

## TEMPLATE POLICY PAGE

<b>Category:</b>	<b>Youth Crime</b>
<b>Country:</b>	<b>The Netherlands</b>
<b>Year:</b>	<b>/</b>

<b>Main policy page:</b>	<b>/</b>
<b>Relevant legislation:</b>	<b>/</b>

<b>Measurements:</b>	<p>Delinquent youth groups have a negative impact on society due to, for instance, the nuisance they cause and the deterioration of security in neighborhoods which results from their acts. They demonstrate intimidating behaviour and commit offences. The current government stated in its coalition agreement that the unacceptable and deviant behaviour of youths at risk is to be reduced, both of individual youths and of gangs.</p> <p>Between 2011 and 2015 the Minister of Security and Justice intensified the policy to tackle (criminal) youth groups. As a result, the security agenda 2015 – 2018 focused on criminal youth groups, problematic youth coalition and problematic youth networks, The approach will not only be repressive but also preventive.</p> <p>At the end of 2010, 1,527 delinquent youth groups were identified by means of the short-list method of Bureau Beke. Compared to 2010, the numbers of problematic youth groups decreased every year, which results in 2014 to 623 identified youth groups .</p> <p>In order to support the police, the Public Prosecution Service, and the municipalities in achieving these objectives, the Minister designed the Delinquent Youth Groups Action Programme.</p> <p><b>Approaches and Intensified Approach</b></p> <p>The approach to tackle criminal youth groups and the top of the groups causing nuisance</p> <p>Every year, the police identify the criminal youth groups by means of the short list and the standard report on Delinquent Youth Groups. After establishing the priorities in the local triumvirate, the prioritised groups are analysed up to individual level (subject level). On the basis of this network analysis, a decision is made about which youth groups must be tackled first. As far as the investigation phase is concerned, the approach to tackle criminal groups is coordinated by the Public Prosecution Service.</p>
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Once the group has been analysed and the decision has been made to tackle this group, the following step is to find out which individuals play a leading role in the relevant group. Subsequently, an offender-oriented action programme is designed, which consists of the following three phases:

1. Investigation, prosecution, and trial;
2. Detention and/or treatment (punitive measure);
3. Provision of aftercare to prevent recidivism.

This offender-oriented approach is the first matter of importance. The reasons for this include the following:

1. Taking severe measures against the key figures in a group very often means that the group will fall apart and will be dismantled.
2. The available capacity to implement the approach must be deployed effectively and efficiently: focus and priority.

Intensified approach to tackle groups causing nuisance and demonstrating objectionable behavior

The approach to tackle groups causing nuisance and demonstrating objectionable behaviour has proved to be fruitful in the past few years. Municipalities have been encouraged to continue the existing local approach in an intensified manner. Under the coordination of the municipality, the local triumvirate decides which youth groups will be given highest priority and for which groups a group approach, in particular an administrative approach, will be developed. The Delinquent Youth Groups Action Programme is intended to support municipalities by aiming their efforts at the following results and activities:

1. Overview of municipal set of instruments for tackling youth groups (distinguished by objectionable behaviour, nuisance, and criminal behaviour).
2. Overview of approaches that have proved to be successful in preventing the youth groups from developing into categories of youth groups committing more serious offences.
3. Overview of measures to affect the perception of security positively.
4. Setting up a database of best practices of administrative approach to tackling youth groups.
5. Sharing practical examples of approaches and forms of cooperation (among other things by organising regional conference days) among municipalities.
6. Setting up practice teams (cooperations among groups, municipalities, and the Ministry of Security and Justice) for the administrative approach to youth groups.
7. Holding consultations with municipalities, that have many youth groups that demonstrate objectionable behaviour and cause nuisance, about the manner in which to tackle these groups effectively.

### **Facilitating Role of Action Programme**

The national action team that is part of the Action Programme acts as ambassador of the programme, encourages, and focuses on improving the cooperation among all partners by the following:

