

EMPACT

2022 Results

Factsheets







GENERAL FACTSHEET



OPERATIONAL ACTION PLANS (OAPs)

2022 Results



9922
Arrests



Over 62 Tonnes
of drugs seized



Over 180 million €
seized



51
High Value Targets
identified



9263
Investigation initiated








12
High Value Targets
arrested








4019
Victims identified
(40 safeguarded)

QUANTITATIVE DATA – FROM FACTSHEETS

PER PRIORITY/OAP (NUMBER OF)

 Arrests	 Value of Seizures	 Assets/Other seizures	 Investigations initiated	 Victims identified
1. Migrant smuggling (MIGR)				
3 646	€ 2 267 655 cash + assets value	4 113 false documents	4 408	
2. Trafficking in human beings (THB)				
430	€ 583 000 cash		904	4 109
3. Environmental crime				
401	> € 15 000 000	334 620 tons of waste illicitly traf-ficked (plastic, metal E-Waste, ELV, textiles, paper and mixed waste, 3 vessels); 639 980.2 kg of F-gases worth € 12 529 302.16; 1 255 kg of glass eels (value € 1.9 million) ; 55 855 kg sea products (value € 231 500); 1 023 CITES items (among those: 5 elephant tusks, 386 birds, 15 parrot eggs, 16 rhino horns, 186 shark fins, 72 turtles, 37 reptiles, 113 coral items, 179 butterflies, 14 mammals); 3 786 birds of European wildlife or CITES protected; 15.87 kg of sea snails and shells ; 11 backhoes; 2 mining engines; 2 mining ships; 9 vehicles	234	

Arrests	Value of Seizures	Assets/Other seizures	Investigations initiated	Victims identified
4. Excise fraud				
694	€3 970 000 cash	<p>€ 800 000 property value; 664.5 million cigarettes; 1 231.7 tonnes of raw and/or fine cut tobacco; 768.9 tonnes of water pipe tobacco; 2.41 million kg of designer fuel and 135 353 litres of laundered fuel; 17 258 litres of alcoholic beverages, 1 500 litres of non-denatured ethyl alcohol and 6 500 litres of denatured (not for drinking) ethyl alcohol</p> <p>Computer equipment, mobile phones, electronic data (bookkeeping, e-mail communication, etc.), stamps, printed materials (CMR sheets, documentary notes, etc.); 52 IBCs</p> <p>2 mobile fuel stations (fuel pumps, etc.); 301 vehicles (trucks/lorries, trailers/semi-trailers/tank containers, cars, vans, etc.); 74 forklifts</p> <p>Machinery, non-tobacco materials (precursors) and equipment for illicit production of tobacco products: 186 production lines, 49 packaging lines, 57 tobacco cutting machines, 32 generators</p>	267	
5. Missing trader intra-Community (MTIC) fraud				
87	€ 29 488 900		33	
6. Firearms (FIA)				
57		757 firearms	395	
7. Cannabis/cocaine/heroin (CCH)				
530	<p>€ 1 401 990</p> <p>€ 31 540</p> <p>€ 2 040</p> <p>criminal assets value:</p> <p>€ 100 000</p>	<p>Drugs: cocaine 44 360 kg, heroin 308.5 kg, opium 39.3 kg, MDMA 7.3 kg, Hashish 520 kg</p> <p>Vehicles: 16 cars, 18 high speed boats (average value € 175 000 each), 3 trucks</p> <p>Weapons: 1</p>		
8. Synthetic drugs/new psychoactive substances (SYD/NPS)				
31	€ 86 400 cash	<p>Drugs: BMK Glycidic Acid: 5 000 kg; PMK Ethyl Glycidate: 2 600 kg; BMK: 742 litres; Ephedrine: 3 000 000 pills; Red Phosphorus: 1 kg; Ecstasy: 705 506 pills, Amphetamine: 10 kg; Ketamine: 167.89 kg; MDMA: 125.3 kg; DMT: 6.81 kg; Methamphetamine: 10.56 kg; LSD: 4 420 leaves; Cannabis: 587.85 kg; Hashish: 716.80 kg</p> <p>Weapons: 3</p> <p>Other seizures: Cigarettes: 6 500 000</p>	9*	
9. Online Fraud Scheme (OFS)				
2609		Loss value prevented € 17.5 million (not seized)	1 727	
10. Child sexual exploitation (CSE)				
30			60	40 safe-guarded
11. Cybercrime attacks against information systems (CAIS)				

