Project Name: Borderless

Cooperation is the future

‘In recent years an increasingly larger part of property crimes has been committed by mobile criminals from Eastern Europe. These are professional criminals that operate swiftly and effective, a mode that makes substantial demands on the police's competence, work methods and cooperation with other police districts.’

(From The Office of the Auditor General of Norway’s investigation of the police's work against property crimes (Riksrevisjonen. (2011-2012). Dokument 3:6, p. 19.))

Key Project Team Members

- Acting Chief of Police in the Telemark Politidistrikt (TPD) Anne Rygh Pedersen
- Chief of Police in the Vestfold Politidistrikt (VPD) Benedicte Bjørndal
- Chief of Police in the Søndre Buskerud Politidistrikt (SBPD) Christine Fossen
- Chief of Police in the Asker og Bærum Politidistrikt (ABPD) Torodd Veiding

Project Contact Person

Name: PI Kjell Johan Abrahamsen
Position: Chief Grenseløs
Address: Baglergaten 2 Postboks 2073 3103 Tønsberg
City/State: Tønsberg, Vestfold
Phone 047 4888 7058
Fax: 047 3334 4416
Email: kjell.johan.abrahamsen@politiet.no
SUMMARY

Scanning
- The amount of recorded property crimes has decreased with 22% in Norway in the period 2003–2011.
- The police notes that there is a new modus operandi in particular statistical groups, such as 'serious residential robberies' and 'serious thefts from shopping centres', and there is often serious damage to buildings.
- The property crimes indicate that at least two perpetrators must be behind the same criminal act.
- Perpetrators are businesslike in their search for goods that are easily sold.
- Serious robberies from villas occur as a series of break-ins in the same neighbourhood.
- When the police stop and search cars at night they often come across foreign-registered cars whose occupants claim to be tourists.

Analysis
- The number of foreign citizens granted working permits increased from 18,685 in 2000 to 104,479 in 2008.
- It is mainly people from Eastern Europe who are granted these working permits.
- Mapping of various statistical groups in the various police districts shows an accumulation of felonies of the same modus operandi in various districts.
- When two Polish perpetrators were apprehended, information about various methods [related to the carrying out of the property crimes] was disclosed.
- The Vestfold police district notes that there is a pattern of people from Eastern Europe travelling across the country and committing a series of property crimes in various police districts.
- The number of 'serious residential robberies' increased from 446 in 2007 to 825 in 2009. This is an 85% increase in the [four] police districts of Asker and Bærum, Søndre Buskerud, Vestfold and Telemark.

Response
- Four police districts established a shared unit that is named 'OP Borderless'.
- The purpose is to strengthen cooperation and coordination of information, intelligence and investigation.
- Furthermore, the criminal cases and the prosecution are coordinated.
- In the regional collaboration, district borders do not matter. 'OP Borderless' takes over investigations and prosecutions from other police districts.
- 'OP Borderless' changes the approach from case-to-case investigations to a more person-oriented investigation.

Assessment
- After six months of operation, the percentage of solved cases increased from 23% to 26%.
- Eight mobile criminal networks were stopped and/or eliminated.
- The number of reported residential robberies to insurance companies has been reduced by 29%. Disbursements for damages after break-ins to villas have been reduced by 49%.

Number of words in summary: 372
1. Scanning

In the period 2003–2011 the total rate of property crimes decreased in Norway.\(^1\)

### Table 1. Reported property crimes in the period 2003–2011.\(^2\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total property crimes</td>
<td>199419</td>
<td>188649</td>
<td>175515</td>
<td>170845</td>
<td>164397</td>
<td>159347</td>
<td>159932</td>
<td>155325</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In absolute numbers there was a reduction of more than 44 000 reported property crimes. In the same period, however, one also saw that certain types of property crimes increased, for instance, 'thefts of number plates from vehicles', 'serious residential robberies' and 'serious thefts from people in public places'.

