



European Crime Prevention Network

Report Crime Prevention in Member States with and without National Crime Prevention Councils

In the framework of the project 'The implementation of the Multiannual Strategy of the EUCPN and the Informal network on the Administrative Approach'- EUCPN Secretariat, October 2018, Brussels



With the financial support of the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union

European Commission – Directorate-General Home Affairs

Inhoud

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Overview of the results	3
2.1. General information	3
2.2. Main tasks.....	5
2.3. Structure and main stakeholders	6
2.4. Main priorities	7
2.5. Promotion of crime prevention.....	9
3. Conclusion	11

1. Introduction

In multiple Member States there are semi-independent crime prevention councils in place. Since the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) wants to be a platform for crime prevention, the EUCPN Secretariat organised the first meeting for National Crime Prevention Councils (NCPCs) in March 2018. The main goal was to exchange information and experiences about the functioning of NCPCs. After the meeting the EUCPN Sec asked each Member State to complete a questionnaire about their NCPC and the National Crime Prevention Strategies (NCPS). Two questionnaires were send out: one for Member States with a NCPC and one for Member States without one.

In total 12¹ of the 27 Member States responded to the request to complete the questionnaire. Furthermore, four Member States² gave a presentation about the functioning of their NCPC during the meeting in March. Additional information was gathered from the EUCPN's database. The more detailed responses of each Member State are added to the knowledge centre on the EUCPN website³. The responses are summarised in the following paragraphs.

2. Overview of the results

2.1. General information

The first question asked each country about the existence, organisation, operating and funding of a NCPC.

In 13 Member States a NCPC has been established; Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden. While these Councils operate as an organisation with day-to-day activities, the NCPC of Latvia for example is a group of Ministers who meet from time to time to discuss specific security issues.

Most Councils work dependent from state authorities (CY, CZ, EE,RO, SK and SE), while other Councils have also established a cooperation with private partners; Denmark has a cooperation with TrygFonden since 2011 and The Netherlands collaborate with insurance companies, an entrepreneurs' association, ...

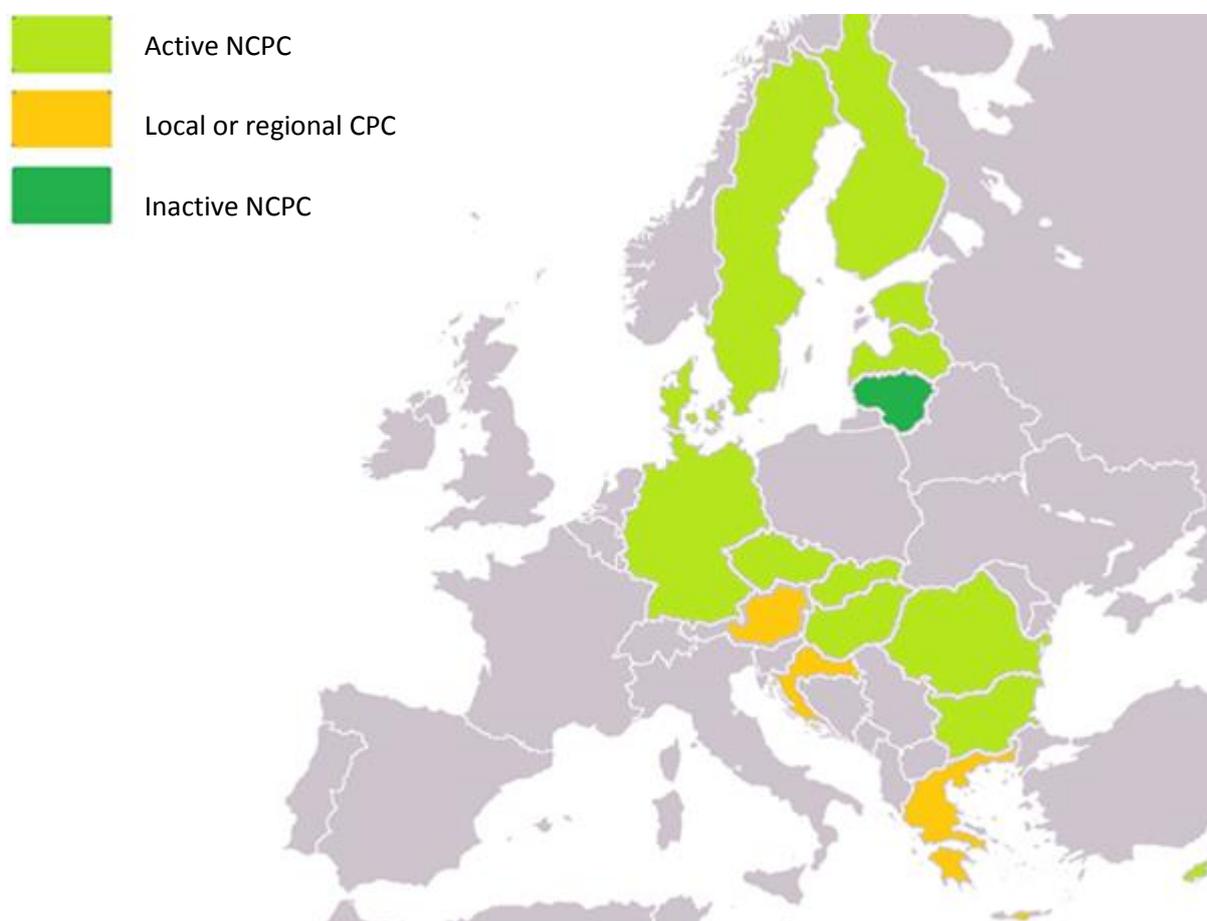
¹ Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Romania, Slovakia, Greece, The Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Malta and Ireland.