 Arrests	 Value of Seizures	 Assets/Other seizures	 Investigations initiated	 Victims identified
6	> € 20 000 000	value of assets seized/frozen/confiscated: € 20 000 000	15	
12. Criminal finances, money laundering and asset recovery (CFMLAR)				
162	€ 7 000 000 cash	€ 65 100 000 asset value 851 kg drugs	213	
13. Organised property crime (OPC)				
1 153	€ 31 533 000	800 g of explosives More than 100 luxury stolen watches 30 kg of jewellery	464	
14. Intellectual property crime and countereifing of goods (IPCCGC)				
115	€ 200 000 cash	9.4 million counterfeit cosmetics and perfumes; 1.2 million counterfeit car parts; 100 kg of illicit drugs (NPS, anabolic substances) and 2 million pharmaceu-tical products; 320 000 counterfeit clothes and ac-cessories, 301 341 kg of fish and 10 120 kg of additives seized for illegal fishing; Counterfeit products seized with an assessed value of € 42 million 4 419 websites taken down along with 133 instant messaging and social media accounts		
15. High Risk Criminal Networks (HRCN)				
121	€ 11 900 000 cash € 680 200 value stolen vehicles € 226 050 value of stolen goods	Drugs: Cocaine 4714.6 kg; 930 kg Cannabis + 1 cannabis plantation (600 plants); 18.5 kg Amphetamine; 250 kg of drugs (MDMA pills and hashish) Vehicles: 2 trucks, small airplane, luxury cars (€ 1.5 million) Other seizures: luxury goods, 15 million il-legal cigarettes, 216 litres of unlabelled and untaxed alcohol, 157 gambling objects; weapons: firearms and ammunitions.	464	
Total calculated figures for public version:				
9 922	n/a	n/a	9 263	4 109 40 safe-guarded



 **EUROPOL**

JOINT ACTION DAYS (JAD)

2022 Results

- > JAD Arktos 4
- > JAD South-East Europe
- > JAD Child Trafficking
- > JAD Stopover 2
- > JAD Danube 7
- > JAD Mobile 5
- > JAD Finestra 2
- > CPA Cyber Patrol Action
- > Workers



953 suspects arrested

- > 115 Drug trafficking/production
- > 291 Migrant Smuggling
- > 38 Firearms trafficking
- > 58 Trafficking in human beings
- > 29 Excise fraud
- > 239 Document fraud
- > 183 Other crime areas/unknown



129 new suspects identified



421 cases/investigations initiated



368 Victims of THB identified



DRUG, (PRE-)PRECURSOR AND NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE (NPS) SEIZURES

- > 55 kg of cocaine
- > 304 kg of heroin
- > 165 kg of cannabis + 5 402 plants
- > 1 kg Metamphetamine, 652 pills, 2380 anabolic steroids



WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES SEIZED

- > 119 firearms
- > 750 kg pyrotechnic articles
- > 13 540 ammunition seizures



OTHER SEIZURES/CONFISCATIONS:

- > 5223 kg of tobacco and 15 434 519 cigarettes
- > 4 792 lts of alcohol
- > 1 531 lts of diesel oil/ illegal fuel
- > 7 boats, 568 vehicles and 279 car parts with value of € 18 million
- > € 20.9 million and 30 million USD cash

635 Fraudulent documents seized



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

- > 10237 illegal migrants intercepted
- > 2728 clandestine entries detected
- > 4 442 refusals of entry
- > 1 925 illegal stays
- > 134 overstays detected

JAD ARKTOS 4

Key operational outcomes:

- arrest of
 - ▶ **38** suspected people smugglers
 - ▶ **29** suspected perpetrators of excise fraud
- detection of
 - ▶ **36** fraudulent documents
 - ▶ **16** stolen cars and four stolen vehicle parts
 - ▶ **1 661** irregular migrants
 - ▶ **15 138 079** pieces of smuggled cigarettes
 - ▶ **1 978 kg** of smuggled raw tobacco
 - ▶ **€2.9 million** in cash
 - ▶ **1 531 l** of undeclared diesel oil
 - ▶ **525 l** of smuggled/undeclared alcohol
- seizure of **1** smuggled hunter rifle and **1 290** pieces of **5.56x45** cartridges
- detection of **7 777** pieces of smuggled tobacco slights

JAD South East Europe

Key operational outcomes:

- officers working on the JAD: **15 598 (3 899** each day)
- total entities checked: **107 589**
- persons checked: **74 924**
- vehicles checked: **32 665**
- postal packages or parcels: **2 004**
- premises: **998**
- people arrested: **382 (159** related to migrant smuggling, **112** related to drug trafficking, **38** related to firearms trafficking, **2** related to trafficking in human beings, and **71** related to other crimes)
- refusals of entry: **607**
- clandestine entries: **2 476**
- overstays: **134**
- visa fraud: **16**
- falsifications: **38**
- firearms seized: **112 (42** pistols, **43** rifles, six air guns, one anti-personnel mine, one air defense system, **15** grenades, two machines for assembling, two anti-tank missiles)
- **12 250** pieces of ammunition
- **304 kg** of heroin, **147 kg** of cannabis, **5 402** marijuana plants and **1.3 kg** of cocaine
- **130** new investigations reported by participants
- deployment of one Europol mobile office, one team with mobile scanners offered by the Dutch police.

