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NOTE

From:	Europol
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	7623/20
Subject:	EMPACT 2018-2021 - Implementation monitoring – Factsheets of results 2020

EMPACT
Fighting crime together

Delegations will find attached factsheets outlining the results of the 2020 EMPACT Operational Action Plans and Joint Action Days, prepared by Europol.

These factsheets take into consideration comments received from Drivers and NECs.

Europol Public Information

EMPACT

General Factsheet: Operational Action Plans (OAPs) 2020

2020 RESULTS

2 737
International investigations/ operations supported

7 487
Arrests

DRUGS – NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES/SYNTHETIC DRUGS

107 arrests

Seizures: 12 tonnes of drugs (MDMA, methamphetamine, amphetamine, cocaine, cannabis); €60 000 of assets seized

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT: Operational Task Force (OTF) Troika

- ✓ 11 640 kg of drugs worth more than €358 m seized
- ✓ 3 Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) set up
- ✓ Major drug transport operations discovered
- ✓ Criminal groups disrupted
- ✓ Numerous High-Value Targets (HVTs) placed under investigation
- ✓ Drug concealment trends identified

DRUGS - CANNABIS, COCAINE AND HEROIN

>2 048 arrests

Seizures: > 11 tonnes of cocaine; > 8.4 tonnes of cannabis; > €200 m seized; 12 300 tablets of MDMA; heroin seizures

Other: Equipment for production of drugs, firearms

3 labs for illegal cultivation of marijuana dismantled

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT: Operation EMMA/26 LEMONT

- ✓ 21 HVTs arrested
- ✓ 1 500 new investigations

1

- ✓ Significant seizures of cocaine, heroin, amphetamine, weapons and explosives, etc.
- ✓ Detection of containers used as torture chambers
- ✓ Homicides resolved and prevented
- ✓ Corruption cases detected and prevented
- ✓ €139 m seized

CYBERCRIME – NON-CASH PAYMENT FRAUD

1 567 international investigations/ operations supported

477 arrests/detentions

5 013 fraudulent transactions reported in the framework of Operation EMMA

90 000 pieces of compromised card data contributed by the private industry in the framework of the carding action week analysed

6 809 money mules, 227 herders (money mule recruiters) and 7 088 victims identified

Estimated lost prevented: €73.5 million

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT: Operation EMMA

- ✓ 1 529 criminal investigations initiated
- ✓ Participation of more than 500 banks and financial institutions
- ✓ 5 013 fraudulent money mule transactions identified
- ✓ Total loss prevented estimated at €33.5 million
- ✓ 6 809 money mules identified, alongside 227 money mule recruiters
- ✓ 455 individuals were arrested worldwide

CYBERCRIME – CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

37 arrests

29 seizures

184 victims identified

218 VIDTF (Victim Identification Task Force) created

3 513 Intelligence packages distributed

Prevention: Booklet intended for 11 and 12-year-old children presented in organised prevention sessions in schools to approximately 12 000 children. Active participation in the ICANN, RIPE and other initiatives promoted by the private sector and NGOs.

Financial investigations in the framework of SG 6: Operations targeting livestream abuse of minors, coordinated by the Romanian police, in cooperation with Western Union, MoneyGram and PayPal; Intelligence on 387 suspects collected; 10 suspects arrested; 33 children were safeguarded.

CYBERCRIME – ATTACKS TO INFORMATION SYSTEMS

45 arrests

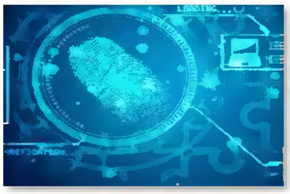
8 international investigations/ operations supported

A splash page prepared by Europol was put up online after the domain seizures

Infrastructure on several Remote Access Tools (RATs) identified and HVT/developer identified. 40 000 victims' data recovered, and 16 proxy servers identified

Seizures: 50 servers; 3 domains from bulletproof VPN provider; €100 000 in cryptocurrencies; Bitcoin mining equipment

Takedowns: 2 illegal backend platforms; Infrastructure in Romania, Norway, US, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland; 1 illegal bulletproof VPN service involving 3 different domains



DOCUMENT FRAUD

18 international investigations/operations supported

38 arrests

4 print shops dismantled

Seizures: 3 019 fraudulent documents, 1 150 blank plastic supports for ID cards and driving licences

€21 400

7 Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) disrupted

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT:
Operation Massilia (Facilitation of Illegal Immigration - FII)

- ✓ A print shop producing counterfeited documents was dismantled
- ✓ 3 individuals suspected of forgery of documents arrested
- ✓ Technical equipment, 1 150 blank plastic supports for ID cards and driving licenses, holographic bands, sixteen counterfeit ID cards (Belgian, Spanish and Italian), ID photos of customers and forged breeder documents were seized

FACILITATED ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

2 280 arrests

14 OCGs dismantled, 27 identified

1 HVTs and 87 suspects identified

2 350 document fraud cases reported, including 52 visa fraud cases and 548 ID misuse

Seizures: 1 thermal printer, two laminators, 1 150 blank supports for ID cards and driving licences, holographic bands, 16 counterfeit ID cards; 381 vehicles/ 1 253 vehicle parts; 2 yachts, 1 boat, 2 outboard motors; 52 firearms; 1.8 tonnes of marihuana; 10.33 kg of heroine; 2 128 psychoactive tablets; 20 350 undeclared surgical masks; cash seizures value: €693 900

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT:
Operation Fortunate

- ✓ 1 OCG dismantled
- ✓ 6 members arrested
- ✓ 23 irregular migrants intercepted
- ✓ 1 yacht, cell phones, storage devices and relevant documents stipulating money transactions were seized

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (THB)

744 arrests

1 025 new cases initiated

5 956 Suspects identified

5 030 Victims (266 minors) identified

744 OCGs related to THB have been reported by member states.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT:
Operation Cumbia

- ✓ 8 suspects arrested
- ✓ 15 potential victims saved
- ✓ 3 apartments seized
- ✓ €120 000 seized

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

440 arrests

500 suspect investigated

Seizures/ Assets seized: 32 kg of glass eels, 45 nets and fishing gear; 807 seizures of illegal timber (8 613m3); 132 warehouses/illicit waste dumping facilities and 167 452 tons of waste; 20 birds; 700 dried butterflies, 7kg of gold, 77.5kg of mercury worth €250 000, 355 reptiles worth €800 000, 237 million Colombian pesos worth €90,000; 639 ivory items; 92 tons of WEEE (waste from electric and electronic equipment); total value €93,725,294; €40 million total value of the company facilities seized (warehouses, depots, vehicles, etc.)

