

Research Project: Transnational Security: Regional Integration in the Suppression of the Transnational Crimes of Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering, and Transnational Organized Crime

The following three articles by Monika Stempkowski, Neil Boister and Andreas Schloenhardt are all part of an EU Jean Monnet funded research project that ran from 2017-2020. The project as a whole has a general theme of ‘Comparing Transnational Integration Across Regions’ but the special focus of the part of the program from which these papers have been drawn is on regional integration to provide security against transnational crime.¹ The three papers published here focus on drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, while other papers in the program published elsewhere focus on other issues including corruption, IUU fishing and cyberlaw.

These papers engage in a comparison of regional integration between Europe and the Pacific in response to these three kinds of transnational crime, although obviously they have a distinct character and impact in each region. The papers broadly explore the nature of the problems faced by countries in the regions in question although the main emphasis is on the regional response – regional policy-making in regard to these crimes, the regional level obligations (soft or hard) on regional states to suppress these activities and to make possible cooperation, and the complementary regional institutions that have been established to carry out policy and create/administer regional laws. The papers also explore the degree to which regional intervention supports or supplants the much broader policies and instruments developed under UN auspices to deal with these problems.

The research explores what regional integration actually means in regard to the suppression of these three kinds of criminal activity. It compares a region where law, policy and institution making at the regional level is very well–developed, Europe, with one where it is more poorly developed, the South Pacific. This project aims to build capacity and increase understanding of processes of trans-national integration.

¹ See University of Canterbury, National Centre for Research on Europe, Jean Monnet Actions New Zealand, Transnational Security, at <<https://jeanmonnet.nz/work-package-2-transnational-security-regional-integration-in-the-suppression-of-transnational-crimes/>>. The papers were presented at an online Colloquium entitled ‘Transnational Security: Regional Integration in the Suppression of Transnational Crime’, held on the 11th September 2020, with participants from Australia, Vanuatu, Austria and New Zealand.