JAD Child Trafficking

Key operational outcomes:

- arrest of
 - ▶ **29** people suspected of THB for sexual exploitation
 - ▶ **4** people suspected of THB for labour exploitation

- ▶ **101** people suspected of other crimes
- detection of
 - ▶ **226** fraudulent documents
 - ▶ **64** suspected traffickers
 - ▶ **134** potential victims, including **15** minors
- opening of **104** new criminal cases

JAD Stopover 2

Key operational outcomes:

- JAD Stopover 2 resulted in the seizure of
 - ▶ **49.2 kg** of drugs (mainly cocaine),
 - ▶ the detection of **105** fraudulent documents,
 - ▶ **438** refusals of entry.
- In total, national authorities arrested
 - ▶ **12** people in connection with migrant smuggling (people smugglers)
 - ▶ **1** smuggler of goods.
- Furthermore, **51** irregular migrants were apprehended.

JAD Danube 7

Key operational outcomes

- arrest of
 - ▶ **82** suspected people smugglers
 - ▶ **2** suspected traffickers of human beings
- detection of
 - ▶ **89** fraudulent documents
 - ▶ **26** stolen cars
 - ▶ **4 092** irregular migrants
 - ▶ **296 440** cigarettes
 - ▶ **5 kg** of tobacco
 - ▶ **\$30 million** in cash and **€29 776** gold: approximately **600 g**
 - ▶ **204.7 g** of cocaine
 - ▶ **114.9 g** of hashish
 - ▶ **14.2 kg** of marijuana
 - ▶ **652** pills and **2 380** anabolic steroids
 - ▶ **4.8 g** of heroin
 - ▶ **2.3 kg** of 4CMC
 - ▶ **1 kg** of methamphetamine
 - ▶ approximately **8 litres** of alcohol
- in total **35** HITS in INTERPOL databases were detected

JAD Mobile 5

Key operational outcomes:

- Seizure of **522** vehicles, **275** car parts, **7** boats, **7** outboard engines, and **110** forged documents. With an average value of **€35 000** per seized vehicle, the total value of seized goods is estimated to reach **€18 million**.

JAD Finistra 2

Key operational outcomes:

- › **2 329 480** pieces of cigarettes seized
- › **3 240 kg** of tobacco seized
- › **3 395** parcels with cigarettes blankets seized
- › **3.8 kg** of marijuana detected
- › **1 g** of PVP detected
- › **39** facilitators detained
- › **188** illegal stays detected
- › **3** firearms and firearm parts detected
- › **4** stolen cars confiscated
- › **15** fraudulent documents discovered
- › **22** pieces of anabolic products detected
- › **223** pieces of cosmetics detected
- › **750 kg** of pyrotechnic articles detected
- › **19** plastic containers of caviar detected
- › **22 657** bottles of antiseptics detected
- › **80** ampoules of anabolic products detected

CPA Cyber Patrol Action

Key operational outcomes

- › **150** high value targets pre-selected, de-conflicted and coordinated
- › **50** target packages distributed to LEAs of EU member states for the initiation of investigations
- › New single vendor shops and dark marketplaces identified for investigative opportunities

Workers

Key operational outcomes

- › arrest of
 - ▶ **17** suspected traffickers of human beings
 - ▶ **42** suspects identified
- › **231** victims related to trafficking in human beings (adults)
- › **36** new cases and investigation related to trafficking in human beings



CRITERIA TO CLUSTER DATA

Suspects arrested, cases/investigations initiated, victims, drugs, (pre)precursors and NPS seizures, weapons and explosives, other seizures/confiscations, and fraudulent documents seized





FACTSHEETS ON 15 OAPs



MIGRANT SMUGGLING (MIGR)

2022 Results



3 646 arrests

8 High-Value Targets (HVTs) arrested

- › Seizures of cash money and various assets with a total value of approx. **€ 900 000**
- › **39** new investigations
- › Implementation of **2** JITs.

Operational Task Force (OTF) FLOW

Criminal networks smuggling irregular migrants mainly via Belarus, Lithuania, and Poland (action leader) and other EU MS.



Seizures

€ 2 267 655 in cash
+ assets value

- › **22** High Value Targets were identified within **11** prioritised criminal investigations.
- › Arrest of **61** facilitators
- › **2** Common Action Days
- › **45** house searches
- › **12** transfers detected with **13** facilitators and **30** migrants coming from Belarus
- › Seizures of electronic equipment, various documents, evidence of money transfers and cash
- › Seizure of more than the equivalent of **500 000 EUR** cash in euros or dollars.



Assets seized

- › **4 113** false documents

Joint Investigative Cell (JIC) set up by Lithuania in Vilnius served as operational hub and facilitates cooperation between involved national law enforcement authorities and Europol.



Investigation initiated

- › **3 285** international investigations supported
- › **4 408** international investigations

Operational Task Force (OTF) Dune

Most active criminal networks smuggling migrants across the English Channel in small boats – a highly dangerous modus operandi.

- › Composed of **70** suspects
- › **39** arrests of facilitators
- › **3** High Value Targets arrested
- › Over **50** location searches
- › Seizures of over **1200** lifejackets, about **150** rubber boats, close to **50** engines; about **40 000** EUR in cash, firearms, vehicles, and drugs.

No data reported in the category 'tax evasion prevented'.



