

Ghent, November 2019

**Study into the strategic market position of the EUCPN on behalf of the Federal Public Service Home
Affairs Belgium – General Directorate Safety and Prevention**

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

Dear EUCPN National Representative, Dear EUCPN Substitute,

The **European Crime Prevention Network** (hereafter EUCPN) has grown significantly since the set up in 2001 (2001/427/JHA replaced by 2009/902/JHA). Throughout the years, objectives remained mostly the same, but activities and tasks have increased broadly. In order to keep achieving the defined objectives, the EUCPN aims to identify its **current and future strategic market position** within the European field of crime prevention. Put differently, the EUCPN wants to ascertain if the organization is currently sailing the right course and whether or not it would be favourable to move into another direction.

Additionally, the EUCPN wants to gain insight in the **needs of its target groups** and in how to effectively meet these needs and expectations in practice.

The Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy (IRCP), embedded in Ghent University, was assigned to conduct the study for the EUCPN. Next to distributed online surveys throughout the EU Member States, qualitative expert interviews will be conducted in order to get an overview of opinions and expectations of partners and stakeholders of the EUCPN.

You received this letter because of your expertise and experience in crime prevention matters in general, and your relationship with the EUCPN, in particular. The IRCP Research Team would therefore like to invite you to participate in this study. Your participation would offer an enormous added value, but is also vital for the success of this research project.

Objectives of the research?

The central objective of the research is to determine the strategic market position of the EUCPN.

The research objective breaks apart into two different partial objectives, more specifically (1) defining the current position of the EUCPN within the European crime prevention landscape and (2) conducting a needs assessment, both including formulating possible recommendations for improvement.

How is data being collected?

The data is being collected two-folded, namely on the basis of (1) quantitative online surveys and (2) qualitative expert interviews.

Quantitative online surveys are accessible via a general link. Relevant partners and stakeholders can get access to the online survey when identified by the research team or after referral of other relevant partners and/or stakeholders.

Qualitative expert interviews are conducted with key figures, mostly acting as EUCPN National Representatives and EUCPN Substitutes of EU Member States.

Who conducts the interview?

The involved researcher is Jonas Dieussaert. He will contact you with regard to a possible participation in the study. Your participation is completely voluntary. Nevertheless, we want to emphasize that your cooperation is extremely important for the success of this research project.

How is the interview directed?

If you wish to participate, a face-to-face interview can be conducted if it is possible to physically meet the researcher involved. A possible moment may be, for example, the **EUCPN Board Meeting and Best Practice Conference in Helsinki**, held at 11 and 12 December 2019.

If not, the research team opts for conducting **Skype interviews**. The involved researcher is flexible and can adjust to your agenda and timetable.

Depending on your relationship with and knowledge about the EUCPN, the expert interview would take about 15 to 20 minutes.

What about your privacy?

The procedures are followed as laid down in the Ethical Protocol for Scientific Research at the Department Criminology, Penal Law and Social Law – Ghent University.

Collected data will be coded. Your name, gender, age, position, etc. will not be linked to your answers given in surveys or expert interviews. These data cannot be traced afterwards and are therefore inherently anonymous. Personal information will never be stated in any form of reporting and this data will not be passed on to third parties.

The relevant research data and related documentation are preserved for a minimum of five years after the end of the research project or after publication of the conclusions based on the data.

Additionally, you will be asked to sign an informed consent form to participate in this study.

More information about this research project?

For more information, complaints and/or questions you can contact:

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The IRCP Research Team would like to **thank you** in advance for the useful contribution you can make to this scientific research.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Gert Vermeulen

Prof. Dr. Wim Hardyns

Prof. Dr. Lieven Pauwels