

## Models for Prevention of Crime: International Standards and Experiences



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**Abstract.** *This article explores the field of crime prevention in the countries of Europe. The positive obligations of states, local governments and public organizations in this area are highlighted.*

**Keywords:** *private life; family life; home; correspondence European court.*

### Problem statement

Crime as a social and legal phenomenon is a common problem for all states of the world. With national and regional dimensions, such a phenomenon is endowed with common determinants, which make it possible to develop joint preventive programs (prevention).

#### **Analysis of recent research and publications.**

The research of the above-mentioned topics is devoted to the work of Ukrainian and Russian scientists Yu. Antonian, O. Bandurka, I. Danshyn, L. Davydenko, T. Denysova, A. Dolhova, O. Dzhuzha, V. Holina, O. Kalman, O. Kostenko, V. Kudriavtsev, N. Kuznietsova, O. Lytvak, V. Lunieiev, P. Fris, A. Zakaliuk, A. Zelinskyi, foreign criminologists T. Benett, D. Hrekhem, P. Rok, H. Shnaider and others.

The question of determining the means of influencing crime in the world has loaded the multi-element system of international organizations and institutions for combating crime, among which: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretariat (sector) on crime prevention and criminal justice, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, the Commission on Crime Prevention and criminal justice (established in

1991 on the basis of the Committee), regional research institutes and centers of the UN, etc. Contributions to the development of this topic are also carried out by international non-governmental organizations: International Criminal Law Association; International Criminological Association and others. A special place is given to the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol). The impact on crime at the regional level is promoted by the Council of Europe (Parliamentary Assembly, Committee of Ministers, European Committee on Legal Cooperation, European Committee on Crime Problems), Central Agency of Criminal Police – Europol.

**The purpose of the article** is to analyze the scope of international standards in the field of crime prevention and identify effective foreign practices and systems that can be implemented in national law enforcement activities.

**Presentation of the main research material.** Terminological discussions on the concepts of “prevention”, “prevention”, “control”, “fight”, “impact on crime” do not apply to the content of documents developed by these institutions and contain positions of an international level. In fact, international documents deal with two concepts – “prevention” and “combat”.

The term “prevention” is used when it comes to activities aimed at minimizing the level of crime and eliminating the factors that determine it (in general or in separate groups of crimes). Essentially, it is a whole complex of preventive measures, and the literal translation and the closest to the meaning is “crime prevention”. “Sombating” – the work of authorized agencies for actual crimes: detection, pre-trial and judicial proceedings, measures to influence the offender and reimbursement of victims. The indicated activities are adjacent, closely related, but include relevant nuances in implementation. As a long-term program, the Crime Prevention Model is considered and used. Qualitatively planned crime prevention strategies not only prevent crime and victimization, but also strengthen the security of societies and promote sustainable development of states.

A universal international standard in this area is the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13) [1].

Today, the UN proposes to consider crime prevention as a four-stage model.

1. Prevention of crime through social development or social crime prevention (promoting personal well-being and motivating socially responsible behavior through social, economic, sanitary and educational measures with a special focus on children and young people, as well as attention to the risk factors of crime and victimization).

2. Prevention of crime at the local level (changes in living conditions affecting the number of offenses, the level of victimization and vulnerability of people to crime through initiatives, experiences and activities of members of local communities).

3. Situational crime prevention (prevention by reducing the possibilities for committing specific crimes, increasing the probability of detention and information on the minimum benefits from such crimes, including by setting up a supportive environment, providing assistance and information to potential and actual victims).

4. Reintegration programs (prevention of recidivism by providing offenders with assistance for reintegration into society and other mechanisms for preventing offenses).

Issues related to crime prevention should be included in relevant socio-economic programs and policies, including employment, education, health care, housing and urban planning, poverty alleviation, social marginalization and isolation. Cooperation and partnership should be an integral part of the effective prevention of crime, taking into account the wide range of causes of crime and, accordingly, the qualifications and powers necessary to eliminate them. This includes partnership at the level of ministries and departments, non-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, business circles and individuals. Adequate resources, including the financing of necessary structures and measures, are needed to ensure a sustainable crime prevention. It is necessary to provide a clear system of reporting on the use of financial resources, the implementation of appropriate measures and their assessment, as well as for the accomplishment of tasks.