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE PUBLIC VERSION (from Driver's report)

Operational Task Force (OTF) Pathfinder

Led by the German Federal Police and coordinated by Europol targeted some of the most dangerous migrant smugglers across the EU (Balkan route). The investigations by the Operational Task Force led so far to:

- › **8** High Value Targets arrested and **3** placed under European Arrest Warrant
- › **2** Common Action Days
- › **126** arrests of facilitators
- › **916** smuggling incidents detected
- › **151** house searches

Enhance Intelligence Picture

- › A total of **1142** strategic analytical reports and intelligence products issued.
- › **918** strategic reports drafted by Europol and Frontex.
- › Weekly Europol Monitoring Team (EPMT) on migratory routes, nationalities involved, modus operandi, the criminal networks involved in the facilitation, current and possible future trends, and scenarios.
- › Weekly contributions to various requests received via Blueprint network to monitor and report on emerging threats, such as in-put on Afghanistan, Eastern Borders, Ukraine, and Western Balkan route.

- › Weekly, Bi-weekly and Monthly Analytical Overviews, Analytical Warnings (Joint Operations) + Annual and Strategic Risk Analysis reports. All of them issued by Frontex
- › **3** comprehensive strategic products developed: **1**/Update on Smuggling in small boats from the EU to the United Kingdom across the English Channel, **2**/Possible new route for migrant smuggling via Kaliningrad, and **3**/Joint analytical report on Secondary movements of Afghan nationals produced by EUAA, Europol and Frontex.



LARGEST OPERATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST IMPACT ON ORGANISED CRIME

Operation Made in China, Operation Aintox, Operation RIVIERA, Operation DISCOVERY, Operation “Comme un aimant”, Operation Crafter, Operation Neptuno, Operation Arión, Operation Zodiac, Operation TRANSPORTER, TASK FORCE WESTERN BALKAN, Operation RISK, JIT Doro.



COOPERATION WITH NON-EU PARTNERS AND PRIVATE PARTIES

The operational cooperation with Western Balkan countries. Ukraine, Moldova, United Kingdom, United States of America, Algeria, Morocco, Turkey, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan and UNODC.



TRAINING

1 Residential course provided by CEPOL – Document Fraud Investigation of EUROPOL (EMSC / Document Forensic Laboratory), FRON-TEX, Norway, France, Belgium, Germany, Romania, as well as private partners such as PORTALS, JURA, BANQUE DE FRANCE. Involvement of printing industry representatives in the team of trainers.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (THB)

2022 Results



 **430 arrests**

 **Seizures**
€ 583 000

 **Investigation initiated**
904

 **Victims identified**
4 109 victims (reported/
identified)

No data reported in the category 'tax evasion prevented'.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR PUBLIC VERSION (from Driver's report)

Operation Latino

First successful cooperation under the OTF umbrella in THB crime area (OTF Latino). Arrest of first THB HVT. Modus operandi: manipulation on vulnerable victims into prostitution. Use of the so-called lover boy method (threats and acts of violence against victims or their families).

- > **EUR 1.3 million** in illegal proceeds via money transfer companies and via cash couriers (Romania).
- > Money laundering of criminal proceeds through investments in real estate and luxury goods.
- > **16** house searches (**10** in France and **6** in Romania).
- > **7** arrests amongst which a first THB HVT (**2** in France and **5** in Romania).
- > **32** victims identified.

Operation BOGOTA

An international investigation on a criminal network (sexual exploitation of victims originating from Colombia).

- > **13** house searches (**7** in France and **6** in Spain).
- > **13** arrests (suspects from Bolivian, Colombian, Ecuadorian, French, Spanish, Peruvian and Venezuelan origin)
- > **25** victims originating from South America were identified
- > Seizures include **2** real estate properties.

Operation BALASZ

Family-based organised crime group – particularly violent - involved in human trafficking for forced begging. Abuse of extremely vulnerable individuals. Victims were subjected to inhumane treatment (domestic slaves).

- > Setting up of a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) supported by Eurojust and Europol
- > **7** locations searched (**1** in Austria, **2** in Germany, **1** in Hungary and **3** in Romania)
- > **4** arrests (**1** in Germany, **1** in Hungary, **1** in Austria and **1** in Romania)
- > Seizures included: phones and other electronic devices, more than **EUR 90 000** and **RON 9 400** in cash, **1 kg** of gold.

War in Ukraine

Due to the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, an immediate response from EMPACT THB was activated. To detect and protect potential Ukrainian victims. Updates on the operational action plan.

A specific operational action settled to identify and fight OCGs - sexual, la-bour or any other forms of exploitation - with a specific focus on the exploitation of Ukrainian refugees.

- > Regular newsletters (**4**)
- > Workshop on Victim protection was organised, on vulnerability of refugees from the conflict to fall into criminal networks or organizations dedicated to trafficking.

EMPACT THB Hackathons

2 Hackathons conducted in 2022 were the first of its kind for THB. Strategic outlook into THB in the online landscape. Identification on potential platforms, victims of THB and offenders specifically related to the Ukraine conflict.

