

Linkages between illicit firearms trafficking, criminal violence and terrorism in Europe

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Final conference Project FIRE - Milan - 25 November 2016

Context

- **Growing policy attention**
- **Rather limited research on linkages between guns & violence in Europe**
- **Linkages between illicit firearms trafficking, criminal violence and terrorism in Europe?**
 - lessons from previous research

Firearms trafficking and criminal violence

- **Size and scope of criminal gun violence in EU is unknown**
 - Definitions
 - Lack of detailed national data
- **Criminals = main drivers of illicit gun market**
 - Instrumental for criminal activities
 - Handguns
 - Different sources
- **Increased availability of military-grade firearms**
 - Increase in shootings incidents by criminals?
 - Increased policy attention

Firearms trafficking and terrorism

- **Increased use of firearms by terrorists**
 - Instrumental to achieve their objectives
 - Deliberate choice of change in modus operandus?
- **Gun acquisition dynamics by terrorists**

Public mass shootings in Europe 2009-2015

Year	Location	Perpetrator	Firearm deaths*
March 2009	Winnenden (Germany)	Tim Kretschmer	15
December 2009	Espoo (Finland)	Ibrahim Shkupolli	5
June 2010	Cumbria (United Kingdom)	Derrick Bird	12
August 2010	Devinska Nova Ves (Slovakia)	Lubomir Harman	7
September 2011	Alphen aan de Rijn (Netherlands)	Tristan van der Vlis	6
July 2011	Utøya (Norway)	Anders Breivik	67
December 2011	Liège (Belgium)	Nordine Amrani	6
March 2012	Toulouse-Montauban (France)	Mohammed Merah	4
April 2012	Smilkovci (Macedonia)	Several perpetrators	5
September 2012	Chevaline (France)	Unknown	4
February 2013	Menznau (Switzerland)	Viktor Berisha	4
April 2013	Velika Ivanča (Serbia)	Ljubisa Bogdanovich	13
May 2014	Brussels (Belgium)	Medhi Nemmouche	4
November 2014	Tirana (Albania)	Konstandin Xhuvani	4
January 2015	Paris (France)	Several perpetrators	17
February 2015	Uherský Brod (Czech Republic)	Zdeněk Kovář	8
May (2015)	Naples (Italy)	Giulio Murolo	4
August (2015)	Roye (France)	Name not disclosed	4
November 2015	Paris (France)	Several perpetrators	130

* Perpetrators not included

Firearms trafficking and terrorism

- **Terrorist mass shootings**
 - 5 public mass shootings with 222 lethal victims since 2011
 - Average of 44 lethal victims / shooting
- **Firearms acquisition by terrorists**
 - Criminal connections to access illicit gun market
 - Use of legal gun market
 - **Not legal status, but access is key**





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Crime and terrorism nexus

- **Criminal background of terrorists**
- **Use of criminal skills**
 - Criminal connections
 - Mindset and experience
- **Criminal gun market = lethal cocktail of supply and demand**



What's next?

- **Importance of gaining more insight into illicit arms trafficking and terrorist access to illicit gun markets**
 - Project SAFTE (2017)
- **Put constant pressure on illicit gun market**
 - Develop adequate and harmonized legal framework
 - Strengthen operational capacities of law enforcement
- **gain time to intervene**

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