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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Timeline for EMPACT activities 2026-2029



Delegations will find in Annex a table outlining the steps to be taken for the preparations and implementation of EMPACT cycle 2026-2029. The EMPACT timeline provides a chronological table outlining the activities, leading actors and relevant actors foreseen to take place in the upcoming EMPACT cycle. The overall procedural process remains the same with regards to the implementation, planning, monitoring and evaluation of EMPACT.

Following the publication of the EU SOCTA 2025 in March, the EU crime priorities will continue to be defined every four years by the Council conclusions setting the EU's priorities for the fight against organised and serious international crime. The EU crime threat assessment (EU SOCTA) will be complemented by the updated mapping of the most threatening criminal networks in 2026 and (10512/24) and the "interim EU SOCTA" in 2027.

In addition, a few actions from the *roadmap* following-up on the recommendations of the independent evaluation on EMPACT 2022-2025, agreed on 19 December 2024¹, have been included in the timeline with the aim to further strengthen EMPACT. Other potential changes will be reflected directly in the relevant EMPACT documents (i.e. EMPACT Terms of Reference, reporting mechanisms, OAP/Planning and reporting template (PRT)).

¹ 5220/25

Timeline - EMPACT 2026-2029

Preliminary remarks

1. EU SOCTA 2025 / Interim report 2027 / EU SOCTA 2029

- The EMPACT cycle 2026-2029 will be initiated following the publication of the EU SOCTA 2025 and the resulting definition of the policy setting on crime priorities.
- A mapping exercise on the most threatening criminal networks will be produced and presented on a biennial basis – starting with the delivery of the second report in 2026 which will be taken into account as of its publication in 2026 and 2027 (first biennial OAPs), and possibly until the completion of the cycle (EMPACT OAPs 2028-2029), as agreed in the Council conclusions *on mapping the most threatening criminal networks* (10512/24).
- An interim report on new, changing or emerging threats, paying attention to the EU crime priorities agreed upon in 2025, will be presented in 2027.
- The EU SOCTA 2029 would be the base for the start of the EMPACT cycle 2030-2034. The table foresees this process.

2. OTHER CHANGES/NOVELTIES IN THE TABLE COMPARED TO THE EMPACT CYCLE 2022-2025

As mentioned above, following the recommendations of the independent evaluation on EMPACT 2022-2025, agreed on 19 December 2024, some workable actions from the roadmap have been included in the timeline with the aim to further strengthen EMPACT cycle 2026-2029, starting from 2025. (Points 3,10,11 and 14 in the table, Annex).

Ref. no.	Action / activity	Responsible / leading actor	Other actors involved	Timing
1	Final report by the Independent Evaluation on the EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT 2022-2025 issued	COM	COSI Advisory Group	5 November 2024
2	Roadmap on the implementation of the recommendations of the independent evaluation adopted	COSI	MS / EU Agencies / COM	19 December 2024
3	Launch discussion on the arrangements/conditions for the creation/consolidation of <i>professionalisation</i> of drivers and their teams, including financing	COSI COM Drivers NECs	MS Other relevant actors	As of January 2025
4	EMPACT Communicators network annual meeting	MS Contact points / EU Agencies / GSC / COM	Other EMPACT actors	19 February 2025 Once a year during the next cycle
5	Production of the EU SOCTA 2025, including the executive summary with conclusions and a list of recommended crime priorities	Europol	All relevant actors	18 March 2025
6	Policy Advisory Document (PAD)	COSI/ COM		April/May2025
7	Preparation of the General MASP workshop, including identification of the relevant actors at EU and MS level	COSI COM	MS / EEAS / EU Agencies	April/May 2025
8	Draft Council conclusions on setting the EU crime priorities for EMPACT 2026-2029	COSI	COM MS EU Agencies	May/June 2025
9	Possible development/update of templates (General MASP, OAPs)	COSI Europol COM	Other EU Agencies / NECs	Before June 2025

