Predicting youth criminals: intelligence, discretion and digital tools

Riga, 24.10, 2022

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CUPP

Critical Understanding
of Predictive Policing

OSLOMET

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Norway case: Forecasting future crimes & criminals:

- **P**redictive policing as a tool for reducing uncertainty and risks in the Norwegian police.

- **Case studies:** exploring risk assessment tools implemented to prevent early carrier criminals.

- Explore the tension between automatization, data, discretion and standardization, by critically looking at crime prevention efforts using risk indicators to predict crime.

- How different kinds of interaction police/prediction software produce different rationalities, results and efficiencies.

CUPP

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Data collection (2021-2024)

- 2021-23: CUPP - Risk assessment tool approaching youth crime (with Pernille Erichsen Skjevrak)

  - Participatory observation developing new working methods risk assessment tool: May-November 2021: 81 hours
  - Observation of making of KIBU intelligence report (3*3 hours), 2 interviews (preventer/multi-source analyst)– analyst notebook (2021-2022)
  - *Policy documents, 4 interviews with decision-makers and software engineers, 15 interviews with KIBU and other relevant cases (prevention) (2022-2023)*

- 2021-24: Interviews and observations 'Algorithm governance and policing cultures' (AGOPOL, NRC) – with Christin Wathne
  - Police districts Agder(6) (Nordland (5, 3 obs) Sør-Øst (21, 6 obs), Police Directorate (1), PIT (3) **=36 interviews** (+ PIT, Kripos, Trøndelag, Oslo, Øst)
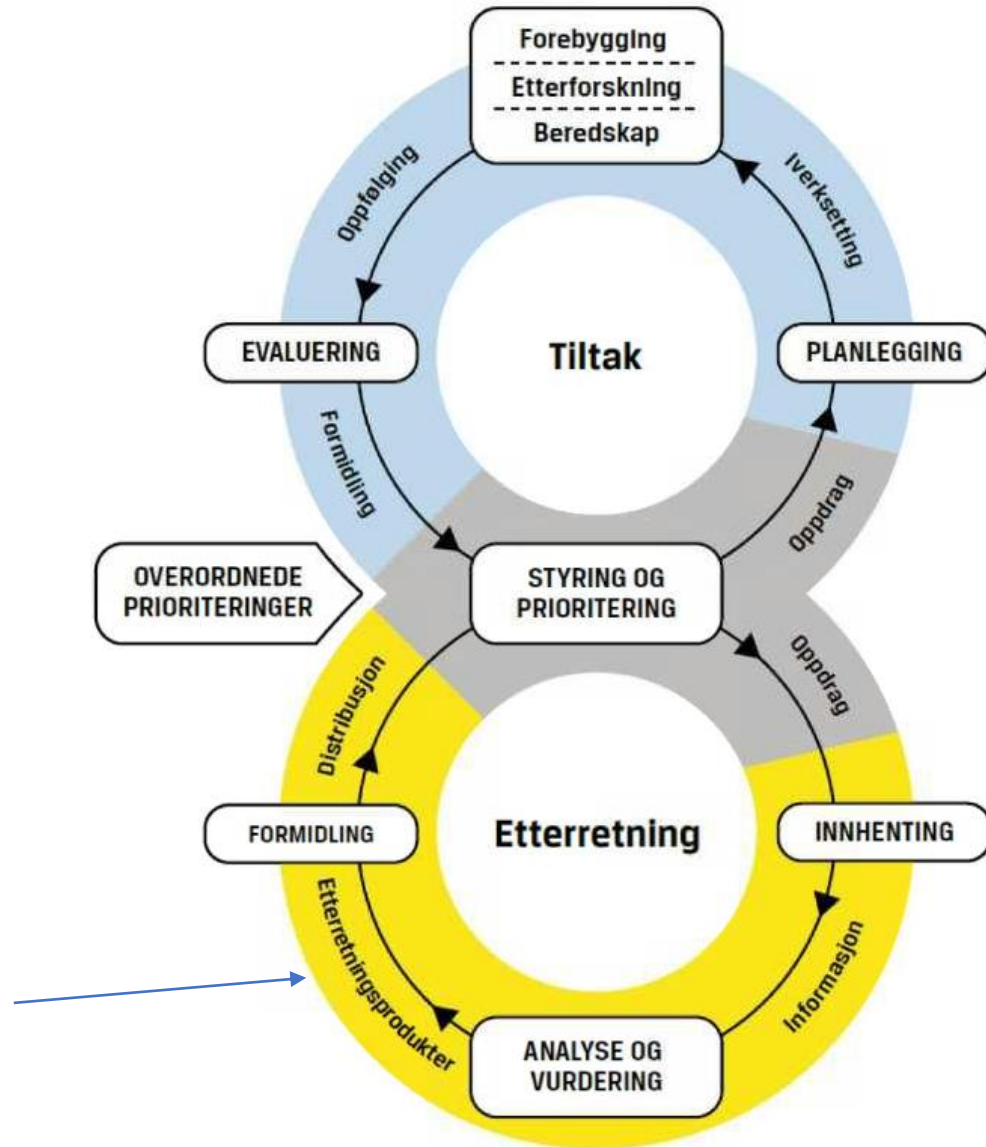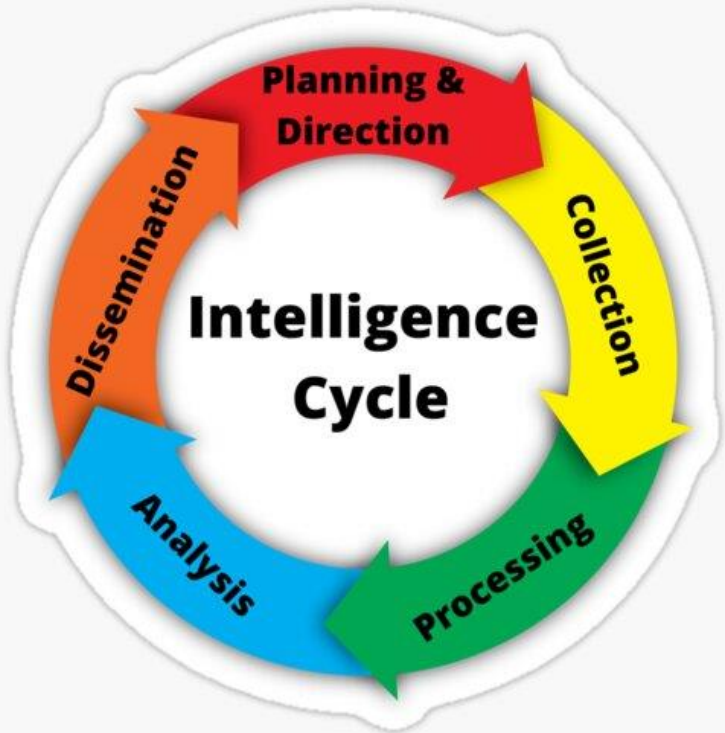
How to hit the right target groups?

- **Preventors rationality**: police impact on youth crime is minimal; growing up conditions, structural factors – police might strenghtening social exclusion. Work with trust and relation building!

- KIBU's answer to this: work with selected young people whose lives they can influence

- Actors: intelligence, preventers and patrols
  - Decision support for the preventive section
  - Improve managing of concerns

- Objective:
  1. Early identify young people who may be the subject of preventive measures, which not yet have been captured by the preventers
  2. Initiate intervention; concern dialogue/collaborations
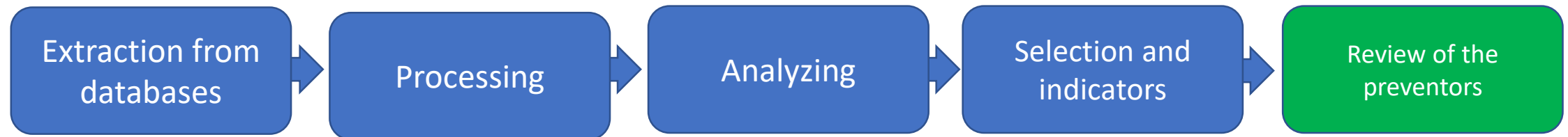
The intelligence and intervention cycles

Part 1: Ordering – assignement dialogue

- Information need (IN) 1.1: Which children and young people have been involved in a contemporary negative incident and should be assessed by the department for crime prevention?

