

EUCPN
EUROPEAN CRIME PREVENTION NETWORK

What works to prevent domestic burglaries

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EU-WIDE FOCUS DAY ON DOMESTIC
BURGLARY

01 EU-wide Focus Day

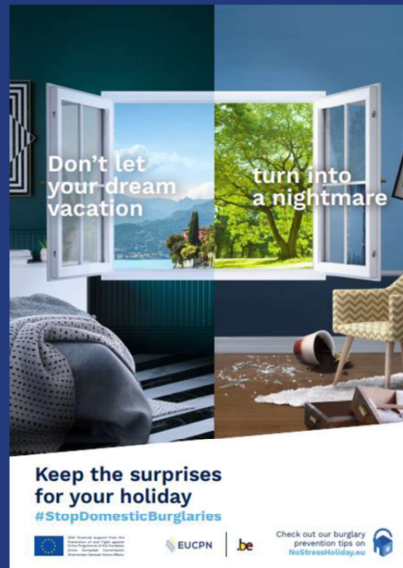
- ⬡ Put the prevention of domestic burglary in the spotlight in the EU
- ⬡ Organised since 2019
- ⬡ 12 EU countries participated
- ⬡ Number of participating countries increased each year
- ⬡ Also non-EU countries: Albania, Iceland, ...
- ⬡ Always on the 3th Wednesday of June → 15th June 2022

01 Goals at the national level

- To raise awareness amongst citizens and increase their feeling of responsibility
 - Online → social media campaign
 - Offline → face to face events

01 Online social media campaign

🏠 Campaign material



01 Online social media campaign

Campaign material

STAY SECURE

One in four burglars enter our homes through an open door, or window, in the summer.

Thefts of tools, equipment and bicycles increase by a third during summer months. An unlocked garden shed, or unsecured bicycle are easy targets for a burglar.

We must remember to make our homes look occupied and keep property secure at all times.

SECURE YOUR HOME

THE GARDA SUMMERTIME SAFETY CAMPAIGN SEEKS TO IMPROVE HOME AND PERSONAL SECURITY BY SHARING SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.

When going on holiday, remember to:

- Secure all windows and doors
- Use timer switches or smart apps to turn on lights around your home
- Cancel home deliveries and consider using a mail minding service
- Ask someone you trust to check on the property at different times of the day
- Tidy up before you go on holiday. Overgrown lawns or shrubs could give the impression that no one is at home.
- Lock away tools, ladders and other items that could be used to break into your home.

Social media

- While on holiday be mindful of what you share on social media. Avoid posting about upcoming holiday plans.
- Do not post status updates or pictures from your vacation while you are away.
- Turn off the location sharing settings on your smart phone camera.

you never know who is reading about your vacation online!

ANTI-BURGLARY MEASURES IN IRELAND

'Operation Thor' is a national multi-agency anti-crime initiative that involves a broad range of measures to tackle burglary and property related crime and actively targets organised crime gangs and repeat offenders.

An Garda Síochána also work with communities to prevent crime and offer crime prevention advice.

TALK TO A GARDA CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER

All members of An Garda Síochána promote crime prevention and reduction. There are also dedicated Crime Prevention Officers (CPO) within each Garda Division. These CPOs are trained to encourage, promote and advise on crime prevention to both the general and business community.

You can download crime prevention information, including the 'Home Security Checklist Challenge', at www.garda.ie to see how secure your home is.

Check out more burglary prevention tips on www.garda.ie/en/Crime-Prevention

01 Online social media campaign

📁 Campaign material



Don't let
holiday
season

01 Offline – face to face events

- ◻ Information stand
- ◻ Neighborhood initiatives
- ◻ Control actions



- someone from the police, ... informs passers by on how they can protect their homes from burglary. At the same time people can ask questions.

This could be organised

- During the local market day
- In the reception of the town hall
- At the big supermarkets
- ...

