The dashboard on www.zichtopondermijning.nl gives all municipal authorities in the Netherlands additional insight into the risks of criminal phenomena in their municipality or region. This, alongside cooperation with other parties, is helping strengthen the preventive approach to ‘undermining criminality’, a form of organised crime by which criminals hide criminal activities behind a legal façade, thus merging the legal and illegal worlds. This dashboard, which has been developed by government parties, can make an important contribution towards improving safety and liveability at the community level.
Subject-oriented or community-oriented approach

Undermining criminality has a major impact on our society. The drugs trade and property fraud are two examples of this phenomenon that severely take advantage of, and ultimately weaken, the fabric of society. Data has the potential to help increase society’s resilience to undermining, for example by identifying the most common individual characteristics among owners of cannabis-growing operations, or the communities in a municipality in which a conspicuously high number of suspicious transactions are being conducted. This creates additional opportunities for a community-oriented or subject-oriented approach to undermining criminality.

Reliable, anonymised data

At the heart of the dashboard is the data from CBS – Statistics Netherlands. This includes things like location and income characteristics but also data on civil and criminal violations and Chamber of Commerce registrations. In a secure environment, these data are combined with data from other reliable national sources such as municipalities, the Land Registry Service, the police and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and possibly business organisations. Pursuant to the act governing Statistics Netherlands (the Wet op het Centraal bureau voor de statistiek), the data cannot be traceable to individual persons, companies or addresses. This is why the data in the dashboard is always aggregated by municipality, community, neighbourhood or business sector.

Combine and discuss

This dashboard is publicly accessible. It allows municipalities to compare insights from it to other data sources and potentially use them in ongoing research or programmes. Using these insights effectively depends on knowledge-sharing and cooperation. Within a municipality, different departments like public safety and youth care can discuss how to improve the preventive approach to soft drugs-related criminality. And municipalities can work with the police to identify the vulnerable business sectors. The dashboard Zicht op Ondermijning will produce new insights and lead to new research questions, and ultimately facilitate various parties in society to use their limited resources more effectively.

DRUGS-RELATED PROBLEMS AND ABUSE OF PROPERTY

The dashboard is oriented towards two main areas, which in practice are closely related: the problems of the drugs trade and the abuse of property. The dashboard also provides sector analyses and data on suspicious transactions. The best insights arise when users combine different data sets on different topics.

Some of the data the dashboard can provide includes:
- Cannabis-growing operations that have been shut down (characteristics of the residence, locations, etc.)
- Suspects in drugs-related crimes (age, suspected family members, young recruits, etc.)
- Suspicious transactions (including purchases with large amounts of cash)
- Risk indicators for property fraud (money-laundering property purchases, unexplained ownership of property, etc.)
- Property held by professional managers or sole managing directors of foundations
- Residential vs. perpetration municipality in relation to drugs-related crimes
NATIONAL DATA, LOCAL ADDED VALUE

Everyone from small municipalities with seemingly few problems and limited resources for public safety to large urban districts with high criminality and the resulting social problems will find uses for the Zicht Op Ondermijning dashboard.

**The Zicht op Ondermijning dashboard...**

**...makes municipalities aware of local problems and risks.**

Even small municipalities can use the dashboard to gain clear insight into local problems like drug possession. They can also use the dashboard to see what the issues in neighbouring municipalities are like. For example, if the trade in hard drugs is becoming an increasing problem in one municipality, a neighbouring municipality can see this and take preventive action.

**...can help identify structures of opportunity**

Communities with multiple indicators for the presence of money-laundering practices can, under the RIEC covenant, be designated as an ‘enforcement blackspot’. This allows the municipality, police, tax authorities and the Public Prosecutions Service to exchange information on the residents and businesses in that community, to produce a better picture of the places where the underworld and surface society may be intersecting.

**...can expose criminal activities by illuminating promising search areas.**

In a community where criminality seems to be gaining more ground, the dashboard can focus the search process. If, for example, it appears that a significant portion of the property in this community is held by sole managing directors of foundations, the municipality and police can use the dashboard to collect the Chamber of Commerce data on these foundations and focus their limited capacity on a potential risk group.

**...increases the efficiency of preventive supervision.**

Under the National Address Quality Initiative, municipalities investigate addresses where there are indications of improper use of facilities. The dashboard helps highlight these types of indications. Characteristics of inhabitants of cannabis-growing operations, for example, can be predictive for locating cannabis growers in other residential locations where the residents share the same characteristics.

**...provides tools for prevention measures and policy.**

A municipality can feed predictive characteristics for drugs-related crimes to the local care and safety facilities and combine them with the experiences and insights of institutions like the police and youth care services. Then, all these parties can discuss the possible interventions and policies to respond to them.
The Zicht op Ondermijning dashboard is the result of the Zicht op Ondermijning City Deal: a partnership of various local and national authorities and institutions initiated by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. Launched in the summer of 2017, this City Deal is based on the following principles: efficient inter-administrative cooperation, maximum transparency, and freedom to experiment.

The Zicht op Ondermijning City Deal places a high priority on privacy issues: Statistics Netherlands closely monitors the use of data to ensure that it cannot be traced to individual persons and businesses. This is a legal obligation and a core task of Statistics Netherlands. If there is a risk of individual data being revealed, the dashboard suppresses the results.

Since 2017, the partners of this City Deal have gained a great deal of experience in using the data of Statistics Netherlands in the approach to undermining criminality. The result of that experience was the launch, at the end of 2019, of www.zichtopondermijning.nl: a platform designed to make patterns and insights available at the national level. Since then, more and more municipalities have joined the initiative.

Expansions and updates
The Zicht op Ondermijning dashboard is expanded and updated regularly using new data and data sources. New functions are also always being added, such as different features for new data combinations. Keep visiting the dashboard regularly to learn about all the new updates. The dashboard will be updated every quarter.

Questions?
The project organization is handled by ICTU. For more information, please send an email to: zichtopondermijning@ictu.nl