- IN 1.2: Which children and young people exert a negative influence on other children and young people in the geographical unit?

- IN 1.3: Who appears to be a criminal role model for children and young people in in the geographical unit?

- Floating IN: Information needs related to topics/themes the prevention and intelligence unit want more knowledge about
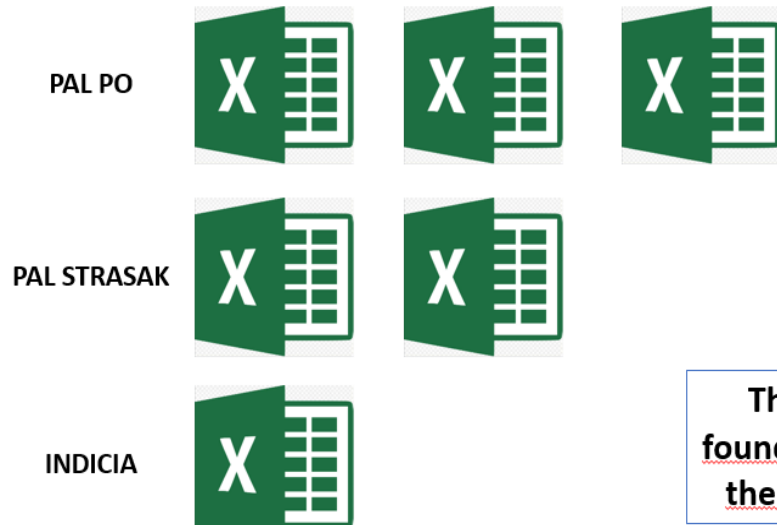
Part 2: Collection plan – how to find what they ask for?

- Data collected:
  - PAL PO – Incidents (recorded data by command center and the patrols)
  - PAL STRASAK – Criminal cases (convicted, accused, suspect,witness etc.)
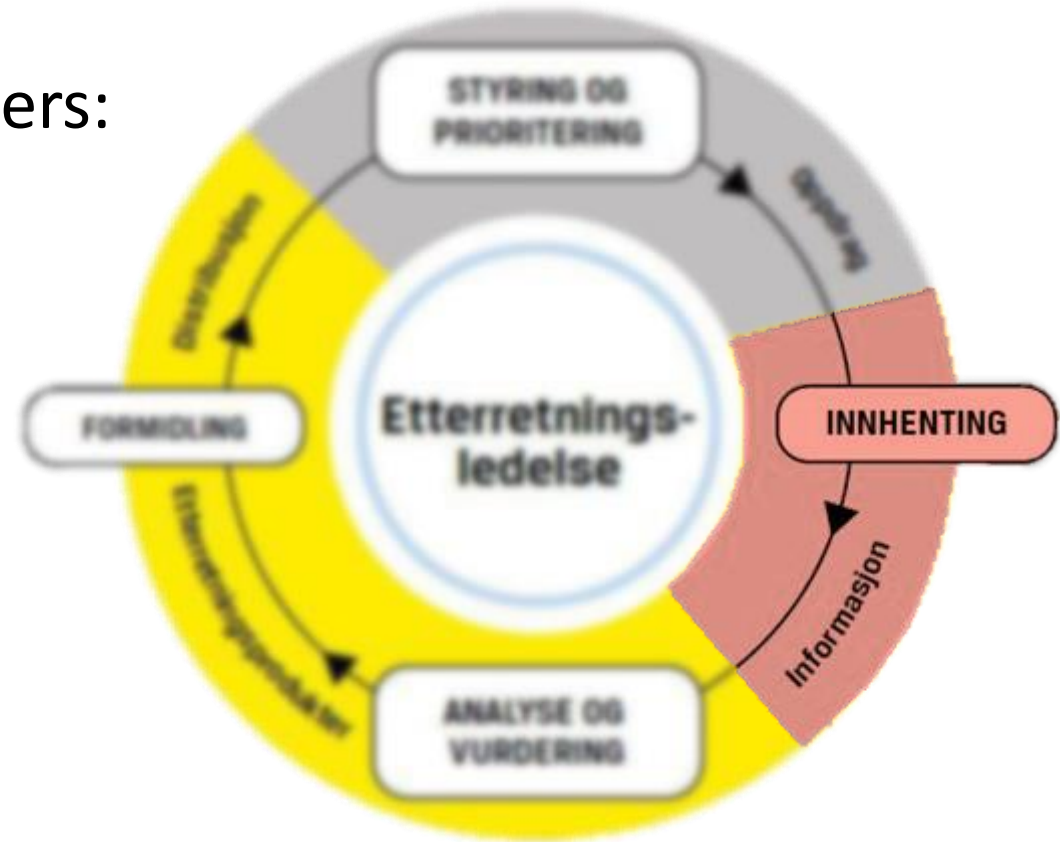 - INDICIA – Informations in intelligence database