### Table 2. A selection of categories of property crimes in the period 2003–2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thefts of number plates</td>
<td>2 795</td>
<td>3 273</td>
<td>3 116</td>
<td>3 641</td>
<td>3 965</td>
<td>4 370</td>
<td>4 909</td>
<td>4 689</td>
<td>5 011</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious residential robberies</td>
<td>3 506</td>
<td>3 079</td>
<td>2 878</td>
<td>2 676</td>
<td>2 215</td>
<td>3 380</td>
<td>3 846</td>
<td>3 021</td>
<td>2 178</td>
<td>-39</td>
<td>-61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious thefts from people in public places</td>
<td>13 228</td>
<td>14 497</td>
<td>11 984</td>
<td>12 181</td>
<td>15 532</td>
<td>14 231</td>
<td>15 155</td>
<td>15 289</td>
<td>20 460</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

2. 2003 was chosen as the starting point for this presentation, following the reform of the police carried out in Norway 2000–2002, in which 54 police districts were reduced to 27; this brought about statistical challenges in the basic data material and errors of registration were made. Parts of these may be read in Appendix 1.
1. Serious residential robberies

- In some police districts residential robberies in another mode than previously experienced were reported. The perpetrators were much more conscious about what kind of items of value they were after. Easily sold articles like gold, jewellery and electronics were a common factor.
- Several serious residential robberies were committed in the same street or neighbourhood. The number of strikes is increasing in some specific residential areas.
- Special tools were used; window frames were drilled out or parts of windows were cut out.
- Ladders were used to enter the second floor; most often alarm sensors are not installed on this floor.\(^3\)

2. Serious theft from shopping centres

- With regards to serious break-ins at shopping centres, the trend is now for more professional planning, reconnoitring and material damage to the building than before.
- Tools like drills and blowlamps are utilized to get in.
- This property crime was a collaborative venture. The perpetrators divided the operation tasks between them and they had structure. To carry out such a crime, more than one person is needed. Some keep watch, one person has to stand on the roof and haul up goods, tools and thieves, etc.

---

\(^3\) Jewellery and gold are often kept in bedrooms. Drawers and cupboards are emptied onto beds in a manner marked by a systematic search for items of value.
The photograph shows where the cupboard containing the alarm and security panel once was. The cupboard was placed so high up that it is unreachable when standing on the floor. A break-in like this demands professional knowledge of alarm systems and planning.

Advanced tools were utilized and the perpetrators had knowledge of civil engineering, electronics, sensors and alarms. All in all, this differed from previously seen methods of committing traditional property crimes in Norway.

In the middle of 2005 citizens of Eastern Europe caught the police's attention. Police cars on night patrol would report high mobility of foreign cars on the roads. When these were stopped for 'stop and search', they claimed to be tourists. The pattern was that they moved across long distances and the drivers were not intoxicated. In their cars, tools, rubbish bags and disposable rubber gloves were found, but rarely stolen goods. At an early stage, one could conclude that a number of foreign citizens were driving around at night. The question was, 'What happened to the stolen goods?'

Two men from Poland were arrested in the police district of Vestfold for attempted theft. From interrogations and informal conversations over cigarettes, essential information about their methods was disclosed. Normal procedure was to transport the stolen goods to agreed-upon depositories by night. Both a foreign registered car and a Norwegian registered car were used; when these drive together, a police patrol car will stop and search the foreign car. The stolen goods are transported to agreed-upon GPS positions. The stolen goods are then picked up on one of the following days by vans and trucks in order to be transported out of the country.
The changes in crime described above challenged the Norwegian police in the mid-2000s. The situation was marked by non-functional cooperation across police districts' borders. Who was working with what in the different districts? Had there been any local changes in crime in different police districts? There was little routine for comparing felonies in one police district with those in other districts, with regards to the people arrested and the various types of stolen goods, and doing database searches on descriptions of the modes of types of felonies. Thus it was possible to commit similar felonies in different police districts without reactive policing picking up on it.

To summarize the problem at hand (scanning), one was facing:

- Repeating incidents that were connected to one another.
- The manner in which the felonies were carried out and the description of the mode indicated that there were several perpetrators.
- The property crimes showed a clear division of work tasks: keeping watch, placing and transporting the stolen goods out of Norway.
- The way the different property crimes were carried out was more planned, targeted and professional than previously experienced in Norway.  

2. Analysis

There has been an increase in travellers from Eastern Europe to Norway since 2005. This is connected to the expansion of the EU and Schengen Agreement. Citizens from countries in Eastern Europe have acquired housing and work in the Western countries, also in Norway. From 2000 to 2008 the number of granted working permits increased

---

4 From a confiscation in a particular case, various advanced tools such as core drill, blowlamp and GMS jammer to knockout GPS and mobile signals may be mentioned.
The majority of people who were granted working permits came from Lithuania and Poland.

