

DOWNLOAD PDF ORGANIZED CRIME IN EUROPE (EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH)

Chapter 1 : Organised Crime and Corruption: Impacts | Global Initiative

The second of three parts on the state of organized crime in Europe. In April, the Joint Research Center of Transnational Crime, based in Trento, Italy, released a comprehensive report on European organized crime titled, "From Illegal Markets to Legitimate Businesses: The Portfolio of Organized."

Organized Crime in Central Europe Ioannis Michaletos January 16, Criminal gangs are well into the contraband trade of light arms, mainly Kalashnikovs. The countries of Central Europe, especially the Czech Republic and Hungary, are used as centers for coordination, communication and conciliation between very powerful international crime syndicates, which have managed to install their headquarters in the heart of the European Union. Hungary has the unique geo-economic advantage of occupying the middle of Europe in the midst of the important axis of the Danube as well as the Baltic-Aegean axis. As an effect, crime syndicates were apt in using this country as a major transit ground for their pan-European operations and as a base for coordinating their cells in other regions. Similarly, the accumulation of capital in this country as in most former communist countries was made during the 90s, partly due to smuggling and illegal activities. The criminal activity occurred in an institutionalized societal manner along with corrupted practices in the security and the judicial sectors. The local criminal networks in Hungary and Budapest in particular are formed by former members of security forces and pre-existing black marketers who maintained contacts with the local authorities. The rapid development of the networks gained control of up to 20 percent of local GDP, due to a number of endogenous and exogenous factors. First, the geo-economic position of the country facilitates the traffickers moving illicit cargo by road and rail routes. For example, from Ukraine tobacco and women are trafficked towards Austria, and from Romania illegal immigrants are transferred, whilst from Croatia and Serbia weapons and drugs are being imported. Hungary has adequate public infrastructure and storage services, providing a strong reason for crime syndicates to pursue their activities there. In order for criminal groups to transform themselves into an integrated, organized crime structure, there has to be the necessary infrastructure that will enable them to have a continuous and smooth flow of contraband merchandise, which in turn will provide economies of scale for their operations. Under this assumption, Hungary seems a perfect destination. Another important factor was the widespread corruption in the local security forces and the coexistence of former and present executives with links to members of organized crime. The result was poor security controls and in general non-compliance with the law. Currently Budapest hosts the global epicenters of illegal pornographic material, contraband cigarettes and is also a meeting point and negotiation center between the heads of international crime groups in the sectors of arms, women and drug trafficking. Money laundering is also another thriving illegal industry, closely associated with the above. The Hungarian Security Council, a government agency providing guidelines and action against crime in the country, has noted disturbing trends for the foreseeable future. Reports of the local police found that the number of criminal organizations has increased considerably since Also, it is estimated that construction companies and business groups involved in public procurement are now subject to the control of organized crime, and groups coming from China and Latin America have managed to establish their presence there, in order to increase their positions in Western Europe via Budapest. Furthermore, the Hungarian Intelligence Service NBH in reported that, after the accession to the European Union in , a great increase was witnessed in the turnover of the organized crime groups, which became more flexible and multifaceted, effectively penetrating more legitimate businesses. Hungarian officials "many of whom have been trained in the United States" are actively fighting the flow of black money that tends to trace back to key executives in many respectable businesses not directly associated with illegal activities. In general, taking into account that the current global financial crisis creates the need for many legitimate businesses of fresh capital, one can assume that Hungary will have to face more challenges in those issues in the short term. So far the security forces of Germany, Italy, Austria, Sweden and the United States work very closely with the authorities and have made several successful joint operations.

