



DEUTSCHER PRÄVENTIONSTAG

**The European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) –  
Examples for Community based Prevention from  
Member States**

von

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## History and background of EUCPN

**Mai 2001  
2004**

**Council Decision to establish the EUCPN  
Evaluation**

### Background:

- **Article 29 of the Treaty of Amsterdam states that the objective of the EU in this area (“to provide citizens with a high level of safety within an area of freedom, security and justice”) is to be achieved by preventing and combating crime.**
- **Vienna Action Plan called for crime prevention measures in 5 years time (following the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty).**
- **In 1999 the TAMPERE Council concluded that there was a need to develop crime prevention measures, to exchange best practices and to strengthen the network of competent national authorities for crime prevention as well as cooperation in this field (juvenile, urban and drug related crime).**
- **Several EU-Conferences (Stockholm 1996, Nordwijk 1997, London 1998 and Portugal 2000) called for the establishment of a NETWORK within the EU to develop cooperation in crime prevention.**

## Organisation of EUCPN

**(Based on the Council Decision)**

### Contact Points

**Germany**

**EUCPN consists of a maximum number of 3 contact points from each MS and 1 from the EU-Commission. Actors in crime prevention, researchers or academics can be designated by the MS.**

**has nominated 3 contact points consisting of experts from the Federal Ministry of Interior, from the Federal Ministry of Justice and from the German Forum of Crime Prevention (DFK), 2 (informal) experts from the German Youth Institute (DJI) and the ProPK<sup>1</sup>, attend meetings of the network or its subgroups.**

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<sup>1</sup> „Programm Polizeiliche Kriminalprävention der Länder und des Bundes“

## National Representatives

Germany

1 expert of the nominated contact points shall be designated as a NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE.

It is the task of the NR (together with the secretariat) to ensure the proper functioning of the EUCPN.

The Federal Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior are alternating as NR on an annual basis.

## Secretariat

The secretariat is provided by the Commission. This was a major item for discussions during the preparations of the Council Decision (and still is).

## The tasks of three bodies

### Secretariat

Organising activities of the EUCPN.

Collecting and disseminating information.

Maintenance of the EUCPN Website.

Drafting the annual programme and the annual report.

### National Representatives

Decide on the substance/content of the annual program, the priority fields, specific actions and the structure of the Website.

As a steering committee the NR decide on the main organisational and substantial issues of the EUCPN.

### Contact Points

- The “Plenary” meets at least once every six months.  
At “Plenary Meetings” the exchange of information mainly in the field of juvenile, urban and drug related crime takes place.  
Distribute the information to national and local level.

### Role of the Presidency of EU

**Within the EUCPN the secretariat and the Presidency have key positions.**

**The presidency has to host and chair the meetings and has a big influence on the topics of their agenda.**

**The annual conferences (“Best Practice Conference”) are organised by the Presidency of the EU, which selects the topics.**

**There are complaints about the lack of continuity (in content), which might result from the (dominant) role of the Presidency. The conferences are sometimes an international forum for its current national projects or programs. Is an issue once discussed on a conference one does not go into further during the following conference.**

**Another problem is that the conferences do not have a standardised format.**

#### **Budget:**

**The general budget of the EU finances the secretariat and its activities.**

**According to the Council Decision the Contact Points have to pay their own travel expenses. Thus the main costs are borne by the MS directly.**

**The meetings of the NR are normally hosted by the Presidency of the EU. The annual conferences (Best Practice Conference) in the past were paid out of financing programs of the EU (HIPPOKRATES, AGIS).**

**As the EUCPN is not a legal body, the legal body that provides the secretariat (the EU Commission) handles the budget for the secretariat.**

**For 2003, 200.000 Euro was included in the general Budget of the EU for the administrative expenditure of the secretariat.**

## **Subgroups:**

**Several Subgroups have been created within the EUCPN**

- **Subgroup of Crime and Victimization**
- **Subgroup of mobile phone theft**
- **Subgroup in Public Private Partnership**
- **Subgroup on juvenile delinquency**

**The subgroups had a limited task, limited time and no own budget.**

## **What has been achieved?**

- **The launch of the EUCPN-Website.**
- **The organisation of two conferences on good practice (Aalborg 2002, Rome 2003). The next conference is planned for November 2004 by the Netherlands.**

**Through these conferences the EUCPN has begun to establish a system for collecting information on good practice in MS.**

- **EUCPN Subgroup on Data on crime and Victimization produced a report on how to collect, describe and improve the comparability of criminal justice statistics.**
- **EUCPN Subgroup JAI 82 was involved to improve the security at Meetings of the European Council and other events.**

- Gaps in research were identified and a number of research proposals for the “Sixth Framework Program” were supplied.

### **Problems of the EUCPN**

- EUCPN has NO BUDGET, no clear financial rules exist.
- EUCPN has no institutional (legal) structure.
- EUCPN has not a sufficient staffed Secretariat. The secretariat is staffed with only one person.

All these aspects are subject of the communication of the EU-Commission on Crime Prevention in the EU which was released in march and will be discussed (and hopefully solved) in the EU Council and its committees in the near future.

Before the end of 2004 the EUCPN must be evaluated (Council Decision of May 2001), thus a decision on its future is approaching.

### **AGIS**

Following the HIPPOKRATES Program the Union has adopted another instrument to finance projects in the field of Crime Prevention.

In the year 2003 30 out of 54 crime prevention projects were co-funded. Successful proposals were in the following areas:

- Design of secure urban environments
- Exchange of best practices (mainly conferences)
- Conference on cost of crime and their distribution

**In the year 2004 all together 11 projects are financed by AGIS in the field of Crime Prevention (4 projects are from Germany).**

### **European Crime Prevention Award**

**ECPA is an initiative from the NL, BE and UK (1997), six other MS have joined in the meantime: DN, FRA, SW, PO, GR, FIN.**

**On a yearly basis the two best crime prevention projects receive an award. Projects are chosen on the basis of the following established criteria:**

- **repeatability,**
- **respect for local conditions,**
- **effectiveness in actually reducing crime.**

**It is planned that in future ECPA should become an integral part of EUCPN (Annual Conference).**