² Austria, Cyprus, Germany and Finland.

³ www.eucpn.org

Whereas some countries have a long history of NCPCs, as for example Denmark since 1971 or Sweden since 1974, others were established quite recently (see for example Bulgaria whose NCPC was founded in 2012). On the other hand, in Lithuania the Centre for Crime Prevention is (practically) inactive for a number of reasons. However, the Lithuanian Ministry of Interior is analysing the need of creating an effectively operational semi-independent National Crime Prevention Council. In Ireland the National Crime Council (NCC) ceased its operation in 2008. The main functions of the NCC have since been subsumed in the Department of Justice and Equality.

In certain Member States, organisations or departments are not officially appointed as a NCPC, but are more or less responsible for the same tasks. This is the case in the Netherlands where the Centre for Crime Prevention and Security (CCV) is the main organisation that gives advice and support on crime prevention to local governments, businesses and organisations. Additionally Malta recently developed a Board which consists of various Ministries and stakeholders to discuss crime prevention measures. In Austria, the Criminal Intelligence Service supports and educates smaller councils on the regional level, in which citizens and law enforcement discuss security issues and crime prevention together.



Local Crime Prevention Councils (LCPCs) exist in Austria, Croatia and Greece. In the latter any Municipality or Community of the country with a population exceeding three thousand residents can create a Local Council for Crime Prevention. The functioning of the Greece and Croatian LCPCs are not coordinated by an overarching Council. Although they are encouraged to cooperate with similar Councils of other Municipalities or Communities and in particular, the neighbouring ones. In Greece it is possible that the NCPC will operate again in the near future. At the moment Germany and Cyprus attempt to establish local Councils. In Cyprus, a draft proposal for their framework has been prepared and sent to the stakeholders for consultation. If the draft gets their approval, the framework can be finalised and a pilot project will be implemented. If the pilot project is successful, the establishment of Local Crime Prevention Councils can be extended. The German Forum for Crime Prevention has commissioned a survey on the situation of the municipal prevention committees. The results and conclusions will be available at the end of 2018.

In Belgium and Poland the foundation of a NCPC has been a point of discussion many years, but never led to the creation of one.

2.2. Main tasks

In the second question the Member States, in which a NCPC is active, were asked to give an overview of the main tasks of their Councils and the development of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS).

The most common tasks are:

1. Coordinate and monitor all crime prevention activities
2. Monitor and disseminate periodic reports on the current crime situation
3. Political consulting on crime prevention policy
4. Research and transfer of knowledge on crime prevention
5. Enhance international cooperation in the field of crime prevention
6. Promote training on crime prevention

The NCPCs of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland and Slovakia are responsible for the development of the National Crime Prevention Strategy. In Cyprus the Council was founded in 2003 with the clear mandate to create a five year National Action Plan for the prevention of crime. Even though only four NCPCs develop the NCPS, all of them are charged with the coordination and implementation of the Strategy.

In Estonia, Romania and Germany there is no Crime Prevention Strategy at national level. In the latter because this is the Länder's responsibility. However, in Estonia all criminal policy documents are consulted in the Council.

In the countries without a NCPC the police services and the Ministries of Home Affairs and/or Justice draw up the NCPS. In most Member States the Strategy is developed by a multilateral expert working group with representatives of different stakeholders. Stakeholders which are often consulted when drafting the Strategy are the municipalities and scientific bodies. In Ireland, Malta and Poland the opinions of the citizens are also taken into account. Other notable stakeholders are private institutions (Malta and The Netherlands) and public prosecutors (Belgium). In most Member States the local level has the opportunity to develop their own Crime Prevention Strategies, taking into account the priorities that are set out by the national/regional government.

