



Spotlight on Preventing and Reducing Trafficking and Organised Crime



Cities are arenas exploited by organised criminal groups to sell illegal goods, expand their businesses and establish connections among members, clients and local communities. Both national and international strategies and legislation directly affect and interact with municipal level approaches, from law enforcement to local licencing and education.

Recent decades have seen innovations and developments in tackling organised crime and trafficking at the municipal level. The IcARUS review of the literature in the field of preventing and reducing trafficking and organised crime provides some important considerations for future work in the field.

Understanding the local context

Establishing an accurate picture of the local problem can identify the most feasible and effective points of intervention and opportunities to disrupt and prevent organised crime that are best suited to the local context. These should be complemented with an analysis of the administrative, legal and institutional framework that both enable prevention. A multi-layered and multi-pronged approach to problem analysis and the identification of possible solutions provides a robust foundation from which to work.

- Mapping the administrative structures within which each municipality operates is as important as understanding which organised crime groups operate in each area, and what crimes they are involved in.
- Research suggests a need to examine and understand the underlying drivers facilitating the trafficking of human beings - i.e., contributing industry sectors, to target responses – and to foster policies promoting inclusion and integration of marginalised communities, reducing their dependence on crime and the illicit economy.
- Organised crime groups are constantly adapting, taking advantage of legal loopholes, technological innovations, and changing demand for services – hence, there is a need to monitor situations and adapt policies accordingly.



Prevention and Response

Broadly speaking, prevention efforts in the area of trafficking and organised crime can be categorised into three approaches reflecting different routes into addressing the problem and the different regulatory tools available: criminal justice, administrative and victim-focused protection.

The Criminal Justice Approach

In addition to laying out the statutory instruments to detect, prosecute and convict individuals involved in organised crime, the criminal justice approach also provides the foundation for probably one of the most well-known tools, that of asset freezing and seizure. While the proceeds-of-crime-approach enjoys widespread public support, its enforcement can be difficult to implement.



Administrative Measures

Administrative and regulatory measures complement the criminal justice approach. The central tenet is to reduce the opportunities to commit crime by creating barriers, making it more difficult for criminal groups to infiltrate government organisations and launder illegitimate profits through legitimate businesses, disrupting and corrupting economies and communities.

Victim-focused Protection

UN and EU protocols and conventions in the field of human trafficking focus on the protection of individuals caught up in its net. There is a growing recognition that trafficked human beings should not be treated as criminals, but victims. In response, several countries and regions have created effective multi-agency partnerships, including the police, local authorities and NGOs.



Partnerships and Collaboration

Regardless of the approach adopted, the importance of multi-agency partnerships, inter-agency cooperation and data sharing is highlighted in the majority of studies. Setting out clear expectations and establishing open and supportive lines of communication between partners from the outset will result in a more effective response. Poorly implemented interventions may result in counterproductive effects on the very individuals the programme was designed to protect, often the most vulnerable.

- Holistic responses are required to address the inherent complexity of the phenomenon of organised crime and trafficking. These are enhanced where a clearly defined framework of responsibilities and accountability between partners is adopted.
- Cross-border problems require cross-border solutions. Cross-jurisdictional collaboration between origin and destination countries and cities helps us to further understand the underlying context driving the supply and demand of phenomena such as human trafficking, potentially enabling more effective measures to be implemented in response.



IcARUS is a 4-year project funded under the European Union's H2020 programme.

Consortium



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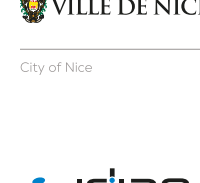
Stuttgart
Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart
Municipality of Stuttgart



Riga Municipal Police (RMP)



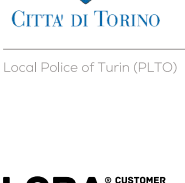
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City of Nice



Lisbon Municipal Police - Lisbon Municipality (LMP - CML)



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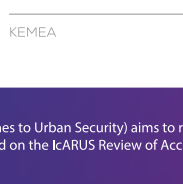
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The IcARUS project (Innovative Approaches to Urban Security) aims to rethink, redesign and adapt existing tools and methods to help local security actors anticipate and better respond to urban security challenges. This factsheet is based on the IcARUS Review of Accumulated Learning and cross-analysis of urban security.



The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 882749

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