The police district of Vestfold (VPD) started up the forerunner to 'Operation Borderless' in 2007. The purpose was to either invalidate or confirm the hypothesis that there were people from Eastern Europe travelling around Norway exclusively in order to commit property crimes. These will be referred to as MVK6 below. Through mapping, analysis and investigation, results were achieved and the police could apprehend some MVK perpetrators. During 2008 and 2009 there were various procedures and routines in apprehending MVK in the districts and between districts.

In 2009, 'Operation Borderless' was expanded to become a regional collaboration including the police districts of Asker and Bærum (ABPD), Southern Buskerud (SBPD) and Telemark (TPD). The purpose was to increase police efforts through shared cooperation, planning, efforts and analysis in the police districts. These four police districts – which together will be referred to as the 'OP Borderless Region' below – have 748000 inhabitants altogether and the average income in the region is high. Today the project is a permanent arrangement. 'Region Borderless' is presented in the map below.

An essential factor in the property crimes committed by MVK is the mobility. The challenge this represents may be illustrated with a well-known MVK network that was behind a series of serious thefts in the 'OP Borderless Region'. The blue and black pins mark places where mobile telephones are registered at base stations. Red flags show crime scenes where serious thefts have taken place.

---

5 http://www.udi.no/Oversiktsider/Statistikk-og-analyse.
6 Travelling criminals from Eastern Europe who do not have permanent residence in Norway have been termed mobile vinningskriminelle ('mobile people committing property crimes'), abbreviated as MVK.
The pink lines show the four police districts in the 'OP Borderless Region' and one can see that the criminal network moves along motorway E-18. Incidents are repeated. The descriptions of mode and the traffic data regarding the break-ins gave information that indicated that the incidents were connected.7

The mobility of the network may be illustrated by looking at a part of Norway on the map below. The radius of action of this particular criminal network covered an area of 169,647 km².

The MVK's travelling activities create difficulties for the Norwegian police. This is emphasized in the threat assessment by KRIPOSiii:

MVK challenge the Norwegian police. They move across the police districts' borders and challenge the police's organization, the service's measuring parameters and work methods. The border-transcending criminality demands national and international cooperation between police and controlling authorities. A small police district has neither the personnel nor the resources to pick up that the crime situation in the district might be connected to other police districts in other parts of the country.iii


All the numbers in the following tables and figures are based upon searches in PAL STRASAKiv.

Table 3 presents the number of MVK in the seven categories of crime with named suspects, accused or convicts in which MVK appear most frequently (see Table 3),

---

that is 10.8 per cent of all the cases in these categories. However, particular categories stand out with radically large numbers of MVK as suspects, accused or convicts:

- Serious residential robberies: 23% of all suspects/accused/convicts are MVK.
- Serious thefts from people in public places: 41% of all suspects/accused/convicts are MVK.

Table 3: All cases with a known suspect/accused/convict ('All felonies w/SAC'), the number of felonies with a known suspect/accused/convict who is a MVK ('MVK felonies'), and the share of MVK of all cases in percentages. The 'OP Borderless Region' from 2006 to 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Felony Category</th>
<th>All felonies w/SAC</th>
<th>MVK felonies</th>
<th>% MVK of all cases with SAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serious residential robberies</td>
<td>1011</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thefts from people</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious shoplifting</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious thefts from businesses</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious thefts from schools</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car thefts</td>
<td>2579</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thefts of or from boats</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of felonies committed by MVK shows one piece of the picture. The number of people behind the different felonies is equally interesting. MVK are known to cooperate in committing the felonies, and several people are often involved in one and the same felony. MVK make up 12.4% of all suspects/accused/convicts in the studied categories of felonies committed in the 'OP Borderless Region' in the last five years (see Table 4).