The UN requires States parties to recognize the crime prevention system as an integral part of

their crime prevention structures and programs and to provide clear responsibilities and tasks within the framework of the management system for preventing crime, in particular by:

- the establishment of centers or coordination structures with qualified personnel and resources;
- development of a crime prevention plan with clear priorities and objectives;
- Establishing interaction and coordination between relevant state institutions and agencies;
- establishing partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the business community, the private sector, professional associations;
- involving the public in active participation in the prevention of crime by clarifying the need for concrete actions and appropriate measures, as well as its role in this activity.

The general requirements for the qualification of personnel in the field of crime prevention are also outlined. Thus, states should promote professionalism in the field of crime prevention by:

- advanced training of the management of the relevant departments;
- means of encouraging universities, colleges and other relevant educational institutions to introduce basic and advanced (specialized) courses on these issues, including in cooperation with practitioners;
- Collaboration with educational institutions and specialists in order to develop attestation and qualification certification procedures.

The general requirements for the methodology of carrying out preventive activities are:

- support in the development of useful and applied (applied in practice) knowledge that would be scientifically sound and reliable;
- assistance in systematization and generalization of knowledge, detection and elimination of gaps in the knowledge base;
- exchange of these knowledge, as appropriate, in particular between scientists, persons responsible for policy development in the field of crime prevention, education professionals, practitioners from other related industries and the public;
- the application of these knowledge through the reproduction of successful

experience, the development of new initiatives and the forecasting of new problems in the field of crime;

- Creation of a database to promote more cost-effective crime prevention, including by regularly conducting research on victimization issues.

In the member states of the European Union and the Council of Europe, for the most part there are two levels of prevention of crime: social and situational.

General social – the focus on changing the unfavorable conditions for the formation of humanperson, especially the microenvironment. Situational comes from the fact that certain categories of criminal acts are carried out under certain circumstances, at certain times and in certain places. The situation itself stimulates and provokes certain types of crimes (street fights, attacks in parks, squares, etc.).

The European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) was established by the decision of the Council of the European Union (2001/427 / JHA) of 28 May 2001. Its main objective was to develop a platform for EU Member States to share experiences, knowledge and best practices in crime prevention, and to promote such activities in EU Member States and at EU level.

EUCPN Goals:

facilitate cooperation, contacts and exchange of information and experience among participants in the field of crime prevention;

collect, evaluate and transmit evaluated information, including good practice;

Organize conferences, in particular annual conferences on best practices, and other events, including the annual European Crime Prevention Award, aimed at achieving the goals of the network and disseminating its results widely;

to advise the Council and the Commission as necessary;

implement a work program based on a well-defined strategy that takes into account the needs for responding to the relevant criminal threats.

The EUCPN is represented by a Council consisting of national representatives from each EU Member State and their deputies, if they are appointed. Observers from other European

organizations, agencies and agencies may also be invited to attend meetings on a case-by-case basis. Other professionals, including practitioners and scientists, can contribute to the work of EUCPN as designated contact persons.

The main components of the concept of the network's activities are the study and improvement of existing programmatic approaches to preventing youth crime, crimes committed with the use of cold weapons, crimes in the field of illicit drug trafficking, domestic violence. EUCPN also pays great attention to implementing the concept of public participation in crime prevention [2].

European institutions do not define mandatory requirements for the crime prevention system and structure. All hierarchies, terminology, volumes of influence form the state itself. To understand the differences in approaches to building such an activity, several examples should be considered.

In Estonia, crime prevention is carried out at three levels: state level, local community level, non-state sector. At the state level, prevention of crime is carried out by: the Government of the Republic; Council for the Prevention of Crime; Department of Justice; Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ministry of Social Affairs; Ministry of Education and Science; Ministry of Culture.

The Ministry of Justice is the coordinator of crime prevention, other ministries are involved in preventive work according to their sphere, for example, the Ministry of Education and Science – through the work of youth, the Ministry of Internal Affairs – through the work of the police, etc.

The main task of the state is to coordinate crime prevention, which is to prioritize and set goals, develop spheres, based on international directives and legislation. The state's task is also to support local communities in crime prevention activities, mainly through providing relevant information. For example, the Ministry of Justice created a Crime Prevention Website – [www.kuriteoennetus.ee](http://www.kuriteoennetus.ee), where you can find both methodological guidelines for crime prevention and other data related to this area. Various guidelines are also being developed (for example, “Principles of Early Detection of Crime and Intervention of Local Self-Government”),

training and conferences are organized for both self-government workers and other participants in preventive work. The Council for the Prevention of Crime is an advisory commission under the Government of the Republic whose main task is to formulate a concept and make proposals to the Government on the formulation and implementation of criminal policy in the field of crime prevention. In Estonia, such state commissions, networks and councils operate (or are being set up), whose purpose is to reduce the risk of crime and its negative consequences. The role of local self-government (MU) in Estonia is unclear in the legislation right now, so different crime prevention areas are being implemented in different regions, but in general it can be noted that the tasks of the MS are the development of preventive measures in accordance with the needs and capacities of the region and the implementation of such measures. The mission of the MS is also the financing of crime prevention – funded both by the management of the MS itself and community-based projects [3].