- > **14** countries participated, including: AT, CY, DK, DE, ES, HU, IT, LV, NL (action leader), PT, RO, SL & UK.
- > Europol provided access to the VCOP application, this enabled real time cross checks to be made if required.
- > A broad range of activities focused on the Dark Web, social media, or specific key word searches.
- > Results included: **125** online platforms monitored, **42** online platforms checked, **9** suspected human traffickers identified, **9** possible victims identified, **15** new investigations initiated, **93** officers participated, **351** people/usernames checked.

The first in-person Hackathon (NL) brought together several THB and OSINT experts. Also dedicated to focusing on Ukrainian victims of THB. Legally supported by the Netherlands Prosecution Service and Eurojust.

- ▶ Results included (strategic):
 - ▶ Real time intelligence checks
 - ▶ **84** online platforms monitored.
 - ▶ **43** online platforms suspected
 - ▶ **6** suspected human traffickers identified
 - ▶ **45** potential victims identified.
 - ▶ **5** online platforms linked to human trafficking, **4** of which were related to child sexual exploitation on the dark web.
 - ▶ **20** platforms with possible links to trafficking of human beings identified for further investigation and monitoring.

- ▶ Results (Ukraine focus):
 - ▶ **30** online platforms monitored
 - ▶ **10** online platforms suspected of links to THB checked.
 - ▶ **5** suspected human traffickers identified
 - ▶ **25** potential victims identified.
 - ▶ **80** persons / usernames checked, out of which **30** were related to possible exploitation of vulnerable citizens



COOPERATION WITH NON-EU PARTNERS AND PRIVATE PARTIES

Western Balkan and Eastern countries. Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States. Other third countries like Brazil, China, Colombia, Nigeria, and Vietnam.

EU funded projects and international organisations. EL PACCTO; IPA Project (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) countering serious and organised crime in the Western Balkans; ENAA European Network for Administrative Approach, Project Liberi – ISF Funded

Other non-law enforcement: IOM; UNICEF; Western Union; FIU.NET; AIRBNB; GRETA; University of Amsterdam; NGO Unbound Now; Comisiones Obreras trade union (ES)

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

2022 Results



401 arrests



Investigation initiated

234 criminal investigations



Seizures

- > **334 620 tons** of waste illicitly trafficked (plastic, metal e-Waste, ELV, textiles, paper and mixed waste, 3 vessels)
- > **639 980 20 kg** of F-gases worth € 12 529 302.16
- > **1 255 kg** of glass eels (value € 1.9 million)
- > **55 855 kg** sea products (value € 231 500)
- > **1 023** CITES items (among those: 5 elephant tusks, 386 birds, 15 parrot eggs, 16 rhino horns, 186 shark fins, 72 turtles, 37 reptiles, 113 coral items, 179 butterflies, 14 mammals)
- > **3 786** birds of European wildlife or CITES protected
- > **15.87 kg** of sea snails and shells
- > **11** backhoes
- > **2** mining engines
- > **2** mining ships
- > **9** vehicles
- > **1** motorcycle
- > **4** mobile phones
- > **414** sacks of mineral material
- > **56 560** of mineral material
- > **20** mining tools



Other

- > **6 440** inspections and controls

No data reported in the category 'tax evasion prevented'.



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR PUBLIC VERSION (from Driver's report)

This priority accounts for **88** Joint Action Days, **3** Action Weeks on cyberpatrolling, water pollution and waste. **5** High Value Targets were identified.

F-gases

- > **2022 124** people were arrested.
- > Other **109** criminals detected.
- > **604** administrative offences.
- > **639 980 kg** of F-gases were seized worth more than **12.5 million Euros**.
- > Number of inspections was **884**.
- > Websites were dismantled through cyberpatrolling actions.
- > Several companies illegally selling F-gases were identified.
- > Several trafficking routes were identified.

Illicit waste trafficking

Operational action aimed at preventing, detecting, and combating illicit waste trafficking via the EU external borders.

- > **43** people arrested.
- > **2 000** tons of waste illicitly trafficked (plastic, metal E-Waste, ELV, textiles, paper, and mixed waste, **3** vessels) were seized.
- > **2 561** controls modus operandi, transportation and routes were identified.
- > Other operations coordinated with other priorities by inserting the environmental aspect such as JAD Mobile. The Strategic As-sessment on IWT – 2022 was published and a practical guide on IWT investigations disseminated.



Assets seized

> € 15 000 000

Wildlife crime

Operational action built on several sub-activities to coordinate efforts

- › 3 EAD (Empact Action Days) on illegal fishery and glass eels-trafficking.
- › 146 suspects arrested and 17 reported.
- › 5 HVTs were identified.
- › Over the different operations, 1 255 kilo of glass eels (value € 1.9 million), 55 855 kg sea products (value € 231 500), 19 miscel-laneous CITES items, 5 elephant tusks, 386 birds, 15 parrot eggs, 16 rhino horns, 186 shark fins, 72 turtles, 37 reptiles, 113 coral items, 179 butterflies, 14 mammals were seized.
- › Cooperation with different actors (DG SANTE, OLAF, EFCA, TRAFFIC, WWF).