Table 4: The total number of suspected/accused/convicted (total SAC), the number of unique MVK suspected/accused/convicted (number of MVK), and the share of MVK suspected/accused/convicted in percentages for the various categories of felonies committed in the 'OP Borderless Region' from 2006 to 2010.8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Felony Category</th>
<th>Total SAC</th>
<th>Number of MVK</th>
<th>% MVK of all SAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serious residential robberies</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thefts from people</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious shoplifting</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious thefts from businesses</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious thefts from schools</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car thefts</td>
<td>1465</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thefts of or from boats</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4482</strong></td>
<td><strong>554</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.4%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 Under 'MVK' in tables 4, 5a and 5b, unique persons in the region in total are counted whether they have operated in several districts or not. This means that the total number is sometimes smaller than the sum one gets by adding together all people apprehended in the various districts—the reason being that some of the people have been apprehended for felonies in several districts.
MVK commit some types of property crimes more than others. MVK are behind every fourth serious residential robbery with a known suspect/accused/convict. In the category ‘thefts from people’, MVK are even more strongly represented – the police have arrested a person from Eastern Europe or Western Balkans in 41% of these cases. In other categories, the extent of mobile property crimes seems to be a small problem.

All together, 2009 and 2010 saw a relatively large increase in the exposure of mobile property crimes. This concerns particularly 'serious residential robberies' and 'thefts from people' – see Tables 5a and 5b.

Table 5a: The number of MVK suspected/accused/convicted (MVK) for 'serious residential robberies' (SRR) and the number of residential robberies with MVK involved, per year from 2006 to 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Police district</strong></td>
<td><strong>MVK</strong></td>
<td><strong>SRR</strong></td>
<td><strong>MVK</strong></td>
<td><strong>SRR</strong></td>
<td><strong>MVK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABPD</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABPD</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPD</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Region in total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5b: The number of MVK suspected/accused/convicted for 'thefts from people' (MVK) and the number of serious thefts from people with MVK involved (STP), per year from 2006 to 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Police district</strong></td>
<td><strong>MVK</strong></td>
<td><strong>STP</strong></td>
<td><strong>MVK</strong></td>
<td><strong>STP</strong></td>
<td><strong>MVK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABPD</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABPD</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPD</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPD</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Region in total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The numbers show a real increase in these categories of crime.

The regional collaboration 'OP Borderless' investigates and prosecutes all property crimes committed by MVK in the region, but special focus is on 'serious residential robberies' from villas or flats and 'serious thefts from people in public places'. The 'serious residential robberies' category is experienced as especially offensive to the integrity of the offended. There are often serious repercussions in addition to the economic damage and loss. The number of reported serious thefts from people in public places increased dramatically in 2011.

The following POP analysis will concern the last two mentioned categories of crime.
The general extent of 'serious residential robberies'

The police districts of Telemark and Vestfold have had the largest extent of serious residential robberies from villas or flats in the 'OP Borderless Region' in the last five years.

Figure 1: Reported serious residential robberies (from villas and flats) in the 'OP Borderless Region' from 01/01/06 to 31/12/10.

![Figure 1: Reported serious residential robberies](image)

The number of reported felonies in this category was at its lowest in 2007. The number doubled in 2008 and 2009, and decreased a little again in 2010 (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Trends in reported 'serious residential robberies' in the ABPD, SBPD, VPD and TPD respectively, from 01/01/06 to 31/12/10.

![Figure 2: Trends in reported serious residential robberies](image)
Density of population and wealthy residential neighbourhoods located close to motor ways are common factors. The perpetrators choose residencies that appear to be recently redecorated and well taken care of. In cases where the villa has an alarm linked up to a private security company, a ladder is used to enter the bedroom in the second floor. The perpetrators search villas for items of value that are easily sold.

On a regional level, the burglaries are evenly apportioned over months, weeks and days. Some months do however stand out. The number of reported burglaries in the last five years shows an accumulation of cases in November/December and July.

**The general extent of 'thefts from people in public places'**

MVK are overrepresented among those apprehended for serious thefts from people. There are several MVK networks. The VPD has a relatively large number of registered thefts from people in the 'OP Borderless Region', (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3: The total number of reported 'serious thefts from people in public places' and 'thefts from customers' in the ABPD, SBPD, VPD and TPD 2006–2010.**

![Bar chart showing the total number of reported thefts from people in public places and customers in different regions from 2006 to 2010.]

The number of reported 'thefts from people in public places' in total is increasing in the region.

---

9 In one particular case where a criminal network committing serious robberies of villas was revealed, the accused had spent a great deal of time on the internet searching the tax list, checking out wealthy people in Norway and their home addresses.

10 Appendix 2
Approximately 80% of all thefts from people in the 'OP Borderless Region' take place in the largest city centres.

There are certain accumulations in the May, June and in December.