2.3. Structure and main stakeholders

The third question asked the NCPCs about their structure and main stakeholders.

The amount of times the members of the Council meet, varies from country to country; in Estonia at least twice a year, in Finland and Slovakia at least four times a year, in Czech Republic at least six times a year and the Council of Latvia comes together whenever it is needed.

Between 13 and 24 members are gathered in the Councils. The Councils of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia and Slovakia consists mostly of high level delegates. In some countries the legislation is very strict about the partners, therefore other organisations cannot join the Council. This is the case in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. The most common represented ministries are the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour,... If non-governmental representatives are allowed these might be NGOs, churches, private institutions, ... In Estonia and Finland the Council consists of 16 members. In Estonia seven members are permanent while nine members are elected. In Finland the members are appointed by the government for a term of three years. The local Councils in Greece consists of no less than 5 and no more than 11 members. They serve voluntary and receive a 3 year mandate.

Most NCPCs are chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs or Justice. The Greek LCPCs are chaired by the mayor of the municipality. The work of the Council is often supported by a Secretariat. This is the case in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary and Slovakia

The alignment with a research organisation might increase the knowledge based functioning of the Councils. The NCPCs of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Slovakia and Sweden are linked to a research organisation. In some MS the NCPC has appointed a research division within the Council (Germany, Finland and Sweden). In other Councils members are representatives of universities, group of experts, rector of Police Academy, In Greece the LCPCs are comprised of scientists and operators with special knowledge in the field of crime; crime scientists, sociologists, psychologists, doctors, ...

2.4. Main priorities

In the fourth question Member States in which a NCPC is active were asked about the priorities of the Council, while the Member States without NCPC were questioned about the priorities in the National Crime Prevention Strategy. Obviously, each country and NCPC has its own strategy and approach regarding crime prevention; some pay specific attention to certain crime types while others focus more on phenomena or processes within crime prevention.

The questionnaire shows that most NCPCs focus more on methods of crime prevention, while Members States without a NCPC pay more attention to certain crime types.

Overall, the crime types which are prioritised the most are:

Crime	Member States
Safe and secure environments	BE, EL, PL, NL, IE, BG, SK
Organised Property Crime	BE, MT, DE, RO, BG
Cybercrime	BE, PL, NL, IE
Road safety	BE, PL, IE
THB	BE, MT, NL
Drugs	BE, PL, NL
Radicalisation, extremism and terrorism	BE, IE, DE,

The most used methods of crime prevention are:

Crime prevention method	Member States
Active involvement of citizens	AT, BG, DE, EE , EL, FI, IE, NL, PL
Focus on vulnerable groups - victims	BG, CY, CZ, IE, MT, PL, RO, SK
Focus on vulnerable groups – perpetrators and prevention of recidivism	BG, CY, CZ, NL, RO, SK

Increasing the participation of citizens and contact with the communities becomes increasingly important in several Member States. The Polish NCPS states that it is very important to prevent and combat those crimes that affect citizens' most and that the preventive actions should respond to real social needs. In order to do so citizens have the opportunity to share their opinion and thereby have an influence on the determination of crime prevention priorities. The creation of local Councils in Greece are part of a policy aiming at making the citizens cooperate with the institutions, consulting social cohesion and solidarity and at strengthening the joint responsibility created by the social contract. By establishing local Councils in Austria the governments want to make clear that the police is not the only actor responsible for safety and security in the country. In Estonia a sub-working group of the NCPC meets regularly to discuss how community based crime prevention can be supported. And, as mentioned before, Cyprus and Germany want to establish LCPCs.

Crime prevention policies in general aim to create safe and secure environments for the citizens. This would reduce feelings of insecurity, hence improve the quality of life.

Paying extra attention to vulnerable groups is also a widely used method to prevent crime from happening. On the one hand special attention is given to groups who are more likely to become a victim of crime: children, elderly and people living in socially excluded locations. In Czech Republic, Ireland, Malta, and Slovakia improving the assistance to victims of crime by e.g. avoiding or limit the risk of secondary victimisation is set as a priority. On the other hand some people and groups are more at risk of criminalisation. Czech Republic acknowledges that living in socially excluded locations also poses an increased risk to gaining access to necessary resources illegally. Therefore a crime prevention approach must also address the causes of the conditions these people live in. The Netherlands also focus on multi-problem families. To prevent recidivism of offenders by resocialisation is one of the priorities set by the governments Czech Republic and Cyprus.

2.5. Promotion of crime prevention

The fifth and last question asked Member States how crime prevention is promoted at the regional and local level.

