

LEPH 2012

# European Perspectives on Public Health and Police-Minority Relations

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# European Perspectives

- Melbourne University Research Experience:
- Gangs in Melbourne (Romper Stomper)
- Public Health in Germany
- History of Public Health in my country;  
different from other EU member states: UK,  
Scandinavia, Netherlands, Belgium,  
Luxemburg

# Public Health in Germany

- 18th century „Polizeywissenschaft“ in Prussia
- 19th/ early 20th century Health Science
- „Sozial Hygiene“ health related social reform
- Grotjahn (chair), Korach, Kantorowicz, Wolff, Gottstein, Schlossmann, Teleky, Goldmann left Germany; Goldmann and Health Insurance
- 1933-1945 „Rassenhygiene“ „scientific“ racism
- 1980s: first university chairs; funding; health policy; community orientation; interdisciplinary
- Berlin, Bielefeld, Dresden, Hamburg, München

# COREPOL

Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Restorative Justice and the Policing of Ethnic Minorities in Germany, Austria, and Hungary

- EU FP7 security research: COREPOL  
[www.corepol.eu](http://www.corepol.eu)
- January 2012 to December 2012
- Participating countries: Germany, Austria, Hungary
- Minorities: Turkish migrants and their descendants (Germany); Sub-Saharan Africans in Vienna (Austria); Roma communities (Hungary)

# German Residents of Turkish Origin

- 1961 Migrant Worker contract: Turkey Germany; Why 1961?
- Turkey-German migration: 5th largest in the world
- Berlin: largest Turkish community outside Turkey
- Since 1973: Family migration
- Communities?

# German Residents of Turkish Origin

- Rural origin Eastern Anatolia;
- Majority (rural) Turks; also Alevites, Kurds
- Growing impact of traditional family values, religion, segregation, some anti-German sentiments

# General issues

- Education
- Educational status of parents; mothers
- Discrimination in the German education system
- Motivation and attitudes among parts of the Turkish minority
- Culture conflict among children and youths; (adult) role of mediators

# General issues

- Higher unemployment rates of parents
- Higher rates of physical abuse in families (against children, against partners)
- Higher visibility of adolescent offending
- Underpolicing/ Overpolicing
- Example: Rollbergviertel Berlin



# Public Health Issues: Turkish minority

- Literacy/ command of German
- Intercultural resources among German medical practitioners
- Not enough bicultural m.p.
- Different lay concepts of illness (mix traditional/modern)
- Role of shame, guilt-suffering, fundamentalism, cultural disorientation, trauma (Kurds)
- Taboo: anything that starts with „psych-“

# Public Health Issues: Turkish minority

- Less participation early diagnosis (screening) after birth, kindergarten, primary school
- Obesity: higher rates
- Mortality
- Research into migrant (youth, family) public health situation: just started

# Roma/Sinti General Issues

- 10-12 million worldwide;
- European Union's largest minority:
- Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Hungary
- Germany: 80.000 to 120.000 plus 50.000 refugees („economic migrants“)
- History: Discrimination since 15th century
- Persecution and Extermination (Nazi Germany); 225.000-500.000 were sent to death camps (medical experiments)
- 25.000 from Germany and Austria
- Gypsy children: Complicity of the medical profession during and after Nazism

# Roma/Sinti General Issues

- Contemporary discrimination/ racist violence
- Political Issues: most deprived ethnic group in Europe
- Education and Health Family violence
- Failed/ flawed attempts at integration
- Cultural inaccessibility
- Hungary: 5%-10% of the total population

# Roma in Hungary: Social /Health Issues

- Lack of reliable health data; comparatively poor health in Central and Eastern Europe
- Less education, less employed, much lower income, worse living conditions, weaker social support
- Self-reported health status worse than general population
- Less likely to use health services; (e.g. mammography only 25% of Roma women screened)

# Roma in Hungary: Social /Health Issues

- Discrimination in Health Service (35%/4%)
- Smoking; Unhealthy diet 1.5-3 times higher than in lowest income quartile
- American Journal of Public Health, 97 (May 2007)
- Thomson and Soos (2005): Some good news
- Improved educational opportunities: Sport

# Public Health Issues: Minority and the role of policing

- How can RJ programmes for minority-police include the issue of public health?
- How can police contribute to networks?
- Can we re-establish the role of public health as a reform movement and integrate police?