



European Crime Prevention Network

Annual Report of activities in 2012

February 2013



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which was procured by the European Commission and carried out in 2008 and early 2009, the founding legislation was repealed and replaced by a new Council Decision (2009/902/JHA) on 30 November 2009.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. Since July 2012 the composition of the Executive Committee has changed and it currently consists of representatives of the current Presidency, the three incoming



Presidencies, two selected Member States¹ (Germany and Belgium), the EUCPN Secretariat and the representative of the EU Commission.

In 2012, the 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 2012

Denmark's Presidency focused on implementing the EUCPN strategy – and on facilitating an update of the strategy in order to add action points for the next couple of years.

Denmark's Presidency was fortunate to have the support of the Secretariat during their Presidency. The EUCPN Secretariat was established during Poland's Presidency with financial support from the Prevention of the Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union, European Commission – Directorate-General Home Affairs.

The aim of Denmark's Presidency was to add crime preventive initiatives of interest to the target groups to the work of the Network so far, and to increase the visibility of the Network and its results in the target groups. It tried to do so by exploring and expanding the possibilities of cooperation with strategic partners in the context of the Think Tank, currently consisting of Belgium.

The theme of Denmark's Presidency, which took place the first half of the year, was local cooperation on crime prevention.

A conference on local multiagency and cross-sector cooperation for national and local policy makers and practitioners was hosted by Denmark's Presidency on 27 March 2012. Around 700 crime prevention experts from Member States, the EUCPN, and local experts from Denmark attended the conference.

At the second Board Meeting, which took place in May, Denmark introduced the possibility of working with the Multiannual Strategy (MAS) in World Cafés. The formulation of a new Multiannual Strategy (MAS) planned to be realized during Ireland's Presidency in 2013 was prepared. There was a fruitful discussion in the World Cafés and a sense that this process enhanced the ownership of the MAS for all Member States, also those far away from taking over the Presidency.

During Cyprus' Presidency, in the framework of the 'Trio' topic, (Poland, Denmark and Cyprus) 'Against Crime for Safer Society for Safer Youth', Cyprus chose to concentrate on Community Policing, Juvenile Delinquency, Domestic Violence, burglaries and the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property.

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.



Over the past few years, the Cyprus' Police have come to realize the importance of community policing, especially after the increasing duties of the police due to the political situation of Cyprus. The increasing variety of duties upon Cyprus' accession into the EU, the opening of the points of entry into the occupied areas, as well as the decreasing numbers of operational police officers, has led to a diminished communication between the police and the citizens. In this context, it was decided that the way to keep contact with the people and to continue to help them feel safe, was to enhance Community Policing. For these reasons, and because Community Policing is given increasing attention as a Crime Prevention tool in the whole of Europe, Cyprus decided to choose Community Policing as a topic for the European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA) 2012 that took place in Nicosia.

Juvenile Delinquency and Domestic Violence are sensitive issues, requiring Law Enforcement Agencies in the EU to invest and devote a lot of their attention and resources to the combat and prevention of these crimes.

Moreover, these two types of criminality are among those crimes that call for the effective cooperation between local authorities and the public, as well as other governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Regarding burglaries, the physical protection of property is a priority for the Cyprus' Police, as EU citizens constantly look for better ways to protect their property.

The Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property was a high priority for the Cyprus' Presidency, as a big part of it has been destroyed and illegally traded to various parts of the world, since the Turkish invasion of the island, in July 1974. Furthermore, it can be stated that the Cultural Heritage of one EU country is undoubtedly part of the whole Cultural Heritage of the EU and the world. Therefore, the protection and preservation of our Cultural Heritage will ensure the cultural continuation of mankind, for future generations.

2012 also proved to be a year with interesting discussions, constructive developments in partnerships and alliances, and finally, a year where the EUCPN was evaluated according to the Council Decision 2009/902/JHA. The evaluation report was adopted by the European Commission and was disseminated with the Council Document COM (2012) 717 dated 30.11.2012. The external evaluation clearly mentions that the EUCPN activities are more targeted and that the quality and quantity of outputs have been improved. The evaluation confirmed that the EUCPN Secretariat is performing well in supporting the Network, despite its limited capacity.



