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Presentation title: New firearms trafficking trends and gun violence in Europe

Firearms trafficking is crucial for facilitating a wide range of organised crime activities in Europe. Yet, academic research for this topic tends to be rather limited. Previous policy-oriented studies have demonstrated that illicit firearms markets in Europe tend to be closed markets in which criminal hierarchy plays an important role. In recent years this closed character seems to be eroding and this has resulted in easier availability of various types of firearms for a wider share of criminals and increased gun violence in various parts in Europe. New trends in firearms trafficking (eg trafficking in easy-to-convert weapons and online trafficking), source regions (eg Ukraine) and technological developments (eg 3D printing) have the potential to significantly alter the closed character of illicit gun markets and the characteristics of trafficking. In this paper we will examine these new trends and analyse their potential impact on criminal and other types of gun violence in Europe.