



Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy  
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T. Vander Beken and K. Verpoest – Risk-Assessments – Sarajevo, 8 October 2005

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# Risk Assessments and Organised Crime

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**7th Colloquium on Cross-Border Crime**  
**“The organisation of crime”**  
Sarajevo, 8 October 2005



# OVERVIEW

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- 1. Background**
- 2. Use of Risk Assessments for measuring Organised Crime**
- 3. Implementation of Risk Assessments**

## 1. Background (a)

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### RISK

- > Broad definition
  - = chance of something happening that will have an impact on objectives
  - Measured in terms of '**Likelihood**' and '**Consequences**'
  
- > Working definition
  - = depending on the agency and its requirements
    - negative impact
    - neutral impact



## 1. Background (b)

### RISK ASSESSMENT

- **private industry**
  - sophisticated risk methodologies resulting in precarious profit margins and reduction of hazardous events

**AIM** is to provide an understanding of the events or actors that can influence points of interest to responsible parties. Designed as a step to be incorporated within a risk management process



## 2. Use of Risk Assessments for measuring Organised Crime (a)

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### Risk Assessment and Organised Crime?

- ⇒ Policy makers do not only need a Situation Report but a document that helps them making choices and setting priorities
- ⇒ Need for a comprehensive tool that assists policy makers in the decision making process about organised crime



## 2. Use of Risk Assessments for measuring Organised Crime (b)

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### Risk Assessment IS:

- > management-tool in setting priorities by policy-makers
- > a tool to offer a method to systematise information
- > a tool to identify intelligence gaps and thus to point law enforcement to new areas of action



## 2. Use of Risk Assessments for measuring Organised Crime (c)

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### Risk Assessment **IS NOT**:

- >a tool to provide the one and only solution
- >a tool to provide conceptual clarity in the discussion on the definition of OC





## 2. Use of Risk Assessments for measuring Organised Crime (d)

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- > Risk Assessments ⇨ Threat Assessments
- > In view of setting PRIORITIES
  - > requirement of **indicators** which enable the measurement of certain aspects
  - > based on the scores of the indicators a **ranking** can be drawn up according to the risk/threat that is being posed





## 2. Use of Risk Assessments for measuring Organised Crime (e)

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### **RANKING: Be Aware Of**

- >dynamic nature of OC and the ability to accurately measure levels of risk
- >Self-fulfilling prophecy



### 3. Implementing Risk Assessments (a)

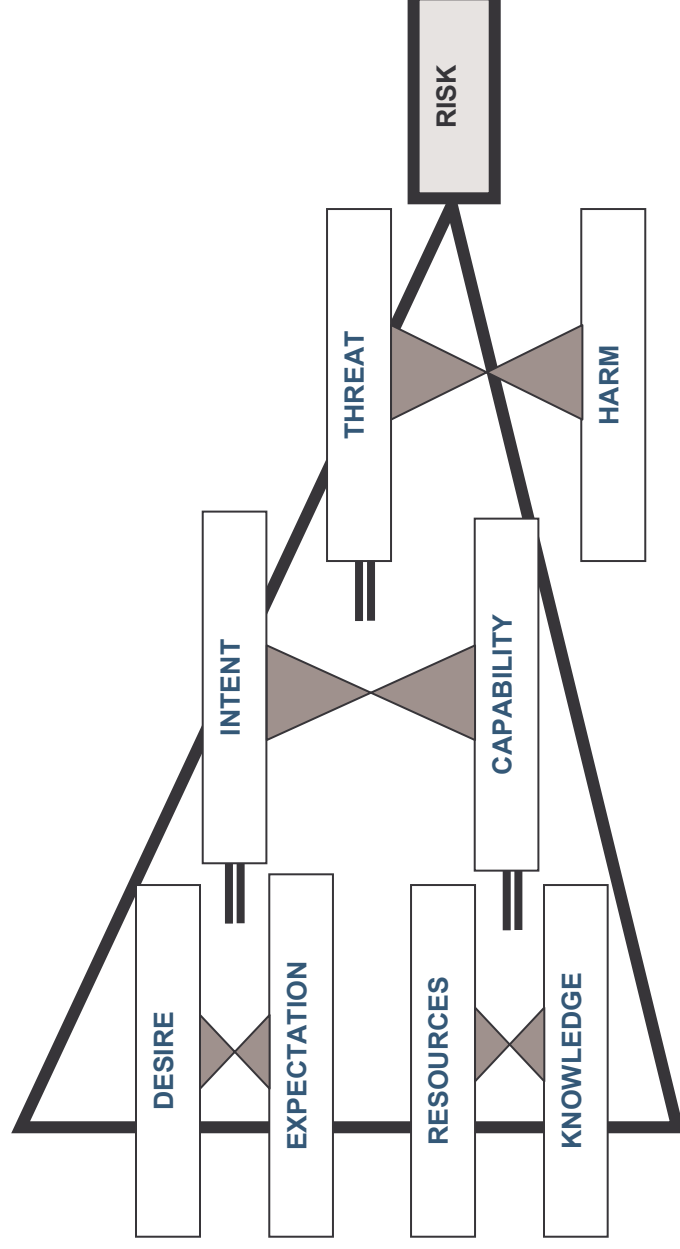
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#### ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS

##### **Klerks (2000), Project Sleipnir (2000)**

- >development and ranking of salient **attributes** which define the character and **risk** posed by **organised crime groups**
- >a matrix of attributes against groups makes it possible to develop a systematic overview of the relative risk posed by OC-groups

### 3. Implementing Risk Assessments (b)





### 3. Implementing Risk Assessments (c)

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#### TASK ENVIRONMENT

= the environment in which the criminal groups operate

- > Risk= Vulnerability
- > Vulnerability studies
  - > focus not on the criminal groups but on the environment where the threat is likely to occur
  - > not only look for situations in which OC might directly harm the sector, but also for situations in which the sector itself creates, inadvertently or on purpose, opportunities for OC



### 3. Implementing Risk Assessments (d)

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- > Previous vulnerability studies
  - > Diamond sector
  - > Transport sector
  - > Music sector
  
- > Results are only one part of the threat assessment
  - ⇒ have to be read together with the analyses on OC-groups

### 3. Implementing Risk Assessments (e)

