

A review of the current knowledge on costs and benefits of crime prevention in the EU member states

Answering the question what is worthwhile?

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History

Costs and benefits of preventing crime
=
a priority for European Crime Prevention
Network (eucpn)

Call for tender October 2003
Bid won by DSP-group
Start research February 2004

Partners

DSP-group – Amsterdam (NL)

Crime Risk Management (BRE) –
Watford (UK)

Perpetuity Research and Consultancy
International – Leicester (UK)

working together as

**European Crime Prevention Research
and Consultancy (www.ecprc.net)**

[DSP - groep]

Onderzoek – Advies – Management

Presentation

- definitions
- objectives of EUCPN review project
- program steps
- approach
- first results

Cost benefit analysis

benefits <- program -> costs

- comparable financial terms as far as possible
- non monetary benefits included for discussion only
- goal is to determine a program's value to each stakeholder (if possible)
- the perspective is that of the broader community

Costs and benefits of crime

Costs

- 'damage' and pain and suffering as a consequence of crime
- direct and indirect, tangible and intangible

Benefits

- criminal gains (take in mind: value to offender is different than value to the victim)
- transfer of value (economic activity)

Remark

The costs of types of crime can rise and/or fall over time

Costs and Benefits of crime prevention

Costs

- Program/project costs

Benefits

- less 'damage' and pain and suffering as a consequence of crime (crime reduction: less costs of crime)
- health, employment and education

Question

Should costs and benefits of crime prevention be in balance or turning a profit?

Objective 1

Inventory of studies in countries applying cost-benefit analysis

Focus on:

- lessons learned (good and bad practices)
- practical problems
- the costs of crime

Objective 2

Cost-benefit policies in EU countries and a few non EU member countries (e.g. USA, Australia)

Objective 3

Develop a 'how to' manual

Step 1

Literature analysis (objective 1)

=> in progress (see www.ecprc.net)

Some names keep on popping up, like Mark Cohen, Daniel Sansfaçon, Lawrence Sherman, Pat Mayhew, Brandon Welsh and David Farrington butgeneral impression: limited number of studies.

Step 2

Gather all relevant information from the Member states and selected other countries (objective 1 and 2)

- 1 this conference
- 2 questionnaire
 - cost-benefit policy
 - Cost-benefit studies
 - elements of how-to manual
 - costs of crime

Questionnaire

- mailing in April to EUCPN, CLRAE, ICA, E-DOCA, DOCA and participants CEN TC325, Hippocrates programme and AGIS programme
- website (www.ecprc.net)

Step 3

Develop a 'how-to' manual (objective 3)

⇒ Home Office (UK)

⇒ National Crime Prevention Strategy
(Canada)

⇒ Other examples (e.g. USA, Australia)

Anything missing in the questionnaire?
Experts we should contact?
Good examples of a "how-to" manual?



Go to www.ecprc.net and contact us or speak to us during this conference!

Approach

- victim perspective
- offender perspective
- situational perspective
- community perspective

Victim perspective

- costs related to specific crimes (monetary value)
- costs associated with preventive measures taken by victim (behaviour)
- life time victimisation (chances of becoming a victim of certain types of crime in a life time)

Offender perspective

The criminal career and associated costs

- child welfare services
- child care
- health and psychiatric services
- foster care
- guidance counsellors
- special education services
- court services and sessions
- group home care
- welfare supervision
- probation supervision
- police contacts and investigations
- police attendances at court
- psychological and psychiatric assessment
- open custody
- closed custody

