



# Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use *“National Perspective”*

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Organised & Serious Crime

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# Garda National Drugs & Organised Crime Bureau (GNDOCB)

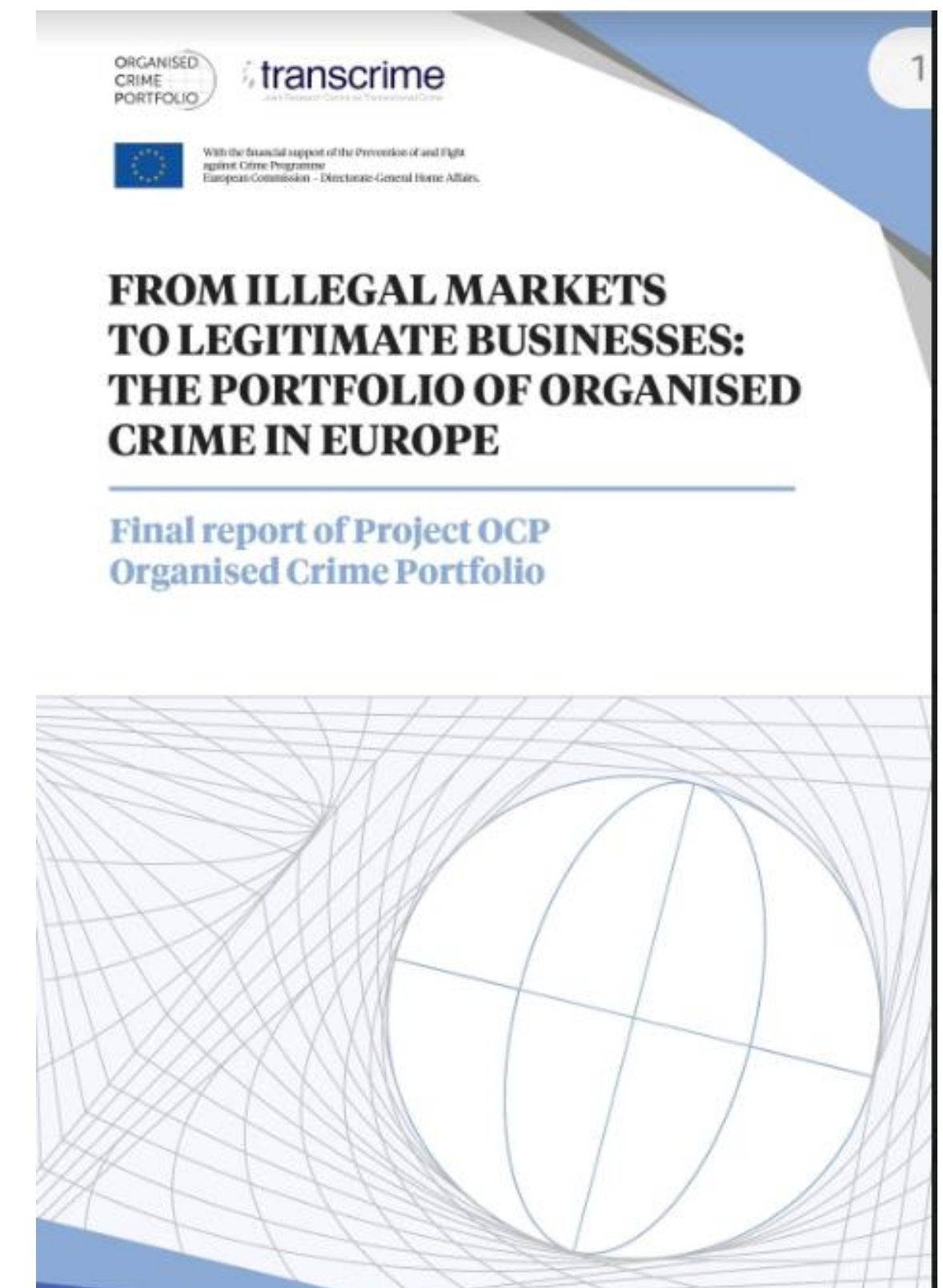


- GNDOCB established in 2015 with remit to disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute offenders, and focus on organised crime networks and individuals involved in serious criminal activity.
- National/International Cooperation & Collaboration – National Priority  
Targets - Intelligence led policing operations.
- Network Disruption.
- Covert Intelligence Led Operations.
- “Criminal Networks”. International – EU – National.
- ALL ABOUT THE MONEY

# VALUE OF DRUG TRADE IRELAND TRANSCRIME REPORT (2015)



- Ireland appears not only as a destination, but also as a strategic transit country for illicit drugs destined for the UK and other EU countries.
- Ireland records a relatively high illicit drug use.
- The value of the local cannabis market estimated at €47 million.
- The value of the local cocaine market is estimated to range between €67.3 and €100.9 million (2011 data).
- The value of the local heroin market is estimated at €622.5 million, with a minimum boundary of €498.0 million and a maximum of €830.0 million (2011 data).
- EVIDENCE – Accounts seized. €10 - €24 million annual turnover.