1. Contributing to setting the agenda of the implementing organisations about, among other things, the following:
  - a. Objectives as formulated in annual plans, framework letters, etc.;
  - b. Setting adequate priorities for youth groups in the triumvirate;
  - c. Setting priorities for making assessments regarding investigation;
  - d. Labelling subjects in investigation and trial.
2. Sharing 'best practices' in the different police regions about, among other things, the following:
  - a. Properly working work processes;
  - b. Properly working instruments;
  - c. Adequate information and reporting.
1. Sharing 'best practices' will be realised by setting up a digital knowledge database ([www.wegwijzerjeugdenveiligheid.nl](http://www.wegwijzerjeugdenveiligheid.nl)) and by organising meetings in the different regions.
2. Providing support in strengthening the coordinating role of the Public Prosecution Service and municipalities in, among other things, the following:
  - a. Ensuring an adequate organisation and execution of the coordinating role of the Public Prosecution Service;
  - b. Providing support to the Regional Executive by means of a regional coordinator. He/she will have a strong information position which forms the 'linking pin' in the local triumvirate, the regional triumvirate, and the Action Programme;
  - c. Deploying practice teams at the regional level to support municipalities in turning policy into implementation. The municipalities are expected to request this deployment and to take the lead in realising this. The Ministry will use the knowledge of the current teams and will assist municipalities in setting up teams.
3. Contributing to finding solutions to bottlenecks in the implementation; a help desk with an advisory function has been set up for the duration of the action programme;
4. Where necessary, making adjustments, initiating new initiatives at central government level in order to fill existing lacunas in the range of different approaches and to facilitate the decentralised approach.

### **Contact**

The regional coordinators, who will be active in their regions as of 1 January 2012, will maintain contact with the Regional Executive, the local triumvirate(s), and will be the connecting link to the national action team. One of their tasks will be to organise or strengthen the cooperations within the region in order to increase the possibility of sharing knowledge and exchanging information among the professionals in the municipalities and regions. In addition, they will support the local triumvirate and the Regional Executive in realising the objectives set and they will encourage and support municipalities in growing into their coordinating role in the approach to delinquent youth groups.

If the regional coordinator discovers bottlenecks or problems for which he/she can call in the support of the national action team, he/she will do so. Before the regional coordinators will be inaugurated, the action team will already enter into

contact with the local cooperating organisations. If you have any questions or bottlenecks for which you could use the help of the action team or if you have any questions about national policy on the approach to crime, juvenile crime or otherwise, please contact the national action team through [criminelejeugdgroepen@minvenj.nl](mailto:criminelejeugdgroepen@minvenj.nl). The best practices will be made accessible through the knowledge database at [www.wegwijzerjeugdveiligheid.nl](http://www.wegwijzerjeugdveiligheid.nl). This database will be updated during the duration of the action programme.

### **Internationally**

The purpose of the Delinquent Youth Groups Action Programme is to collect best practices and to share them with the coordinating organisations concerned through the Internet. In this context, attention will also be paid to international best practices. In order to collect these best practices, the following notice has been issued:

'The Dutch Centre for Crime Prevention and Safety (CCV) and Bureau Beke have been commissioned by the Ministry of Security and Justice in the Netherlands to gather real-life examples of how to tackle delinquent youth groups. More specifically, we are looking for examples of how agencies such as local authorities/municipalities, the police, and the public prosecution service work individually or together to tackle groups of young people hanging around in public areas and behaving in an anti-social or criminal manner. Real-life examples help local youth workers and security professionals in the Netherlands to do their jobs. These professionals can already draw on some 50 methods that are recorded in the youth-groups database at [www.wegwijzerjeugdveiligheid.nl](http://www.wegwijzerjeugdveiligheid.nl) to help them tackle their local situation in a quicker and more efficient way. CCV and Bureau Beke are now gathering information on the approaches used in other countries to add to this database so that international experience of tackling delinquent youth groups can be shared with the local youth workers and security professionals in the Netherlands.

The approaches currently described in the database all have one or more of the following features:

Type of group: demonstrating objectionable behaviour, causing nuisance, demonstrating criminal behaviour

Type of approach: group approach, regional approach, and individual approach.

Means: sport, work, parent, neighbourhood and role model

Nature of approach: preventive and repressive

Do you have or do you know of one or more ways to tackle groups of young delinquents in your country? If so, do these methods have one or more of the above features? Please send any relevant documents to [h.ferwerda@beke.nl](mailto:h.ferwerda@beke.nl).

CCV and Bureau Beke are interested in 'practice-based' approaches in particular, i.e. approaches that have proven to be effective in practice. Of course, we would also welcome any information on evidence-based approaches as well.

Thank you for your cooperation!

**Appendix 1: Use of Short List & Police List 2010**

All regional police forces and many municipalities in the Netherlands use the short list to come to a comprehensive or group approach under the coordination of the municipality. This method is used to identify delinquent groups and to distinguish between youth groups demonstrating objectionable behaviour, youth groups causing nuisance, and criminal youth groups. This information is used to develop and implement an approach - by group as prioritised by the triumvirate - which consists of group-oriented, domain or situation-oriented and individual measures.

**Trends:**

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**Contacts:**

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Completed template to be sent to the EUCPN Secretariat at [eucpn@ibz.eu](mailto:eucpn@ibz.eu).