

Speaker: *Jorne Vanhee*

Presentation title: Towards a European concept of crime prevention

Crime prevention is a complex field to navigate. Diving into this field, one comes across a myriad of definitions, concepts, activities and theories. The European Crime Prevention Network has tasked itself to guide practitioners and policymakers in their efforts, facilitating the dialogue between research, practice and policy, by sharing knowledge and best practices. Defining crime prevention is part of this endeavour.

Despite legal references in the founding documents of the Network, the concept of crime prevention had never been fully conceptualised within the EUCPN, nor made explicit to the different target groups in a clear and concise manner. This presentation will focus on the efforts that have been taken to address this issue and the newly adopted definition. Given the historical background and the composition of the EUCPN, its concept of crime prevention needed to resonate with academics, practitioners and policymakers in a European context. Expressing these different requirements, the target groups were directly consulted in this process to work towards a consensus. This moment of reflection simultaneously offered the opportunity to look forward and carve out new pathways for the Network to continue to improve crime prevention throughout the Member States.