The Jaguar Network succeeded in supporting 12 different operations tackling trafficking activities across Latin America and Europe. Offences detected range from illegal mining to illegal wildlife and timber trafficking. This operation was outstanding in connecting LEAs from the two continents.

Fight against deforestation and Cooperation

Cooperation with the police networks in Latin American countries also supported by EI-PACCTO. Cooperation with some countries in Asia (Indonesia and Myanmar). Some operations were conducted under the framework of the Madeira de Lei and NIM.



TRAINING

Several training materials were produced, and training activities were delivered to hundreds of police officers and civilians across Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

EXCISE FRAUD

2022 Results



694 arrests



**Investigation initiated
267**



**Seizures
€ 3 970 000 cash**



**OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR
PUBLIC VERSION (From Driver's report)**



Assets seized

- › € 800 000 property value
- › 664.5 million cigarettes
- › 1 231.7 tons of raw and/or fine cut tobacco
- › 768.9 tons of water pipe tobacco
- › 2.41 million kg of designer fuel and 135 353 litres of laundered fuel
- › 17 258 litres of alcoholic beverages, 1 500 litres of non-denatured ethyl alcohol and 6 500 litres of denatured (not for drinking) ethyl alcohol
- › Computer equipment, mobile phones, electronic data (bookkeeping, e-mail communication, etc.), stamps, printed materials (CMR sheets, documentary notes, etc.)
- › 52 IBCs
- › 2 mobile fuel stations (fuel pumps, etc.)
- › 301 vehicles (trucks/lorries, trailers/semi-trailers/tank containers, cars, vans, etc.)
- › 74 forklifts
- › Machinery, non-tobacco materials (precursors) and equipment for illicit production of tobacco products:
- › 186 production lines
- › 49 packaging lines
- › 57 tobacco cutting machines
- › 32 generators

Illicit production of tobacco

Law enforcement officials (customs, police, border guards) dealing with the illicit production of tobacco products achieved tremendous operational results in 2022.

- › 75 cigarettes production sites.
- › 13 water pipe tobacco production sites.
- › 70 tobacco cutting facilities and 85 storage facilities were dismantled in the EU.
- › Non-tobacco materials (precursors) and equipment: 186 production lines, 49 packaging lines, 57 tobacco cutting machines, 32 generators and large quantities of non-tobacco materials (precursors) (filters, cigarette paper, filter paper, glue, foil, flavours, packaging materials, etc).

Operation "Big Brother."

A Joint operational activities and implementation of common strategy focused on the illicit transportation of water pipe tobacco (transit fraud in collaboration with OLAF, via ATIS and IET of Anti-Fraud Information System (AFIS). Monitoring of suspicious transit movements of water pipe tobacco.

Operational results: 147 suspects arrested, 691.200,77 kg of water pipe tobacco seized, almost 18,5 million EUR in revenue loss prevented.

Excise fraud related to mineral oils

OCGs involved in excise fraud related to mineral oils are highly adaptive. Constant change in the companies and countries involved in the supply chains and the modus operandi used for importation, transportation and/or production of designer fuels. Sophisticated fraud schemes, however declining volumes of the overall designer fuels production in the EU indicate that the operational measures taken are effective.

Operation "Chain Bridge 2022"

Operation "Chain Bridge 2022" represents a successful example of intelligence-led operations as targeted different types of transportations (maritime, using road tankers, railway, intermodal).

Operation “Tanker”

Operation “Tanker” was implemented based on operational cooperation. The fraud caused damage to CZ budget of at least **11 million** CZK. **37** house searches were carried out, **7** individuals were arrested. **15.785 litres** of mineral oil, computer equipment, mobile phones, stamps, printed materials (CMR sheets, documentary notes, etc.), **220.000** CZK in cash, **2** properties with an estimated value of **13 million** CZK were seized.

Operation “Needle in the Haystack II”

Operation “Needle in the Haystack II” successfully targeted high-risk maritime designer fuel freight transportations.



MULTIDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION

Increased level of multidisciplinary cooperation. Police forces and customs units from different EU MS (and non-EU countries) together EU agencies/bodies and international organisations (EPPO, Eurojust, Europol, Frontex, OLAF, Interpol, SELEC and WCO). Active usage of tools available at Europol (SIENA, AP support), OLAF (VOCU deployment) and Frontex (EUROSUR Fusion Services).



TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Training activities (CEPOL) on excise fraud related issues.
Awareness raising sessions on EUROSUR Fusion Services (EFS).
Training on surveillance, analytical and technical tools by Frontex.
Representatives from the EU MS were informed on EFS and other surveillance, analytical and technical tools, and services available to support detections and counteractions of excise goods smuggling.

4 training activities (**1** residential course + **3** webinars (**1** of them for Eastern Neighbourhood countries). A total of **655** participants. Additionally, during the awareness and training sessions.