A review of all 1,700 reported thefts from people in 2010 showed that the victims
- either are out shopping,
- or are travelling with public transport.\(^\text{11}\)

Most of the thefts take place at times when there is a crowd in these context. The finding coincides with 'the crime pattern theory', which assumes that it is people’s everyday activities that make up the context of thefts from people in public places.\(^\text{12}\)

Several networks operating at Oslo Central Station in Oslo and nearby train stations have been revealed. (1) One perpetrator watches out for surveillance of the criminal network, (2) another perpetrator looks for a card’s PIN code when withdrawals are made from a cashpoint or POS terminal, and (3) another perpetrator creates a crush in the crowd during the entering of trains; the victim is pushed and shoved, and it is difficult to discover that one’s wallet or handbag is stolen in the situation. Perpetrator (2) already knows the PIN code to the card.

\(^{11}\) There is a challenge in interpreting the reports as they are vague concerning where the felony took place; the victims are not certain of where the theft took place.

3. Response

The analysis showed that the police had some vulnerable points with regards to cooperation and coordination of resources. It was therefore necessary to find solutions that could improve and make the coordination of the police's work against the MVK more effective. The measures taken in the response phase were to increase the risk of [perpetrators] being revealed and to reduce the rewards, (Clarke 1997; Knutsson 1998).

1. A central point in the philosophy of 'OP Borderless' is that the borders of police districts do not matter. If coinciding felonies in other districts than the ABPD, SBPD, VPD and TPD were found that had the same mode and perpetrators, 'OP Borderless' took over the cases. At the same time, it was important to be attentive to reported felonies in other police districts. An operative analyst was assigned to monitor various trends on PAL STRASAK and Indicia.

2. One of the measures taken was to earmark three investigators and one public prosecutor from each police district. The organizational administrative model for 'OP Borderless Region' is presented below. The model contributed to an easier detection of concurrence in property crimes in the 'OP Borderless Region'. As a consequence, the districts' borders became less significant with regards to finances and responsibility for investigation and prosecution. At the same time, the collaboration increased competence as well as strengthening cooperation with the other police districts.\(^\text{13}\)

Figure 4: Organizational chart of the 'OP Borderless Region'.

\[^{13}\text{http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/distrikt/ostfold/1.8141713.\ This link refers to a case from 16.05.12}\]
3. A central factor is exchange of information. Both formal and informal interaction has been strengthened. The 'OP Borderless Region' has established a more uniform way of managing criminal proceedings between the police districts. A net of contacts for spreading relevant information has been established to handle new intelligence or criminal incidents that take place. The collaboration has brought about sharing of knowledge and preparation of common routines, for instance with regards to the apprehension of perpetrators of property crime. This also goes for international contacts and cooperative bodies.

4. Person-oriented investigation. The investigators experienced that several of the perpetrators were known under various names, and were even registered with another citizenship in other European countries. Several perpetrators that have been apprehended operated with false ID papers. When the police got to know the correct identity, it turned out that several of them were known to the police and convicted in other countries. Such an extensive use of counterfeited ID documents gives the impression of means and good connections in the criminal underworld. It was therefore crucial to use person-oriented investigation in particular cases. A consequence of this effort is that international police cooperation has been expanded and improved.

The results are that there has been success in increasing the effort and intensity against MVK, by making changes in organizational structure, keeping designated staff on detail, extending cooperation with international colleagues in Europe and other police districts, and working out common routines with regards to arrest or apprehension.

4. Assessment

From the start in 2009 to the 10th of April 2012, 519 perpetrators have been apprehended. Of the apprehended, 348 have been remanded in custody. 'OP Borderless' has gotten 324 perpetrators convicted in 1,172 cases. Altogether, 193 years in prison have been adjudicated.

The regional collaboration has [so far] resulted in eight criminal MVK networks being paralyzed or eliminated. These were people who exclusively operated in Norway in order to commit thefts on commission, and they quickly left the country with the stolen goods.
Figure 5: The number of apprehended people and people remanded in custody in the 'OP Borderless Region'.

It is the opinion of [both] the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the National Police Directorate that property crimes have decreased in many police districts as a result of projects like 'OP Borderless' (…) When criminal groups have been apprehended and put out of play, one sees in the subsequent period a decrease in recorded criminality.\textsuperscript{vi}

(Riksrevisjonen (2011-2012). \textit{Politiets arbeid med vinningskriminalitet} Dokument 3:6, p. 32)).

