PUTTING THEORY TO WORK:
Implementing Situational Prevention and Problem-oriented Policing

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and
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editors

Crime Prevention Studies
Volume 20

Criminal Justice Press
Monsey, NY, USA

Willan Publishing
Cullompton, Devon, UK

2006
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Acknowledgments

The papers in this book were presented at a small conference on implementation of crime prevention that took place in May 2005 at Stavern, the Norwegian Justice Sector’s Center for Training and Practice. The personnel at the Center made our stay very pleasant and we would like to express our gratitude to the Norwegian National Police Directorate, as well as to the Norwegian Police University College, for funding the conference. Finally, we would like to thank the conference participants for sharing their important insights.

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Crime in the Western world has increased over the past 50 years, and it has become more complicated and more complex. The traditional legal strategy, with the emphasis on punishment as a general and individual deterrent, has proved inadequate as a main strategy alone. More attention has therefore been given to crime prevention measures.

Research on policing methods and strategies brought social science in as a supplement to the legal strategy. Concepts such as community policing and problem-oriented policing rely on social scientific methods as a basis for strategies and measures to prevent and reduce crime. Research also reinforced the recognition that crime cannot be prevented and combated by the police alone. The causes of crime must be dealt with if there is to be any hope of a significant reduction.

Police forces all over the Western world, Norway's included, have been trying to implement new methods and strategies. There has traditionally been a high level of public confidence in the police in the Scandinavian countries, and there is a tradition of close cooperation between the authorities. This makes it easier to invite local authorities, central authorities and other "problem owners" to cooperate in the prevention of crime.

In this book, the authors consider the quality of the work of implementing new strategies and they draw attention to the complexity in regard to competence and responsibility in problem-solving processes that involve several problem owners. They focus on the need for strategic thinking in order to avoid the most common problems that arise in the implementation of new programmes, and they look at experience with practical crime prevention programmes that work - and at what should be done to ensure success in crime prevention.
Foreword

This is therefore an important book for everyone who shares the responsibility for reducing crime and preserving safety in the community. A group of prominent researchers, all of whom have long experience in this field, give us an insight into possibilities and challenges linked to the implementation of new working methods in crime prevention.

Ingelin Killengreen
National Police Commissioner, Norway
Full title: Putting Theory to Work; Implementing Situational Prevention and Problem-Oriented Policing: Crime Prevention Studies Volume 20. Situational crime prevention and problem-oriented policing (POP) have made rapid progress during the past two decades. But these two related approaches have in the past neglected implementation, the stage when prevention measures are put into practice. The contributing authors to this volume are all researchers with a long-standing interest in crime prevention, who have also been directly involved in implementing situational or problem-oriented projects. Thâ€™ Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) involves any opportunity-reducing measures that are directed at a specific form(s) of crime and involve the management, design, and manipulation of the immediate environment to make crime more difficult, risky, or less rewarding or excusable. SCP is used in New Zealand by local authorities, businesses, NZ Police and others. SCP has been successfully implemented in a wide range of settings including residential, retail, public spaces, and public transport settings. Situational crime prevention (hereinafter SCP) is a broad category of specific interventions aimed to reduce opportunities for crime through, for example, increasing the perceived effort or risks of a crime.