

Speaker: *Nils Duquet*

Presentation title: Getting a grip on gun violence: a comparative analysis of the linkages between gun violence and illicit firearms trafficking in Europe.

Research on gun violence in Europe is currently strongly underdeveloped, which has important consequences for the development of measures to prevent such acts of violence. One of the main obstacles for studying the linkages between gun violence and illicit firearms trafficking in Europe is the lack of comprehensive, detailed and reliable quantitative data on both phenomena. While previous analyses suggest significant differences between the contexts of both gun violence as well as illicit firearms trafficking across Europe, a comprehensive comparative analysis of both phenomena in Europe has until recently been lacking.

Project TARGET, an ongoing EU-funded comparative research project, aims to improve the understanding of gun violence in Europe and the relationship between gun violence and illicit firearms trafficking. It does so by analysing the available data on these phenomena in 34 European countries, by conducting numerous in-depth interviews with key actors and by collecting quantitative data in 7 countries (Belgium, Estonia, The Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, Spain & Sweden) and by identifying best practices to prevent gun violence and combat illicit firearms trafficking.

In this presentation we will first focus on the difficulties in developing a sound research methodology and setting up a quantitative data collection for studying the linkages between gun violence and illicit firearms trafficking in Europe. Next, we will present the findings of our comparative analysis of the scope and characteristics of gun violence and illicit firearms trafficking in 34 European countries. In the final part of the presentation, we will analyse the various linkages identified between both phenomena in Europe.