thus to provide a smooth transition to the theme of the next Presidency (*“Sport, sciences and arts for the prevention of crime among children”*), information exchange through a World Café discussion among Member States was carried out to identify current programmes for the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

3.2.2 Trio Poland, Denmark and Cyprus: *“Against crime - For safer society - For safer youth”*

Content-related work under the new theme of the current Trio of the Polish, Danish and Cypriot Presidencies *“Against crime - For safer society - For safer youth”* started in July 2011 and continues along 2012.

The EUCPN Secretariat explored the theoretical frameworks used for understanding the relationship between leisure activities and the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The Secretariat examined whether scientific research has yielded empirical support for these theoretical perspectives. The discussion was illustrated by means of examples of good or promising projects for each field. The conclusion was that leisure activities can be regarded as an important context for preventing juvenile delinquency. In practice however, there appears to be little scientific evidence for these mechanisms. Therefore, it is difficult to identify good or promising practices in this field.

The Best Practice Conference in December about *“Sport, science and arts in the prevention of crime among children and youth”* was attended by 79 participants. One third of the participants responded to the feedback questionnaire. 70 % of the respondents evaluated the presentations of the ECPA projects positively. The key note speakers in total received a positive evaluation from the majority of the respondents. The direct contact with the field workers and other participants and the opportunity to receive first hand information from the practitioners was considered to be very informative. Networking and sharing experiences but also professional frustrations is reported to be an important issue during the event. The presentations of the ECPA projects offered interesting scientific facts and evaluations of results from project activities. It is reported that the presentations animated to consider the potential of replication of best practice projects.

The winner of the ECPA was a German project. The programs [fairplayer.manual/](#) [fairplayer.sport](#) aim at promoting social and moral skills to prevent bullying and violence among children and adolescents. Bullying means the use of aggression

against weaker individuals to gain status or power. Bullying is a group process not only including direct offenders (bullies) and their victims but also assistants (e.g. holding the victim) and reinforcers (e.g. cheering the bullies), as well as defenders of the victims. Bullying is highly prevalent in everyday life of many adolescents and related to far-reaching negative outcomes such as lower academic performance and emotional, psychological, and physical health problems.

At the moment there are two well-proven training concepts available: (1) fairplayer.manual and (2) fairplayer.sport. Within the main conceptual frame of "fairplayer", these project parts address different environments of adolescents (school, leisure time, sports clubs) and provide them with training methods which are based on theoretical evidence, are scientifically evaluated and are suitable for everyday use. Both program components include a tested and evaluated implementation approach. More information is available on the EUCPN website.

At the September Board Meeting the Board Members exchanged information about promising local crime preventive cooperation in a World Café process. The results were published on the EUCPN website. The information started the preparation of the European part of the Conference on local crime preventive cooperation in Copenhagen in 2012.

3.2.3 Delivery of EUCPN projects

During 2011, two projects were completed, two new projects were adopted consequently five projects are ongoing.

The following projects were completed during 2011:

➤ *Crime Prevention in the Habitation – Towards a European Secure Home*

The project, led by Belgium in collaboration with a European working group, developed a methodology and useful tools to support Member States in the development of their domestic burglary prevention policy. A toolbox with a brochure for European citizens, a virtual home, a list of good practices and contact points and finally, a map for local fieldworkers were presented during the Best Practice Conference in December 2010 and are available at the EUCPN website.

➤ *Inventory of Good Practices Based on the ISRD-2 International Latency Research*

This project, led by Hungary, was aimed at the comparative assessment of self-report surveys carried out on national samples in the Czech Republic, Estonia and Hungary with a view to exploring risk factors of juvenile criminality. Conclusions of the comparative analysis were presented at the EUCPN thematic seminar in order to raise awareness on the importance of structured free-time activities and positive social bonds as protective factors against youth crime.



The following projects are ongoing:

➤ *Domestic Violence Tackled in Partnership*

The project, led by Belgium, is aimed at the optimisation and development of the relief centres and exchange of good practice among European partners. The adjudication procedure in summer 2010 has led to the assignment of a scientific research team of the KH Kempen University College, in cooperation with the Leuven Institute of Criminology. The assignment includes 3 divisions: a scientific evaluation of the integrated approach of domestic violence in the Belgian province of Limburg (on a descriptive, theoretical, indicative and causal level); description of different European multi-agency approaches of domestic violence, including a study of literature on European best practices; counseling and support with regard to the preparation of the closing seminar. The scientific research team has published their interim report in June 2011. Division 2 was delivered in August 2011. Research visits to the Netherlands, Sweden and Spain have been organised. A research visit to Hungary will be planned for 2012. European training planning has been initiated. A public allocation procedure for the technical elaboration of the e-training has been planned in October 2011. An interactive website will be online in August 2012. A 3-day seminar will take place from 26 until 28 September 2012 in the province of Limburg.