Situational perspective

ENV 14383-2 (CEN) crime prevention – urban planning and design

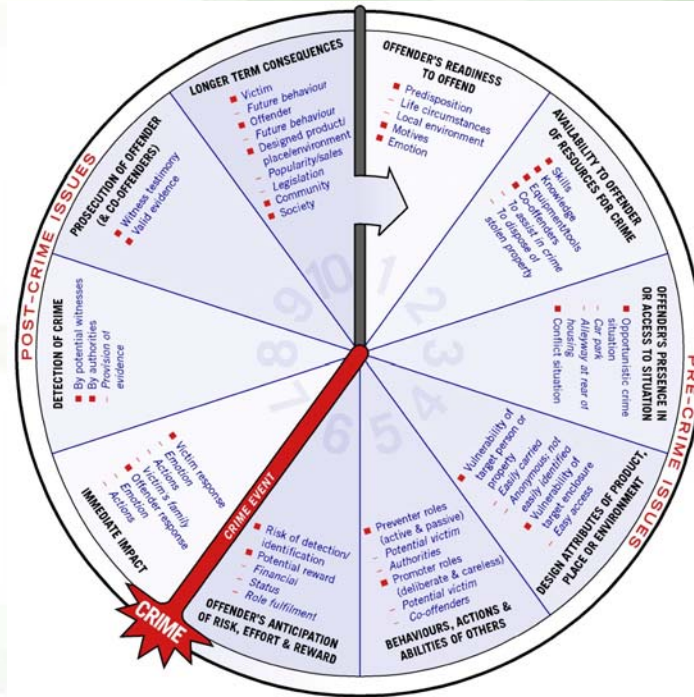
- assess or estimate risks (existing situation or new situation)
- calculate or estimate costs of crime (now or later)
- choose between available preventive measures and calculate associated costs
- decision by responsible body on measures
- implementation of measures
- evaluation of outcome (actual crime)
- calculate benefits (change in crime)

Community perspective

- Broken windows theory (a community on a downward slope)
- Breakdown of social cohesion
- Decrease in commitment to and involvement in community
- Costs of crime to a community and to society

Crime life cycle model

Paul Ekblom (UK) (see handout)



Used in EC Hippokrates 2002 program
 adapted by the Design & Innovation Research Group
 University of Salford (UK)

Preliminary conclusions

- Limited body of knowledge and few examples
- Four perspectives: victim, offender, situation and community
- Definition of costs and benefits of crime prevention narrow (crime and crime reduction) or broad (e.g. including health, employment and education)
- Costs and benefits of prevention differ per type of crime

Preliminary recommendations

- Agreement on crime definitions
- Agreement on costs of certain types of crime (= benefits of crime prevention)
- More research into criminal careers
- Take crime life cycle as a model for costs and benefit calculations (and include post crime phases)
- Europe needs proper and comparable analysis of crime prevention programs (what works and what's worthwhile)

Draft model of cost benefit analysis

- change in incidence and prevalence of crime
- multiplied by benefits – costs
- before (ex ante estimate) and after (post evaluation)
- motivate or explain (changes in) numbers

Before and After

Ex ante

- Estimate of change in incidence and prevalence of crime
- Estimated costs of project or program
- Expected benefits of project or program (if possible also take into account fear of crime and/or willingness to pay to reduce crime)

NB including motivation behind numbers.

Post

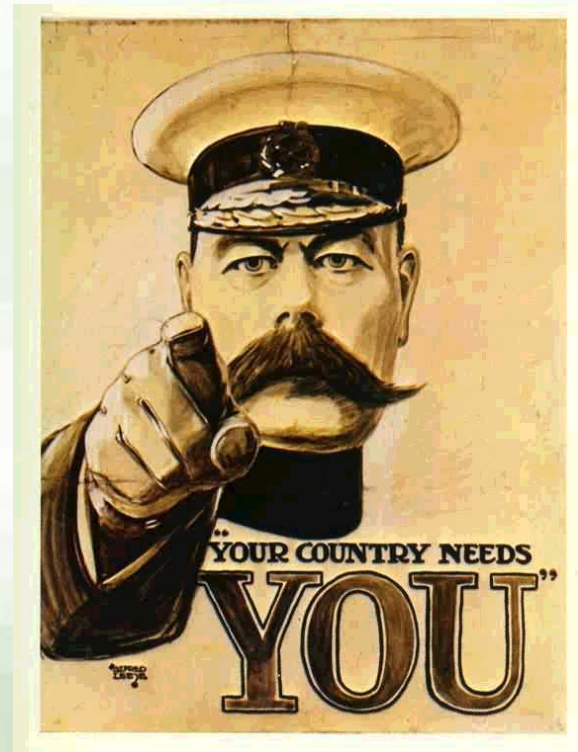
- Achieved change in incidence and prevalence of crime
- Actual costs of project or program
- Actual or adjusted benefits of project or program (if possible also take into account fear of crime and/or willingness to pay to reduce crime)

NB including explanation for changes in numbers.

Do you want to be informed and/or take part?

More information (updates, questionnaire, references, weblinks, on line discussion forum, contact)

Go to www.ecprc.net and contact us or speak to us during the conference!



Thank you for your attention!

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