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Czech Republic and Slovakia The Czech Republic is an economically and socially developed country in Central Europe that has been facing for years serious issues relating with the activities of organized crime. Local security authorities relay in their reports that they are facing some organized groups in the country with at least 3, members, staffed by accounting, legal and other professional functions. Of all these criminal groups, 30 are integrated and internationalized, with diverse activities in many countries around the world. Local leaders of criminal networks are nationals of the former Soviet Union and especially Russia, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova. There are also groups from Turkey and Greece specialized in money laundering and managing drug loads moving to Germany as well as illegal prostitution. Finally, there is a definite presence of the so-called Italian mafia and various groups from Latin America, Lebanon, Iran and Nigeria. The Czech nationals tend not to create their own organizations but to adhere to foreign ones, and not as heads but as support staff, which both demonstrates the prevalence of foreign organized crime in society and also the difficulty for the authorities to collect information on the important criminal echelons. On the other hand, Czechs arch-criminals have managed to form groups outside the country, particularly in France, Italy, Croatia and Bulgaria. Occasionally there are reports of activity in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. The Czech Republic, because of its extensive borders with Germany is considered the prime market of smuggled goods and drugs in Europe facilitates trafficking to there and acts as a coordinating center for groups wishing to enter Germany. Regarding illegal migration and trafficking, the Czech Republic is infamous as a place of concentration and transit of Ukrainian and Moldovan nationals sent to Germany and the Scandinavian countries. In Slovakia also the issue of organized crime is high in the news and the police reports. The country "hosts" 50 groups with over regular members. Most of those are foreigners, Kosovo-Albanians, Ukrainians, Russians and Georgians working with local elements. Slovakia from the late 90s has been informally divided into zones of influence between these groups in order to avoid unnecessary turf wars that had claimed many victims previously. The capital Bratislava has a strong Albanian presence, specializing in the illegal prostitution industry with annual turnover that may exceed 50 million euros. Slovakia has become a center of negotiation between pan-European criminal groups that regularly meet in mountain vacation hotels in the south of the country and agree into wider activities. The Romanian teams specializing in car theft "divide" their illegal sales when negotiating in the Slovakian territory and representatives of other groups from Germany and the Netherlands divide the market relating to illegal prostitution. The narcotics contraband provides the opportunity for contacts between different groups from the Netherlands, Scandinavia, Turkey, Albania-Kosovo and Germany that agree on promoting substances in specific locations. In Slovakia there is an extensive weapons-smuggling network, which mainly imports weaponry from Moldova, the Caucasus and the Balkans. At times customers have come even from sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East looking for explosives and anti-tank rockets and missiles. One of the fastest growing groups are the Chinese and Vietnamese, who now have formed a well-structured organized crime network that stretches from Athens, Greece to Glasgow, Scotland, a development that will most certainly occupy the actions of the European security authorities in the coming years. The Vietnamese especially are considered prime dealers and distributors of contraband cigarettes, clothing and other consumer items. The Vietnamese network is also specialized in illegal immigration from East Asia to Europe and is of trans-border nature, since the Vietnamese in Czech Prague, Brno, Ostrava, are in contact with their fellow compatriots in Germany, Poland and Austria. Thus a wider ethnic network emerges that has expanded considerably over the past 20 years. There is a strong trend of "phony marriages" to be recorded, especially between Vietnamese organized members and locals, in order to facilitate the integration of the former in the society. Similar findings have been found regarding Albania, Russian and nationals from the ex-Yugoslavian countries. Therefore the members of the crime syndicates are able to firmly root themselves in the European Union and attain the status of a citizen that protects them from expulsion should their activities become known to the authorities. In Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia, 90 percent of drugs sold within the territory are being distributed by foreigners. Typically, there is an abundance of hard drugs in Prague and Budapest, and the price of heroin is half that sold

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in Berlin and Paris. It is similar with other drugs like ecstasy. This creates what is called "narco-tourism," which along with "sex tourism" in the same cities creates ideal conditions for the accumulation of large amounts of black capital for the criminal organizations. It is indicative of the great economic momentum gained by the criminal syndicates that only in Budapest it is roughly estimated that 1, "international escorts" are being illegally employed earning an income in excess of 80 million euros for organized crime syndicates per annum. A similar situation occurs in other countries, and if one adds the whole range of the illegal sex industry in Central Europe clubs, entertainment, movies, brothels, Internet-phone appointments, etc , then it could be safely estimated that an annual turnover of over 5 billion Euros is being generated. As it can be seen, the so-called "real economy" is being greatly influenced by the parallel illegal one, creating a symbiosis that is based in the importation of substantial amounts of capital. In recent years, Prague has witnessed the establishment of Russian-originating criminal groups that have set up perfectly legitimate businesses, in particular hotels, restaurants and real estate companies, in order to launder capital. More than have been made known over the past few year, and they also include businesses, mansions and horse riding clubs in the tourist regions of Karlovy Vary and Mariánské Lázně. The ultimate goal of this new strategy, according to a confidential report by the Czech Ministry of Interior, is the penetration by the Mafiosi of the economic and political life of the country. Already numerous cases of corruption involving mayors and local council heads have been recorded. The research on organized crime activities in Central Europe may gain further notice for the European security architecture, since the countries located in this geographical zone are being used as stage points for further inclusion of criminal structures in the larger E. Moreover the European integration process and the lack of border controls creates a unique opportunity for further empowerment of those criminal networks that are able to tap into their specialization and acquired experience and further enlarge their illegal activities, as is the case over the past 20 years. The collapse of communism in provided a challenge for the security authorities across the European Union that it is becoming vividly clear nowadays and will most certainly be of importance regarding the future of the continent that has to confront a series of important challenges related to the security of its citizens.

