



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 4 May 2009

9397/09

CRIMORG 71

NOTE

From : General Secretariat
To : Multidisciplinary Group on Organised Crime
Subject : European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN)
- Annual report 2008

Delegations will find attached the Annual Report 2008 on the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN).

European Crime Prevention Network

**Annual report of activities in 2008
with Action Plan for 2009**

This Annual report is structured into two parts, the first reviewing progress against the objectives set for 2008 by the EUCPN Board and related activities, followed by new objectives agreed by the Board, for delivery in 2009.

1. Background

The European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) was set up by a Decision of the Council of the European Union (2001/427/JHA) on 28 May 2001. Its main objective is to develop a platform for EU Member States to exchange experiences, knowledge and best practices in the field of crime prevention. The wider underlying rationale is to promote crime prevention activity in EU Member States.

Its principal activity is to identify and disseminate good practice in crime prevention through a range of activities and approaches. It sets out to achieve this by:

- Identifying good practice in crime prevention and sharing knowledge and experience gained between Member States;
- Accumulating and evaluating information on crime prevention activities;
- Improving the exchange of ideas and information within the Network;
- Developing contacts and facilitating cooperation between Member States;
- Contributing to developing local and national strategies on crime prevention and
- Promoting crime prevention activities by organising meetings, seminars and conferences.

The Network is represented by a Board, which consists of nominated National Representatives from each EU Member State, Substitute Representatives and invited Observers. Other crime prevention experts including practitioners and academics form the contact points for the Network. An executive body, the Steering Group, develops the strategic direction for the Board to consider and approve. The Steering Group consists of representatives of the previous Presidency, the current Presidency, the three incoming Presidencies and the Secretariat based in the EU Commission.

2. Summary of the Year 2008

Two major instruments for exchanging information and best practice, namely the EUCPN website and the Best Practice conference, were further developed. New entries on strategies, policies and projects were uploaded to the website in the relevant sections. The number of visits to the EUCPN website has increased nearly by 100% over the year which shows a growing interest in the provided information.

The Best Practice Conference organised in November 2008 in Paris on "Crime prevention in urban public space" was attended by more than 250 experts and representatives of local, regional and national governments. One of the main topics for discussion related to the use of video protection technologies.

The cooperation with third fora and organisations was further strengthened. The implementation of common initiatives can bring an added value to the mutual exchange of information on undertaken activities.

Moreover, a few projects have been added to the EUCPN work programme in specific crime areas. Financial programmes "Prevention and fight against crime" and "Daphne III" were used to support new initiatives.

Finally, the external evaluation of the Network undertaken in April 2008 is considered as an important tool to strengthen the EUCPN, with a view to improving its impact on crime prevention in the EU. All the Member States actively participated in this process, involving a wide range of public and private stakeholders operating in crime prevention. The evaluation should be finalised in 2009. Its conclusions will be discussed and the follow up actions will be taken, as appropriate.

3. Delivery against EUCPN objectives for 2008

The EUCPN Board agreed on five key objectives for 2008. They were consolidated into the Annual Action Plan 2008 and adopted by the Council on 2 June 2008.

3.1. Develop the knowledge base related to crime prevention on the EUCPN website

The EUCPN website (www.eucpn.org) offers a valuable opportunity for the exchange of Member State crime prevention practice and provides the EU as a whole with a knowledge base of crime prevention initiatives. The website pages were updated with new material sent by Member States, especially in the following sections:

- **Crime Prevention Strategy Pages**, providing information on national approaches and political orientations were expanded with data on three new Member States. There are currently 17 Member States covered in this section.
- **Good Practice pages**, providing details of projects developed within Member States for dealing with a specified criminal activity, such as domestic violence, or alcohol related crime. Ten new entries were downloaded increasing the total number of entries to 105 projects covering 18 categories. The updated information is evaluated against the EUCPN's Good Practice Methodology.
- **MS Crime Prevention Policies pages** give details about governmental initiatives in a specific criminal area. There are still four policy fields: domestic violence, sexual crime, prostitution and trafficking of human beings and public perceptions of safety. Over the year, there was a slight increase of material amounting to 44 entries
- **Library pages** provide a range of crime prevention-related material codified against specific crime prevention themes. These pages were expanded by few entries.

Since September 2008, the Program Committee has led the project called "*Developing policy pages on the EUCPN website*". Its aim is to bring together details of national policy activity in three areas: robbery, vehicle crime and youth crime for loading onto the EUCPN website policy page. Five Member States are driving this initiative, developing information regarding their national organization, legislation, trends and main policy achievements on the matters. The website is expected to be updated in 2009.

Moreover, the UK Home Office, which manages the website, reviewed the server arrangements with a view to increasing the website security and swift functioning. Therefore, the website is now hosted on a dedicated server, offering the network a more resilient system and faster response times.

In order to update regularly the information accessible to the public, a system of automatic reminders has been put in place. Emails are sent to the National Representatives, bringing to their attention that a particular good practice project or a policy page was due for review.

