

Situation report on

Organised and Economic Crime in South-eastern Europe

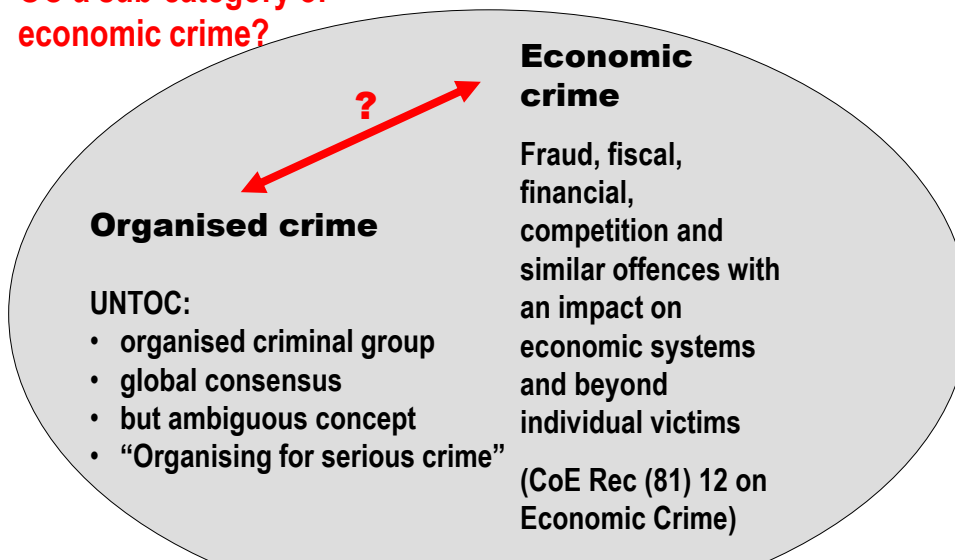
CARDS Regional Police Project

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OC & EC: the Concept

OC a sub-category of economic crime?



Organised and economic crime in South-eastern Europe - Situation Report

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The environment of EC/OC in Europe

- Terrorism and feeling of insecurity
- Enlargement of European Union
- Corruption
- Globalisation
- Asymmetries
- Information and communication technologies
- International regulatory framework

Organised criminal activities of common concern to European countries:

- Economic crime
- Drug production and trafficking
- Trafficking in human beings
- Smuggling of persons
- Cybercrime
- Money laundering

Types of criminal organisation in Europe

- Traditional pyramidal organisations
- Family firms
- Ethnically closed/ homogeneous groups
- Structured networks
- Loose, fluid networks

Most criminals are locals
Trends towards networks

What is an organised criminal group?

Modi operandi

- Violence and intimidation
- + Symbiotic relationships (corruption, influence)
- + Investment in legal commercial structures

Boundaries between legal and illegal, upper- and underworld blurred

The environment

- “Heritage” of break up of Yugoslavia and subsequent wars, conflicts, violence
- Continuing links within region
- New institutions, legal and criminal justice systems
- Asymmetries: medium human development (except Croatia), corruption
- Geography: “Balkan route” etc.
- Links with EU countries
- Adoption of European standards
- EU accession prospects

The main threats

- **Drugs (domestic market, financial power, role of oc groups in other parts of Europe)**
- **Economic crime (impact on region)**
- **Trafficking in human beings (reduced levels/visibility but domestic market)**
- **Corruption (impact on crime, democracy, rule of law, economic prospects)**

Organising for crime

- **All types of organisations, from pyramids to loose networks, some ethnically homogeneous others not**
- **Structure depends on crime market: drug trafficking with strongest vertical and smuggling of persons strongest horizontal structure**
- **Strong regional ties/dimension and links abroad**
- **Violence and intimidation**
- **Corruption and influence**
- **Money laundering**

Conclusions

- Progress against THB
- Need for drug abuse prevention
- Anti-corruption strategies and services
- Determine impact of economic crime
- Monitor effectiveness of measures against EC/OC
- Implement tools proposed under regional strategy

Regional strategy on tools against organised and economic crime

- 1 Crime analysis and criminal intelligence
 - 2 Financial investigations
 - 3 Special investigative means
 - 4 Witness protection
 - 5 Cooperation in criminal matters
- Built on previous efforts
 - Supports and complements ongoing measures
 - Helps operationalise and implement CoE standards/EU acquis