Tax evasion prevented: €31 376 452

CRIMINAL FINANCES, MONEY LAUNDERING AND ASSET RECOVERY

40 arrests

538 Contributions on cash seizures, suspicious cash declarations, suspicious transactions reports and money mule cases

Seizures/assets recovered:
€19 829 888 in cash; 118 bitcoins, 4 properties, gold and silver coins worth a total of €5.5 M

€2.1 million worth of seizures including: 14 frozen bank accounts, 5 properties, 2 commercial companies' assets, 15 vehicles, weapons, multiple bank accounts and electronic items

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT:
Operation Pulse

- ✓ 8 cards used in the Netherlands to take out illicitly obtained money from regular ATMs
- ✓ A group of just 3 young men used more than 1 000 false IDs to get accounts on many online gambling sites for bonuses for new players
- ✓ 1 arrest
- ✓ Real estate valued at several million euros confiscated by the public prosecutor's office pending future judicial proceedings

MTIC FRAUD

50 arrests

4

20 OCGs identified and 11 OCGs investigated

259 suspects identified and 110 suspects investigated

€28 m of tax evasion prevented

> €8 m worth of assets seized

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT: central Europe action

- ✓ 39 arrests
- ✓ 110 suspects investigated
- ✓ 6 OCGs investigated
- ✓ 1 JIT
- ✓ 92 searches
- ✓ €7 m worth of assets seized
- ✓ €24 m of tax evasion prevented

EXCISE FRAUD

487 arrests

111 international investigations/ operations supported

Tax evasion prevented: €245 356 711

Seizures: 477 274 656 cigarettes; 1.47 million kg of tobacco (raw tobacco, fine cut tobacco, water-pipe tobacco); 2.31 million kg of designer fuel; 30 pallets and 31 690 litres of alcoholic beverages; 1 108 kg of snus; €662 834 in cash

Assets seized: 465 vehicles (trucks, trailers, cars, vans); 57 forklifts; 1 ISO tanker and different types of containers (tank, IBC, maritime); smartphones, computers, tablets, camera system with data storage devices; machinery and equipment for illicit production of tobacco products (138 production lines; 30 packaging lines; 138 cutting machines; 32 generators and precursors.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT: Operation Chain Bridge V (Designer Fuel Fraud):

- ✓ 39 arrests
- ✓ Seizure of 2.3 million kg of designer fuel, 9 750 kg of fine cut tobacco, 14 400 kg tobacco leaves, and 2 075 litres of alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Revenue loss prevented: €11 M

ORGANISED PROPERTY CRIME

540 arrests

53 mobile organised crime groups dismantled

8 Joint arrests operations

Seizures: 3 hotels and 90 properties; +35 000 cultural goods; 517 vehicles + 1 361 stolen vehicle parts; 30 kg of gold; 110 kg of silver; 1,5 million cigarettes; 1 tonne of tobacco; 6 tonnes of copper; 12 boat engines; +120 ancient books; +50 luxury bicycles; 1 800 kg marijuana; 10 kg heroin; 141 forged documents; 26 weapons; Perfumes, cosmetics, tools, jewels, beer barrels, car key encoding case, GPS tracking devices, GPS jammers, etc.

Assets seized: €58 510 691 (including €2 297 291 and $200 000 in cash)

FIREARMS

154 arrests

5

Seizures: 2 732 weapons; 2 435 Firearms; 45 converted and rebranded gas/alarm weapons; 10 528 rounds of ammunition; 164 pyrotechnic devices; 117 Kg of drugs; 1 vehicle

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT:
Operation Bosphorus

- ✓ 11 suspects arrested;
- ✓ Seizure of 191 firearms, 3 714 rounds of ammunition; small quantities of drugs including cannabis and cocaine; unstamped cigarette packs; 1 vehicle, false ID documents and 164 pyrotechnic devices.
- ✓ Prior to the action days, all participating countries conducted various activities and investigations that led to the additional seizure of 1 585 firearms.

Further reading

- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact

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Europol Public Information

EMPACT

FACILITATED ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

2020 RESULTS

2 110	2 350	2 280
International investigations/ operations supported	Document fraud cases reported	Arrests (16 High-Value Targets)

Operational highlights

Operation Odyssey

- ✓ *1 Organised Crime Group (OCG) dismantled*
- ✓ *8 members arrested*
  1 yacht, 1 vessel, 2 vehicles, mobile phones, GPS equipment and €2 500 seized

Operations Futurco and Duraco

- ✓ *70 individual smuggling cases processed by the European Migrant Smuggling Centre*
- ✓ *6 arrests*
- ✓ *6 premises searched*
- ✓ *€ 160 000 seized*

Operation Fortunate

- ✓ *1 OCG dismantled*
- ✓ *6 members arrested*
- ✓ *23 irregular migrants intercepted.*
- ✓ *1 yacht, mobile phones, storage devices and relevant documents stipulating money transactions seized*

Other operational measures

2 Hubs identified

14 OCGs dismantled, 27 identified

1 High-Value Target and 87 suspects identified

4 Joint Investigation Teams; 2 Operational Task Forces; 3 European Arrest Warrants executed

19 members of a *hawala* network prosecuted;

35 houses/premises searched

1

Document fraud

2 350 document fraud cases reported, including 52 visa fraud and 548 ID misuse cases

Seizures

1 thermal printer, two laminators, 1 150 blank supports for ID cards and driving licences, holographic bands, 16 counterfeit ID cards

381 vehicles/ 1 253 vehicle parts

2 yachts, 1 boat, 2 outboard motors

52 firearms

1.8 Tonnes of marihuana

10.33 kg of heroine

2 128 psychoactive tablets

20 350 undeclared surgical masks

Cash seizures value: €693 900

Joint Action Days (JAD)/ EMPACT Action Days

6 JADs: JAD Danube 5; JAD South East Europe; JAD Labour exploitation; JAD Agricultural sector; JAD Mobile 3; JAD Arktos 2

21 EMPACT Action Days

Reports:

50 Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis (ISAA) reports

2 joint reports with Frontex and European Asylum Support Office (EASO): Tackling Migrant Smuggling in the Western Balkans; Joint Analysis on Secondary Movements

European Document-Fraud (EDF) Annual Risk Analysis 2020

Frontex Annual Risk Analysis 2020

Handbook on Yemeni documents

4 Early Warning Notifications (EWN)

41 Intelligence Notifications

4 Strategic Analysis reports

15 Operational Analysis Reports; 200 intelligence-based analytical packages

45 Operational reports

152 Cross Match Reports

79 Hit notifications

Other capacity building and prevention activities

15 victims (minors) protected

Eurosur Fusion Services (EFS) awareness session

Workshop on sham marriages

9 Advanced Level Document Officer (ALDO) training courses

4 online courses (Facilitation of Illegal Immigration; False Identity Documents; Financial Investigations)

38 courses on screening and debriefing

Training on security documents

8 webinars

2 CEPOL exchanges

Posters on Facial Comparison for border guards

Leaflet on fingerprint comparison

2

Video clip "Joint Expert Teams in action"

Irregular migration figures reported

26 175 irregular migrants intercepted

1 435 refusals of entry

24 overstayers detected

Grant funding

High-Value Grants (2): € 229 995.76

Low-Value Grants (6): € 208 665.00

Further reading

- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/facilitation-of-illegal-immigrationfacilitated illegal immingration
- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact

EMPACT

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (THB)

2020 RESULTS

4 038
contributions sent to Analysis Project (AP) Phoenix, AP Sustrans and AP Asset Recovery

1 025
New cases initiated

744
Arrests

Operational highlights

- ✓ **5 956** Suspects have been identified
- ✓ ***5 030*** Victims have been reported, **266** were reported as underage victims.
- ✓ **35** Operational and coordination meetings (**27** virtual and **8** face to face)
- ✓ **744** Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) related to THB have been reported by member states.
- ✓ **48** Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) (**11** new JITs in 2020, **37** ongoing from previous years)
- ✓ **01** Operational Task Force (OTF) ongoing

Operation Parislava

- ✓ **10** Suspects arrested
- ✓ **€32 000.00** Seized
- ✓ **2** Luxury vehicles
- ✓ **21** Mobile devices
- ✓ Several credit cards linked to virtual bank accounts.

Operation Cumbia

- ✓ **8** Suspects arrested
- ✓ **15** potential victims saved
- ✓ **3** Apartments seized
- ✓ **€120 000.00** seized

Operation Micro

- ✓ **5** Suspects arrested
- ✓ **6** House searches
- ✓ **€57 650.00** Seized
- ✓ **3** Houses Seized
- ✓ **3** Vehicles including a Lamborghini seized

Other significant operations

- ✓ **Operation Ssyble**
- ✓ **Operation Lusar**

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Other operational measures

More than **€4.2m** reported in money and assets seized and confiscated

Joint Action Days/ EMPACT Action Days

- ✓ **Labour exploitation**, (**143** arrests – **10** for THB) - **535** potential victims identified, **606** new cases plus **193** suspects.
- ✓ **Child trafficking**, (**388** arrests – **22** for THB and identification of additional **19** suspects for THB) – **249** potential victims identified, **61** minors, **40** new cases.
- ✓ **Labour exploitation in agricultural sector**, (**15** arrests – **14** for THB) – **180** potential victims identified and **17** suspects, **39** new cases.

