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#### NOTE

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



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.



## GENERAL FACTSHEET: OPERATIONAL ACTION PLANS (OAPs) 2020

### 2020 RESULTS



#### 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

- ✓ 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 licences, 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



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

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>

# FACILITATED ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

## 2020 RESULTS



### 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



## 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

Video clip "Joint Expert Teams in action"

## Grant funding

## Irregular migration figures reported

High-Value Grants (2): € 229 995.76

Low-Value Grants (6): € 208 665.00

26 175 irregular migrants intercepted

1 435 refusals of entry

24 overstayers detected

## Further reading

- Europol <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/facilitation-of-illegal-immigrationfacilitated-illegal-immigration>
- Europol <https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact>



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (THB)

### 2020 RESULTS



### 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 Luser**

### Other operational measures

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

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

### 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,

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.







## EXCISE FRAUD

### 2020 RESULTS



### 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**.

## 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 intelligence and analysis, already well developed over previous years, and improve the understanding of illicit money flows.

(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).

## 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

## 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

- ✓ 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

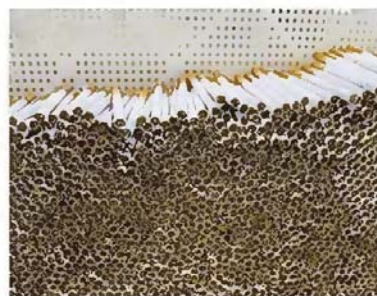
## Grant funding

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





## MTIC FRAUD

### 2020 RESULTS



### 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

### “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

### 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

- ✓ **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

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

## Multidisciplinary approach

- ✓ **Police**
- ✓ **Customs**
- ✓ **Financial Intelligence Units**
- ✓ **Tax administrations**
- ✓ **EU Agencies, institutions and networks** [CEPOL, EU COM (DG

## Grant funding

- ✓ **1 High-Value Grant:** €126 627



## Further reading

- Europol Crime area: [MTIC Fraud](#)
- Europol: [EMPACT](#)





## NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS) / SYNTHETIC DRUGS

### 2020 RESULTS



### 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 Thap

- ✓ 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)

## 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](#)




# 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](#)



# CYBERCRIME – NON-CASH PAYMENT FRAUD

## 2020 RESULTS



### 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>



# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION/CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

## 2020 RESULTS



### 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

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

## Cooperation with non-EU partners

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

## Training and Capacity Building

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

## 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

## 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](#)





## CYBERCRIME ATTACKS TO INFORMATION SYSTEMS

### 2020 RESULTS



### 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>





## 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

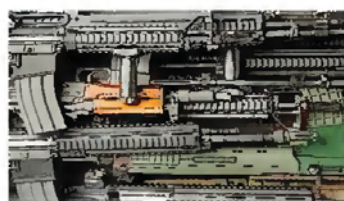
*42 000 parcels checked; 6 firearms, 13 firearm parts, 600 rounds of ammunition and 297 other weapons (knives, pepper spray, tasers, etc) seized.*

##### 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



### Other operational measures

Operational Task Force (OTF) Lyma – 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

#### 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>).



## ORGANISED PROPERTY CRIME

### 2020 RESULTS



### 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.

## 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

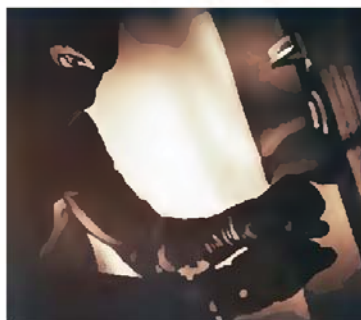
- ✓ 3 CEPOL webinars (367 attendees) and 5 CEPOL exchanges

## 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





## ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

### 2020 RESULTS



#### 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 Patrolling

- ✓ 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

### Further reading

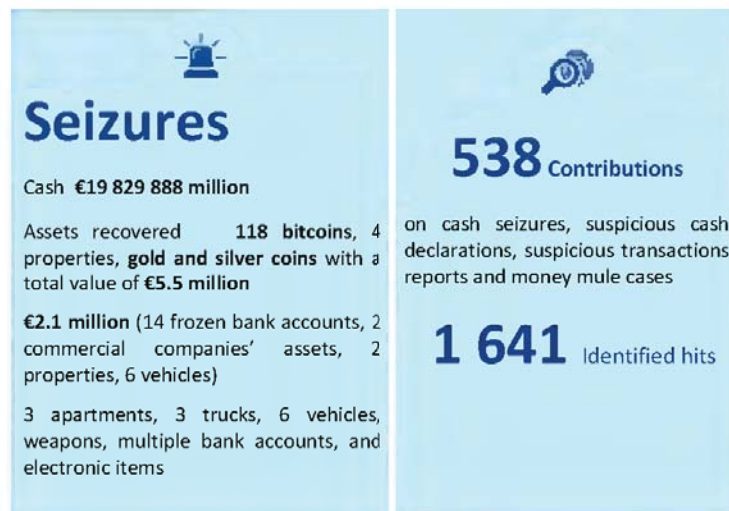
- Europol <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/environmental-crime>
- Europol <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/environmental-crime/illicit-trafficking-in-endangered-animal-species>
- Europol <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/environmental-crime/illicit-trafficking-in-endangered-plant-species-and-varieties>
- Europol EU [Policy Cycle EMPACT](#)





## CRIMINAL FINANCES/MONEY LAUNDERING /ASSET RECOVERY

### 2020 RESULTS



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 counterfeit medicines, and East European Organized Crime.

#### Asset Recovery:

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



## 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](#)



## DOCUMENT FRAUD

### 2020 RESULTS



### 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

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.

## 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

## 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>

## JOINT ACTION DAYS (JAD) 2020

### 2020 RESULTS

<b>JAD Danube 5</b>	<b>JAD South East Europe</b>	<b>JAD Labour exploitation</b>
<b>JAD Agricultural sector</b>	<b>JAD Mobile 3</b>	<b>JAD Arktos 2</b>

#### 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

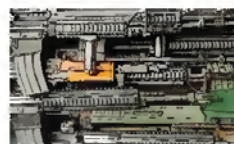
#### Drugs, (pre)precursors and NPS seizures:

- 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





#### 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>