

Report CTC-EU: “CTC Youth Survey -Cross-national analyses on delinquency, drug use, risk factors and protective factors”

This CTC-EU-Collaborative investigated the development and the contextual influences of family, school, friends and neighbourhood by risk factors and protective factors on different problem behaviours of youngsters (12-18 years). This research is the empirical basis for effective policies and intervention to reduce violence, delinquency and alcohol use, but also to build up effective prevention and social policies. We brought together distinguished researchers from six different countries.

The Collaborative researched the epidemiology and etiology of different adolescent problem behaviors, the impact of family, school, peers, community on the outcomes as well as the policies on these problem behaviors. We described cross national the prevalence and frequencies of these problem behaviors, and compared national rates to rates in other countries. This comparative study helped us to identify similarities and differences in patterns and associations of problem behaviours and risk and protective factors. This study increased our understanding of whether these patterns are the same or different in the six countries.

We built up the capacity of international collaborators to investigate comparative epidemiology, policies to reduce harm and build up safety and prevention approaches to reduce these problems. Also in this part of the project we brought together established researchers from the Netherlands together with researchers from Germany, UK, Croatia, Austria, Cyprus and Sweden for international youth prevention research. In addition to strong collaborative ties among established researchers in these countries, the seven countries have been chosen for their variation in youth problem behavior and similarities in their preventive community approach.

The objective of this part of the study was the comparison of different problem behaviours in different countries and explanation of similarities and differences by using risk and protective factors. Questions answered in this study were:

- Are the different problem behaviours in the countries different or similar?
- Are there differences within the populations for example between boys and girls, 12-14 year old and 15-18 year olds, different ethnic groups?
- Can different classes be made?
- But also: are there similar and different patterns for groups of youngsters when risk factors and protective factors are brought into explanation?
- Are the correlations and associations between problem behaviours and risk and protective factors the same for the different countries?
- What are the most important risk factors?

The objectives of this research project were:

- Test hypotheses about associations between problem behaviours and underlying factors in different countries;
- Test the influence of individual characteristics, the family, school, peers and community;
- Develop the capacity for standard cross-national analysis, data management and reporting to assure comparability of data across countries;
- Comparison research and cross-national analysis of the data;
- Building up knowledge for prevention and effective policy in Europe tackling developmental youth problems.

The research project contributed to development of problem behaviours in an international perspective and build up targeted strategies for effective prevention of problem behaviours in European context.

The products delivered are:

- 1) reports of six countries;
- 2) overall report (cross-sectional; hierarchical and multi-sample analyses).

Our network activities prepared the collaborative to new EU-grants to conduct comparable cross-national studies of epidemiology and etiology of alcohol use, abuse, and dependence from childhood through adolescence; examine the effects of policies on specific youth problems; and have the measurement system to conduct cross-national tests of developmental and environmental prevention interventions to reduce youth problems.

Our target groups are researchers, practitioners and policymakers.

- The study results are important for social scientists like demographers, criminologists, anthropologists, psychologists and prevention scientist of all stripes who work in the field of youth development and interested in how communities, schools, peers and family affect the process of development.
- The study is also interesting for policymakers because the study gives comparative results to national and European policy. Differences and frequencies, but especially the correlates of underlying factors (risks, protection) gives ideas for selected and targeted prevention strategies. For practitioners in the field of youth, education, mental health and youth service this study is also important because it gives them new information about different problem behaviours.

Concrete products and activities led by Verwey-Jonker Institute:

- Making comparable variable structure;
- Making research syntax to be used by different countries;
- Organizing meeting in Utrecht to discuss and prepare the cross-national research;
- Presentations on different conferences (Stockholm, June 2013; Conference Mallorca EUSPR, Oktober 2014; conference EMCDDA, September, 2015; conference EUSPR Ljubjana, Oktober 2015).
- We report in a Springer book on the results of this project (see set up, next page).

Harrie Jonkman (Verwey- Jonker-Institute)

Delinquency and Substance Use in Europe: Understanding Risk and Protective Factors

Edited by

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(A Proposal to Springer)

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Summary of the Book

Communities That Care (CTC) is a prevention strategy that was developed in the United States by David Hawkins and Richard Catalano of the University of Washington in Seattle. It is now used in many different countries. A “community” can range from a housing estate to a city. CTC aims to measure key risk and protective factors for delinquency and substance use in communities and to target priority factors using effective evidence-based interventions. Risk and protective factors are a key feature of developmental and life-course criminology, and CTC is an important type of developmental prevention technique. The CTC-Youth Survey (CTC-YS) is an instrument that has been developed to measure key risk and protective factors and delinquency and substance use in communities.