3. Delivery of the EUCPN Work Programme 2012

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 2012 that was taken note of by the Council document 9780/12 GENVAL 36 ENFOPOL 129 in May 2012.

3.1. Towards becoming a point of reference in crime prevention

EUCPN should elaborate structural partnerships and invest in joint actions with other European agencies, networks and non-governmental organisations, including European Institutions in order to provide specific ideas and input to crime preventive initiatives at EU level, to increase the impact of the Network on European policy making, the civil society and the EU political audience, and to evolve to a European Centre of Expertise on crime prevention. Furthermore, increasing the collaboration with other strategic partners would undeniably also benefit the coherence of European crime related policies.

In order to achieve the work of the Think Tank, presided by Belgium, the EUCPN has decided in 2012 to elaborate in a first phase the collaboration with Europol and Cepol:

- After a presentation of Europol during the Board Meeting in March 2012, the Board formulated during different World Cafés certain proposals for cooperation. These proposals were discussed with Europol. The exchange of data which forms the basis for the European Crime Prevention Monitor of the EUCPN has been a concrete result of this.
- In 2012 the Think Tank also participated at the stakeholders meeting of Cepol. Also in 2012, EUCPN has supported a number of Cepol training courses by delegating experts to present a specific topic on crime prevention. The training on social media and crime prevention and on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design are two examples of this collaboration.

Furthermore, in 2012 the EUCPN Secretariat participated actively in the informal Network on Administrative Approach and the Expert Group on the Policy Needs for Data on Crime.

Finally, the European Forum for Urban Security was an important partner through their support to the different working groups organized by the EUCPN Secretariat.

The Secretariat has developed and tested a first impact measurement. This is the so called baseline or 'Zero Measurement', which forms the basis of an (internal) evaluation. By means of different methods used to collect and interpret the data, the Network's performance was scored in 2012 on several predetermined indicators. The performance will be measured again in 2015 and compared with the current results. Thus, it will be possible to examine whether or not there has been progress in performance. The aim of this report was to provide a detailed overview of the



selected indicators and the methods used to collect and analyse the data, as well as the results of this data collection. Recommendations have been formulated in order to increase the visibility, the awareness and the impact of the Network's activities.

The Secretariat has developed a feedback tool and used it in order to evaluate the BPC/ECPA 2011, Crime Prevention Day 2012 in Denmark and the EUCPN Best Practice Conference in Cyprus. The results were presented to the Board in order to reflect upon and decide whether the results call for developing recommendations for future events.

The EUCPN Secretariat published three thematic papers in 2012: 'Sport, science and art in the prevention of crime among children and youth' (EUCPN, 2012a), 'The prevention of youth crime through local cooperation with the involvement of the police – A pilot study' (EUCPN, 2012b) and 'Community policing as a police strategy: effects and future outlook' (Verhage & Ponsaers, 2012). In addition, two toolboxes for practitioners were produced based on three expert workshops held in Copenhagen and Brussels (2): 'Local cooperation in youth crime prevention' (EUCPN, 2012c) and 'Community (oriented) policing in Europe: Concepts, theory and practice' (EUCPN, 2012d).

The EUCPN Website is regularly updated with new information. A website working group was set up to investigate the structure, content and design for a potential new website, and to inform the Board on the potential costs for a new website. The outcome of the working group was a short report with their main results:

- In-house expertise (i.e. within EUCPN) required for the development of the specifications and overseeing the roll-out of a new website
- Difficult for experts to estimate the cost for a new website, without knowing all of the requirements for the development and maintenance of a website
- Prices: between € 30.000 and € 56.100 (light version without options) and between € 40.000 and € 68.400 (full version with options)

The Commission presented an evaluation report to the Council on the activities of the Network with a special focus on the efficiency of the work of the Network and its Secretariat, taking due account of the interaction between the Network and other relevant stakeholders. The Board Members and the Secretariat facilitated the evaluation process by providing information and data during interviews with the evaluators.