Extraction from databases	→	Processing	→	Analyzing	→	Selection and indicators	→	Review of the preventors

Part 2 – Data collection

- Extraction of data from police registers:
  - PO
  - Strasak
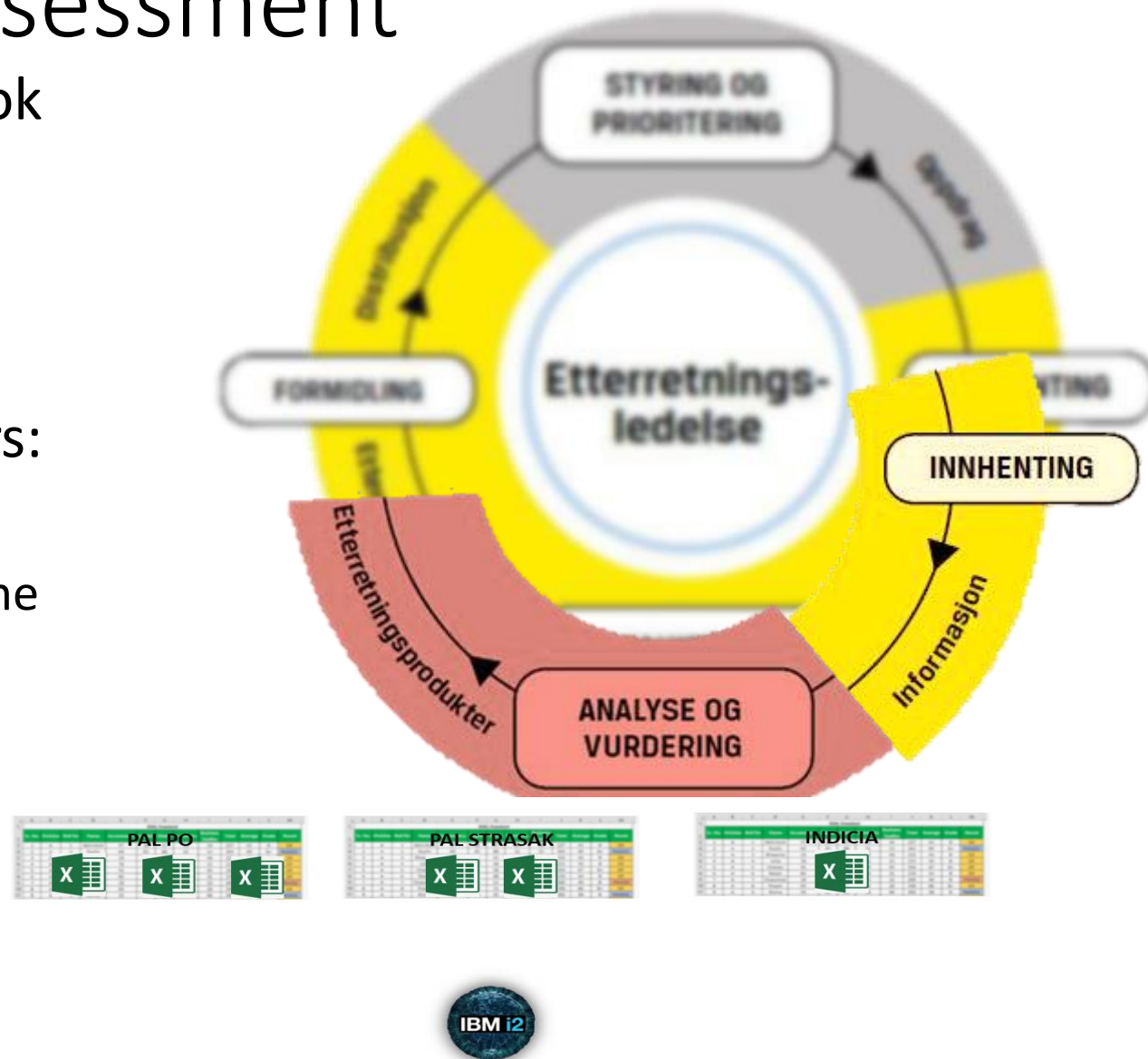 - Indicia

