

Gun violence with stolen firearms in the European Union

Findings from Project DIVERT

Nils Duquet

Webinar "Stealing precious steel", 26 May 2021

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Military support arrived at the Hoge Kempen national park on Wednesday as part of the operation

Intelligence picture on gun violence with stolen firearms

- **Importance of investigating firearms theft and gun violence**
 - ❑ Reporting, tracing, ballistic analysis, ...

- **Previous studies show mixed results**
 - ❑ Alpers (1996), Pierce et. al. (2004) Wright & Rossi (1994), Sheley & Wright (1995), Hagelin (2014), Granath (2012), Lakooma (2014), ...

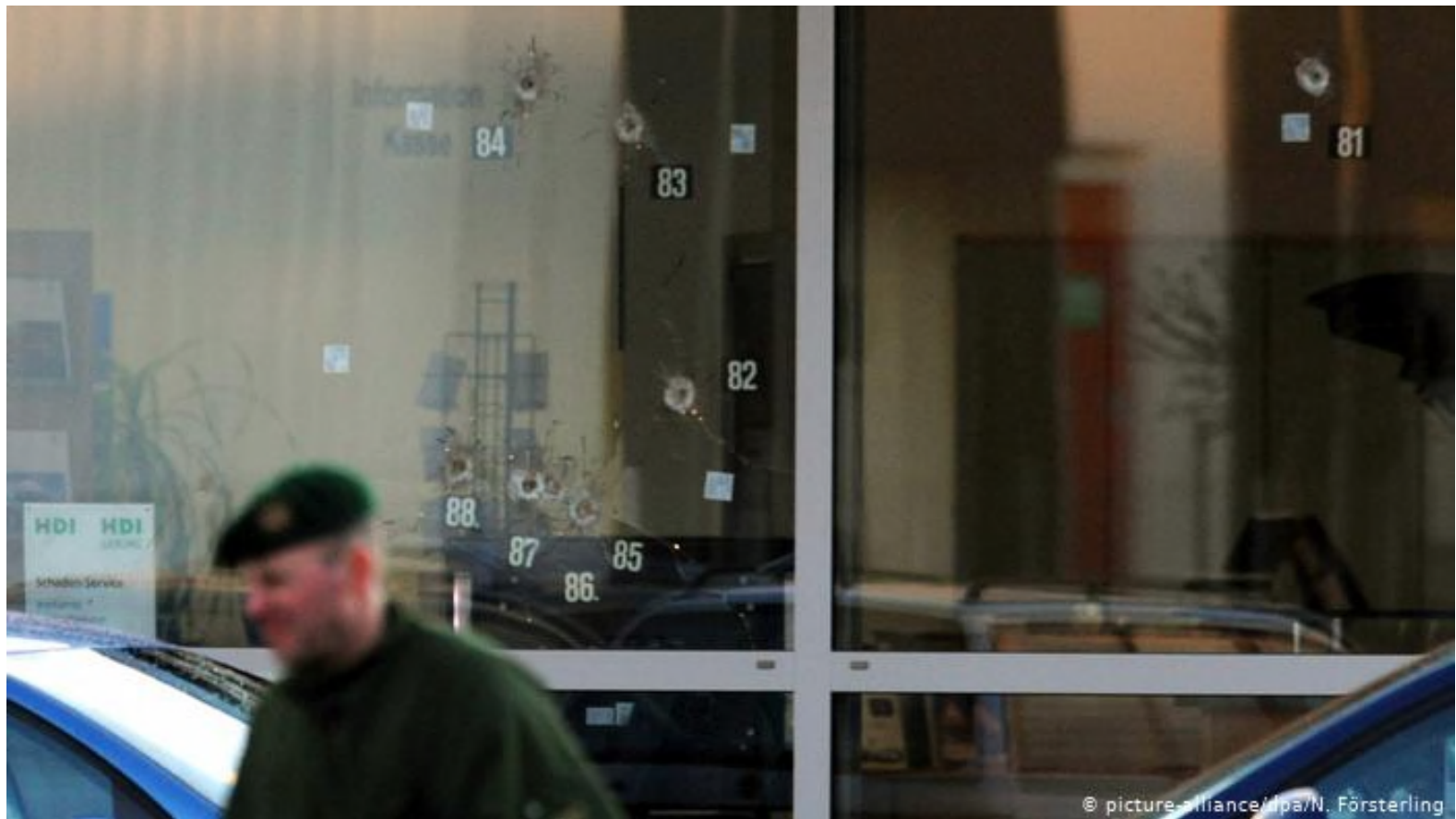
- **Weapon of choice?**

- **Database Project DIVERT includes various incidents of gun violence with stolen firearms**
 - Firearms thefts can have significant security consequences for European societies

Stolen firearms in criminal hands

- **Stolen firearms are used for various criminal activities**
 - ❑ Drugs trafficking, robberies, outlaw motorcycle gangs, ...
- **Via middlemen on criminal market**
- **Direct transfer by perpetrators to criminal groups**
- **Targeted thefts for instrumental criminal use by perpetrators**
- **Thefts with intend to smuggle firearms**

Public shootings



Public shootings



Public shootings



Public shootings



Public shootings



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Project TARGET

- **Large-scale comparative analysis of gun violence in 34 European countries**
 - ❑ Including in-depth analysis of gun violence in Belgium, Estonia, the Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, Spain & Sweden
 - What are the characteristics of firearms used in gun violence in Europe?
 - Different firearms for different types of gun violence?
 - Legal status of the firearms used?
 - Sources and supply chains of firearms?
 - Also focus on stolen firearms

- **Publications and conference in November 2021**