MISSING TRADER INTRA COMMUNITY (MTIC) FRAUD

2022 Results



 **87 arrests**

 **Seizures**
€ 29 488 900

 **Investigation initiated**
33

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS (from Driver's report)

VAT frauds (Imports of highly crashed vehicles from third countries)

- › number of investigations, **10**;
- › number of joint operations, **7** (action days);
- › number of searches, exact number not available;
- › value of assets recovered: **7.400.000** Euros (real estate, apartments, vehicles, cash);
- › number of arrests, at least **7** (exact number not available);
- › number of suspects being investigated, at least **21** (exact number not available);
- › number of operational meetings, **5**.

Criminally organized VAT Frauds

- › number of investigations, **23**;
- › number of SIENA contributions to AP MTIC, **216**;
- › number of searches, **582**;
- › value of assets recovered, **22.088.900** Euros;
- › number of arrests, **80**;
- › number of operational meetings, **8**;
- › number of suspects being investigated, **330**.

EUROPOL acting as EU criminal information hub (early warning)

A comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the threat from financial and economic crime to the EU. It identifies key threats and enhances the intelligence picture for the benefit of the law enforcement community, decision-makers, relevant stakeholders, and the public. Police, Customs, Tax, and financial authorities as well as relevant authorities such as Financial Investigative Units (FIUs) and Asset Recovery Offices (AROs) contributed for the FECTA.

232 contributions were received from all **27** EU Member States, **14** third countries & EPPO.



COOPERATION WITH NON-EU PARTNERS AND PRIVATE PARTIES

Cooperation with Ukraine, US Homeland Security, Switzerland, Norway, and UK.



FIREARMS

2022 Results



57 arrests



Seizures
757 firearms



Investigation initiated
395

No data reported in the categories 'assets seized' and 'tax evasion prevented'.



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR PUBLIC VERSION (From Driver's report)

Operation Mars 2022

Operation Mars 2022 targeting the conversion of Flobert firearms into fire live ammunition: deactivation and illegally reactivation weapons. Results have been achieved: **12** separate investigations conducted. **100** flobert weapons reported to Europol being traced back to purchases made from registered Slovakian weapons dealers. In total **5** suspects were arrested.

Research project **26** BELPRE conducted by NL (within the context of Operation Mars).

- **1** OTF; **11** suspects arrested, and **357** weapons seized (the majority Flobert weapons). Over **1 500** flobert weapons were sold by this OCG. **228** messages exchanged. Information about **1 912** flobert weapons were contributed by SK. **15** seized and traced.

Operation Conversus

Operation Conversus on trafficking of blank firearms, illegally transformed into lethal firearms:

- **1 534** firearms;
- **17 464** pcs ammunition;
- **6 550 kg** pyrotechnics;
- Over **260** house searches

Operation Armstrong

Firearms and firearms parts sold online via surface and dark web platforms and distributed using postal and courier services.

290 seizures of firearms and/or firearms parts were reported by **13** countries in May 2022.

Operation WICIOR (within the context of Operation Armstrong): **82** suspects were arrested and over **250** firearms were seized over **300** house searches. It is believed the OCG had sent over **340** parcels with firearms and parts.

JAD SEE 2022

Law enforcement authorities jointly targeted firearms trafficking, drugs trafficking, migrant smuggling, and trafficking in human beings. Intelligence-led approach. Multidisciplinary cooperation Main targeted: Balkans and Southeast Europe, including an active participation from Moldova and Ukraine. The coordination centre in Montenegro. Almost **16 000** officers involved. The controls and investigations led to the following arrests in several European countries. (Vid JAD SEE data).



OTHER NON-OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

4 **BULLETin** produced and translated to different languages.

Handbook for the detection of firearms at authorized points. (2700 copies were disseminated by Frontex).



COOPERATION WITH NON-EU PARTNERS AND PRIVATE PARTIES

- › Balkans, Ukraine, and Moldova.
- › MENA countries (support of EEAS and INTERPOL)
- › Latin America (through the PACCTO). Implementation of the network of experts on firearms trafficking called ARCO.
- › US agencies (ATF, HSI, FBI)
- › Participation in EU projects: Flemish Institute of Peace and University of Alcalá de Henares (Spain).



TRAINING

- › 3 webinars
- › 1 Onsite course.
- › 1 Online course.
- › 1 Online module 'Firearms' (481 participants).
- › Exchange programme (4 participants; 94% satisfaction).

3D printing firearms conference

Supported by the University of Leiden (NL) Cooperation with the private and academia. Cooperation with the Project Interknow lead by the UK. The findings of thematic workshops were captured in factsheets. Publication of a podcast and interviews.



ACTIVITIES RELATED TO UKRAINE

Mobilization to tackle the possible risk of illicit trafficking of firearms within the war context.

Actions/activities:

- › Exchange of information and publication of an EMPACT newsletter on the Ukrainian conflict
- › Joint workshop with the OSCE - experiences from other conflicts, lessons learned and good practices - Western Balkans, Ukraine, and Moldova. Attendants: 100 people.
- › Participation of Ukraine in the JAD SEE
- › Active participation in the EU Moldova HUB
- › Participation in the high-level COM meetings with the USA to coordinate actions on firearms trafficking.

