



National Offender
Management Service



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ASSOCIATION OF
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Departament de Justícia

Serious Offending by Mobile European Criminals (SOME C)

In January 2013, the United Kingdom in conjunction with partners from The Netherlands, Latvia and Catalonia (ES), commenced a two year long European Union (EU) funded project focusing upon Serious Offending by Mobile European Criminals (SOME C). The aim of this newsletter is to provide some background on this project and encourage you to engage with providing us information to assist meeting the project aims where possible.

Background to SOME C

SOME C responds to a number of high profile cases across the EU involving EU nationals with a prior history of serious offending who have committed further serious crimes in a different Member State. It also reflects public concern that greater co-operation should exist across the EU to enhance public protection interventions, in order to prevent serious and high risk offenders from committing further offences should they move to another Member State. Project partners and the European Commission are supporting SOME C to address this perceived gap in public protection and identify practical ways of improving EU wide safeguards to protect citizens from the most serious and high risk offenders within the EU.

This issue is highlighted by the following case study which has been anonymised for data protection purposes:

X is an EU national who has convictions for serious sexual offences against children in his country of origin. X subsequently moved across the EU and eventually became a naturalised citizen of another Member State. Whilst in that Member State, X was able to secure employment working with children, as his past criminal activity was not included in the national records of his 'new' country and therefore was unavailable to employers for vetting purposes. X went on to commit numerous serious sexual offences against the children in his care. He was subsequently sentenced to 18 years imprisonment.

With cases such as this in mind, the objectives of SOME C are to: Assess the risk posed by serious offenders moving across the EU, identify ways of improving cross-border cooperation between law enforcement and probation agencies; close any gaps that exist; and enhance the ability of Member States to safeguard their citizens from harm.

How can you assist with SOME C meeting its objectives?

The next stage of SOME C is to find out from all EU member states, their views on existing information exchange procedures and offender supervision practices in cases where serious violent or sexual offenders travel between EU countries. Through **interviews** with experts in law enforcement and case management in every member state we aim to be able to identify the effectiveness of mechanisms currently used by member states in the management of serious violent or sexual offenders travelling across borders. Subsequently, the project intends to analyse the proposed factors that lead to the effective cross border management of this group and provide

recommendations to facilitate improved exchange of information for the prevention of crime.

We aim to conduct two sets of interviews with different individuals or groups of individuals in each jurisdiction; one with a focus on case/offender management of high risk serious, or violent offenders and the other on law enforcement relating to the same group of individuals.

For the **Offender/Case Management Interviews**, we are particularly interested in:

- The domestic arrangements that EU Member States have for identifying and managing the harm posed by serious violent or sexual offenders.
- How domestic offender/case management arrangements address issues of Home Nationals, who are serious violent or sexual offenders, intending to travel to other EU Member States.
- How are offender/case management agencies able to respond and manage the harm posed by a serious violent or sexual offender from another EU member state entering their own country.

For the **Law Enforcement Interviews**, we are particularly interested in:

- How EU Member States identify and manage serious violent or sexual offenders.
- How EU Member States identify serious violent or sexual offenders who may travel to other EU Member States.
- What existing methods of information exchange are used to inform other EU Member States of serious violent or sexual offenders who may be entering their country?
- What EU Member States do with the information they receive from another EU Member States about serious violent or sexual offenders entering their country.

It will be of significant help to the project if you are able to identify the most relevant individual(s) in your organisation or other related organisations who may be able to undertake this interview. Please send this information to the SOMEK project manager – Natalie.woodier@noms.gsi.gov.uk or contact us for further information on what these interviews may entail. It should be noted at this stage, however, that the intention is that interviews will be conducted over the telephone in English. Once a participant is identified, further details on the research process and arrangements for interview will be forwarded. All data provided will be held under stringent conditions to ensure confidentiality.

May we take this opportunity to thank you individually as well as your organisation, in advance, for the contribution that your experts will make towards helping us realise the objectives of SOMEK.

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