

Policing and prevention of crime

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Crime prevention is the most contemporary part of the policing which is performed in the frame of partnership in a community and neighbourhood. Because of the crisis of state repressive agencies, prevention also provides the possibility of reducing costs caused above all by conventional crime - but not by other sorts of crime, such as economic and business crime, corporate crime, corruption, financial crime, official, structural, and computer crime, contemporary terrorism and crime by the state. Prevention of crime and deviance increasingly demands the privatisation, commercialisation, pluralisation, adaptation, liberalisation as well as internationalisation and globalisation of individual activities and planned resistance to the sort of crime that can be detected. In so doing, non-formal control and security agents can have an important role, also because they are not bound by formal rules, although this precisely deepens the possibility of controlling environments in which they act.

In performing their activity, an important role is also played by mass media and public opinion. Policing in crime prevention activities should be understood as the management of crime "ante delictum". This is much more feasible, since it involves the participation of all those who are most threatened and who also contribute themselves to their own victimisation. Such a point of departure for resolving "ante-delictual" situations, with the appropriate dissemination of information to all who are at risk, will be particularly useful in the information society.

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