Reports and information products

- ✓ **498** operational analytical products (hit notifications, operational analysis reports, cross match reports etc)
- ✓ **6** Strategic reports have been published in 2020
- ✓ Thematic report: Digitisation of THB Published by Europol

Other Achievements

- ✓ The cooperation with private partners, such as financial institutions and NGOs is a development in several Operational Actions (OAs) under the wings of the Operational Action Plan (OAP).
- ✓ More member states reported back that there is structural implementation of financial investigations and asset recovery when they start a THB investigation.
- ✓ In 2019 under Operational Action 5.1 two documents have been developed and have been put into practice during the labour and agricultural joint action days carried out in September 2020 These documents are:
  1) "Identification of the stages of various THB crimes where document fraud is relevant", with generic indicators showing the link between document fraud and THB crimes
  2) A "Checklist to involve document experts in THB crimes" which is aimed at linking

Trafficking in Human Beings and document fraud crimes in operations/investigations.

Grant funding

1 High-value grant: **€174 964.05**

4 Low-value grants: **€159 904.00**

Training

- ✓ All the activities were delivered and 2 residential courses were replaced by 2 ad-hoc webinars with a satisfaction rate of **96.5%.**
- ✓ **800** border staff received remote training sessions

regarding a new threat of Israeli children being used to smuggle the illegal substance Khat into the UK.

Other Products

- ✓ Europol published an Intelligence Notification entitled "Document fraud is a key enabler for the facilitation of Chinese victims of sexual exploitation into the European Union".
- ✓ Europol published its new Early Warning Notification on Cases of sexual exploitation involving suspects and potential victims from South-America.

Further reading

- Europol Intelligence Notification entitled "Document fraud is a key enabler for the facilitation of Chinese victims of sexual exploitation into the European Union".
- Europol new Early Warning Notification on Cases of sexual exploitation involving suspects and potential victims of South-America.

EMPACT

EXCISE FRAUD

2020 RESULTS

€245 m
of tax evasion prevented

90
New investigations related to designer fuel initiated

318
Illegal cigarettes and waterpipe tobacco production sites, tobacco cutting and storage facilities dismantled

487
Arrests

Operational highlights

Operation Chain Bridge V

Joint operational activities carried out during 2020 in different EU regions resulted in **39** arrests and seizure of **2.3** million kg of designer fuel, **9 750 kg** of fine cut tobacco, **14 400** kg tobacco leaves and **2 075** litres of alcoholic beverages. Revenue loss prevented: **€11 million**.

Coordinated/joint operational activities in the countries in the Baltic Region

As a result of intelligence exchange and coordinated activities, **30 000** litres of alcoholic beverages, **26.9** million cigarettes, **2 100 kg** of tobacco and **1 100 kg** of snus were seized in different EU countries in the Baltic region.

Operational activities against illicit production of tobacco products

76 cigarette and waterpipe tobacco production sites, **96** tobacco-cutting facilities, and **146** storage facilities were dismantled. **424** suspects were arrested, **1 434 495 kg** of tobacco, **346 384 796** illegally produced cigarettes, **138** production lines, **30** packaging lines, **137** cutting machines, **31** generators and huge quantities of precursors (filters, cigarette paper, filter paper, glue, aluminium foil, flavourings, packaging materials, etc.) were seized. Revenue loss prevented amounts to **€189.7 million.**

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Other operational measures

• Exchange of intelligence and coordinated operational activities enriched the overall intelligence picture and helped identifying fraudulent supply chains, new modus operandi, and illegal storage facilities. It also has revealed irregularities in the production of designer fuels and resulted in seizures of vast quantities of designer fuel.

• The Danish Tax Agency, due to operational activities carried out as part of operation Chain Bridge in collaboration with several EU member states and Europol, has collected approx. € **33 million** in tax. Cancellation and/or withdrawal of the authorisations of companies producing designer fuel in Denmark will prevent such illegal activities in the future.

• Following investigations into mineral oil fraud and illicit production of tobacco products, **455** vehicles, **1** ISO tanker, **57** forklifts and more than **€653 000** in cash were seized.

• Dismantling of **318** facilities for production, storage and distribution of illicit cigarettes and waterpipe tobacco.

• Experts of EMPACT Excise Fraud priority are trying to establish an intelligence-debriefing group focusing on criminal finances, which aims to build on the coordination of intelligenc and analysis, already well developed over previous years, and improve the understanding of illicit money flows.

Joint Action Days (JAD)/ EMPACT Action Days

✓ **JAD ARKTOS 2** was coordinated by FRONTEX, Latvia and Finland. The operation was carried out in November 2020 (**37 million** cigarettes, worth **€12.9 million**, **1.8 tonnes** of tobacco, **130 litres** of alcohol and **3 500 litres** of fuel were seized).

✓ **JAD HANSA** was led by Lithuania and the UK, and the operation involved customs officers from **15** EU member states. It took place in November 2020 (**17** arrests, **67 million** cigarettes worth **€35.8 million**, **10** vehicles and **2.6 tonnes** of tobacco were seized). **€30.5 million** of revenue loss prevented. A clear majority of the seized cigarettes – **88 %** – were "illicit whites" from Belarus.

✓ **JADs SPOOKS III and SPOOKS IV** was led by Belgium; the operations were carried out in June/July 2020 and in November/December 2020 (4 shipments with **30** pallets of vodka seized; revenue loss prevented: **€120 000**; investigations regarding **116** similar export shipments initiated).

Seizures

✓ **477 274 656** cigarettes

✓ **1.47 million kg** of tobacco (raw tobacco, fine cut tobacco, waterpipe tobacco)

✓ **2.31 million kg** of designer fuel

2

- **30** pallets and **31 690 litres** of alcoholic beverages
- **1 108 kg** of snus
- **€662 834** in cash

Assets seized

- **465** vehicles (trucks, trailers, cars, vans)
- **57** forklifts
- **1** ISO tanker and different types of containers (tank, IBC, maritime)
- Smartphones, computers, tablets, camera system with data storage devices
- Machinery and equipment for illicit production of tobacco products:
  - **138** Production lines;
  - **30** Packaging lines;
  - **138** Cutting machines;
  - **32** Generators
- Huge quantities of precursors (filters, cigarette paper, filter paper, glue, aluminium foil, flavours, packaging materials, etc.)

