



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.