



ASSESSING ORGANISED CRIME

## The AOC Project Towards a New European Approach for Assessing Organised Crime

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Research Project **Assessing Organised Crime: Testing the Feasibility of a Common European Approach in a Case Study of the Cigarette Black Market in the EU (AOC)**  
Financed by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme

### Status Quo: Europol OC Report

- Sources
  - national contributions
  - Europol data
  - other sources
- Focus
  - criminal groups by ethnic background
  - activities of criminal groups
  - country profiles

## Purpose of OC Report

- Overview of situation
  - comprehensive
  - accurate
- Basis for political decisions
- Basis for law enforcement decisions
  - priority setting
  - allocation of resources

## Flaws in EU Reporting System

- Focus on “groups” and ethnicity
- Country instead of crime region
- Different application of OC definition
- Different types of data
- Incomplete and fragmentary data
- No time series data
- Time lag
- Mere description

## AOC Project

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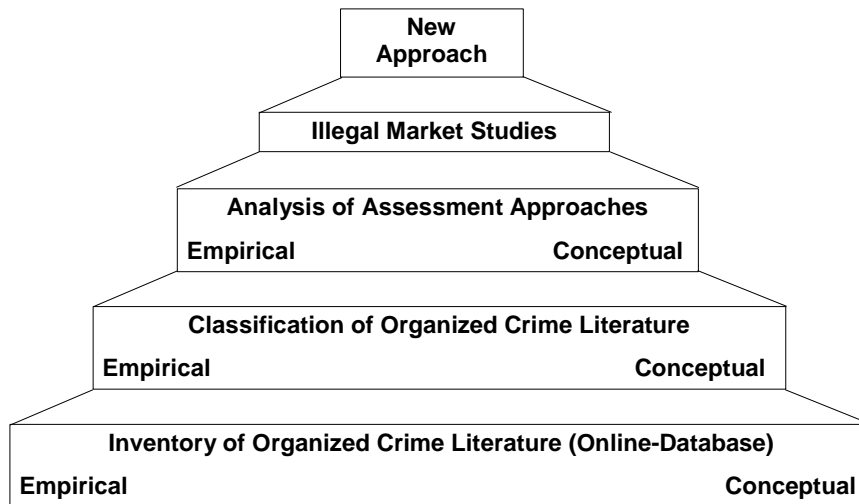
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## AOC Project: Core Tasks

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- **Examine state of the art**
  - oc literature
  - oc assessments
- **Develop new assessment approach**
  - harmonization
  - improvement
- **Test feasibility**
  - case study of cigarette black market

## AOC: First Project Year



## Findings: Intelligence Data

Interview based study on situation reporting

- soft/hard data
- quantitative/qualitative data
- integrated/separate from intelligence
- central/decentral decision on inclusion
- compliance problems
  - guarding information
  - work load

## Requirements for Assessment

- Definition: scope of input
- Operationalization: input categories
- Data sources
- Input procedures
- Analysis
  - accounting for varying representativeness
  - accounting for different “populations”
  - linking input and output with theory

## Sketch of the “New Approach”

- Main focus: activities (not structures)  
rationale: activities shape structures
- Integration into electronic file keeping  
rationale: work load, compliance, real time access
- Combination of statistics, intelligence analysis and research  
rationale: knowledge needed for assessment lacking

## Four Phases

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- 1 Data input as part of routine file keeping
- 2 Raw data analysis; identification of hotspots
  - offender networks (defined by co-offending)
    - crime regions
  - offender characteristics
  - offence characteristics
- 3 Intelligence analysis
- 4 Research: deductive and inductive