
CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Mannerheimintie 4, 4th floor
Mail address Ministry of Justice, National Council for Crime Prevention
PO Box 25, FIN-00023 Government, Finland
Telephone Ministry of Justice switchboard +358 9 160 03
Office +358 9 1606 7862
fax +358 9 1606 7518
E-mail rikoksentorjunta@om.fi
Homepage www.rikoksentorjunta.fi



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CRIME PREVENTION

National Council for Crime Prevention is an expert and cooperation agency for crime prevention, established in the Ministry of Justice.

The Council incorporates representatives of the central ministries, municipal government, criminological research, commercial and industrial life, and other organisations. The Council consists of a chairperson, deputy chairperson, and 15 members and their substitutes who are nominated for a three-year term. The present Council's term commenced on October 1st, 2005.

The council has been in its current form since 1999, but was originally established 10 years earlier.

TASKS

The tasks of the National Council for Crime Prevention are

- to monitor the crime situation and collect information on how crime may be effectively prevented;
- to further cooperation of agencies that have impact on crime prevention in order to coordinate crime prevention projects and other activities;
- to prepare programmes and to make initiatives and proposals to prevent crime, to minimize the costs of crime, and to improve security;
- to further information concerning the possibilities, methods and best practices of crime prevention, and to maintain and develop a crime prevention information service;
- to make initiatives regarding research projects that provide knowledge serving to improve crime prevention, and to develop the planning and methods of crime prevention;
- to give expert opinions on those plans of authorities and other agencies that may have an impact on crime or that intend to prevent crime, and to provide expert guidance for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of such activities;
- to prepare for the Ministry of Justice regular assessments of crime problems and recommendations for crime reduction measures;
- to maintain contacts with foreign and international crime prevention agencies; and
- to carry out other tasks given by the Ministry of Justice.

ACTIVITIES

The activities of the National Council for Crime Prevention focus on the implementation of the National Crime Prevention Programme, adopted by the Government on March 4, 1999 (*Working Together for a Safe Society; translation published by Ministry of Justice, 2000*). The task of the Council is to support and monitor the implementation of the programme. The primary concern in the programme is local crime prevention, and the Council supports such local activities by means of providing expert guidance and informing relevant agents about the programme. Local crime prevention projects may apply for financial support from funds provided for by the Ministry of Justice, and the Council for Crime Prevention participates in the decision-making related to these funds.

In 2005 continuation of the National Crime Prevention programme and the National Violence Prevention programme, and information on the Best Practices were emphasized in Council's actions.

The international activities of the Council consist of cooperation with the crime prevention councils of the Nordic countries. The Council also participates in crime prevention cooperation in the European Union and the United Nations. The Council is one of the three Finnish national contact points in the European Crime Prevention Network, together with the Ministry of Justice.

Books and reports of the Council have mostly been published in the research report series of the National Research Institute of Legal Policy. In order to provide background materials to be used in local crime prevention projects, the Council has produced a Finnish version of Sweden's BRÅ's *Booklets 1-4 of Ideas on Local Crime Prevention* and John Graham & Trevor Bennett's *Crime Prevention Strategies in Europe and North America* (ed. Mikael Scheinin, Publication 156 of the National Research Institute of Legal Policy, 1998). The Council publishes a journal on criminal policy and crime prevention (*HAASTE*) together with the Ministry of Justice.

Information related to crime prevention is available on the home page of the Council, www.rikoksentorjunta.fi.

ORGANISATION

The National Council for Crime Prevention meets a few times a year. The meetings deal with matters of general relevance, and discuss central topics of crime prevention. The council has an executive committee, which meets as needed, and working groups for particular matters related to crime prevention. The activities are prepared and the daily routines of the Council are dealt with by the secretariat.