3.2. Disseminating qualitative knowledge of crime prevention

3.2.1. Trio Poland, Denmark and Cyprus 'Against crime – For safer society – For safer youth'

The Danish Chair tested two different ways of working with the Knowledge Exchange method. At the first Board meeting, representatives were divided into three groups based on their area of expertise. At the second Board meeting, the representatives stayed in one big group, and the process was facilitated by the Danish networking expert, Ib Ravn. The process was intended to bring to the discussion relevant issues from the National Representatives' respective areas of work. Although preliminary, Denmark's Presidency concluded that the process had worked according to purpose, and several important contacts were made with the intention of meeting national challenges.

In March, Denmark hosted a seminar on local crime preventive cooperation. Denmark introduced an international conference in association with the annual crime prevention day, hosted by the Danish Crime Prevention Council. International speakers and participants were invited to the conference. Although it proved difficult in many places around Europe to raise funds for participating in the conference, there was considerable participation by practitioners and researchers from all over Europe. The British police researcher Barry Loveday was one of two key note speakers, the other being Eva Sørensen, a Danish researcher focusing on the innovative potential in cooperation. Also, much of the workshop's focus was on how cooperation can further improve crime prevention. For instance, in the workshop on the administrative approach to combating organised crime, and in Danish crime prevention workshops international participants could learn about highlights such as the SSP-cooperation between the police, social authorities and schools, and the recently established PSP-cooperation between the police, the social authorities and the psychiatric system.

Afterwards, the Danish Chair presented a note on the outcome of the seminar on local crime prevention cooperation. Briefly, the note stated that:

Consideration of the balance between the demand for reducing crime rates and the real concerns of the public should be acknowledged ;

In times of economic hardship tasks have to be carried out with few resources. Cross- sector cooperation can help achieving different and better solutions.

Denmark also presented the systematic review 'The effectiveness of mentoring and leisure time activities for youth at risk' in March 2012. Denmark's Presidency expressed a wish to have the Secretariat lead the work with applying for funds, implementing and evaluating significant results from the report in one or more Member States. However, due to the fact that this was not foreseen in the project proposal and due to already some extra tasks, it has not been possible for the Secretariat to take on the task. Currently, therefore, the process of implementing the



results in other Member States is stalled. Denmark is now considering other options for continuing the work.

Concerning the development of the Network's concept of crime prevention, the possibility of illustrating the concept of crime prevention as it is defined in the Council decision, was thoroughly discussed at two Board Meetings. Denmark's Presidency suggested that the National Representatives send their preferred illustration used at national level to explain a preventive approach to potential partners. It could be an illustration of the concept used at national level in general, or it could be an illustration used when addressing specific types of crime. The illustrations will be gathered by the Secretariat for publication on the new website. The collection of illustrations will achieve the following aims:

- Inform each other how we work with crime prevention in the Member States and through that reach a better mutual understanding
- Inspire our work with partners at the local and national level.

An amendment of the Multiannual Strategy action plan might identify the challenge of achieving a common illustration of the concept of crime prevention as an interesting action point for the future, but for now the Network has settled for a collection of illustrations preferred at national level.

The Secretariat launched two statistical monitors in 2012. The first report in the European Crime Prevention Monitor series gave an overview of general European developments in crime and crime statistics, based on international cross-country statistics, surveys and reports (EUCPN, 2012e). Four different data sources were highlighted, with focus on recorded crime rates, victimisation data, self-reported delinquency measures and qualitative data.

In the second monitor report (EUCPN, 2012f) the focus is on people's perceptions and attitudes on the one hand, and on priorities in crime prevention policies across Europe on the other hand. What the general public think about the police, e.g. their relationship with the communities, their effectiveness in preventing crime, the fairness with which they wield their power, and their integrity. The information and data used to answer these questions come from the Trust in the Police & Courts Module of the European Social Survey (2011) and from the Eurobarometer. Besides these existing survey data, some additional data on crime prevention policies were collected from the EUCPN members. More specifically, questions were asked about the country's top three priorities in crime prevention policy/strategy and compared with the country's three most prominent crime problems based on crime statistics. It also examined whether or not the top three priorities in the country's crime prevention policy were based on statistical or recorded data, or – if not - what other basis was used to pick these priorities. And finally, some questions were added about any remarkable or new developments in the member states over the past five years.