According to Finance Norway\textsuperscript{vii} (FNO), the insurance companies’ disbursements for damages after break-ins to villas decreased by as much as 40% in 2011 compared to 2010. FNO calls this a milestone. According to their numbers, the number of break-ins to villas has been reduced by 29%. The [FNO] director of communication, Leif Ousland, states in an article from 16.02.12 that the police's concentration on 'OP Borderless' has contributed to this:

The police deserves praise for its efforts and the results of 'OP Borderless', where they work across police districts. The operation has so far had positive results. This has an important preventive effect and it probably contributes to an increased sense of public security amongst people.\textsuperscript{viii}

\texttt{http://www.fnh.no/no/Hoved/Aktuelt/Pressemeldinger/2012/Rekordlave-innbruddstall/}
The Office of the Auditor General of Norway’s investigation of the police’s work against property crime indicates that collaboration, cooperation and various forms of organization are central factors in achieving results in the police's work against property crimes.

They have, among other things, organized the work against property crimes by establishing designated groups or units to fight against mobile property crimes. This seems to have been a successful strategy that other police districts may learn from.15


---

**Word count:** 4,292 including endnotes – translator's comments (391)

**Word count without endnotes – translator's comments:** 3,901
Reference


Webpages

http://www.udi.no/Oversiktsider/Statistikk-og-analyse


http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/distrikt/ostfold/1.8141713

http://www.fno.no/no/nyheter/rekordlave-innbruddstall/
Endnotes – Translator’s comments

i The quote has been translated into English for this paper; original quote in Norwegian: "De siste årene har en stadig større andel av vinningskriminaliteten blitt utført av mobile vinningskriminelle. Dette er profesjonelle kriminelle som opererer raskt og effektivt, noe som stiller betydelige krav til politidistriktenes kompetanse, arbeidsmetoder og samarbeid med andre politidistrikter,"

ii KRIPOS or Den nasjonale enhet for bekjempelse av organisert og annen alvorlig kriminalitet is a Norwegian special police division under the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police. The division has the right to prosecute and may itself start the investigation of cases.

iii The quote has been translated into English for this paper; original quote in Norwegian: “Mobile vinningskriminelle utfordrer norsk politi. De beveger seg over politidistriktsgrensene og utforder politiets organisering, etatens måleparametre og arbeidsmetodikk. Den grenseoverskridende kriminalitet krever nasjonalt og internasjonalt samarbeid med politi og kontrollmyndigheter. Et lite politidistrikt har ikke mannskap og kapasitet til å se at distriktets kriminalitetsbilde kan ha sammenheng med andre politidistrikt i andre deler av landet.”

iv PAL STRASAK is the data system utilized by the Norwegian police to register reported felonies and which provides an overview over all reported felonies with a named suspect, accused or convicted.

v Indica is the Norwegian data tool that the Norwegian police use for criminal intelligence.

vi The quote has been translated into English for this paper; original quote in Norwegian: “Det er Justis- og politidepartementets og Politidirektoratets oppfatning at vinningskriminaliteten i mange politidistrikter har sunket som et resultat av prosjekter som Grenseløs (…) Når kriminelle grupperinger er pågrepet og satt ut av spill, ser man i den påfølgende perioden en nedgang i den registrerte kriminaliteten.”

vii Finance Norway (FNO) is the trade organization for banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions in Norway.

viii The quote has been translated into English for this paper; original quote in Norwegian: “Politiet fortjener ros for innsats og resultater av ‘Operasjon Grenseløs’, der de arbeider på tvers av politidistrikten. Operasjonen har så langt gitt positive resultatater. Dette har en viktig forebyggende effekt og bidrar trolig også til økt trygghetsfølelse blant folk.”

ix The quote has been translated into English for this paper; original quote in Norwegian: “Disse har blant annet organisert arbeidet med bekjempelse av vinningsforbrytelser ved å opprette egne dedikerte grupper eller enheter for å bekjempe mobil vinningskriminalitet. Dette ser ut til å ha vært en vellykket strategi som andre politidistrikter kan lære av.”
This article is from Norwegian broadcast (NRK) 13.07.2011. It claims that KRIPOS operates with 23 property crimes organized as networks from Lithuania. The number comes from the Lithuanian police. [http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/norge/1.7711754](http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/norge/1.7711754)