In Germany, primary, secondary and tertiary prevention are distinguished. Primary is aimed at overcoming the deficit of sociality and positive sense of justice as the main cause of crime. The secondary is carried out by the police authorities and is connected with the legal means of refraining from committing crimes. Tertiary prevention is the preventive measures and means used in the process of punishment and resocialization of criminals.

Practical activity of the police is based on the thesis that crimes are often committed when a potential offender encounters a vulnerable person without a victim or object. Therefore, preventive measures should be directed either to the perpetrator, to the security system, or to the potential the victim (individual, general and victimological prevention). In this triad, considerable attention is paid to the guardianship and the peculiarities of working with the population, aimed at its self-defense. In the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), there are currently hundreds of programs to prevent various types of crime, but they are subject to general requirements.

The German Crime Prevention Forum, which restricts crime-related potential in German

society by enhancing citizens' sense of security and harm reduction from crime, plays a decisive role in crime prevention in the Federal Republic of Germany, and is developing a public crime prevention strategy jointly with federal and state government and non-state agencies. In his field of view there is inter-industry preventive activity, in addition, this entity combines numerous preventive initiatives, ensuring the implementation of criminological strategies, programs and activities at the national level. Another significant crime prevention practice in Germany is the program (Information System) entitled "PraVis". It is a special place among crime prevention projects, as it serves as a peculiar system of management and contains mechanisms used to process a large array of data on a national scale.

Prevention of crime in Germany – a task primarily of local self-government and federal states. Today, in 14 (out of 16) lands there are special bodies dealing with the theme "Prevention of Crime". Although in most cases they are organized under the Ministries of the Interior or Justice, they differ in the inter-departmental nature of their work.

For example, the experience of the Land of Lower Saxony and the Beckaria Project – Standards for Quality Management of Crime Prevention Projects should be provided. For responsible persons involved in crime prevention, Beckaria Standards are a guide to quality management of their preventive actions. They must ensure that:

Planning, conducting and evaluating crime prevention projects focused on quality criteria, justified by the results of scientific research and presented in the special literature;

the projects were designed in such a way that they were fundamentally evaluated;

Scientists, experts, customers and sponsors (when applying for a project) had a solid, professional point of view, basis for assessing the purpose and quality of projects [4].

In France, a two-tier system of prevention has been formed: at the national and local levels. The Interdepartmental Committee, established in 2006, plays a significant role in defining the main vectors of preventive activities at the national level. It consists of the ministers of the French government. The

leading role is assigned to ministers of internal affairs, justice and education. In this case, the General Secretariat is functioning, which prepares the necessary documents for the committee prior to its meetings. The members of the secretariat are representatives of various administrations: prefect, judge, senior police officer and gendarmerie, one representative of the Ministry of Education and three – the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The main task of the secretariat is to build relationships and enhance cooperation on crime prevention with the local authorities of France.

The main priorities of the modern French concept can be attributed to:

expansion of the network of situational crime prevention (installation of video surveillance cameras in public places, etc.);

inclusion of tasks for preventing crime to urban architectural reconstruction programs;

improving police relations with the local population, especially in suburban areas.

In modern law enforcement in France, you can meet the so-called approximation police (proximity), which is an unarmed body of law and order. In solving the problems of preventing crime in the area of service, police approximation is an independent personnel unit in making appropriate decisions to reduce crime.

A long-term French crime prevention project is the Infos a Gogo program. She started back in 1984 to prevent juvenile delinquency. The goal of the program is to increase the social adaptation of adolescents through communication and social activity through volunteers and volunteers. Program volunteers help teenagers in their socialization by obtaining driving licenses for employment by the driver, passing the professional training courses, the results of which can be obtained from the rescuer's diploma, manager, etc. According to the reports of this project, some of his young participants are hired for part-time work. Improved learning and attendance at school is being tracked. The program's effectiveness is facilitated by close cooperation and communication of volunteers with members of the families of its participants. Parents and relatives clarify the possibilities of establishing relationships and provide information on the successes and achievements of their children. The financing of the program

is carried out at the expense of funds from the budget of local authorities.