In the last 12 months, the number of visits to the website amounted to nearly 50,000. This represents almost a 100% increase over one year. Among the most popular pages are the Contact Points, Good Practice, Crime Prevention Strategies and the European Crime Prevention Award.

3.2. Develop orientations on future research activities and secure their funding

After assessing in 2007 a number of crime prevention projects to determine their compliance with the EUCPN Good Practice methodology, the interim Research and Validation Committee (RVC) was assigned with the task of developing a long term work programme for its activities. With a view to achieving EU financial support, a research application “Crime Prevention Strategies – From National Experiences to European Knowledge” was prepared. The orientations included a survey design related to:

- Identification of indicators between crime trends and crime prevention strategies
- Comprehensive European strategy to measure, monitor and evaluate crime prevention and criminal justice
- Presentation of a significant basis of information on ongoing crime trends and emerging crime prevention developments in Europe
- Long term guidelines in crime prevention strategies on a European level (High Quality Standards).

The Board, at its meeting in September 2008, reviewed the progress against other related and ongoing research activities and determined to consider further the opportunity for submitting a bid for an Action Grant under the Framework Partner Commission funding arrangements in 2009.

In addition the RVC supported EUCPN members with requests on different aspects on crime prevention and supported the preparation or implementation of a number of projects. It also contributed to the EUCPN Newsletter and took part in the discussions with other organisations.

Because of the troubles encountered by the RVC since its establishment and ongoing problems caused by a difficulty in being able to encourage academic support for its activities, the RVC conducted a review of the research function within the EUCPN. It presented its report with recommendations to the EUCPN Board at the end of the year.

The RVC report was considered by the Board which decided to disband the Research and Validation Committee. In order to maintain a research function for the EUCPN, the Board also agreed to establish a post of Research Officer to cover the year 2009 while the assessment of the external evaluation report and recommendations was undertaken. The cost of this part-time function would be met from the EUCPN's internal work programme fund. The basic function of the Research officer will be to provide a contact point from which Network members may seek support and advice. The Research Officer will collect information on relevant research in general, and of the results of the research in particular, from academic structures on criminology and related science in Member States, as well as from international research bodies, and prepare it for dissemination to the Network.

3.3. Strengthen coordination and cooperation with governmental and non governmental organizations

The EUCPN is able to benefit from developing exchanges with the organizations operating in different crime prevention aspects, but the level of co-operation can be limited given the Network's resources.

Each Board meeting provided an opportunity to the National Representatives to consider possible ways of cooperation with a number of organizations such as European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ), European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and International Centre for Prevention of Crime (ICPC).

The Board was also informed about initiatives undertaken by the Commission, especially the Forum on Justice, the Forum on the rights of the child and the European Security Research and Innovation Forum.

3.4. Implement the Work Programme and develop further projects

There are eight ongoing projects in the EUCPN Work Programme, which cover the following key theme areas - inventories of good practice, monitoring crime prevention policies of the Member States and facilitating the transfer of specific national or local best practices or methodologies between Members States.

Three new projects have been added to the Work Programme:

- *“Domestic Violence Tackled in Partnership”* promoted by Belgium.

Domestic violence is a complex issue in which different partners are involved. The project intends to optimize the qualitative integral approach developed in the Belgian province of Limburg and propose it to European partners. The initiative involves especially the process of evaluation and results measurement of good quality actions. The best practice should be disseminated in the European Congress planned for 2011.

- *Transfer of “Everybody else does it” – Young people’s social exaggerations* promoted by Denmark and Slovakia.

The project aims at transferring knowledge of teaching practice in crime prevention for the lower secondary schools through the concept of social exaggerations. Denmark proposes to transfer its project to Slovakia.

- *Developing European best practices of restorative justice in the criminal procedure*, promoted by Hungary

The project aims at collecting and disseminating those best practices implemented at any stage of the criminal procedure in the Member States of the EU, which could be drawn under the conception of restorative justice. The best practices will be discussed and identified at an international conference. The project would result in adopting a harmonised European approach on restorative justice and in a publication containing the best practices.

A Polish project on increasing knowledge about the EUCPN was implemented. It aimed at making Polish national and local crime prevention experts familiar with the tasks and role of EUCPN and ways to get more involved in EUCPN activities. The project included a number of experts from Eastern European countries..

3.5. Participate in the external independent evaluation of the Network and implement the recommendations as appropriate

The assessment process was undertaken by a UK based consultancy – Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services. According to the Terms of Reference, developed in consultation with the Board, the evaluation is required to assess the impact of the EUCPN on the European crime prevention sector in general and determine the lessons to be learned from the experience it has gained to date.

In accordance with the general mandate outlined above, the evaluation was aimed also at indicating to what extent the objectives of the EUCPN have been met. Another objective of the evaluation was to explore whether and to what extent the Council Decision needs to be amended.

