Transitional Policing Strategies in a Neo-European Context: Examining Challenges and Effective Practices

William P. Bloss
Toby M. Board
East Carolina University

Stockholm Criminology Symposium
12-14 June 2018
Research Questions

• What policing model is effective in culturally diverse transition communities?

• What crime etiological correlates should be the focus of police crime control efforts in transition communities?

• What police strategic adaptations are prompted by rapid community heterogeneity?

• What community engagement and crime control protocols are most efficacious in culturally diverse transition communities?
European Mass Migration
2015-2017
Trend
Quarterly detections of illegal border-crossing, 2015–2017

Nationalities
Main nationalities of illegal border-crossers Q1 2017

Map showing the trend of illegal border-crossing in Western Balkan, Mediterranean, and Eastern Mediterranean routes from various origin countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria, Syria, and Iraq.
Detections of Illegal Border Crossings from Border Control Points By Year and Quarter

Source: Frontex, 2017
Application For Asylum By Year and Quarter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>93941</td>
<td>113329</td>
<td>164070</td>
<td>180715</td>
<td>181551</td>
<td>187437</td>
<td>416176</td>
<td>417344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>281657</td>
<td>297837</td>
<td>351735</td>
<td>194159</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Frontex, 2017
# European Migrants 2015-2017

## Migration Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migration Type</th>
<th>Number of Persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asylum seeker applicants</td>
<td>2.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detected illegal border crossings</td>
<td>2.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Resettlement</td>
<td>17,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undetected illicit migration</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,017,179</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FRONTEX, 2017
European Mass Migration Effects

• Rapid population growth and transformation in urban areas
• Intense cultural diversification of communities
• Formulation or expansion of diaspora enclaves
• Increased migrant marginalization/victimization risk
• Assimilation with native population and culture
• Cultural barriers to effective delivery of governmental services
• Impact on public safety landscape
Security Risks

- Organized crime actors embedded in diaspora communities
- Increase in transnational crime activity
- Youth violent extremism radicalization
- Rapid urbanization expansion shrinking social distance
- Socio-economic marginalization of migrant population
- Victimization of migrant/diaspora population
Crime etiological correlates in transition communities

- Migrant socio-economic marginalization
- Adverse effects of urbanization and population density
- Cultural norms that oppose native laws and customs
- Cultural barriers to victim protection
- Diaspora connection and vulnerability to country of origin criminal actors
- Influence of transnational crime elements
Policing Models

- Crime control
  - Detection and apprehension
- Order Maintenance
  - Peace keeping
- Community-oriented
  - Community engagement
- Problem-oriented
  - Crime origin and etiology
- Intelligence-led
  - Data driven decision making/operations
Policing strategic adaptation in transition communities

- Emphasis on securitization
- Transition to intelligence-led policing model
- Intensify interdiction efforts to counter organized crime and youth radicalization influences
- Improve proactive community engagement and outreach
- Demystify police services in migrant communities
- Coordinate governmental services to reduce crime ecological, social, and economic correlates
Police Transition Strategies: Recommendations

- Enhance the cultural IQ of police organization and personnel
- Shift focus to changing crime and criminal landscape
- Improve intelligence gathering mechanism
- Establish/enhance community partnerships to reduce public suspicion and improve police legitimacy
Conclusions

• Concentrated migration surge changed population demographics presenting new challenges to European police efforts

• Policing services must adapt by using integrated practices that utilize intelligence-driven applications

• Targeted intervention methods are necessary to address a transformation in organized crime, terrorism, and youth violent extremism radicalization
Conclusions

• Problem-oriented approaches are necessary to address community socio-economic and environmental conditions that adversely affect public safety

• Community outreach efforts must be expanded to improve public trust and police legitimacy.