

Youth criminality in the Nordics: Preventive and Reactive Measures. What Works?

3.10.2025, 9 – 16, Hanaholmen, Espoo

Organisers: The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI) and Hanaholmen

Programme

9:00 – 9:30 Registration & Coffee

9:30 – 9:35 Welcome Address

- Gunvor Kronman, CEO, Hanaholmen
- Dr Natalia Ollus, Director, HEUNI

9:35 – 9:50 Setting the scene: Understanding youth and leaning on empirical evidence

- Prof of Practice Julia Korkman, HEUNI

9:50 – 10:40 Youth Crime Trends in the Nordic Region

- Overview – Prof Markus Kaakinen
- Commentary panel: “Nordic practical perspectives, the current situation”
- “Criminal policy changes in Sweden and how they impact youth” – Sigrid Nikka

10:40 – 10:55 Break

10:55 – 11:45 What works in prevention?

- “Preventing Youth Involvement in Serious Crime: Recruitment, Risk Assessment, and Intervention Windows” – Karin Svanberg & Anders Bolund
- “Repeat juvenile offenders” – Jane Bechman Dahl
- “Planning well-planned crime prevention techniques based on case analysis” – Mads Hardahl-Haugaard

11:45 – 12:15 Collaborative efforts in tackling youth violence, recruitment, and criminality

- “Focusing on identity: Elements of belonging” – Anneli Portman
- “The group violence intervention, youth, and links to organized crime” – Kyle Ott

12:15 – 12:30 Q&A

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30– 13:40 “Talk with us, not about us”

Greetings from the youth forum on street violence

<https://hanaholmen.fi/en/events/talk-with-us-not-about-us>

13:40 – 14:40 Effects of system responses to minors involved in crime – lessons for policy

- Overview – Dr. Britt Østergaard Larsen
- “Youth violence in Iceland: Policy responses” – Katrín Sif Oddgeirsdóttir
- “Community policing, urban space and planning crime prevention in practice” – Dr. Elisabeth Myhre Lie
- “Juvenile investigation in the Eastern Uusimaa Police Department: Crime prevention in practice” – Detective Inspector Sampsa Aukio with commentary by District attorney Mirja Österberg

14:40 – 14:50 Q&A**14:50 – 15:15 Fika****15:15 – 15:50 A holistic and rights-based approach**

- “The Estonian model: Building integrated systems to prevent youth crime” – Dr. Laidi Surva
- ”The usual suspects: Why we need a rights-based approach to youth crime” – Elina Pekkarinen, Ombudsman for Children, Finland

15:50 – 16:00 Closing Remarks

SPEAKERS

**Katrín Sif Oddgeirsdóttir**

Specialist at the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police

A cultural criminologist working as a specialist at the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police. Her work focuses on analysis, threat assessments, security, and international cooperation, where she contributes to strengthening Iceland's preparedness and collaboration in an increasingly complex security landscape. Katrín holds an MSc in Cultural Criminology from Lund University, where she specialized in the intersections of culture, crime, and social change.

**Mads Haugaard**

SSP-Samrådet (School, Social Services and Police collaboration in Denmark), Chairman

Mads is the Chairman of SSP-Samrådet, Denmark's national forum coordinating collaboration between schools, social services, and police in crime prevention and youth welfare. Prior to and alongside this work, Mads has been active as an SSP and youth consultant in municipal government (e.g. Hjørring Kommune) and contributes as a lecturer, advisor, and stakeholder in prevention, intervention, and interagency cooperation.

In his role, Mads emphasizes early intervention, information exchange, and targeted measures to prevent youth delinquency, ensuring that municipalities and authorities coordinate strategically and efficiently.

**Britt Østergaard Larsen**

Senior Researcher at VIVE – The Danish Centre for Social Science Research

Her research focuses on the effects of legal responses and social service interventions to vulnerable children and youth. At VIVE, she leads projects evaluating different legal policy reforms and investigating trajectories of children and youth placed in locked institutions. She has contributed to a growing literature in criminology applying advanced quantitative methods to estimate causal effects and illustrated how quasi-experimental methods can enhance both the scientific and policy knowledge base. Over the past 10 years, Britt has led and participated in numerous research projects utilizing register data and applying both descriptive and causal methods to examine various types of interventions to prevent youth crime.

**Karin Svanberg**

Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå), Head of Division for Development of Crime Prevention

Head of Division for Development of Crime Prevention at the National Council for Crime prevention in Sweden. The division has the role of a knowledge hub and support to crime preventive measures regarding all kinds of crimes, both situational and social crime prevention, and involves giving grants, disseminating knowledge, professional development, advanced training and initiating pilots. Karin is a sociologist at the crime prevention field in the gap between research, policy and practice! She sees development of practice as her mission number one with research as a foundation and communication as a tool.

**Anders Bolund**

Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå), Senior Investigator

Anders is a trained social worker/supervisor and works at the Swedish Council for Crime Prevention with, among other things, the group violence intervention (GVI) strategy and the government assignment for BOB (children and young people in criminal networks).