Extra police patrols in neighborhoods where the risk of becoming a victim is higher or Hand out flyers during regular (alcohol, insurance, ...) checks or Special police checks / road blocks to check cars, the drivers and the material in the car

01 Goals at the national level

- ⬡ To raise awareness amongst citizens and increase their feeling of responsibility
- ⬡ Increase the cooperation between local authorities and share best practices

01 Increase cooperations



02 WHAT WORKS?

Nevertheless, not everything works. As one of the key functions of the Network is to be a catalyst for facilitating more effective policies and initiatives, this paper aims to support European, national and local stakeholders by providing an overview of the initiatives which may, or may not, be successful in preventing domestic burglaries. All initiatives have been grouped in three categories: namely those for which strong evidence, moderate evidence or limited evidence is available.

Today I will focus on the measures for which strong evidence is available, which means that several studies have consistently shown a reduction in the number of domestic burglaries,

02 3 categories

1. Strong evidence
2. Moderate evidence
3. Limited evidence

All

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02 Strong evidence – target hardening

- Combination of
 - Window locks
 - Internal lights
 - Door locks
 - External lights
- The most cost effective combination
- Best value for money



02 Strong evidence – target hardening

○ How it works

○ Increasing the risk

○ Internal lights on a timer → impression of occupancy

○ External lighting on a timer → risk of being seen

○ increasing the effort

○ window and door locks → prevent entry or make entry more difficult

02 Strong evidence – Neighbourhood watch

- Residents keep their eyes and ears open
- Police is informed if they see anything suspicious
- Added value:
 - increased surveillance → increased risk of being caught
 - Signs of occupancy
 - Improves social cohesion



occupancy, a key factor in the decision to target a property, it is much harder for the burglar to determine whether or not a dwelling is empty.

02 Strong evidence – Neighbourhood watch

- Who should take the initiative?
 - depends on the crime rate in the neighbourhood
- Crime prevention effects
 - A reduction in crime between 16% and 26%

Low-crime areas only require passive involvement from the police, while the police may need to take the lead in implementing Neighbourhood Watch schemes in high-crime areas

02 Strong evidence – tackling repeat victimisation

- Exact repeats
- Near repeats
- 2 major explanations
 - the boost hypothesis
 - the flag hypothesis



homes that have previously been burgled have a much higher risk of being burgled again
When a house is burgled multiple times is known as repeat victimisations or exact repeats

but also nearby dwellings have a higher risk = near repeats

Boost = offenders return to the same neighbourhood because they have learned about opportunities that are present in a given area during an earlier burglary.

Flag = the flag hypothesis, states that offenders return to the same area because it has inherent weaknesses which serve as an invitation to offenders

02 Strong evidence – tackling repeat victimisation

- These findings can be used to inform initiatives to reduce burglary
 - Identify properties that are at risk of repeat burglary
- Following tactics:
 - increased patrolling or monitoring
 - involve residents:
 - Information regarding security measures → great potential
 - Keep eyes and ears open

This approach has great potential, since households are more able and willing to protect themselves more effectively following a first burglary; twenty-five percent of households had at least one security device installed after a burglary

02 Strong evidence – Alley gating

- Installation of lockable gates
- Restricting alley access → increasing the effort
- increased natural surveillance → increasing the risk



1. Increase the effort; they need a key or code to be able to enter
2. Increasing the risk – it turns public space into private space + surveillance → remove excuses from offenders for being in the area,

02 Strong evidence – increased street lighting

- Increasing the level of illumination on the street or in other public spaces →
 - Reduces crime during the day and at night
 - Reduces fear of crime
- Increased risk



02 Moderate evidence

1. Targeting repeat offenders
2. Local publicity
3. Property marking

1: A minority of active criminals are responsible for a large proportion of crime → 'we are watching you'
2, Enhances the impact of a crime prevention measure
3 to prevent fencing → make the direct use of stolen goods harder & increases confiscation and restitution → effective if 80% of the residents do it

02 Limited evidence

1. Alarms
2. Awareness raising campaigns
3. Anti-fencing measures

1: counterproductive – not cost effective – further research needed

2, awareness raising campaigns – rarely work. They do work if the message contains new information and there is a call to immediate action – it should also be embedded in a larger intervention / programme

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