The annual European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA 2012) was organized on 4 December 2012 in Nicosia, Cyprus, with the theme 'Community Policing as a tool for Crime Prevention related to Burglaries, Domestic Violence and Juvenile Delinquency'. The Jury meeting during which the winner(s) were selected took place on 13 – 14 November 2012, in Nicosia, Cyprus. On 4 December 2012, the Best Practice Conference (BPC) 2012 took place in Nicosia, where five experts (one from Poland, one from Denmark, one from Cyprus, one from Germany and one from the EUCPN Secretariat) presented five separate subjects on the theme of the ECPA. Moreover, on the same day, three workshops were held: on burglaries, juvenile delinquency and domestic violence, during which various projects, relevant to the theme of the ECPA 2012 were presented and discussed. In the evening of the same day, the winners of the ECPA 2012 were announced during a special ceremony. .

The Winner of the ECPA 2012 was Denmark, for the project 'Your Police Officer'. The jury selected the project for several reasons. First of all, this project is complex and very closely related to the theme of community policing. It represents clear and simple community policing: trust from the community and policing with public cooperation. It is very well implemented and very well managed, even down to the micro-level, which makes it very transferrable to another context. The target group is very good, as well as the level of collaboration across groups. The evaluation of the project is really well structured, with use of the Safety Index, which is a recognized tool. In addition, two honourable mentions were awarded to Sweden, for the project 'Neighbourhood Watch in Multi-family Dwellings' and Estonia, for the project 'Web Constable'.

Three World Cafés took place during the Board Meeting on the 19 September 2012, pertaining to Community Policing, Domestic Violence and the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property. For the purposes of the work of these three World Cafes, separate questionnaires had been sent to all Member States for completion. On 6 December 2012, during the Board Meeting, the three World Cafes were further discussed and led to conclusions on Community Policing, Domestic Violence and the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Goods. The conclusions will be sent to all Member States for consideration.

3.2.2. Delivery of EUCPN projects

During 2012, four projects were completed and consequently five projects are ongoing.



The following four projects were completed during 2012:

➤ *Community Wardens*

The project, led by Belgium, collected good practices existing in the different Member States. In Europe a wide range of approaches exists to tackle problems of the citizen's feelings of insecurity, of anti-social behaviour and of certain crime phenomena. These approaches can vary: from a more social-preventive approach to a more repressive one; from uniformed officials to volunteers (identifiable or not by a vest, a cap...); from officials who don't have any (police) power to officials with special powers, and so on. This can result in a wide range of new prevention and security functions in the public area. Nevertheless, as part of a local crime prevention policy, these kinds of functions could be useful and expedient. The overview was finished in December 2012 and will be disseminated in the beginning of 2013.

➤ *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 final EU-seminar, that took place on 27 September in Hasselt, was a great success. Several European good practices, the main project outcomes and four European recommendations specific to multi-agency working in tackling domestic violence were presented to an audience of 155 attendees from six Member States. The dissemination of the project outcomes started in September 2012 and will continue for several months.

➤ *Effect of multidisciplinary and cross-sector cooperation in crime prevention*

This project, led by Denmark with the assistance of the Secretariat, has produced a toolbox that aims to inform, support and inspire local practitioners and policymakers on actual knowledge in local cooperation in youth crime prevention. The toolbox consists of three elements, i.e. a pilot study, a manual for practitioners and fact sheets of good practices. The pilot study consists of a review of good practices in the European Union analyzing the pitfalls and advantages of local cooperation in youth crime prevention where the police is involved as a partner.

The aim is to inform the reader about recent academic research and connect the theory to the practice in the field. Secondly, the Manual for practitioners is a short guideline on local cooperation based on expert focus groups to assist the set-up of local cooperation initiatives. The aim is to provide support by means of a practical, easy-to-read 'guidebook'. Lastly, the toolbox also provides Fact sheets of good practices, which are a visible overview of existing projects and programs where local cooperation in youth crime prevention is the main focus. The aim is to promote existing crime prevention projects in the EU Member States to inspire local



practitioners to take initiative.