PAL PO

PAL STRASAK

INDICIA

This is the analysts'
foundation for answering
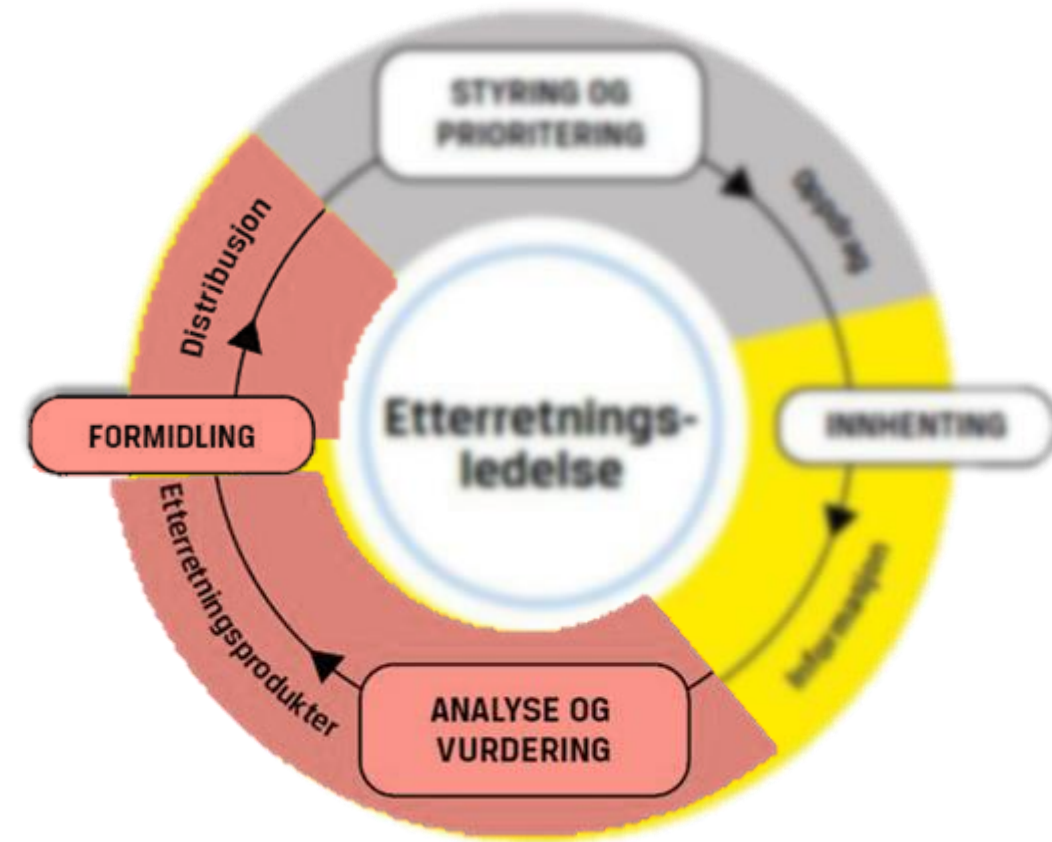the information needs

