

Introduction

Netherlands Centre for Crime Prevention and
Community Safety: Children and youth in crime
prevention activities

Alfons de Laat on behalf of Ida Haisma, December 14th, 2010
(Kaunas)

In the eyes of the Dutch former Prime Minister

Safety is the responsibility of all ..
Not only the government
(municipality, police, justice) but
also the social partners schools,
housing companies, private partners
and citizens themselves etc.)

This is the reason why the national
government, the union of
municipalities, a few private partners
closely work together in policymaking
for crime prevention. They decided
to create te CCV



CCV at a glance

Origins:

To assist realisation of government's crime reduction & community safety programme

To outsource effective implementation of prevention instruments

To foster public-private sector partnerships

Stakeholders

Principal partners

Ministry of Safety and Justice

Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations

Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW)

Association of Insurers

Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG)

Board of Chief Constables



Clients

public

Municipal authorities

Police

Provinces

Public prosecution service

Universities

Government ministries

Fire departments

private

Research centres

Social services

Certification agencies

Insurance companies

Small and medium sized businesses

Chambers of Commerce

Private security sector

Funding

- The CCV is mainly funded by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Safety and Justice
- Programmes and projects are formulated by the different parties concerned in policy making: CCV is executioner of the projects which involve cooperation schemes
- Projects are national, regional or local and involve public and social partners, sometimes private ones
- Local embeddingment and involvement of communities is essential: local municipality is often coordinator and director

Dutch Trend Description 2010 (1)

The Dutch Trend description 2010 calls for attention to the balance between repression and prevention.

Strong Warning against too much focus on repression:

- The continuous call from politicians and society for new versus existing instruments (assuming 'new' is better)
- The popularity of hard punishment versus preventive solutions

Dutch trend Description (2)

Balance:

Repressive versus preventive interventions:

- Important to use instruments which have proof of long term effectiveness
- Under-use of effective approaches, more focus is needed
- Incident management - long term solution
- Too early interventions can give negative results

Organisation of youth care

- In the Netherlands policies on youth crime are formulated and coordinated by Ministeries of Safety and Justice, Ministry of Welfare and Health mainly. Large funds are allocated for programmes and projects on schools, youth centres, youth prisons and for different prevention programmes
- Execution of programmes and project on a regional and/or local level via very professional governmental institutions, schools and/or welfare. Mostly public funding

Role of Police, welfare and Municipality in youth crime prevention projects

- In all youth crime prevention projects the expertise of police and social workers is essential.
- Professional knowledge of youth and of the local situation as well as trust are prerequisites for succes
- Coordination and support of local prevention activities by the **municipality** is necessary to make best use of local knowledge and expertise on youth

Knowledge sharing

- The knowledge should be coordinated on a (pref national) certain level so that good practices can be copied elsewhere
- Coordination of funds by one institution which is trusted to execute the projects where many parties are involved
- Formulation of the projects and the goals /results which involve multi-funding by partners before the projects is started
- Investment in trust and sharing information is essential

Experiments in relation to evidence based practices

The Dutch Hein Roethof Prize (see also EUCPN prize) & the practice of knowledge broking

‘Knowledge must come through action; you can have no test which is not fanciful, save by trial’

Sophocles

Project Criteria for EUCPN prize/ effective crime prevention projects

- Cooperation between different public and (preferable private) partners: proof of partnership on equal terms and effective sharing of information: clear coordination by one of the parties (pref. Municipality which coordinates welfare, police and other's involvement)
- Proof of Engagement/commitment of partners through eg. Conventions, agreements, behavioural codes
- Evidence based (proof of results through monitoring, evaluation)
- Clear results in crime reduction / prevention



Steps for an effective problem solution

Steps:

- Problem analysis
- Diagnosis
- Inventory of used and available measures
- Coherent choice of instrument/method including funding
- Appointment of coordinator and selection of possible partners
- Commitment of relevant partners

Tackling safety and quality of life at Hoog Catharijne and the Station District in Utrecht (*Hein Roethof 2005*)



**UTRECHT
VEILIG!**
Dat doen we samen



‘It is easier to change places than people’

Problem in Shopping Centre

- Large groups of drug and alcohol addicts in many different places
- Burglary, thefts, shoplifting
- Destruction of shops, stairs, windows etc.
- Attacks on visitors

Partners and results

- Police, welfare, municipality, shopkeepers, security firms, building society, schools, welfare, hospitals, addiction care
- Municipality as a strong coordinator and initiator. Funding by municipality and many of the other parties as well as Ministry of Safety and Justice and Health & Welfare
- Approach: situational crime prevention (proven method used), ppp (covenant), long term (4-10 years), proper protection using technical (CCTV) and social measures (providing care and shelter)
- Results: 30 - 35 % less crime and nuisance causing

City marines in Rotterdam (Hein Roethof 2006)

Neighbourhood Watch Bolnes (Hein Roethof 2007)



‘Third party policing’

Problem in Neighbourhood Bolnes

- Hot spots: youth causing nuisance
- Drug and alcohol addicts loitering
- On Friday and weekend: nightly disorder, violence

Partners and results

- Municipalities, police, welfare, trained civil servants, residents, youth, parents, schools
- Coordination by Police (Juvenile inspector) in strong cooperation with municipality and welfare
- Approach :4 year project, citizens cooperation (behavioural code), third party policing, problem oriented police approach, hot spots surveillance, engagement of youth themselves
- Results: increase of safety feeling of population
reduction in crime and nuisance causing

Project Doelgericht (Purposeful) (Hein Roethof 2009)



Problem of nuisance causing youth in Den Bosch

- Youth not attending school: drop outs
- Youth causing nuisance, sometimes threats, in the city of Den Bosch
- Addicted youth
- Unemployment of youngsters

Partners and results

- Police, municipality, justice, sport association, schools, welfare
- Coordination by Welfare Institution in strong cooperation with municipalit(department of Welfare) and juvenile inspector of the Police
- Approach: 4 -6 year project, criminal interventions, preventing, re-effending, training social skills, cognitive behavioural, therapy, engagement of members of peergroup who succesfully escaped their 'old' situation, employment guidance, mentor programme.
- ~~Results: 12% to 60% improvement~~

An administrative approach to be used in case of organised crime (youth gangs eg.)

Preventing is more desirable than prosecuting

Penal law is often more suited for prosecution than prevention

Administrative law can be used to take out the legal infrastructure which criminals need for their illegal activities

Administrations can use their administrative powers too

React on illegal activities of organised crime (e.g. imposing administrative sanctions);

Prevent “illegal” organised crime activity using administrative instruments to reduce opportunities for organised crime (area renewal/rebuilding, registration obligations, licencing, ...)

Prevent organised crime to participate in legal activities (e.g. screening of permit applications, exclusion from public tenders, ...)

The bottom line

- A clear long term policy on Youth Crime prevention with goals on national, regional and local level is an essential framework for all the parties that function within it.
 - Formulation of programmes (min 4 years) and projects (at least 4 years) within it with clear goals
 - Make one of the organisations responsible for the project coordination and the final results with clear commitment of all parties concerned.
 - Funding through national, regional and local public partners, supplemented by possible others
 - Follow the steps: choose the right/most effective intervention: essential is partnership and sharing information
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And also...

- Prevention is very effective but you need a long breath (min project 4 years)
- Personal treatment of perpetrators by professionals but also in contact with their peers (who have been involved previously in the same problems)
- Taking measures which limit the opportunity structure to commit crimes appears to be more effective than punishment
- Provide long term attractive alternatives: housing, care, education, meaningful activities

Website www.ccv.nl

Thank you for your attention

Any questions?

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