

Speaker: *Nils Duquet*

Presentation title: Armed to kill: an analysis of the acquisition patterns of the guns used in public mass shootings in Europe between 2009 and 2018

This presentation will focus on the various firearms acquisition patterns used by perpetrators of public mass shootings in Europe. Despite their rather small share of the total number of gun homicides in Europe (3-5%), such shootings tend to have significant policy impact. While numerous American studies have been published on this topic, research on public mass shootings in Europe, and especially the firearms used in these shootings, is very limited. Given the different context in the United States (e.g. firearms legislation, gun possession rates and overall levels of gun violence), it would be unwise to extrapolate the results of American studies on the types, legal status and acquisition of the firearms used to the European context. In our study we have identified 23 public mass shootings in Europe which resulted in at least four lethal victims (excluding the perpetrator) between 2009 and 2018. First we will give an overview of the different contexts and characteristics of these shootings. Next, we will present the results of our analyses on the different firearm(s) used and the various ways in which the perpetrators have acquired their firearms for each of the identified shootings. Our analyses indicate that these shootings are typically carried out by one single gunman armed with one or two firearms. Our findings further demonstrate strong differences in the types of firearms and the acquisition of these firearms between public mass shootings with and without a terrorist motive. These findings have important policy implications with regard to the legal control of firearms possession and the combat against illicit firearms trafficking in Europe.