Part 3 – Analyse and assessment

- Compilation of data: Analyst notebook

- Processing

- Selection of candidates, incidents

- Limited role of selected risk indixators:

1. (divorced / single parents)

2. intoxication / mental problems in the home

3. domestic abuse

4. family members with criminal cases,

5. associates with people who commit crime

6. use drugs

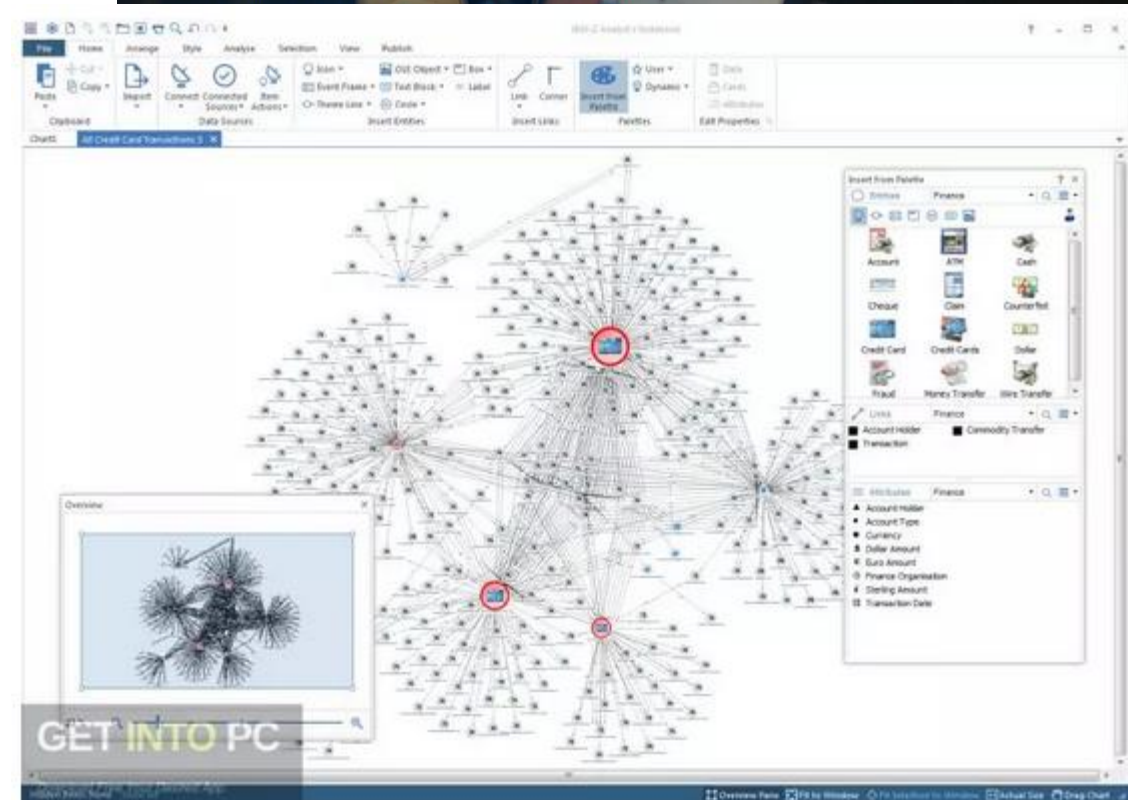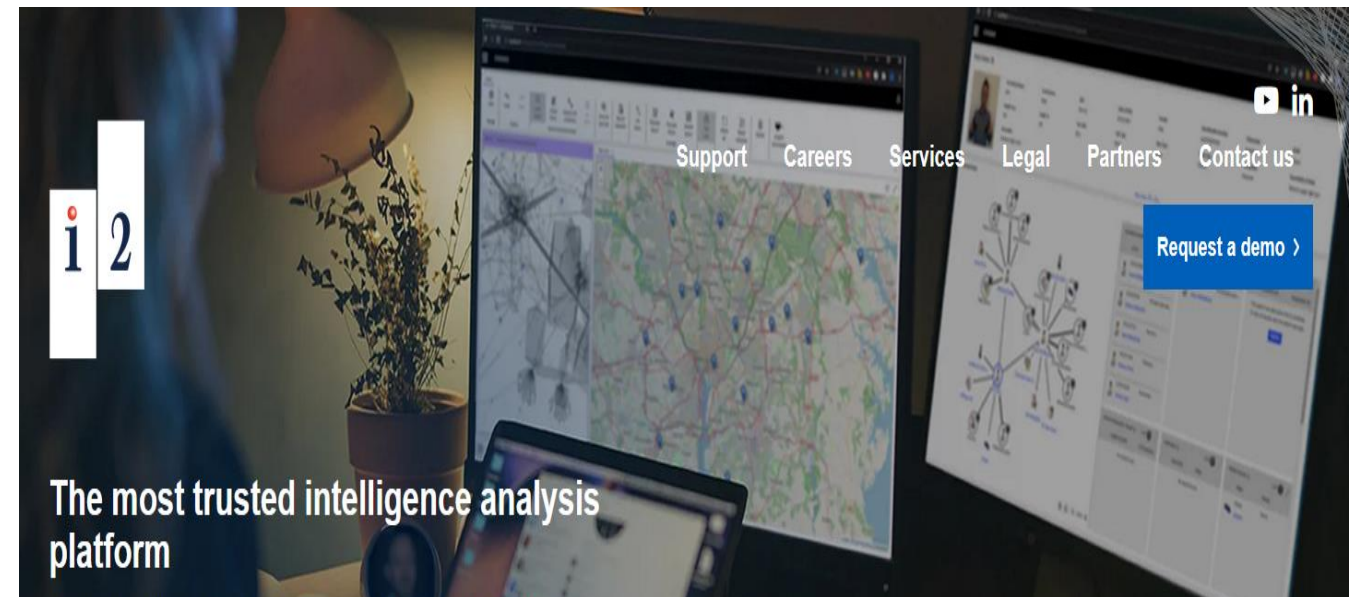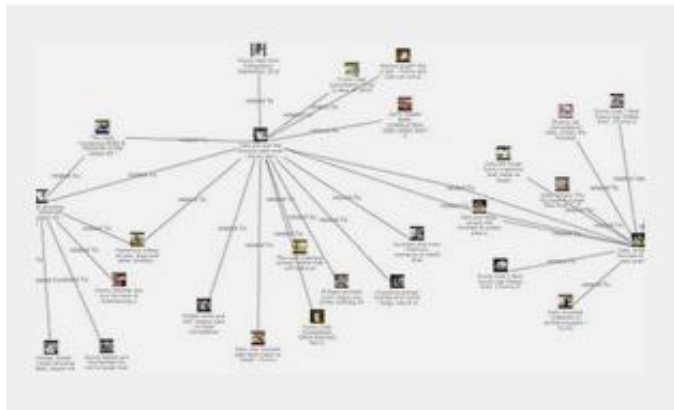7. offended in violence / sexual assault

19.10.2022

PART 4 dissemination – not this time - why?