Ref. no.	Action / activity	Responsible / leading actor	Other actors involved	Timing
10	Revised 'Compendium of lessons learned, and good practices related to the implementation of OAPs' + template for describing good practices in the drivers' reports	Europol	MS	June 2025 October 2025
11	Setting up/development of the National EMPACT Support Team (NEST) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include reference as good practice in EMPACT Terms of Reference - Mapping good practices (Compendium) Financing	Europol National EMPACT Coordinators (NECs)	All relevant actors	October 2025
12	Identification of relevant actors (including drivers, co-drivers, coordinators of CHSGs)	COSI	EU Agencies	May/June 2025
13	Ensure regular and tailored training for all the relevant EMPACT actors	CEPOL	MS (including NECs) / EU Agencies	By the end 2025 2026-2029
14	Revised EMPACT Terms of Reference to be agreed by COSI – Including a few of the targeted recommendations from the <i>roadmap</i> .	COSI Europol COM	EU Agencies / NECs	By June 2025
15	General MASP workshop to identify the common horizontal minimum strategic goals in order to strengthen consistency and facilitate the OAP drafting.	Expert MS, EU Institutions, Bodies and Agencies, coordinated by COM	COM	June 2025
16	Drivers Days/CEPOL Workshop	CEPOL Europol	EU Agencies / Drivers / COM	July 2025 and repeated annually
17	Discussion and adoption of the General MASP	COSI	MS / COM / EEAS / EU Agencies	June/July 2025
18	OAP drafting	MS Coordinated by NECs and Drivers Facilitated by EUROPOL	COM / EEAS / EU Agencies	July-October 2025 (repeated in 2027 - biennial OAP).

Ref. no.	Action / activity	Responsible / leading actor	Other actors involved	Timing
19	Validation of each OAP	COSI	MS / EU Agencies/ NECs	November 2025 (repeated once every two years – November 2027)
20	NECs Workshop/CEPOL	CEPOL	EU Agencies / Drivers / COM	November 2025 and repeated annually
21	Implementation of OAPs including annual monitoring progress by COSI (lighter reporting by drivers / CHSG Coordinators in March 2027, and 2029. Comprehensive reporting in March 2028 and 2030)	MS drivers CHSG coordinators NECs EUROPOL EU Agencies	COSI	Start in January 2026 – until March 2030
22	Update of the <i>mapping</i> of the most threatening criminal networks	Europol/COSI	All relevant actors	2026
23	Preparation and validation of the customer requirements to prepare the interim report of new, changing and emerging threats (EU SOCTA Interim Report)	COSI Europol	MS EU Agencies	Before July 2026
24	Production and presentation of the interim report of new, changing and emerging threats (EU SOCTA Interim Report)	Europol/COSI	All relevant actors	Before June 2027
25	Preparation and validation of the customer requirements for the EU SOCTA 2029	COSI Europol	COM MS EU Agencies	Before July 2027
26	Review, if necessary, of the General MASP strategic goals and, EU crime priorities	COSI	All relevant actors	July 2027
27	Preparation of the independent evaluation	COM	EU Agencies COSI NECs	2027

Ref. no.	Action / activity	Responsible / leading actor	Other actors involved	Timing
28	Development of the new methodology for EU SOCTA 2029 in line with the identified customer requirements and recommendations of the independent evaluation	Europol	Expert group of MS & EU Agencies	Second semester 2027
29	Validation of the methodology for the EU SOCTA 2029	COSI		Before end 2027
30	Launch of the independent evaluation	COM	MS EU Agencies COSI	End of 2027/Beginning of 2028
31	Include in the independent evaluation of the EMPACT cycle 2026-2029 an assessment of the effects of EMPACT on the crime landscape and the development of a mechanism to measure the impact of the EMPACT.	COM	COSI Drivers NECs	To be delivered by 2028 (Final report in the independent evaluation)
32	Reporting on the outcome of the independent evaluation to COSI and evaluation of lessons learned from EMPACT in order to integrate these into the next EMPACT Cycle 2030-2034	COM COSI	MS EU Agencies	By November 2028
33	Timeline of the EMPACT Cycle 2030-2034	COSI	MS/ EU Agencies/COM	March 2029
34	Production of the EU SOCTA 2029, including conclusions and a list of recommended crime priorities	Europol	EU MS, EU Agencies and relevant stakeholders.	Early March 2029
35	Policy Advisory Document (PAD)	COSI / COM		April 2029
36	Council conclusions on setting the EU crime priorities for the EMPACT 2030-2034	COSI	COM EEAS	May/June 2029
37	Production of the final assessment of the achievement of strategic goals	COSI	Other relevant actors	By June 2030

EMPACT TIMELINE 2026 - 2029