Reports and information products

- **730** SIENA/Naples II Convention/CENcomm messages exchanged
  - **65** intelligence contributions

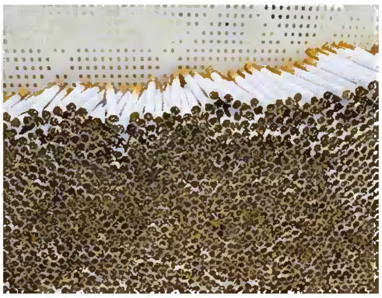
Grant funding

1 High-value grant: **€176 363.05**

4 Low-value grants: **€116 443.00**

Training

- **4** training activities completed; 1 residential course planned replaced by an extra webinar
- **563** participants from different law enforcement authorities in EU member states trained focusing on excise fraud-related operational issues
- **117** representatives from EU member states were informed during awareness-raising sessions provided by FRONTEX on Eurosur Fusion Services and other surveillance, analytical and technical tools and services available to support detection of and countermeasures against excise goods smuggling



EMPACT

MTIC FRAUD

2020 RESULTS

€28 m
of tax evasion prevented

>50
Arrests

Overall results

- ✓ **20 Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)** identified and **11 OCGs** investigated
- ✓ **259 suspects** identified and **110 suspects** investigated
- ✓ **92 searches**
- ✓ **€28 million** of tax evasion prevented
- ✓ **> €8 million** worth of assets seized

Operational highlights

"Central Europe" Action

- ✓ **39** arrests
- ✓ **110 suspects** investigated
- ✓ **6 OCGs** investigated
- ✓ **1 Joint Investigation Team (JIT)**
- ✓ **92** searches
- ✓ **€7** million worth of assets seized
- ✓ **€24** million of tax evasion prevented

"Baltic Sea" Action

- ✓ **11** arrests
- ✓ **5 OCGs** investigated
- ✓ **3 action days** implemented
- ✓ **€1 million** worth of assets seized (properties, bank accounts, vehicles)

Criminal finances, money laundering and asset recovery

- ✓ **8 anti-money laundering operations** supported by relevant Analysis Projects (APs) at Europol
- ✓ Numerous **arrests**
- ✓ **€12.5 million of assets frozen**

Cooperation with non-EU partners and private parties

- ✓ **Norway** and **Association of Issuing Bodies -** to improve prevention and detection of **VAT**

- **fraud** in the **Guarantees of Origin market**
- ✓ Consultation with **private partners** to establish indicators to detect **Alternative Banking Platforms (ABPs)**
- ✓ **Western Balkan partners -** to identify and combat OCGs involved in VAT fraud in various commodities in the Balkan region

Multidisciplinary approach

- ✓ **Police**
- ✓ **Customs**
- ✓ **Financial Intelligence Units**
- ✓ **Tax administrations**
- ✓ **EU Agencies, institutions and networks** [CEPOL, EU COM (DG TAXUD), EUROFISC, EUROJUST, EUROPOL, OLAF]

Training and capacity building

- ✓ **3 CEPOL webinars** in the area of MTIC Fraud
- ✓ **375 attendees** from police, tax and customs authorities

Grant funding

- ✓ **1 High-Value Grant:** €126 627

Further reading

- **Europol Crime area:** **MTIC Fraud**
- **Europol:** **EMPACT**

EMPACT

NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS) / SYNTHETIC DRUGS

2020 RESULTS

Seizures

12 tonnes of drugs
(MDMA, methamphetamine, amphetamine, cocaine and cannabis)

€60 000 of assets

Firearms

107

Arrests

OTF Troika (62)

Operation Observer (37)

Operation Rex/Tu Thep (8)

Operational highlights

Operational Task Force (OTF) Troika

- ✓ **11 640 kg** of drugs worth more than **€358 million** seized
- ✓ **3 Joint Investigation Teams (JITs)** set up
- ✓ Major **drug transport operations** discovered
- ✓ **Criminal groups** disrupted
- ✓ Numerous **High-Value Targets** placed under investigation
- ✓ **Drug concealment trends** identified

Op. Rex/Tu Thep

- ✓ **50 kg** of MDMA
- ✓ **14 kg** of cannabis
- ✓ **6 kg** of methamphetamine
- ✓ **1** handgun

Op. Observer

- ✓ **100 kg** of cocaine
- ✓ **2 kg** of amphetamine
- ✓ **2 kg** of MDMA

Multidisciplinary approach

- ✓ **Police and customs** authorities
- ✓ **EU Agencies and institutions** (e.g. CEPOL, COM, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), EUROJUST, EUROPOL, FRONTEX)
- ✓ **Private parties** (chemical companies)

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Cooperation with non-EU partners and organisations

- ✓ **USA**
- ✓ **Switzerland**
- ✓ **Norway**
- ✓ **Iceland**
- ✓ **United Kingdom**
- ✓ **Interpol**

Reports and information products

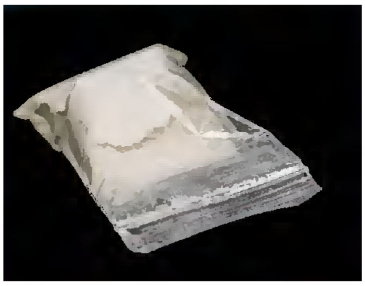
- ✓ **EU Drug Markets Report** (by EMCDDA and Europol) presented to relevant forums to inform EU policy-making in 2020
- ✓ EMCDDA report on the **Impact of Covid-19 on EU Drug Markets** produced
- ✓ **Specialised reports, early warning notifications and other analytical products** produced by Europol within ongoing cases
- ✓ **2 reports** produced by European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) on **Darknet drug markets**, including recommendations for action by means of a barrier model

Training and capacity building

- ✓ **3 CEPOL online courses** on drug crime-related matters**, 132 officers** trained
- ✓ **2 CEPOL webinars** on drug crime-related topics, **860 officers** trained
- ✓ **CEPOL online module** on 'Synthetic drugs', **362 participants**
- ✓ **26 member states and 24 third parties** represented**, 93.44% satisfaction rate** of participants

Grant funding

- ✓ **1 High-Value Grant:** €176 360
- ✓ **1 Low-Value Grant:** €56 834



Further reading

- **Europol Crime area:** Drug trafficking
- **Europol:** EMPACT

EMPACT

CANNABIS, COCAINE AND HEROIN

2020 RESULTS

Seizures

> 11 tonnes of cocaine

> 8.4 tonnes of cannabis

> €200 million seized

12 300 tablets of MDMA

Heroin seizures

3 labs for illegal cultivation of marijuana

Equipment for production of drugs

Guns and rifles

>2 048

Arrests

Operation Emma/26 Lemont (> 1800)

JAD Southeast Europe (147)

Operation Timun (52)

Operation Wolf-Agama (39)

Operation Sauron/Permanchot (8)

Operation Tayrona II (2)

Operational highlights

Op. Emma/26 Lemont

- ✓ **> 21 High-Value Targets** arrested
- ✓ **> 1 500** investigations
- ✓ Significant seizures of **cocaine, heroin, amphetamine, weapons and explosives**
- ✓ Detection of **containers used as torture chambers**
- ✓ **Homicides** detected and prevented
- ✓ **Corruption cases** prevented
- ✓ **> €139 million** seized

Op. Tayrona II

- ✓ **5.4 tonnes** of cocaine

Op. Balkan cartel

- ✓ **5.8 tonnes** of cocaine
- ✓ **58 Organised Crime Group (OCG) members** arrested
- ✓ **€260 000** seized

JAD Southeast Europe

- ✓ **51 weapons** seized
- ✓ **47 kg** of various drugs

Op. Sauron/Permanchot

- ✓ **7.9 tonnes** of cannabis
- ✓ **€14 000** in cash

Op. Timun

- ✓ **12 300** tablets of MDMA
- ✓ **129 kg** of amphetamine
- ✓ **28 kg** of hashish
- ✓ **25 kg** of marijuana
- ✓ **10 kg** of heroin

- ✓ **6 kg** of cocaine
- ✓ **3 labs for illegal cultivation of marijuana**
- ✓ **Equipment** for production of drugs
- ✓ **Guns** and **rifles**
- ✓ **€222 000** seized

Op. Wolf-Agama

- ✓ **3 200** cannabis plants
- ✓ **374 kg** of cannabis
- ✓ **123 kg** of cannabis resin
- ✓ **42 kg** of heroin
- ✓ **1.5 kg** of cocaine
- ✓ **Money and vehicles** seized

Joint Action Days (JAD)

JAD Southeast Europe tackling illegal immigration, trafficking of firearms and drugs, and combating organized and serious international crime originating from Southeast Europe.