# UNODC World Drug Report 2023

## Future Threats



- “Cheap and easy” synthetics changing drug markets with lethal results. Eg fentanyl
- Continued record illicit drug supply and increasingly agile trafficking networks are compounding intersecting global crises and challenging health services and law enforcement responses.
- Public health, prevention, and access to treatment services must be prioritised worldwide, the report argues, or drug challenges will leave more people behind.
- The report further underscores the need for law enforcement responses to keep pace with agile criminal business models and the proliferation of cheap synthetic drugs that are easy to bring to market.

# Drug Trafficking Networks

## Adapting to changing environment



- Well prepared for all eventualities.
- New products to increase customer base and target new generation of consumers eg edibles, vapes, Fastgas.
- Fentanyl
- Investment in legal cannabis industry.
- “Legal Cannabis” – new source for illicit supply.
- Illegal market maintained (similar to cigarette supply)

# The Good News!!



- National-level community harm prevention (9 May 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023)
  - €354 million worth of drugs did not reach our communities
  - OCGs deprived of €29 million in cash, 147 firearms
  - Threat to life operations – 80
  - Persons arrested for serious crime offences – 1470

# Irish Times – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023



## Gun crime plummets in Republic in era after Kinahan-Hutch feud











### Drug trade still booming but Garda crackdown on high-value targets evidencing real results

Gun crime in the Republic has plummeted, despite the drug trade proving resilient through the pandemic years, with fewer than one person per month now being treated in hospitals for gun attack injuries compared to about 60 per year previously.

The number of people being murdered in gun attacks has also plummeted, with five such killings last year compared to more than 20 per year in the recent past. Cases of illegal discharge of firearms have fallen by almost 80 per cent from their peak and illegal possession of firearms was down by just over 60 per cent.

# Global Peace Index 2022



RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE
1	 Iceland	1.107	↔
2	 New Zealand	1.269	↔
3	 Ireland	1.288	↑ 3
4	 Denmark	1.296	↓ 1
5	 Austria	1.3	↑ 2
6	 Portugal	1.301	↓ 1
7	 Slovenia	1.316	↓ 3
8	 Czech Republic	1.318	↑ 1
9	 Singapore	1.326	↑ 1
10	 Japan	1.336	↑ 1



# Irish Times – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023



## Republic third safest country for expats

**ELLEN O'REGAN**

The State is the third safest country in the world for expats, according to research by insurer William Russell. Specialising in international insurance policies for expats, the company has found that Ireland outperforms other countries in many areas, including jobs, health, safety and life satisfaction.

The research examined metrics such as personal safety, public health and digital security to evaluate the safest countries for expats to live and work

in, with reference to the Global Peace Index 2023.

The insurer found the Republic ranks in third place in terms of safety, behind Iceland at number one and Denmark in second place.

The research said that most people visiting Ireland “have no issues when it comes to crime”, apart from being advised to take precautions when it comes to potential bag snatching and pick pockets which can “occasionally occur, particularly in the Dublin area”.

Last month, however, the

Government made €10 million available to enhance policing in the capital for the remainder of the year in a bid to increase Garda visibility and enhance public perceptions of safety in the city. The funding came in the wake of a number of attacks on individuals in the city centre.

### **High life expectancy**

William Russell’s research also noted that life expectancy in Ireland stands at 83 years, two years higher than the OECD average, although healthcare “varies depending on which

area you live in”.

It also highlighted that there are “very few” road deaths per year in Ireland, as between 2013 and 2019 there was an average of 3.7 annual deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, compared with 12.3 fatalities per 100,000 in the United States and the global average of 17 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants.

In terms of cybersecurity, the research said it is a “rapidly growing industry in Ireland”, employing around 7,000 people.



An Garda Síochána support the current health-led approach and have grave concerns around the normalisation of drug use and the implications that will arise

*“There are consequences”*