To achieve these goals, a comprehensive work programme was established, made up of direct interviews, three categories of surveys, research and benchmarking. The process was monitored by the Commission Steering Group and the EUCPN Board was regularly updated by the evaluators themselves about the methodology and progress. The recommendations should deal with strategic and operational issues with a view to improving the functioning and the impact of the EUCPN in the crime prevention area.

At the end of the year, almost one hundred survey questionnaires had been returned from National Representatives, officials from European and international organisations, project promoters, researchers, NGOs and other public and private working in crime prevention area. More than 80 face-to-face interviews were conducted with different stakeholders.

Given the amount of received data, the analysis is still ongoing and should be available in the final report by the end of March 2009.

4. Meetings and events

Four Board meetings were held in 2008 - two under each Presidency, with a number of associated meetings of the Steering Group as well as the Programme Committee and Research and Validation Committee.

The 7th EUCPN Annual Conference on best practices and the ceremony of the European Crime Prevention Award took place in Paris, on 17-18 November 2008. The theme chosen by the French Presidency was "Crime prevention in urban public spaces". Attended by more than 250 experts from every Member State, three workshops were organised. They covered a wide range of issues related to urban development design and renovation, video protection and structural resources involved in the daily public space management. The city of Preston (United Kingdom) received the European Crime Prevention Award and the jury special mention prize was granted to the city of Czeladz (Poland).

The conclusions drawn from the event from the Presidency can be found on the EUCPN website. The key findings of the conference include:

- City planning and environmental design have influence on the rate of delinquency. Therefore, it is important to tackle insecurity phenomena through structural measures and technical means in a view to creating user-friendly spaces and developing neighbourhood solidarity.
- The social feeling of insecurity can be increased by lack of public services, neighbourhood management (maintenance, prompt cleaning and repairs). Housing areas should be brought out from their isolation.
- The development of video protection systems should be undertaken in the respect of privacy rights. To monitor the process, supervision bodies should be set up to avoid abuses.
- Clear public regulations and maintenance mechanisms should contribute to the success of the video protection equipment. Support resources should be available to efficiently and fairly implement it.

- Video protection is a tool to improve crime mapping and relevant strategies to tackle delinquency. It has to be pitched to match real needs, with regard to the costs it induces.
- Security management in public spaces should involve a wide range of actors including citizens themselves. Many initiatives undertaken by residents can bring a necessary added value to the activities undertaken by police and other public or private services.
- To efficiently tackle crime against businesses, a wide cooperation is needed through developing of networks to exchange best experience, especially at the European level.
- Guaranteeing security in public spaces requires a multidisciplinary approach, based on preventive and repressive dimension, involving a large range of actors.

To ensure quality and continuity and to serve as a guidance for the Presidency hosting the annual conference of the EUCPN, an expert group was set up to improve the organisation of the Best Practice Conferences (BPC). Terms of Reference were elaborated in two meetings and subsequently adopted by the Board. They deal with different aspects related to the conference conclusions, evaluation, participants, subject and structure of the BPC and are placed on the website of the EUCPN.

ACTION PLAN FOR 2009

Based on the Council Decision establishing the Network¹, the activities listed below were decided by the EUCPN Board to be developed in 2009. The main objective is to enhance the internal functioning of the Network, to increase its impact on crime prevention and to develop long term orientations.

1. **Exchange of best practice, information and contacts.** The Network will further develop the existing database on its website in different sections especially on policy aspects and disseminate information on local, regional and national initiatives through its Newsletter.

¹ EU OJ L 153/1 on 8 June 2001.

2. **Development of operational projects.** The Network will continue with the implementation of the ongoing operational initiatives, undertake the projects agreed in the Work Programme and promote further long term cooperation for the following years, with EU financial support from programmes such as "Daphne 3" and "Prevention and fight against crime".
3. **Promotion of research activities.** The Network will develop exchange of information on research initiatives, publications and ongoing and future projects undertaken by criminology centres and academics at national and international level.
4. **Meetings and other initiatives.** A large conference on trafficking in human beings is to be organised on the 2-3 June 2009 by the Czech Presidency to develop exchange of information and contacts. The theme of the 8th EUCPN Annual Conference, organised on the 9-10 December 2009 by the Swedish Presidency, will focus on "Preventing crime and victimisation among children and young people. Current and future challenges – school, cyberspace and recruitment to criminal groups." The conference will develop conclusions and recommendations in the area and will include the ceremony of the 2009 European Crime Prevention Award.
5. **Improving communication on the activities of the EUCPN.** To enhance knowledge of policy-makers and operational local, regional, national and European organisations about the Network, awareness raising initiatives will be undertaken through meetings, common projects and publications.

Follow-up of the external evaluation of the EUCPN. The Network will ensure analyse, decide as appropriate and react to its conclusions with a view to implementing them swiftly and efficiently. If necessary, the Board will seek to get the support of the Council for its recommendation to amend the Decision establishing the Network.