Multidisciplinary approach

- ✓ **Police and customs** authorities
- ✓ **EU Agencies, institutions and working groups** (e.g. CEPOL, COM, EMCDDA, EUROJUST, EUROPOL, FRONTEX, MAOC-N, CCWP)
- ✓ **Private parties**

Cooperation with non-EU partners and organisations

- ✓ **USA**
- ✓ **Colombia**
- ✓ **Western Balkans**
- ✓ **Pakistan**
- ✓ **Switzerland**
- ✓ **Interpol**
- ✓ **WCO**

Information products

- ✓ **EU Drug Markets Report** (by EMCDDA and Europol) presented to relevant forums to inform EU policy-making in 2020
- ✓ EMCDDA report on the **Impact of Covid-19 on EU Drug Markets** produced
- ✓ **Analytical products** produced by Europol within ongoing cases

Training

- ✓ **2 CEPOL online courses** on drug crime-related topics, **71 officers** trained
- ✓ **2 CEPOL** webinars on drug crime-related topics, **422 participants**
- ✓ **26 member states and 53 third parties** represented

Grant funding

- ✓ **1 High-Value Grant:** €229 918
- ✓ **21 Low-Value Grants:** €588 476

Further reading

- **Europol Crime area:** Drug trafficking
- **Europol:** EMPACT

2

EMPACT

CYBERCRIME – NON-CASH PAYMENT FRAUD

2020 RESULTS

1 567	6 809	477
International investigations/ operations supported	Money mules identified	Arrests

Operational highlights

Operation EMMA

1 529 criminal investigations initiated

Participation of more than 500 banks and financial institutions

5 013 fraudulent money mule transactions identified

Total loss prevented estimated at €33.5 million

6 809 money mules identified, alongside 227 money mule recruiters

455 individuals were arrested worldwide.

eComm action

22 e-fraudsters arrested

5 new investigations initiated.

Other operational measures

4 data packages on TOP 100 fraudsters analysed.

25 European Association for Secure Transactions (EAST) fraud alerts notifications.

5 013 fraudulent transactions reported in the framework of Operation EMMA.

90 000 items of compromised card data contributed by private industry in the framework of the carding action week analysed.

6 809 money mules identified.

227 herders (money mule recruiters) and 7 088 victims identified.

2 information packages on money mules.

Estimated loss prevented: €73.5 million.

Reports

1 hit notification

10 fraudulent transactions on cytel fraud

1 Operational Analysis report with an overview of the black box attacks reported in Europe

Report with the results of the questionnaire prepared by Hungary with the aim of gathering information on carding (dissemination of illegally obtained credit card data)

International Investigations Guidebook

Other capacity building and prevention activities

#SellSafe awareness-raising campaign

Online P3 (Private-Public-Partnership) training

10 P3 webinars

6 Webinars: General introduction to Non-Cash Payment Fraud; Cybercrime; Phishing; Newest Investigative Methods in the area of non-cash payment fraud investigations; Threats related to non-cash payment fraud; Black Box attacks

Money mules prevention awareness campaign launched in 26 countries

Grant funding

High-Value Grant: € 170 245.45

Further reading

- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/forgery-of-money-and-means-of-payment/payment-fraud
- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact

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EMPACT

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION/CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

2020 RESULTS

3 513	184	37
Intelligence Packages	Victims Identified	Arrests

218 Victim Identification Task Force (VIDTF) series created

✓ VIDTF 8 organised in 2020 by Analysis Project (AP) Twins (with participation of 8 member states, 5 non-EU countries, Interpol and Europol) representing the most important aspect of the EMPACT Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) towards safeguarding children, and identifying and stopping the abusers

✓ The ICSE database was updated

29 Seizures

Intelligence Products

✓ Dashboard no. 6 was distributed in December 2020.

Financial Investigations

Operations targeting livestream abuse of minors, coordinated by the Romanian police, in cooperation with Western Union, MoneyGram and PayPal, resulted in intelligence on 387 suspects sent to 20 countries. 10 suspects were arrested, 33 children were safeguarded, and investigations have started.

Online Trade in Illicit Goods & Services

✓ Dark Web Intelligence intelligence packages disseminated

✓ A conference on the target CSE hidden service markets (47 attendees from EU member states, non-EU countries, EUROPOL and INTERPOL)

Police2P

The results of the police2P proves every year that the P2P platforms keep playing a major role in exchange of Child Sexual

Abuse Material (CSAM) and that the disruption strategy used brings results.

- ✓ 25% increase in no content files
- ✓ 27.1% increase in IP searches (IPS)
- ✓ 1 500 registered visits to .eu helplinks per month

Cooperation with non-EU partners

- ✓ Asian countries
- ✓ Latin American countries - a digital meeting held between Finland, the Netherlands, Ecuador and Panama
- ✓ Western Balkan countries

Prevention

- ✓ A programme covering all kind of subjects that matter for children in their daily lives provided a booklet intended for 11 and 12-year-old children which was presented in organised prevention sessions in schools to approximately 12 000 children
- ✓ Close cooperation with the private sector and with groups fighting to maximise opportunities to protect children from sexual abuse on the Internet
- ✓ Active participation in ICANN and RIPE meetings

Training and Capacity Building

- ✓ 6 CEPOL webinars
- ✓ 1 CEPOL online training
- ✓ 349 CSE police officers trained

Grant funding

High-Value Grants: € 176 363.59

Low-Value Grants: € 7 819.00

Further reading

- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/child-sexual-exploitation
- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/child-sexual-exploitation/online-sexual-coercion-and-extortion-of-children
- **Europol EU** Policy Cycle EMPACT

EMPACT

CYBERCRIME ATTACKS TO INFORMATION SYSTEMS

2020 RESULTS

8
International investigations/ operations supported

45
Arrests

Seizures

- ✓ 50 servers
- ✓ 3 domains from bulletproof VPN provider
- ✓ €100 000 in cryptocurrencies
- ✓ Bitcoin mining equipment

Take downs

- ✓ 2 illegal platforms Backend
- ✓ Infrastructure in Romania, Norway, US, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland
- ✓ 1 illegal bulletproof VPN service involving 3 different domains

Other operational measures

Arrest of 20 individuals suspected of belonging to a criminal network which attempted to launder tens of millions of euros on behalf of the world's foremost cybercriminals

64 house searches

A splash page prepared by Europol was put up online after the domain seizures

Infrastructure on several Remote Access Tools (RATs) identified and High-Value Target/developer identified

Reports

Report/Assessment of ransomware trends

11 Intelligence updates on RATs, containing information on attribution of key elements

Report on the SIRIUS Project achievements 2020

4 Best practices identified and shared relating to organisation and procedures of 24/7 Operational Points of Contact

1 Report with guidelines and/or operational procedures for 24/7 Operational Point of Contact

Carrier-Grade NAT Pilot Project report

Other capacity building and prevention activities

Regulating hosting within the European Union. Servers are located in different countries and have different resellers

2 Residential trainings: Open source intelligence (OSINT) and IT solutions (2nd); Darkweb and cryptocurrencies

1 e-workshop "Analysing Email-based Attacks"

12 webinars with 4 359 participants

OSINT online course was organised on CEPOL LEEd

10 new guidelines shared, 28 old guidelines updated on the Sirius platform

EU law enforcement on the Sirius platform: in 2020 11 new tools were shared, 7 tools were updated

13 trainings (4 face-to-face, 9 e-learning sessions)

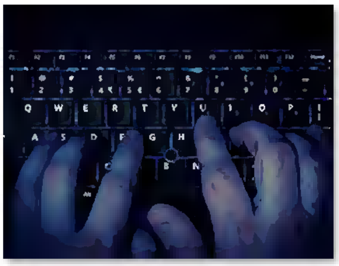
Tactical workshops on virtual currencies with 72 participants

Tactical workshops on Europol Malware Analysis Solution (EMAS) with 88 participants

Grant funding

High-Value Grant: € 176 363.60

Low-Value Grant: € 10 165



Further reading

- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/cybercrime
- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact

2

EMPACT

FIREARMS

2020 RESULTS

Seizures

2 732 weapons
2 435 Firearms
10 528 rounds of ammunition
164 pyrotechnic devices
117 Kg of drugs
1 vehicle

154
Arrests

Operational highlights

Operation Bosphorus

__11__ suspects arrested; __191__ firearms, __3 714__ rounds of ammunition, small quantities of drugs including cannabis and cocaine, unstamped cigarette packs, __1__ vehicle, false ID documents and __164__ pyrotechnic devices seized. Prior to the action days, all participating countries conducted various activities and investigations that led to the additional seizure of __1 585__ firearms.

