

Summary

Organized crime in the Netherlands. Second report of the WODC-organized crime monitor

In 1994 the Dutch Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into Criminal Investigation Methods concluded that an accurate description of organized crime in the Netherlands was lacking. Therefore, the Committee of Inquiry appointed an external research group chaired by professor Cyrille Fijnaut to examine the nature, seriousness and extent of organized crime in the Netherlands. After publication of the report of the Fijnaut research group in 1996, the Minister of Justice promised the Parliament to report periodically on the nature of organized crime in the Netherlands. Consequently, the Research and Documentation Center (WODC) started the 'WODC-organized crime monitor', an ongoing systematic analysis of closed police investigations of criminal groups. The aim of this research project is to increase the learning capacity of the criminal justice system and to construct a sound basis for preventive and repressive policy.

The first report of the WODC-monitor was published in 1999. It was based upon analysis of 40 major police investigations on criminal groups in the Netherlands. Information was also drawn from public and confidential reports on organized crime, crime analysis reports and interviews with key figures and experts on organized crime.

This second report elaborates on the findings of the first report. Data have been collected on another 40 major police investigations and, once again, use has been made of public and confidential reports and interviews.

Chapter 1 deals with the background of this study, the findings of the first report, the research questions for the second report and the research methods.

Chapter 2 elaborates on criminal networks and why certain people in criminal networks are more important than others. It also highlights the weak spots of prime suspects.

Chapter 3 goes into the nature of the criminal activities and the support provided by the social environment, the degree of specialization in certain criminal activities, and the interactions between criminal groups and the investigating authorities.

Chapter 4 examines changing and transferring criminal revenues. Special attention is paid to the phenomenon of underground banking. This chapter also addresses money laundering and the expenditures and investments of criminal groups.

The final chapter summarizes the main findings of this study and explores the implications for public policy.