The main objective of the crime prevention policy can be to determine not its complete eradication, but to keep it as small as possible, and the material and non-material damage to the community from crime should be judged generally in relation to the cost of its prevention [5].

Basic approaches to crime prevention in Italy: the concept of control and the so-called Neighborhood Policing concept, which was introduced in 2002. It consists in moving away from the repressive, exclusively punitive approach of the Italian criminal justice authorities to more humane, connected with the mediation, socially oriented direction of the work of law enforcement bodies. Under the leadership of the Italian Ministry of the Interior, the Italian government and other agencies, the effectiveness of preventive activities depends more on the depth and quality of cooperation with the private sector, local communities than on the severity of responding to criminal manifestations. The implementation of this preventive model began first in 28 provincial Italian cities, and later in the territory of 728 administrative units, including 79 city centers in Italy.

Among the latest initiatives, there is an extension of the network of district police departments to cover the attention of law enforcement officers in a larger area. Recently, in Italy, several projects aimed at preventing crime in one or another field, for example:

- “Home Information Service” (Home Reporting Service) – for reporting on crimes, especially from citizens with physical disabilities;
- Secure Parks (Secure Parks) – Providing the proper legal status of parks in the largest Italian cities by patrolling representatives of the state and nature protection police;
- the opening of police relations with the public in order to enhance cooperation with local communities, as well as informing the public about the disclosure or investigation of the most resonant and serious crimes, which increases trust in the police;
- “The Police is another friend of yours” – Establishing normal benevolent transparent police relations with football fans (“ultras”) to reduce hooligan, racist and other illegal manifestations during football matches;

- Implementation of a broad agitation program among students and students of Italian youth in order to raise their legal culture and tolerance, organized by the Italian Ministry of Education and the UNICEF Committee in Italy. The south of Italy is the most criminogenic region in this country, where a significant part of the marginalized Italian population lives, including migrants from other less prosperous countries (Roma from Romania, citizens of the former Yugoslavia, etc.).

In order to stabilize the socio-economic status of these territories and reduce crime, the EU-funded program “Security for the Development of the South (Italy)” was adopted, in particular on social sector reform; material support of the poor; cultural adaptation of foreigners; training of law enforcement officers; increasing the interaction between the police and the local population; the establishment of a partnership between local authorities and local communities, etc. It should be noted that the Italian experience of putting in place peculiar memoranda of safety between the Italian Ministry of Internal Affairs and local government bodies in order to meet the requirements of citizens’ security, proper provision of their rights to a single denominator, that is, their compliance with one standard in different Italian regions.

In March 2007, an agreement was signed between the Italian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Italian Association of Italian Municipalities. In addition, within the framework of the strategy to reduce the possibility of committing crimes in Italy, the practice of installing CCTV facilities in public places and police reports of information from, for example, tax collectors about unlawful acts of other persons is spreading. For this purpose, the central dispatching stations of companies engaged in passenger transportation are connected to the telephone line of the police.

Given that in modern Italy there is a very common phenomenon, such as domestic violence, therefore appropriate measures are taken to reduce its level. So, in this country, a program called “Antiviolence Network in the Urban-Italian Cities” was implemented, in which the project Arianna Project (Arianna

Project) is being implemented, aimed at combating domestic violence. A broad, informal campaign was launched for its implementation to prevent family violence and to protect the rights of women and children who are more likely to become victims of domestic violence. In order to

increase the involvement of the public, actual and potential victims of family violence, an anonymous phone call (1522) was launched, which could be used by any victim of violence and receive appropriate psychological, legal or other assistance, even in different languages (Italian, English, French, Spanish and Russian).

## Conclusions

Thus, as evidenced by the experience of European states, the concept of preventive action combined with real means of responding to existing crime:

- ensures identification and elimination of its determinants;
- influences the criminal factors, when they have not yet gained strength and are easier to eliminate;
- allows, using various means, to interrupt criminal activity;
- prevents the passage of harmful effects;
- solves the problem of combating crime in the most humane ways, without using the mechanisms of criminal justice at full capacity.

Overall, the study and analysis of international crime prevention and crime prevention models suggests that a preventive approach to crime response is promising and should be implemented while respecting the principles of systemicity, professionalism, adequate staffing, humanism and the full participation of all members of society.

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