Operation Armstrong

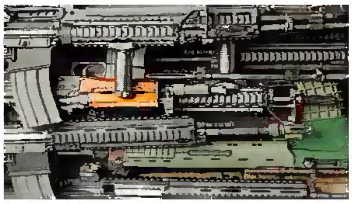
__42 000__ parcels checked; __6__ firearms, __13__ firearm parts, __600__ rounds of ammunition and __297__ other weapons (knives, pepper spray, tasers, etc) seized.

Operation Columbus

__1 695__ alerts regarding potential vessels of interests in area 1; __299__ alerts regarding potential vessels of interests in area 2; __1 476__ alerts regarding potential vessels of interests in area 3. Documents stipulating money transactions seized

Other

- ✓ **70** kg of cannabis and 18 converted and rebranded gas/alarm weapons seized.
- ✓ **32** converted gas/alarm weapons seized.
- ✓ **42** Ekol/Zoraki pistols seized
- ✓ **27** gas/alarm pistols seized
- ✓ **25** AK rifles seized
- ✓ **12** handguns seized
- ✓ **25** Ekol blank-firing pistols seized
- ✓ **X3P** Project in cooperation with European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) for ballistic data interoperability



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Other operational measures

Operational Task Force (OTF) Lyna – **6** suspects arrested, identification of **10** different IDs used to purchase over **1 500** weapons to convert them and bring them into EU criminal market, **80** weapons seized.

81 houses searches.

42 124 parcels checked

2 international arrest warrants

Creation of the EU-Latin America Firearms Experts Network called ARCO (Arms and Cooperation in Spanish)

Alignment with the Commission's firearms action plan

Joint Action Days (JAD)/ EMPACT Action Days

JAD Darkweb action week - 40 High-Value Targets (HVTs) were detected, waiting for a JAD to be analysed by the experts.

JAD SEE - 390 000 individuals and **44 000** vehicles were checked at cross-border locations and in suspected hotspots for criminal trafficking. **23** arrests for firearms trafficking or illegal possession of firearms, **73** arrests for migrant smuggling or illegal immigration, **37** arrests for drug trafficking; **7** arrests for firearms and drug trafficking, **12** arrests for document fraud, **2** International arrest warrants executed, **19** arrests for other crimes not related to the JAD. **57** weapons of different types and **47 Kg** of a variety of drugs seized.

- ✓ **9 398** Officers involved
- ✓ **393 130** People checked
- ✓ **45 378** Vehicles checked
- ✓ **196** Arrests
- ✓ **23** Firearms
- ✓ **79** Facilitation of Illegal Immigration (FII)
- ✓ **37** Drugs
- ✓ **5** Firearms + drug trafficking
- ✓ **12** Document Fraud
- ✓ **2** International arrest warrants
- ✓ **38** Other
- ✓ **687** Refusals of entry
- ✓ **502** Clandestine entries
- ✓ **189** Overstay
- ✓ **63** Visa Fraud
- ✓ **73** Falsification/Document fraud
- ✓ **52** Firearms seized
- ✓ **2 523** Rounds of ammunition:
- ✓ **164** Kg of drugs

Reports:

- ✓ **3 385 SIENA** messages including 1 207 requests
- ✓ **15** Operational analysis reports
- ✓ **121** Cross-match reports
- ✓ **179** Hit notifications
- ✓ **56** Intelligence packages
- ✓ **4** Forensic reports
- ✓ **6** Strategic products
- ✓ **4** Bulletins published
- ✓ Global firearms study 2020 finished and published in July 2020. (https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/firearms-study.html)

Grant funding

1 High-value grant: **€173 888.19**

2

4 Low-value grants: **€110 644.00**

Training

- ✓ **4** workshops on new technologies, in relation to the threat of firearms, specifically the risk of new technologies, especially 3D weapons.
- ✓ **Manual** on firearms detection at borders, with special leadership from Frontex.
- ✓ **CEPOL** Online Course 07/2019/on Firearms - 21 people successfully passed the course.
- ✓ **2** Webinars on firearms with around 255 attendees in total.
- ✓ **Questionnaire** produced and distributed to firearms experts in order to establish the state of play.
- ✓ **CEPOL** Firearms online module update: work on the module completed; available online in early 2021.
- ✓ **Webinar** organised on the result of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project and on the EU action plan.
- ✓ **United Nations** forums in online format, to explain the importance of EMPACT and the need to homogenise data collection.
- ✓ **Research centres** participating in the G-LOCK project and in the DIVERT project; during 2021 these results will be published.
- ✓ **Handbook** on detection of firearms.
- ✓ **2** training activities have been carried out in the context of the ARCO network with at least two experts per country, on two topics of particular relevance: the traceability of weapons and the development of cyber patrols.

Further reading

- Global firearms study 2020 is finished and published in July 2020. (https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/firearms-study.html).

EMPACT

ORGANISED PROPERTY CRIME

2020 RESULTS

10 512
Contributions

53
Mobile Organised Crime Groups (MOCGs) Dismantled

540
Arrests

8 Joint Arrest Operations

Seizures

- ✓ 3 hotels and 90 properties;
- ✓ +35 000 cultural goods;
- ✓ 517 vehicles & 1 361 stolen vehicle parts;
- ✓ 30 kg of gold;
- ✓ 110 kg of silver;
- ✓ 1.5 million cigarettes;
- ✓ 1 tonne of tobacco;
- ✓ 6 tonnes of copper;
- ✓ 12 boat engines;
- ✓ +120 ancient books;
- ✓ +50 luxury bicycles;
- ✓ 1 800 kg marijuana;
- ✓ 10 kg heroin;
- ✓ 141 forged documents;
- ✓ 26 weapons;
- ✓ Perfumes, cosmetics, tools, jewels, beer barrels, car key encoding cases, GPS tracking devices, GPS jammers, etc.

Assets Seized

- ✓ €58 510 691 (including € 2 297 291 and $200 000 in cash);

Successful Operations

- ✓ Operation PANDORA V
- ✓ Operation ISF CARGO
- ✓ Operation TRIVIUM 13
- ✓ Joint Action Day MOBILE 3

Other operational achievements

- ✓ 2 986 migrants detected at EU borders
- ✓ €5 800 spent on the commissioning of 7 confiscated vehicles (worth €158 000) benefiting investigation units
- ✓ 72 operational meetings
- ✓ 23 GPS tracking devices and 2 cameras purchased within the Operational Toolbox Operational Action and deployed 47 times in 23 operational cases

Information Products

- ✓ 4 intelligence products on ATMs

Cooperation with non-EU Partners

- ✓ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo*
- ✓ Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
- ✓ Colombia and Chile
- ✓ Interpol

**All reference to Kosovo, whether the territory, institution or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.*

1

Cooperation with the Private Sector

- ✓ Bank sector for ATM attack cases;
- ✓ Logistics companies in cargo theft cases;
- ✓ Phones companies in thefts of high value electronic devices, pickpocketing, fencing of stolen goods;
- ✓ Car constructors and their databases in motor vehicle crime cases
- ✓ Swiss luxury watchmakers in high-value watch thefts/trafficking and fencing cases.