Anders has extensive experience from management roles within social services with a focus on children, young people and young adults in criminal environments in various municipalities with vulnerable areas in Stockholm.

**Kyle Ott**

Crime Prevention Expert

Kyle is an international crime prevention expert and data strategist. He has developed evidence-based violence reduction strategies in 10 countries. Specializing in group/gang violence prevention, he has conducted action research and built strategic implementation partnerships in more than 40 cities worldwide. Kyle played a key role in developing Sweden's adaptation of the group violence intervention (GVI), beginning with piloting *Sluta skjut* in Malmö in 2017-2018 and subsequently expanding GVI across Sweden and to Copenhagen.

Currently, Kyle works as a consultant for HEUNI and supports various crime prevention projects. Kyle holds a Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree from the Hertie School (Berlin, Germany) and a bachelor's degree in history and economics from Duke University (Durham, US).

Jane Bechman Dahl

Police Inspector / Head of Unit, Joint Unit for Crime Prevention, Norway

Jane Bechmann Dahl is Police Inspector and Head of Unit at Norway's Joint Unit for Crime Prevention. She works within the Oslo Police



District's prevention framework, focusing on strategies to reduce youth offending, promote community engagement, and strengthen early intervention measures.

Elisabeth Myhre Lie

Norwegian Police University College (Politihøgskolen), Associate Professor



Elisabeth Myhre Lie is an Associate Professor whose research focuses on police identity and the relationship between police and communities. Since 2003, she has led the further education program in Crime Preventive Police Work. She teaches on topics including causes of crime, juvenile delinquency, gangs and violence, minorities and crime, local-oriented policing, situational prevention and crime-preventive design, as well as knowledge-based policing.

Her PhD titled “The Different Police. Ideals and dilemmas in the preventative dialogue-based efforts of the Norwegian Police”, which explores the work of the Dialogue Police, Radicalisation Contacts, and the Norwegian Police Security Service. The study analyses how ideals and dilemmas in preventative dialogue shape professional identity and the police’s understanding of its role.

Laidi Surva

Estonian Ministry of Justice, Vice Chancellor for Criminal Policy



Laidi Surva is Vice Chancellor for Criminal Policy at the Estonian Ministry of Justice. She has been actively engaged in national initiatives around juvenile justice, including serving as a representative of the Ministry in the “Study of Young Offenders” project, which aided the development of a specialised youth justice approach in Estonia. She is also involved with the Ringist välja (“Out from the Circle”) programme, a multi-agency intervention method aimed at supporting youth at risk and reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders.

Markus Kaakinen

University of Helsinki



Markus Kaakinen is Associate Professor at the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy, University of Helsinki. His research focuses on crime, victimisation, and criminal policy responses, with recent themes including youth and gang crime, hate crime, the effectiveness of prevention, and the role of technology and social media in youth offending and risk behaviour. His work is characterised by a mixed-methods approach, drawing on

quantitative, computational, and qualitative methods. He is also the Finnish principal investigator in the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISR4), which examines youth offending, online delinquency, and pathways into cybercrime.

**Anneli Portman**

Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)

Anneli Portman is Senior Specialist in the Safety and Protection unit at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). Her expertise includes the local prevention of violent extremism and multiprofessional collaboration, with a strong focus on violence prevention, social inclusion, and youth crime. Her research interests cover values, societal trust, and political rhetoric. She holds a PhD in social psychology from the University of Helsinki.

**Sigrid Nikka**

Researcher at the Department of Law, Lund University, Sweden

Sigrid Nikka is a PhD Candidate and researcher at the Department of Law, Lund University, Sweden. [Lund University](#) Her doctoral project, Straffskärpningar och straffrättens gränser (Tougher penalties and the boundaries of criminal law), investigates how harsher penalties are legitimized and how criminal law is constructed. [Lund University](#) She teaches criminal law and gender & law courses, and her research interests include criminal policy, penal theory, proportionality, and the discursive foundations of sentencing practices.

**Julia Korkman**

Senior Programme Officer at HEUNI and Professor of Practice in Legal Psychology at Åbo Akademi University

Her work focuses on evidence-based criminal justice, with expertise in investigative interviewing, decision-making, and memory in legal contexts.

She has researched issues ranging from child victim testimonies to psychological coercion in trafficking cases.

At HEUNI, she leads projects on victims' rights, virtual justice, and improving justice systems. Julia also serves as President of the European Association of Psychology and Law and is widely recognized for her contributions to legal psychology and science communication, including her acclaimed book on memory in legal processes, *Muistin varassa / Minnets makt / Memory Dependent*. In her spare time, she performs as a singer, sometimes exploring crime through music.

Natalia Ollus

The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI),
Director



Natalia holds a PhD in law and a Master's in social anthropology. Throughout her career she has worked for the rights of victims of crime and vulnerable people, specifically those affected by gender-based violence and human trafficking. Her professional interest center around policy development and research in crime, criminology, crime prevention and victimology. Natalia's methodological expertise covers qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods, in particular the development of comparative research setups and survey tools.

In addition to HEUNI, Natalia has held positions at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in South Africa, at the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in New York and as an anti-trafficking adviser at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna.