 **IRCP** Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy
Ghent University

Prof. Dr. T. Vander Beken – Public Private Partnerships – EPPSF- Brussels, 30 December 2005

***Public Private Partnerships:
The vulnerability study case***

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Overview

- 1. Prevention of (organised) crime**
- 2. Crime proofing**
- 3. Vulnerability studies**
- 4. Opportunities and challenges for public private partnerships**
- 5. Conclusions**

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1. Prevention of (organised) crime

Organised crime cannot be tackled by repressive action alone

Preventive strategies should focus on the “**task environment**” and opportunities for organised crime

Society (inadvertently) offers **opportunities**
 economic activity: products, services,...
 decision making: rules, legislation

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2. Crime proofing

Crime proofing
*Reducing the **opportunities for crime** which may be **inadvertently** created by legislation, products and processes*

(Legislative) crime proofing
*“Testing legislative proposals as regards the **crime opportunities** they might create.” (Commission 2000 and 2002)
 “The scanning of loopholes and **crime facilitating opportunities** applied to the legislation making process” (Commission and Europol 2001)*

Product (crime) proofing
*No EU-definition (“so-called product proofing”) (report on implementation millenniumstrategy, 2003)
 “Method to scan the probability that a crime occurs due to the nature of the product” (own tentative definition)*

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3. Vulnerability studies

MAVUS projects (Method for and assessment of the vulnerability of sectors): Belgian project on the **diamond** sector, Agis-projects on the European **transport, music, (waste disposal and pharmaceutical)** sector

Vulnerability studies point out **where a sector might be vulnerable** for (organised) crime (risk)


Vulnerability assessments based on **information** about a sector, applied on vulnerability **indicators**: Sector analysis (description), Environmental scan and cluster analysis, (description), Reference model analysis (description), Width scan (analysis), Depth scan (analysis), Conclusions

Width scan vulnerability indicators refer to nature of the product, threshold, alternative markets, international context

Depth scan vulnerability indicators refer to viability (costs, solvency, ...), corporate culture (business process level).

Link with **organised crime report** method and **crime proofing**

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4. Opportunities and challenges for the business community

(Organised) crime is **not the government's business alone**

Economy **suffers** from (organised) crime, but (inadvertently) provides the **environment** for it as well

Analysis of **sector vulnerabilities** can prevent (organised) crime

Courage to look at own vulnerabilities, even if not a direct victim (do we want to know?)

Opportunities for **joint actions** between complementary partners

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5. Conclusions

More attention to **prevention** by analysing **opportunities** (inadvertently) created for organised crime by the legal environment

Prevention based on:

knowledge of economic **activity**, crime **situations**, crime **opportunities**;

an open debate about **all sorts of vulnerabilities**;

involvement and commitment of **both public and private actors**