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Chapter 2 : Theoretical Perspectives on Organized Crime - Oxford Handbooks

*Organized Crime in Europe [Van Duyne] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Subjects Description The infiltration of organised crime in the legitimate economy has emerged as a transnational phenomenon. This book constitutes an unprecedented study of the involvement of criminal groups in the legitimate economy and their infiltration in legal businesses, and is the first to bridge the research gap between money laundering and organised crime. It analyses the main drivers of this process, explaining why, how and where infiltration happens. Part I explores the infiltration of legitimate businesses to conceal and facilitate illicit trafficking. Part II examines the infiltration of legitimate businesses to develop fraud schemes. Part III focuses on the infiltration of legitimate businesses to control the territory and influence policy makers. Part IV concludes by considering the research and policy implications in light of these findings. Bringing together leading experts and detailed case studies, this book considers the infiltration of organised crime in legitimate business around Europe. It is an ideal resource for students and academics in the fields of criminology, economics and sociology, as well as private sector practitioners, public officials and policy makers. Reviews "This book reflects the important findings of cutting-edge research. It demonstrates the frightening scale of organised crime investment in the legitimate economy, and the negative effects of this phenomenon. Tracing and recovering the proceeds of crime remains a major strategic challenge for law enforcement agencies across Europe, so this publication is as timely as it is important. With the aid of accountants, lawyers and financial experts they devise new extortion rackets and malpractices that are threatening the fabric of state and society. This interdisciplinary book presents meticulously researched case studies to show how the criminal elites operate under the guise of business and professionalism. It is a must read for students, scholars and policymakers. Organised criminals and the legal economy Giulia Berlusconi 2. Infiltrating legitimate businesses to conceal and facilitate illicit trafficking 3. Transportation companies to hide transit crimes. The sex market, bars and nightclubs. From drug trafficking to wholesale trade business. Infiltrating legitimate businesses to develop fraud schemes 6. Crash-for-cash and VAT carousels. Infiltrating legitimate businesses to control the territory and influence policy makers 8. Mafia infiltration in legitimate companies in Italy. Grand banditisme traditionnel and foreign groups. From bikers to entrepreneurs. Research and policy implications The impact of organised crime infiltration on the European legitimate economy John Walker From the analysis of criminal infiltration to the assessment of its risk Lorella Garofalo Conclusions Ernesto U. Savona About the Editors Ernesto U.

Chapter 3 : Resources: data and analysis

*Organised crime research in Europe: development and stagnation Klaus von Lampe*1 Introduction The study of organised crime has emerged as a field of research in its own right over.

Chapter 4 : Organized Crime in Central Europe - www.nxgvision.com

Abstract. The 4th Research Conference "OC research in Western European States" took place in November in Wiesbaden. The conference was organized by the Bundeskriminalamt and is part of the project "International Research Network on Organized Crime", funded by the European Commission in the framework of the ISEC programme.

Chapter 5 : Putin Welcomes the Return of the Russian Mafia

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Chapter 6 : Human trafficking in Europe - Wikipedia

Panel 2 - Organized Crime and Illicit Markets/Trade Research in South Eastern Europe 18th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology - Sarajevo Crooked Kaleidoscope - Organized Crime in the Balkans.

Chapter 7 : Organised Crime in European Businesses: 1st Edition (Hardback) - Routledge

and research in the area of organized crime in different European countries as well as to intensify the exchange between national and international experts, working in the field of countering organized crime.

Chapter 8 : Organized Crime and Illicit Markets/Trade Research in South Eastern Europe | Global Initiative

The research on organized crime activities in Central Europe may gain further notice for the European security architecture, since the countries located in this geographical zone are being used as stage points for further inclusion of criminal structures in the larger E.U. countries such as Germany and to a lesser extent France and Italy.

Chapter 9 : European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI)

As the European regional institute in the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, HEUNI serves a region with an exceptionally active criminological community, with a number of different legal systems, and with governments that are relatively receptive to research and innovation in criminal justice.