The proposed book is based on a European project funded by the EU, focussing on the use of CTC in European countries. The book reports results obtained by using the CTC-YS in six European countries covering different parts of Europe – the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Croatia, Cyprus, and Austria. The main aim of the book is to compare (a) the prevalence of delinquency and substance use, (b) the prevalence of key risk and protective factors, and (c) the strength of relationships between risk and protective factors and delinquency and substance use, in these six European countries. The book will investigate similarities and differences between the countries, possible explanations of these, and the implications of the results for theories and for intervention policy and practice.

Key Features of the Book

This book is unique in focussing on the prevalence of key risk and protective factors for delinquency and substance use, based on the same survey in six

European countries. It has important implications for developmental and life-course criminology, developmental prevention, and comparative criminology.

This book should be of great interest to scholars who are interested in delinquency and substance use, developmental and life-course criminology, the prevention of delinquency and substance use, and comparative criminology, and to university and college courses on these topics. Developmental and life-course criminology is a fast-growing field of criminology.

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Delinquency and Substance Use in Europe:

Understanding Risk and Protective Factors

1. Introduction (Harrie Jonkman, David P. Farrington, Frederick Groeger-Roth)

This chapter introduces the concepts of risk and protective factors and risk-focussed prevention, and briefly reviews knowledge about risk and protective factors for delinquency and substance use. It then summarizes the Communities That Care (CTC) approach, which aims to measure key risk and protective factors in communities and target them using tested and effective interventions. It then introduces the CTC Youth Survey (CTC-YS), which is a questionnaire completed in schools that measures risk and protective factors and delinquency and substance use. It also reviews knowledge from comparative criminology. It then summarizes the aims and contents of this book, which reports on key findings from the CTC-YS in six European countries.

2. England, Wales and Scotland (David P. Farrington, David Utting, Nick Axford)

This chapter reports on the first large-scale national CTC-YS carried out in Europe. It was conducted with 14,445 secondary students in 89 schools in 2000-01. The results show how the prevalence of delinquency, smoking, alcohol use, drug use, and school problems (e.g. truancy and bullying) vary with age and gender in a national sample. They also show the relationships between family, school, community, individual, and peer risk and protective factors and the above outcome variables. It is concluded that the key risk factors to be targeted in CTC include parental supervision, family conflict, antisocial parental attitudes, commitment to school, school disorganization, community disorganization, the availability of drugs in communities, and antisocial student attitudes.

3. The Netherlands (Harrie Jonkman, Clemens Hosman)

This chapter reports results from the CTC-YS given to 5,715 youngsters in five cities in The Netherlands in 2011. This was a household survey. It first shows how the prevalence of delinquency and violence varies with age and gender, and then reports how delinquency and violence are related to smoking, alcohol use, drug use, and depression. It then investigates family, school, peer, and community risk and protective factors for delinquency and violence. Finally, it studies the cumulative effects of risk and protective factors on problem behavior outcomes.

4. Germany (Frederick Groeger-Roth, Burkhard Hasenpusch)

This chapter reports results from the CTC-YS given to 3,852 secondary students in 47 schools in three areas of Germany in 2011. It first shows how

the prevalence of delinquency, violence, smoking, alcohol use, and depression varies with age and gender, and then reports the inter-relationships between these problem behaviors. It then investigates risk and protective factors for delinquency, violence, and binge drinking, and the cumulative effects of risk and protective factors on problem behavior outcomes.

5. Croatia (Josipa Basic, Miranda Novak, Josipa Mihic)

This chapter reports results from the CTC-YS given to 1,424 secondary students in schools in two cities of Croatia. It first shows how violence, alcohol use, drug use, gambling, and depression vary with age and gender. It then investigates risk and protective factors for these types of problem behavior outcomes.

6. Cyprus (Andreas Kapardis, George Spanoudis, Kostas Kapardis, Maria Konstantinou)

This chapter reports results from the CTC-YS given to 871 secondary students in three schools in Nicosia, Cyprus. It focusses on the relationship between risk and protective factors and delinquency and drug use.

7. Austria (Dietmar Krenmayr)

This chapter reports results from the CTC-YS filled in online by 119 youngsters in a household survey in one Austrian community. It summarizes how the prevalence of smoking, alcohol use, drug use, and depression varies with age and gender. It also reports relationships between risk and protective factors and these problem behavior outcomes.

8. Comparisons of Results (David P. Farrington, Harrie Jonkman, Frederick Groeger-Roth)

This chapter first compares the prevalence of problem behavior outcomes

versus age and gender in the six countries. It then compares the prevalence of risk and protective factors. Then, it compares the strength of relationships between risk and protective factors and problem behavior outcomes in different countries.

9. Conclusions (Harrie Jonkman, David P. Farrington, Frederick Groeger-Roth)

This chapter asks: What have we learned about risk and protective factors for delinquency and substance use in six European countries? What similarities and differences are there, and how might they be explained? What are the implications of the results for developmental and life-course knowledge and theories and for intervention policy and practice? What do we need to know, how can we find out, and what implications are there for the CTC approach?

Appendix: The CTC-YS Survey instrument

References