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Project IKOC – Improving Knowledge on Organised Crime to develop a common European approach



A Project financed by the European Commission – DG Research
under the Sixth Framework Programme

A presentation prepared for

Seventh Colloquium on Cross-border Crime in Europe on “The organisation of crime: Towards a realistic assessment in the Balkan region”

Sarajevo, 6–8 October 2005



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THE CONSORTIUM

1. Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy) – *Coordinator*
2. Cardiff University (United Kingdom)
3. Transcrime, Joint Research Centre on Transnational Crime, Università di Trento – Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)
4. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France)
5. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
6. Europol
7. International Federation of Phonographic Industries (IFPI)
8. Telecom Italia S.p.A.



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BACKGROUND

Despite forceful demand for a sound knowledge-based common European approach to combating organised crime, *research on the matter is highly fragmented.*

The intention of the IKOC Project is to piece the fragments together and to introduce value added by *elaborating a methodology to measure the probability and impact of organised criminal activities.*

The implementation of *such a methodology could orient a) policymakers* in evaluating the effectiveness of crime prevention and reduction policies and in allocating resources aimed at preventing and combating organised crime, as well as *b) private companies* in assessing the organised crime risks they may face.



Contents:

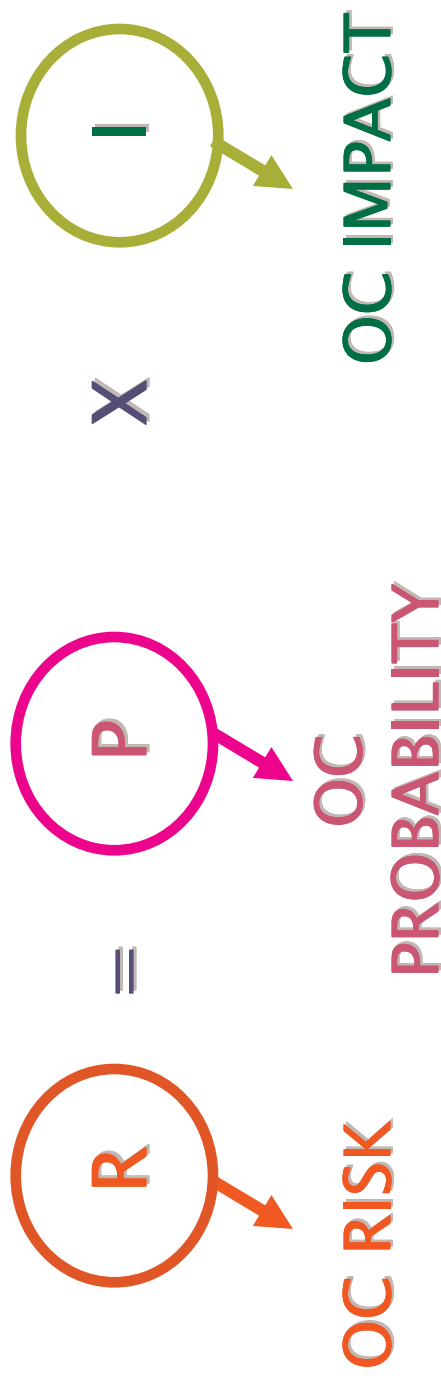
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GOAL

The goal of the Project is to develop a common EU methodology to assess the risk of specific OC activities, where the term 'risk' is defined as follows:





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OBJECTIVES

1. to collect data on organised criminal groups in the EU;
2. to collect data on organised crime activities in the EU;
3. to synthesise the first year's findings and disseminate them;
4. to evaluate the usefulness of the existing data on organised crime, aimed at achieving objective number 5 below;
5. to elaborate a common EU methodology for measuring the probability and impact of organised criminal activities;
6. to run a pilot study to examine the feasibility of the methodology;
7. to compile and highlight the practical and policy implications that emerged from the Project as a whole, with attention being paid to the balance between the fight against organised crime and civil liberties.



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METHODOLOGY AND DISSEMINATION STRATEGIES

To achieve these objectives, the Project reviews law enforcement data sources on organised crime and academic literature, analyses case-studies and collects directly from the private sector information on the infiltration of organised crime in it.

The Project's dissemination strategies includes three workshops addressed to the public and private sectors.



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RESULTS ACHIEVED SO FAR

- the systematisation of existing qualitative and quantitative data on OC groups and activities collected by EU bodies and national law enforcement agencies at MS level;
- an understanding of how organised criminal groups infiltrate the legal markets, with special regards to the manufacturing industries;
- an understanding of the contribution that private security services could make to the fight against organised criminal groups;
- an understanding of existing (O)C risk assessment models;
- a preliminarily evaluation of the usefulness of existing OC data in construction of a common EU methodology to measure OC probability and impact (3 CRITERIA).



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