
EU DG HOME 15th MEETING OF THE EU ASSET RECOVERY OFFICES' PLATFORM
Bruxelles 12th - 13th December 2017

Hypotheses on the future of Organized Crime in Europe

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Discussing about the future of OC in Europe is relevant for focusing on:

- Topics and priorities for the policy cycle and more in general for policy makers
- Directions taken by preventive and control policies
- Contents training modules for LEAs
- Development of LEAs skills and capabilities

Signals of changes in OC

Signals show that OC is changing fast in the world and in Europe due to different processes. Interpreting these signals we could point out three clusters, three directions:

1.Traditional slowly disappearing from the Police radar, where it has been for a long time, because of violence. Direction: infiltration in the legitimate economy.

2.Local as an increasing number of OC groups, but smaller and more local, linked to the territories where they operate. Activities are at global level also via cybercrime, their organizational structures are more flexible.

3.Emergent as mix of ethnic and local groups due to the migration processes in Europe and elsewhere.

The first two clusters exist in different ways in all the developed western societies: Europe, United States, Canada, Australia. The third one is developing in Africa.

Europol Socta 2017: crime areas and related threats

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CRIME AREAS	Currency counterfeiting	CYBERCRIME	DRUG TRAFFICKING	Environmental crime	Fraud	Intellectual property crime	ORGANISED PROPERTY CRIME	MIGRANT SMUGGLING	Trafficking of firearms	TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
THREATS	Production	Online child sexual exploitation	Synthetic drugs production in the EU	illicit waste trafficking	Excise fraud	Online trade in counterfeit goods	Burglaries and theft	External borders of the EU	Online trade (including de/reactivation)	Labour exploitation
		Cyber-dependent crime (malware, cryptoware, etc.)	Trafficking of precursors and pre-precursors		MTIC fraud	Production of counterfeit goods in the EU	Motorvehicle crime			Sexual exploitation
	Distribution including online	Payment card fraud (card-not-present fraud)	Import of cocaine to the EU via major ports and couriers	Trafficking of endangered species	Investment fraud	Trafficking of counterfeit goods (not online) in the EU	Organised robberies	Risk for labour exploitation	Traditional trafficking	Child trafficking
			Poly-drug trafficking in the EU		Sports corruption					
CROSS-CUTTING CRIME THREATS	Corruption									
	Countermeasures against law enforcement									
	Criminal finances and money laundering									
	Document fraud, including identity fraud									
	Extortion									
	Online trade in illicit goods (firearms, counterfeit goods, drugs)									



One month at the US Supermarket of O.C.

ORGANIZED CRIME AND GANG SECTION US DEPT OF JUSTICE
PRESS ROOM 30 NOVEMBER - 2017

[A Mix of Different typologies of OC: International, National, Local, Ethnic doing all the kind of activities ,](#)

[Russian Cyber-Criminal Sentenced to 14 Years in Prison for Role in Organized Cybercrime Ring Responsible for \\$50 Million in Online Identity Theft and \\$9 Million Bank Fraud Conspiracy](#)

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

[Eight Members/Associates of Cowboys Gang in South Carolina Sentenced for RICO Conspiracy and Violent Crimes in Aid of Racketeering](#)

Thursday, November 16, 2017

[Leader of Black P-Stones Gang Sentenced for Racketeering Conspiracy and Murder Charges](#)

One month at the US Supermarket of O.C.

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

[Honduran Man Sentenced to Prison for Role in MS-13 Gang Initiation Murder in Virginia](#)

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

[Wildboys Gang Member Sentenced to Prison for Violent Crime in Aid of Racketeering and Related Firearm Offense](#)

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

[Members of International Bank Fraud Ring Sentenced to Prison for Role in Scheme](#)

Monday, November 6, 2017

[Two Associates of La Cosa Nostra Plead Guilty to Extortion-Related Charges](#)

Monday, November 6, 2017

[Two Cartel Members Sentenced to Life Prison Terms in Slaying of ICE Special Agent Jaime Zapata and Attempted Murder of ICE Special Agent Victor Avila](#)

Thursday, November 2, 2017

[Four MS-13 Members Indicted in Maryland on Charges of Attempted Murder](#)

Government of Canada Canadian Police College 2017

“Traditional organized crime groups such as the Hells Angels and the Italian mafia **are no longer the only known organized crime groups prevalent in society**. Police face the emerging “organization” of street gangs that are evolving into a different type of criminal organization and have different modus operandi”.

Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission 2017 similar to SOCTA 2017

GLOBAL BUSINESS OF ORGANISED CRIME Key enablers *f* technology and digital infrastructure - encrypted communication - highly networked and connected criminals, professional facilitators *f* money laundering organisations - professional money laundering organisations and offshore service providers Market shifts *f* predicted rise in cocaine supply *f* use of opioids and fentanyl at concerning levels Key threats *f* methylamphetamine is an illicit drug of disproportionate harm in Australia *f* exploitation of financial sector poses a significant risk to the integrity of the Australian economy - cyber enabled *f* manipulation of Australia’s visa and migration system presents an ongoing threat to Australia’s borders *f*

What happens in the less developed countries. The example of Mexico

Murder moves south

Mexico, % change in murders

By state, January–March, 2011–2017



Murder rate

per 100,000 population



Sources: Mexican Interior Ministry; INEGI; FBI; Manuel Aguirre Botello; Megan Sasinoski

*Estimate

(from the Economist May 11,2017) ...in 2017 the killing is now back to its worst levels. If the year continues as it has begun, the number of murders in 2017 will be the highest yet. There were 6% more homicides in the first three months of 2017 than during the same period in 2011. **But the distribution of violence is changing. As northern gang wars wind down, smaller-scale battles are erupting in the south.**

One reason for this is the change in the way gangs operate, brought about by the drugs war. Police targeted their bosses, often successfully. Leaderless gangs do not disappear. Instead, lower-level gangsters fight for control or leave to form their own groups, leading to a violent reordering of the organised-crime hierarchy. The re-arrest last year of Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán, the boss of the Sinaloa gang, six months after his escape from prison, triggered conflicts within the group. The gang also clashed with rivals seeking to exploit its weakness, notably the Jalisco New Generation gang, with which it fought in the port of Manzanillo and elsewhere.

The smaller gangs lack the manpower and management skills to run full-scale drug operations. They concentrate on distributing drugs locally and on such crimes as kidnapping and extortion. Both have increased by around 20% Mexico-wide between the first three months of 2016 and the same period this year. Fuel theft also suits downsized gangs. Mr Mier says that in his area of Puebla the business is run by three gangs in two towns just 20km apart.

What we have learned from these experiences?

Going across OC experiences in the world we have learned the following lesson about the continuum of OC activities in the illegal and infiltration in the legal markets :

- OC groups use violence and corruption together shifting from one to the other according to different conditions
- When they appear and develop they use internal and external violence together with corruption, fighting for competition. This occurs in less developed countries with fragile institutions. Their activities are mainly in the illegal markets (first step of the continuum)
- When they develop (II generation) they move toward the infiltration in the economy for legitimizing themselves and investing the proceeds they accumulated (second step of the continuum)

- The future of OC in Europe will follow the patterns of US, CANADA, AUSTRALIA:

1. Structured traditional organizations will develop their infiltration in the legitimate economy. They are in a process of slowly disappearing and/or of minimizing their presence on the illegal markets

2. Smaller, flexible organizations will grow with a different business model from the traditional ones, similar to a gang model. This is the future of OC in Europe.

In Latin America things are still on level 1 of the continuum (violence and corruption with some businesses)

In Africa there is a big question mark due to the policies/opportunities for controlling human smuggling. New groups will emerge with structures and activities still unknown

The link between terrorist groups and OC groups in Europe are random and not systemic when existing.

- The disappearance of **traditional OC** depends on 3 main factors:
 1. The impact of law enforcement policies, mainly investigative techniques and confiscation policies, together with the changes in the structure of the illegal markets;
 2. Anti-corruption policies that reduce the collusion with political and administrative institutions;
 3. The structure of the illegal markets where flexible organizations operate successfully and compete;

Their involvement in the legal activities could become the only chance for survival until their complete immersion in society. This process could be accelerated by strong policies controlling and confiscating their assets

The development of smaller organizations: remedies

- The development of smaller organizations (cluster n. 2) could be arrested with a set of preventive and crime control policies:
 - 1. Preventive Policies such as reducing the propension to the recruitment of young men in these organizations. Psychological, social and economic factors (Horizon 2020 PROTON project)
 - 2. protection of victims
 - 3. Control of territory: expertise in mapping organizations acting at local level.
 - 4. Crime control policies for dismantling these organizations

Migrants as a growing opportunity for emerging OC groups

The question of emerging OC groups from Africa to Europe is the last part of a present emerging phenomenon that could become the most relevant in future years, radically changing the agenda on OC in Europe. The three factors facilitating this:

Growing opportunities: Migrants are today a commodity to be exploited either if they go to Europe or they wait to go there, or return to their home country.

This opportunity will grow because of more **restrictions** to legal/illegal access to Europe.

Fragility of the countries involved. Libya and all the countries where the migrant illegal corridor develops are fragile: weak governments, fragmented powers and corrupted law enforcement. The European fund for helping these countries, when effective in its objectives, could produce its effects in a long time.

Immediate remedies: developing a framework for international police cooperation with these countries and designing crime control policies going across these jurisdictions.

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