➤ *Towards a European Centre of Expertise in the Prevention of Crime*

The aim of the project, led by Belgium, is to elaborate a centre that collects, promotes and exchanges knowledge and good practices. Additionally the project should contribute to the visibility of the Network and to the promotion of academic research. The centre should also support national and local policymakers and practitioners. The project started in June 2011 with the preparations and the follow up of the financial contributions of the Member States. The engagement was finalised November 2011. The following products have been disseminated: publication of three re-designed newsletters (July, October, December), a feedback tool for activities, an ECPA jury assessment tool, a first impact measurement questionnaire that is currently in a pilot test, a thematic paper on "*sport, sciences and arts in the prevention of crime among children and youth*". In addition the website has been transferred of hosting location from the United Kingdom to Belgium. Regularly reports and updates have been done. The Secretariat has participated in 9 European meetings and conferences.

➤ *Bridging Horizons – Promoting Social Inclusion and Reducing Recidivism among Young Adults*

Within the framework of the project, led by Italy, public-private cooperation modes for the effective treatment of young offenders (between 18 and 25



years of age) are identified at the institutional level. The project aims to deliver an inventory of both measures restricting their freedom including custodial sentences and other social, protective educational measures.

➤ *Good Practices of Community Conflict Management in the Central Eastern European Region*

The project led by Hungary aims at the identification and evaluation of good practices in the Central Eastern European region (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia). Selected good practices are evaluated via personal interviews and on-spot visits between July 2011 and March 2012. Results would be included and disseminated in the forms of country reports, recommendations and a model project plan, all of these to be finalised by the end of 2012.

3.3. Supporting crime prevention activities at national and local level

Completing the focus on the cost-benefit aspects of crime and crime prevention, besides drawing attention to the costs and harms caused to the society by crime, the EUCPN carried out a survey among National Representatives on funding sources and mechanisms dedicated to the purpose of crime prevention in the Member States. Responses from 13 Member States included in the questionnaires are analysed and disseminated in a summary, and the summary is available on the EUCPN website, so that practitioners and policy makers could get information on funding practice of crime prevention activities both in their own and in other Member States.

National Representatives responded to other questionnaires on the invitation of different Member States addressing various subjects. By responding to these questionnaires, the initiating Member States were provided with up-to date information on national regulations and practices related to particular crime prevention matters in other Member States. The EUCPN has contributed to forming crime prevention policy, practice or research of requesting Member States via sharing national knowledge, practices and experience via e-mail.

Upon request from the Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence, the EUCPN has facilitated direct information exchange to compare the juvenile justice system of Bosnia and Herzegovina with that of an EU Member State. Based on preliminary information provided by the EUCPN, Hungary was selected for the purpose of the comparative analysis. Following a study visit when relevant actors of the Hungarian juvenile justice system were interviewed, an article was published and disseminated in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a view to improve existing regulation and practice based on lessons learned in the EU.

3.4. Towards developing various aspects of crime prevention at EU level

In order to build up a sound basis for later activities aiming to develop EU level crime prevention policies, the EUCPN started to map potential partners at EU level and



establish cooperation with ones identified as relevant partners.

Besides the representatives of the Council General Secretariat and the European Commission, also the representative of the European Parliament was invited as observer to the meetings of the Board during 2011.

The Think Tank, which was set up in December 2010 within the Board, continued to map and get in contact with organisations that might be potential partners to the EUCPN at European level. This work has resulted in a Stakeholder analysis that has been launched by the Think Tank and based on this possibilities of setting up cooperation with partners have been explored. Given the themes of the Hungarian and the Polish Presidencies (*“Restorative practices to manage community-based conflicts”*; *“Sport, sciences and arts to prevent crime among children and youth”*), concrete cooperation possibilities especially with the European Forum for Restorative Justice and with the Football Experts Group of the Law Enforcement Working Party were explored in depth. Further explorative meetings have taken place with the CEPOL and the EUROPOL.

Within the framework of cooperation representatives of the European Forum for Restorative Justice presented the outcomes of their research carried out to find out links between restorative justice and crime prevention at the EUCPN thematic seminar and upon request of the Forum, the Hungarian Presidency has delivered an article for publication in the Dutch-Flemish Journal of Restorative Justice on how restorative justice is seen from a crime prevention point of view and on the EUCPN's respective activities. Furthermore, the EUCPN has contributed to the Forum's conference via providing speakers to one of the workshops and representing the crime prevention point of view during the panel discussions at the seminar.