Prevention

- ✓ A Focus Day on domestic burglary held;
- ✓ Campaign on domestic burglary prevention delivered.

Training and Capacity Building

- ✓ 3 CEPOL webinars (367 attendees) and 5 CEPOL exchanges

Funding

- ✓ Europol High-Value Grant: €175 746
- ✓ Europol 10 Low-Value Grants: €411 659
- ✓ ISF Spectre - €813 000 (from 10/2017 to 06/2020)
- ✓ Frontex – €48 000 (JAD Mobile 3)
- ✓ ISF CARGO - €1 million (07/2018 to 12/2020)
- ✓ CEPOL

Further reading

- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/organised-property-crime
- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/trafficking-in-stolen-vehicles
- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/mobile-crime-areas-and-trends-groups
- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/illicit-trafficking-in-cultural-goods-including-antiquities-and-works-of-art
- **Europol EU** Policy Cycle EMPACT

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EMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

2020 RESULTS

>1 600	>500	440
Inspections and Controls	Suspects Investigated	Arrests

Seizures

- ✓ 807 seizures of illegal timber (8 613m3)
- ✓ 132 warehouses/illicit waste dumping facilities and 167 452 tonnes of waste seized
- ✓ 106 waste trafficking seizures with a total value of €92 925 294.00
- ✓ 50 seizures of 92 tonnes of WEEE (waste from electric and electronic equipment)
- ✓ 53 seizures of 639 ivory items;
- ✓ 700 dried butterflies seized, 7kg of gold, 77.5 kg of mercury worth €250 000, 355 reptiles worth €800 000, 237 million Colombian pesos (worth €90 000)
- ✓ 32 kg of glass eels and 45 nets /Fishing gear; 20 birds

Tax Evasion Prevented / Illicit Profit Amount

- ✓ €71 376 452.00

Successful Operations

- ✓ Operation BLACK SUN against waste trafficking
- ✓ Operation LAKE and Operation CARDIIDAE against illegal fishing
- ✓ CYBER PATROLLING to tackle online trade of illicit wildlife
- ✓ Operation 30 DAYS AT SEA 3.0

Joint Action Day (JAD) Cyber Patroling

- ✓ Identification of more than 100 suspicious websites and the development of many new cases for investigation

Operational Highlights

- ✓ Seizure of multiple illicit waste shipments heading for Africa and Eastern Europe estimated to be worth €4 million;

- ✓ Seizure of hundreds of protected ivory items with an approximate retail value of €760 000

Information Products

- ✓ Preliminary report "Fighting environmental crime in Europe" issued by Italy

Cooperation with non-EU Partners

- ✓ Interpol
- ✓ Latin America countries
- ✓ Western Balkan countries
- ✓ Ukraine

Prevention

- ✓ Information campaign in conjunction with the European Union Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN)

Training and Capacity Building

- ✓ CEPOL, FRONTEX, and the Irish Police with the support of Interpol and the NGO Traffic, trained 800 police officers through 12 different residential or online sessions;
- ✓ FRONTEX EUROSUR/Copernicus Fusion Services (EFS) organised an awareness session;
- ✓ 6 CEPOL webinars for 632 officers delivered;
- ✓ A magistrates-dedicated online seminar was organized by France on waste trafficking, endangered species poaching, and international cooperation.

Funding

- ✓ Europol High-Value Grant - €175 718.44
- ✓ Europol 3 Low-Value Grants – €32 587 in total
- ✓ EUCPN and Internal Security Fund (ISF) – €80 000
- ✓ EL PAcCTO Program – €13 723.83
- ✓ LIFE Nature Guardians
- ✓ ISF – Project AMBITUS

2

EMPACT

Further reading

- Europol https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/environmental-crime
- Europol https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/environmental-crime/illicit-trafficking-in-endangered-animal-species
- Europol https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/environmental-crime/illicit-trafficking-in-endangered-plant-species-and-varieties
- Europol EU Policy Cycle EMPACT

EMPACT

CRIMINAL FINANCES/MONEY LAUNDERING /ASSET RECOVERY

2020 RESULTS

Seizures

Cash **€19 829 888 million**

Assets recovered **118 bitcoins**, 4 properties, **gold and silver coins** with a total value of **€5.5 million**

€2.1 million (14 frozen bank accounts, 2 commercial companies' assets, 2 properties, 6 vehicles)

3 apartments, 3 trucks, 6 vehicles, weapons, multiple bank accounts, and electronic items

538 Contributions

on cash seizures, suspicious cash declarations, suspicious transactions reports and money mule cases

1 641 Identified hits

5 Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) focusing on different money laundering typologies

2 Operational Task Forces (OTFs) based on horizontal approach in Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) and TOP Organised Crime Group (OCG) cases

40 arrests

Operational highlights

Operation Pulse (Operation Action 2.3 crypto cards)

- ✓ Investigation by the Netherlands on the use of foreign debit cards with a possible crypto facility to take out illicitly obtained money from regular ATMs.
- ✓ 3 young men used more than 1 000 false IDs to get accounts on many online gambling sites for bonuses for new players using servers with hundreds of IP addresses (through VPNs) from all over the world to avoid checks by the gambling sites.
- ✓ They took over this scheme in 2019, making illicit gains of up to €30 000 per month.
- ✓ The person who started this scheme in 2010 and sold it to his co-workers in 2019 has also been arrested. The real estate bought with his profits, which is worth millions today, was

confiscated by the public prosecutor's office pending future judicial proceedings.

Operation Cash-collect

- ✓ 2 years of investigation led by France and supported by Analysis Project (AP) Asset-Recovery against an OCG running a vast money-laundering network.
- ✓ Criminals were using a fleet of 15 Moroccan large trucks (38 t) that roamed across France and Spain towards Morocco, collecting dirty cash from drug traffickers under the cover of goods transportation.
- ✓ Raids launched against those criminals led to important seizures and asset recovery including: €2.5 million in cash, 3 apartments, 3 trucks, 6 vehicles, weapons, and multiple bank accounts used by the criminals.

Operation Beuk

- ✓ Dutch-led case (FIOD) supported by AP Asset Recovery against an OCG running a bitcoin-ATM network across the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain.
- ✓ Cash collected and exchanged into bitcoins through those ATMs was, in part, laundered by criminals and used for personal benefits.
- ✓ A global action carried out in the Netherlands, Spain and Belgium simultaneously resulted in the arrest of 3 suspects and €5.5 million of recovered assets (118 Bitcoins, 4 properties, gold and silver coins).

Operation Malay Tiger

- ✓ 2-year large and complex international investigation initiated by France and Poland and joined later by Slovakia and Ukraine within the legal framework of a JIT.
- ✓ This operation targeted a criminal network producing and trafficking doping substances sold under the name Malay Tiger.
- ✓ In February 2020, an action day conducted all over Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine by 272 law enforcement officers, led to the arrest of 25 suspects and to seizures worth €2.1 million including: 14 frozen bank accounts, 2 personal real estate properties, 2 commercial companies' assets, and 6 vehicles.

Joint action days/ EMPACT action days

- ✓ Finalization of the joint customs cooperation (JCO Daphné on cash control) (EMPACT CFMLAR with Customs Cooperation Working Party (CCWP) 9th action plan) in early 2020
- ✓ 5 actions days
- ✓ Horizontal support for 2 action days

Reports and information products

- ✓ 51 reports for cases on money laundering and THB, drug trafficking, online trade of counterfeited medicines, and East European Organized Crime.