The most common ways to promote crime prevention is by supporting the regional and local level financially for crime prevention activities. The NCPCs of Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Finland and Slovakia have a grant system. In Germany, the NCPC gives financial support to pilot projects or for the evaluation of projects. The NCPC of Estonia has a grant system of €50 000 for supporting crime prevention initiatives and the Council allocates the funds. In the Czech Republic regions and municipalities can obtain state budget to fund projects if they align with the Crime Prevention Program. There is an evaluation commission that judges all grant applications and gives advice to the NCPC about which projects should obtain funding. The allocation of a grant ensures the strengthening of crime prevention systems because municipalities can only ask for funding if they establish a local expert group on crime prevention, indicate a crime prevention manager, develop their own multiannual Crime Prevention Strategy and carry out a security analysis. In order to receive funding from the Slovakian NCPC projects must deal with priorities set by the Crime Prevention Act. There are regional crime prevention commissions that evaluates the projects and then presents them to the Council for approval. The regional commission takes into account the state of crime in the concerned region. Despite the fact that the Romanian NCPC does not have its own grant system, it does provide assistance to regions and municipalities in obtaining funding for crime prevention activities. In 2018 the Finish Ministry of Justice allocates €70 000 to municipalities and NGOs for the development of evaluation of local crime prevention projects. The NCPC reviews all applications and advises the Ministry of Justice which project should receive funding. Every year, the Council also organises a National Crime Prevention Award. The winning project enters the European Crime Prevention Award competition. A questionnaire, sent out by the EUCPN Secretariat in April, 2018 has shown that a National Crime Prevention Award is also handed out in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia. In the latter three the topic of the award is linked to the European Crime Prevention Award.

Some Member States without a NCPC (Belgium, Poland, The Netherlands and Ireland) have their own grant system. In Belgium these grants are reserved for certain cities. In Poland municipalities can obtain a grant if actions have a link to the 'Safer Together' Program that supports actions related to community-based prevention. This program is coordinated by the Ministry of Interior and Administration, but other ministries also financially support local and regional programs that prevent

various social threats; e.g. projects related to the prevention of domestic violence can be funded by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy. Instead of funding municipalities, the Irish Department of Justice and Equality provides crime prevention funding to a number of bodies whose main aim is crime prevention. In The Netherlands the financing of crime prevention is mostly organised at the local level where certain municipalities give grants to citizens when they invest in a safer home.

In Cyprus and the Czech Republic crime prevention is promoted by organising crime prevention events. Another method to promote crime prevention is the dissemination of good practices. In Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, Finland and Ireland manuals or guidelines are developed. In Ireland best practices on community policing are gathered and shared through the communication network. Best practices are also gathered on a website which is the case in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland and The Netherlands. In the latter the Centre for Crime Prevention and Security translates government's policy to the local level. There are about 80 webpages on crime prevention topics. In the Czech Republic regions and municipalities are supported by consultations and in Germany there is a hotline for personal advise. Finland also has web-based trainings and The Netherlands have developed e-learnings on this topic. Mass media campaigns are also used to gain more attention to crime prevention.

3. Conclusion

This report has given an overview of the structure, the main tasks, priorities and stakeholders of the National Crime Prevention Councils in Europe and the way they promote crime prevention at the regional and national level.

We can state that the NCPC mainly work dependent from state authorities. In Member States where there is not a NCPC, other organisations or departments are responsible for more or less the same tasks. Besides the National Councils, several Member States have established or are establishing Local Councils. In this case, we would suggest to coordinate and support these Local Councils by an overarching structure.

Furthermore, we can state that there are significant differences in the composition of the NCPCs; from Councils gathering high level delegates to Councils where citizens are elected in order to participate at the local level. Increasing the participation of citizens and contact with the communities becomes increasingly important in several Member States. We would propose to gather all stakeholders who are active in the field of crime prevention in order to increase the cooperation and communication.

Additionally, we can conclude that most NCPCs focus more on methods of crime prevention, while Members States without a NCPC pay more attention to certain crime types. The crime types which are prioritised most are: safe and secure environments, organised property crime and cybercrime. The most used methods of crime prevention are: active involvement of citizens and a focus on vulnerable groups including victims and perpetrators.

Also, we can state that the most common ways to promote crime prevention is by supporting the regional and local level financially for crime prevention activities. Because of this, the national government can motivate the regional or local level to align their projects with the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

Overall, we can conclude that there are significant differences, but also similarities between the National Crime Prevention Councils. If Member States are interested in creating a NCPC or need more information about the functioning of NCPCs, they can contact the EUCPN Secretariat in order to get in touch with the relevant contact points. In addition, the EUCPN Secretariat will organise a NCPC meeting annually.