

ECPR SGOC 5th General Conference
Naples, 10-11 December 2026
The Social Science Department, Federico II
Naples University,
Italy

Mafia, cartels and crime networks
Challenges to State and Society

The ECPR SGOC was established after a panel at the Joint Sessions in Grenoble in France in 2001. This event was very successful but also highlighted the need for one the one hand, to have more concrete and in-depth research on organized crime and related themes and on the other, the need for a closer collaboration between practitioners, policy makers and academics studying organized crime. It is in this spirit that the Standing Group works today and in 2026, we will celebrate the group's 25 years of existence and focus on organised crime in Naples with its 5th General Conference.

The ECPR Standing Group on Organised Crime (ECPR SGOC), in collaboration with the Department of Social Sciences, Federico II and the Italian Institute for Philosophical Studies invites you to its 5th General Conference in Naples on “*Mafias, cartels and crime networks, Challenges to state and society*” to celebrate its 25th birthday.

Call for Papers and Panels

The unique focus of this conference is organised crime in its different forms and how it challenges States and societies across the world. This conference seeks to act as an interdisciplinary forum for the presentation of the latest research on organised crime.

The ECPR Standing Group on Organised Crime's General Conference therefore invites scholars, researchers, practitioners, civil society organisations and policymakers from different backgrounds to share their empirical insights, analytical framings and policy approaches in this way contributing with fresh perspectives to the understanding of organised crime, with regard to the diversity of its contemporary manifestations. With a view to stimulating both scholarly debates and policy developments, the Conference offers a unique venue to collectively dissect, diagnose and discuss the characteristics, resources, strategies and modus operandi adopted by traditional and emerging criminal organisations operating both at local and global level.

The conference encourages the presentation of cutting-edge research from academic researchers at all stages of their career, as well as from practitioners and policy makers from different theoretical perspectives, different disciplines and countries.

Please note that for the first time, we are accepting papers in Italian, English, French and Spanish (not interpreting available) in order to widen discussions and conversations. We will seek to make sure that all panelists understand the different presentations.

We welcome the submission of panels and papers addressing, among others, the following topics:

- Gangs, organised crime and mafia
- Quantitative and Qualitative Methods
- Ethnographic approaches to organised crime
- Organised crime in history
- Criminalisation of mobility and mobile crime
- Extralegal governance and organised crime
- Organised crime and dis/order in the global peripheries
- Contentious politics and organised crime

- Drug networks and ports
- Organised crime in Africa/Latin America/Europe
- Gender perspectives on organised crime
- Organised crime and authoritarian regimes
- Organised crime and violent extremism
- Organised crime in art, fiction, culture and public perceptions
- Corruption, patronage and hybrid orders
- Organised crime, prisons and detention societies
- Organised crime and the internet: cybercrime and surveillance
- Environmental crime
- Organised crime and finance: money laundering and tax havens
- Social movements and (the fight against) organised crime
- Freezing, forfeiture and social reuse of criminal assets
- International and European cooperation in the fight against organised crime

We look forward to receiving your abstracts and panel proposals for what should be an engaging and fun conference. Keynote speakers and roundtables to be announced very soon.

Call for Papers and Panels Timetable

Key dates and deadlines	
Call for applications/papers announcement	20 April
Call for applications/papers deadline	22 June
Confirmation of acceptance/decline	21 July
Funding applications open	22 July
Deadline for funding applications	11 August
Funding decisions	18 August
Registration opening	19 August
Registration deadline	10 October

We are accepting papers in Italian, English, French and Spanish (not interpreting available)

We are seeking both individual papers as well as complete panels:

[Conference website & paper/panel submission page](#)

Call opens: 20 April 2026

Deadline: 22 June 2026

Participants are invited to submit paper and/or panel proposals through the ECPR website:

<https://ecpr.eu/Events/361>

Paper proposals should include:

- Author(s) and institutional affiliation
- Title (max 50 words)
- Abstract (max 250 words)
- Keywords (max 5 words)

Panel proposals should include:

- Panel title (max 50 words)
- Panel abstract (max 250 words)
- Papers description, with all the characteristics above (3-4 papers per panel authorised)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Luciano Brancaccio (local organiser, email: lubranca@unina.it) or Felia Allum (email: f.s.allum@bath.ac.uk).