

Abstract

The continuing drug violence in the city of Antwerp made me wonder why criminal organizations smuggle drugs and mainly cocaine in large numbers to the port of Antwerp. I also was wondering how cocaine is smuggled by sea and what the structure is of a criminal organization that deals with drugs trafficking and also how drug criminals recruit people to do corrupt acts for them and how you can prevent this.

Via a literature study I tried to find this out and I concluded that criminal organizations send shipments to the port of Antwerp, purely because the port has a good connection with the cocaine source countries and has also a good connection with the rest of Western Europe. The port of Antwerp is also very extensive, making it easier for the smugglers to avoid controls. Criminal organizations will mainly smuggle cocaine via the container traffic and will then take the cocaine out of the containers via corrupt port employees.

Subsequently, I tested the knowledge of people, who are mainly active in the maritime industry, on this topic via a survey. On the basis of this survey, I have made a course that can be used to train people, who are active in the maritime industry, so that they are more armed against the recruitment techniques of drug criminals to carry out “small (illegal) tasks” for them and thus prevent the latter.

It can be concluded from my master’s thesis that the general knowledge about this problem, especially among students of the Antwerp Maritime Academy, is fairly general, but that a small course can solve this problem and that the students are open to learn more about this, both on the practical side as well as on the theoretical side.