- The reports were not written because:
  - Only 6 candidates from intelligence (usually 50-60)
  - After review of the candidates, only two left
- KIBU a control function for the preventers
- Capture the youth in daily searches
- No need for distribution and briefs for preventers, patrols, managers
- Shifts in socio-technical organsational context

- Boundary objects - concerns
  - Interpretive flexibility –
- Concept of prediction – turned into resilience

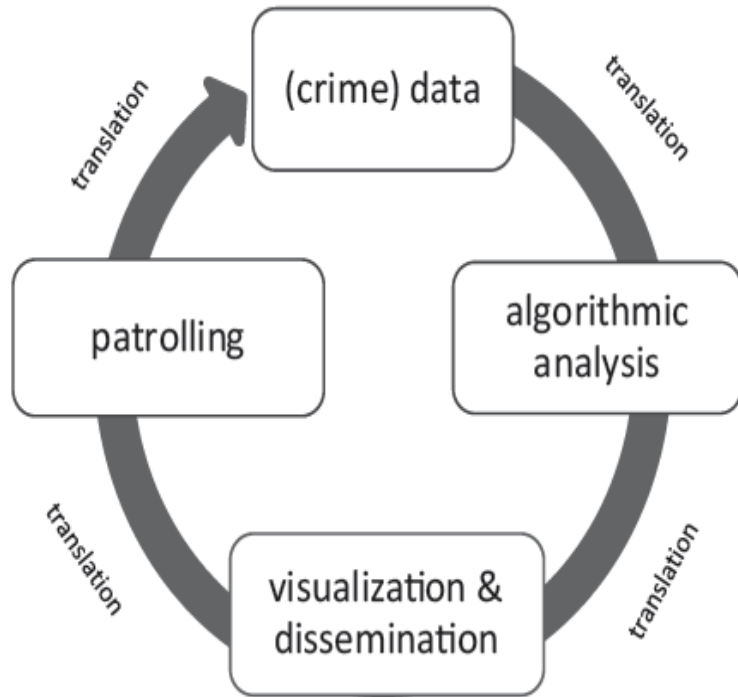# Prediction or «retro»diction? Netwidening effect

4 Criminal futures
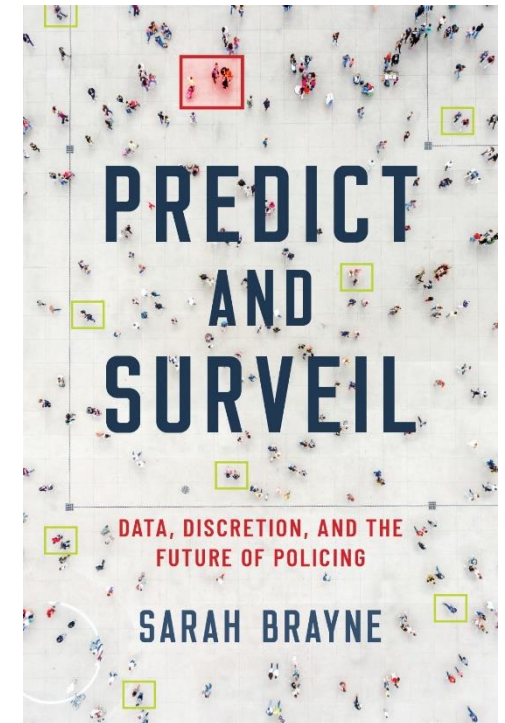
Figure 1.1 Predictive policing as a chain of translation

"Because it is very much based on intelligence. And that we wear these glasses towards the youth who are already identified on the basis of some indicators... How does this affect our presence and availability and relationships with the whole local community? We're going to overlook a lot. Including information that can help build our understanding in relation to these analyses."

(Police preventers, Oslo East)

Ambivalence towards intelligence among preventers

«Because we are constantly told that what is not in indicia is not information. And for those of us who are out a lot with a different focus than just the reactive, there is a lot of information that does not go into indicia.» (Oslo East, police preventer)

"To be targeted is to implement measures in relation to those on whom there is a lot of information in the registers. If we only go after those youths we already have a lot of information on. And then I think it is also difficult to work with the recruitment [to criminal groups and gangs], compared with early intervention as well. Because they are probably and hopefully not registered yet.."

(Oslo East, police preventer)

Thank you!

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