



# **EFFECT PROJECT**

**for project FIRE**

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**Italian Research Team's Main  
Results**

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# EFFECT PROJECT

- ✗ The EFFECT project has aimed at providing EU policy-makers with a body of knowledge concerning the nature, extent and impact of gun enabled crime (GEC), the effectiveness of interventions aimed at combating GEC and the cross-border sharing of ballistic intelligence.

## Main results (Italian Case)

- Good cooperation and sharing of data between police forces;
- difficulties connected to the use of different db and technologies;
- Effects of the economic crisis in the competitive aspects;
- Crime scene reliefs problems;
- Good legislation aimed at ruling the owning of firearms with some “hypocrisies”;
- Better training needed.

## Focus on OC of Mafia type in Italy

In Italy four major Mafia type organizations exist:

- the Cosa Nostra in Sicily
  - the 'Ndrangheta in Calabria
  - The Sacra Corona Unita in Apulia
  - the Camorra in the area of Naples
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- the type of power they exercise is called control of the territory;
  - this power is exercised on specific areas and is based on violence as well as on political and social consensus and economic control.

## Focus on OC of Mafia type in Italy

From our research perspective it is worth focusing on two levels of analysis:

- how the Mafias affect GEC;
- how their presence affects ballistic evidences.

However, we analyze the efficacy of these instruments facing Mafias' crimes.

## How the Mafias affect GEC

The Mafias play a twofold influence on the GEC:

- control over little crime groups
- increase level of GEC due to internal conflicts

The impact on the GEC has different forms

- In particular, use of violence for forcing presence and power (internal conflicts); use of violence against external enemies

## How the Mafias affect GEC

- In 2013 2,7 murders upon 100 thousand inhabitants;
- In the Southern area there are around 279 murders per year, 53% of the national total;
- but mafia groups prefer working in the big business as traders and investors;
- little local OC groups exist using violence and firearms, among these there are also marginal groups of Mafiosi.

Source: Eures-Ansa Report 2013

# The Mafias and ballistic evidences

- the strong presence of organizations of Mafia type is a factor that endangers the use of ballistic evidences;
- a threefold strategy that allow Mafiosi to avoid a number of positive matches:
  - using type of guns which minimize traces;
  - using guns once;
  - altering firearms.

# The Mafias and the ballistic evidences

Consequently, empirical evidences from the research can be gathered considering three main aspects:

- specific types of firearms used by mafias;
- ability to provide firearms for themselves and their role in the firearms traffic;
- process of altering firearms.

## OC of Mafia type and firearms

- Mafiosi use many kind of firearms with preference for guns distruptive and not leaving traces.
- Traditionally, favorite arms of the Mafiosi are revolvers and guns in particular the 38 special and the 357 magnum;
- in the past they appreciated revolvers made in the USA, purchased on the international illicit market (e.g. Colt 45);

# Mafia and the firearms' illicit traffic

- Ability to provide firearms from international illicit traffics is at base of the Mafias' capability of using firearms once;
- thanks to the ability to build alliances with other groups, they play an important role in the firearms traffic;
- during the internal wars among Mafia groups, the Mafias were the main customers on foreign markets;
- once they have acquired a control over the sources for supplying, they become sellers of firearms (e.g. little crime groups, terrorist groups).

# Mafia and the firearms' illicit traffic

Nowadays, the market seems characterized by two levels:

- a macro one, controlled by OC in particular of Mafia type;
- a little traffic, oriented to the little criminality conducted by immigrants or ethnic based criminality.

Then the Mafias play an important role in a network, mainly aimed at selling guns to other countries' OC groups.

At an another level, little groups of immigrants provide firearms coming from ex-Soviet bloc's countries for mere survival reasons.

# Mafia and the altering of firearms

A controversial point pertains the role of mafia groups in the altering of firearms:

- for some ballistic experts, this is a crucial point for OC and Mafia groups;
- for others interviewees, this is just a practice of scarce relevance, if compared to the role in the international firearms traffic that allows Mafiosi to use arms once for each crime.

# The Mafias and the altering of firearms

- Some interviewees have shown that there is a connection between the firearms traffic and the altering process (e.g. Mediterraneo Judicial operation 2013);
- Another empirical case show that when the Turkish polices discarded his guns' endowment, an important firearms' Italian producer in the 1970s detected this supply and re-adapted these firearms to international market. Of course, this is not a case directly referable to OC, but some of the interviewees assured that the non-tracing of these items attracted the so called black market.

# The Mafias and the altering of firearms

Some important facts emerged that allow us to outline some critical points:

- the way European countries rule the dis-activation and re-activation of firearms;
- two levels of altering exist, one made by high skilled craft-men, sometimes controlled by the Mafiosi and another that is typical of the little crime groups.

The logo for the EFFECT PROJECT. It features a circular emblem on the left containing the words "EFFECT" and "PROJECT" around a central dot. To the right of the emblem, the words "EFFECT" and "PROJECT" are stacked vertically in a large, bold, orange, sans-serif font.

# EFFECT PROJECT

Thank you  
for your attention.