Asset Recovery:

- ✓ 7 analytical reports
- ✓ 2 Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) reports
- ✓ 131 cross-match reports
- ✓ 97 hit notifications

2

Grant funding

- ✓ High-Value Grant: €159 550. 83
- ✓ 5 Low-Value Grants: €153 638

Other non-operational outcomes

- ✓ Malta and Switzerland joined AP Asset recovery; OLAF joined AP SUSTRANS
- ✓ BART: a free tool for import and analysis of bank data
- ✓ Recommendation paper on harmonizing bank statement formats finalized and sent to European Commission (DG HOME)
- ✓ 4th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies (60 participants from 32 countries)

Training

Cepol: 1 099 officers trained average satisfaction level with trainings: 95 %

- ✓ 4 online courses (Money laundering; Financial intelligence and analysis of financial data; International asset recovery; Money laundering)
- ✓ 4 webinars (Camden Asset-Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN); Anti-Money Laundering Operational Network (AMON); Money laundering and terrorist financing threats, vulnerabilities and risk indicators; understanding Fintech companies
- ✓ 1 online module (Money laundering)

Further reading

- **Europol** **Crime area: economic crime**
- **Europol EU** **Policy Cycle EMPACT**

3

EMPACT

DOCUMENT FRAUD

2020 RESULTS

18 International investigations/ operations supported

3 019 Fraudulent documents seized

7 Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) disrupted

4 Printshops dismantled

38 Arrests

Operational highlights

Operation Massilia

- ✓ Dismantling of a print shop producing counterfeit documents in the suburbs of Paris
- ✓ 4 house searches
- ✓ 3 suspects arrested
- ✓ 1 dye diffusion thermal re-transfer printer
- ✓ 2 laminators
- ✓ 1 150 blank plastic supports for ID cards and driving licenses, holographic bands
- ✓ 16 counterfeit ID cards (Belgian, Spanish and Italian), ID photos of customers and forged breeder documents
- ✓ Deployment of an expert from Europol on the ground to provide expertise and real-time cross-checking of operational data against Europol databases providing leads to the investigators.

Operation Berber

- ✓ A cross-border cooperation between France, Germany, Greece and Switzerland supported by Europol
- ✓ Detection of OCG active in the distribution of forged and falsified administrative documents to irregular migrants in several EU countries
- ✓ 9 suspects arrested including 2 OCG leaders involved in document fraud and facilitation of illegal immigration
- ✓ 37 counterfeit, falsified and genuine documents (Algerian, Austrian, Bulgarian, French, German, Greek, and Swiss) including passports, IDs, driving

licenses, residence cards, birth and marriage certificates; electronic and mobile devices

- ✓ €2 400 in cash and evidence of international bank transfers between France, Belgium, Germany and Spain

Joint Expert Team (JET) action weeks:

- ✓ An operational response to document fraud including deployment of a helpdesk to help officers in the field to improve control operations
- ✓ 3 operations: a total of 137 requests, 266 verified documents, 40 fraudulent uses, 9 experts deployed

Other operational measures

1 Joint Investigation Team (JIT)

Organised Property Crime (OPC) 17 new cases with forged administrative documents

Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) 39 Siena messages mentioning forged documents

Total Seizures

- ✓ €21 400
- ✓ 1 thermal printer, 2 laminators, 1 150 blank supports for ID cards and driving licences, holographic bands, 16 counterfeit ID cards, forged breeder documents, 37 counterfeit, falsified and genuine documents, electronic and mobile devices, evidence of international bank transfers

4 Joint Action Days (JADs)

- ✓ JAD DANUBE 5: 261 document fraud cases
- ✓ JAD MOBILE 3: 141 forged documents seized
- ✓ JAD SEE: 12 cases of document fraud; 73 fraudulent documents seized
- ✓ JAD ARKTOS 2
- ✓ THB: Deployment of experts in document fraud in THB investigations carried out in Spain and during the JAD Labour Exploitation and Agriculture Labour Exploitation using the 2 products: "Identification of the stages of various THB crimes where document fraud is relevant" and the "Checklist to involve document experts in THB crimes"

Reports and information products:

- ✓ European Document Fraud (EDF) Annual Risk Analysis 2020
- ✓ Frontex Annual Risk Analysis
- ✓ Handbook on Yemeni documents

- ✓ The role of European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) in combating document fraud
- ✓ Intelligence Notification (Document fraud is a key enabler for the facilitation of Chinese victims of sexual exploitation into the European Union)
- ✓ Leaflet: Document Fraud as a facilitator of THB
- ✓ 41 Intelligence Notifications
- ✓ 4 Strategic Analysis reports
- ✓ 13 Operational Analysis Reports
- ✓ 2 intelligence packages
- ✓ 3 Financial Intelligence reports
- ✓ 93 Cross Match Reports
- ✓ 56 Hit notifications

Other capacity building and prevention activities

- ✓ Cepol: 822 law enforcement officers trained; 1 online course: False Identity Documents crime facilitator; 3 webinars (Visa fraud; Digital smuggling; the use of social media)
- ✓ 6 advanced level document officer (ALDO) trainings for law enforcement agencies and consulate visa staff, 46 people trained
- ✓ Video clip "JETs in action"

Other outcomes

- ✓ ProFID project: an operational tool to profile forged documents and classify them into series, make crosschecks to help investigators in disrupting OCGs. Test phase 2 initiated in November 2020 with 7 partners (Belgium, Germany, France, Finland, Netherlands, Switzerland and Norway)
- ✓ Further operationalisation of the Frontex Centre of Excellence for Combating Document Fraud from the EU External border perspective including a Frontex strategy on document and related identity fraud.

Grant funding

- ✓ High-Value Grants: €99 845.07
- ✓ 3 Low-Value Grants (Document Fraud in Facilitation of Illegal Immigration): €140 000

Further reading

- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact
- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/france-nabs-leaders-of-document-fraud-network-active-in-eu

EMPACT Joint Action Days

Europol Public Information

JOINT ACTION DAYS (JAD) 2020

2020 RESULTS

JAD Danube 5	**JAD South East Europe**	**JAD Labour exploitation**
JAD Agricultural sector	**JAD Mobile 3**	**JAD Arktos 2**

418 Suspects arrested

- 37 Drug trafficking/production
- 153 Facilitated illegal immigration
- 134 Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)
- 28 Firearms trafficking
- 12 Document fraud
- 54 Other crime areas/unknown.

645 Cases/investigations initiated

- 645 THB

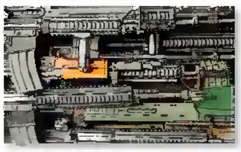
335 Victims of THB identified

Drugs, (pre)precursors and NPS seizures:

- 0.01 kg of cocaine
- 10.3 kg of heroin
- 1 809.32 kg of cannabis
- 2 128 New Psychoactive Substance (NPS) tablets
- 164 kg of drugs (not specified)

Weapons and explosives:

- 53 firearms
- 2 594 rounds of ammunition



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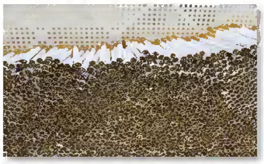
Other seizures / confiscations:

- 38 220 293 cigarettes
- 2 942.34 kg of raw tobacco
- 219.40 L of alcohol
- 6 054 L of diesel oil
- 384 cars and 1 253 car parts
- 20 350 undeclared surgical masks



Financial seizures / confiscations: €99 400

Fraudulent documents seized: 475

Irregular migration

Migrants intercepted: 10 393

Clandestine entries detected: 502

Refusals of entry: 687

Overstays detected: 189

Further reading

- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas
- **Europol** https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact

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