➤ *Delinquent Youth Groups action programme*

The request to set up a database of best practices is given to the Dutch Centre of Crime Prevention and Safety and Bureau Beke. They are compiling an international overview of the approaches used to tackle groups of young delinquents. The review has been published and some best practices will be translated into English.

The following five projects are ongoing:

➤ *Bridging Horizon*

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 aim is to deliver an inventory of both measures restricting their freedom including custodial sentences and other social, protective educational measures. The final report is planned to be published in June 2013.

➤ *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, Poland, Romania and Slovakia). Selected good practices, together with programmes addressing similar problems in other EU Member States, were presented at the thematic seminar in June 2011. Evaluation of good practices via personal interviews and on-spot visits started in July 2011. The final dissemination will take place in Spring 2013. The project is funded by the ISEC programme.

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

This project, led by Belgium, aims to strengthen and professionalize the Network as a centre of expertise in crime prevention and to create an integral European approach on crime prevention. The following products have been developed during the year 2012: four EUCPN Newsletters (in March, June, September and December), two thematic papers, three workshops and two toolboxes.

The Secretariat also evaluated three events in 2012: BPC/ECPA 2011 and 2012 and the Crime Prevention Day 2012. The first phase of the impact measurement of the Network, i.e. the zero measurement, was also finished in 2012. The EUCPN attended several events in 2012: the 6th Annual International Forum (Germany),



Week of Integral Security 2012 (Belgium), Stockholm Criminology Symposium (Sweden), International Conference on Cyber Bullying (France), 12th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology (Spain), International Conference on domestic violence (Belgium) and the EFUS Conference 2012 (France).

➤ *EUCPN Neighbourhood Watch Network*

There are many ways to organise Neighbourhood Watch and there are quite a lot of countries in Europe where neighbours are using their eyes and ears to make a safer community and prevent crime. Collective attempts are made by citizens, police or local authorities either in close cooperation or in more informal settings.

11 countries are interested in participating in a network. As this network is in its infancy, Denmark shall of course create a workable platform for this. For now there is no central budget for meetings etc. So they will have to take one step at the time, while at the same time work to obtain long-term funding for the network.

Denmark intends to explore how each country may contribute and also make sure that they have the most relevant participants from each country.

➤ *A guide on how to determine costs and benefits of crime prevention*

At the Board Meeting of March, PhD Rasmus Højbjerg Jacobsen from Copenhagen Business School, presented the beginning of the cost-benefit project that Denmark has initiated. Prof. Jacobsen presented his work in the field and gave an idea of what can be expected from this project. Specifically he will calculate how much could be saved by saving one child from a life of crime. He tries to answer what the cost is of a criminal life compared with a non-criminal one. The project is expected to be finished July 2013.

3.3. Supporting crime prevention activities at national and local level

Following the publication of the report on cost-benefit in crime prevention, Denmark will formulate recommendations based on the findings in the report. The outcome will be an overview of existing knowledge and methods, and a toolbox aimed at policymakers and practitioners at local and maybe national level.



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

During 2012, the Board was involved in updating the action points in the Multiannual Strategy to identify the EUCPN Crime Preventive focus points from 2013-2014. This was an item on the Trio and Executive Committee Meetings under Denmark's Presidency.

In accordance with the Council Conclusion on encouraging Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) wherein is stated that "ensure appropriate funding to support the Member States in adopting, introducing and sharing best practices, experiences and information on CPTED via the EUCPN", the EUCPN has actively supported Cepol training on CPTED organized by Latvia by delegating an expert to present his experiences.



4. Bibliography

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EUCPN (2012e). European Crime Prevention Monitor 2012/1 - European cross country crime statistics, surveys and reports.

EUCPN (2012f). European Crime Prevention Monitor 2012/2 – Public opinion and policy and crime prevention in Europe.

All of the above documents are available at www.eucpn.org