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Facets of organised crime

Abstract

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For many years the number of investigations documented in the national situation report on organised crime has remained stable at about 600. The number of recorded suspects fluctuates between 8000 and 9000. Statistically, no significant changes have been identified.

- But, do these figures really reflect the true potential of organised crime?
- Does the perspective we used nearly 25 years ago to define organised crime provide the means to accurately analyse the phenomenon of organised crime in 2014?
- What must we change?

The presentation highlights the interaction between the driving factors. The societal and demographic changes, the digitalisation of almost all areas of life, innovative perpetrators and transnational modi operandi pose challenges which law enforcement authorities today have to confront.

The different facets of organised crime will be highlighted using selected examples of organised crime phenomena. In addition to drug-related crime, economic crime, rocker groups, Russian-Eurasian and Italian organised crime, we must not neglect the fact that at their very doorstep, people are confronted with organised crime committed by itinerant burglar groups and mass phenomena such as call centre fraud.

Action needs to be taken in a number of areas: by improving the legal framework such as, for example, asset confiscation or legal assistance, but also in the area of telecommunication surveillance and the handling of mass data.

Modern day organised crime suppression must be organised at an international level. Interpol, Europol and new forms of co-operation, especially in the field of cybercrime, are indispensable here. Today, the suppression of organised crime is no longer a matter exclusively for the law enforcement authorities. Working pacts and alliances with the sciences, business and other authorities, especially in the field of (information) technology, are success factors which will allow us to meet these challenges.