CANNABIS, COCAINE AND HEROIN (CCH)

2022 Results



530 arrests



Seizures (drugs)

- > **44 360 kg** cocaine
- > **308.5 kg** heroin
- > **39.3 kg** opium
- > **7.3 kg** MDMA
- > **520 kg** hashish



Assets seized

€ 1 536 022.86



Seizures

- > **16** cars
- > **18** high speed boats (average value € 175 000 each)
- > **3** trucks



Investigation initiated

47

No data reported in the category 'tax evasion prevented'.



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

(From Driver's report)

Balkan Cartel

European coordinated response on the increased importation of cocaine from Latin America to the EU and its further distribution.

- > Operation ROCKY/MOST **2** people arrested, and **6 Kg** of heroin seized.
- > Operation ACHILLES/MAXIMUS/VENTO **175** people arrested, and **861 kg** of cocaine seized
- > Operation SEMINOLE/FLORIDA resulted in **28** people arrested, and + **6,1** tons of cocaine seized.

Operation Tayrona II

One of the most important operations against drug trafficking (mainly cocaine) coming from Latin America through the Atlantic to Europe.

- > Monitoring and control of **74** vessels heading to Europe with intelligence background.
- > Analysis of routes and departure points, connection between vessels and containers.
- > **129** exchanges recorded through the SIENA platform.
- > Seizure of **35.262** kilograms of cocaine and opening of **19** cases.

Heroin an AA (Acetic Anhydride) - Balkan route

Investigations concerning trafficking of heroin and opioids along the Balkan route.

4 investigations: seizure of **183.5 kg** heroin in Dover (UK), **10 kg** of heroin in Sofia, **109 kg** heroin at Kapitan Andreevo BCP (Border Control Point) and **34 kg** of opium at Kalotina BCP (Bulgaria).

Iberian Peninsula

Setting up the European Operational Team (EOT) in Spain. Supported by EMPACT CCH and the Europol. **20** EU and non-EU countries have joined the project. Also supported by the MAOC-N and FRONTEX. High operational performance on the spot.

EMPACT Action Days (Airports)

Operational action designed to control (checks and profiling) drug smuggling at airports with a special focus on flights from South America to the EU territory. Activation of police forces and customs units in several airports of EU MS and non-EU countries.

Results over one (**1**) week reporting period:

- > **31** people arrested

- › 59 cases reported
- › 188 kg of cocaine seized
- › 5.3 kg of opiates seized
- › 7.3 kg of MDMA seized
- › Seizures of other substances as marihuana, LSD, ketamine and ayahuasca

Operation Victor Romeo

Five participating countries. One action day with simultaneous checks at different locations.

- › 3 vehicles with a professionally installed compartment were seized (1 in Sweden, 1 in the Netherlands and 1 in Belgium). 2 vehicles with a hidden compartment 'ad hoc' were found in Belgium.
- › 2 ongoing investigations resulting in 2 vehicles sized (one in each investigation) with a professionally installed hidden compartment. Total number of vehicles discovered with concealed space: 7.



COOPERATION WITH NON-EU PARTNERS AND PRIVATE PARTIES

Cooperation with Colombia, The United Kingdom, Switzerland, Australia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Pakistan, Serbia, UK, UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) and ENACT (Enhancing Africa's ability to Counter Transnational Crime), the Global Illicit Flows Programme (AIRCOP) and Project COLIBRI.

Example of cooperation with the private sector: **Worldwide operating facilitator**. Focused on container shipment companies and on their facilitating role in the worldwide trafficking of drugs, especially cocaine.



TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

CEPOL training courses on drug trafficking.

SYNTHETIC DRUGS NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (SYD/NPS)

2022 Results



 **54 arrests**

 **Seizures**

- › **5 000 kg** BMK glycidyl acid
- › **2 600 kg** PMK ethyl glycidate
- › **742 litres** BMK
- › **3 000 000** ephedrine pills
- › **1 kg** red phosphorus
- › **705 506** ecstasy pills
- › **10 kg** amphetamine
- › **167.89 kg** ketamine
- › **125.3 kg** MDMA
- › **6.81 kg** DMT
- › **10.56 kg** methamphetamine
- › **4 420** LSD leaves
- › **587.85 kg** cannabis
- › **716.80 kg** hashish

 **Other seizures**

- › **3** weapons
- › **6 500 000** cigarettes

 **Assets seized**
€ 86 400 cash

 **Investigation initiated**
36

No data reported in the category 'tax evasion prevented'.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR PUBLIC VERSION (From Driver's report)

Operations under WhiteSnow Project

Coordinated organisation of actions and meetings through the ISF WhiteSnow project:

- › Arrests: **24** persons (including **1** person with Interpol Red Notice)
- › Investigations supported: **12** cases
- › Dismantled laboratories: **2** synthetic drugs laboratories
- › Seizures:
 - ▶ **587,85 kg** cannabis;
 - ▶ **444,80 kg** hashish;
 - ▶ **6 kg** amphetamine;
 - ▶ **10 920** ecstasy pills

Collaboration and alignment of activities of both CCH and NPS/ SYD OAPs.

Operation Umbrella

Operation focused on trafficking of precursors used to produce synthetic drugs. It resulted in a seizure of **5 000 kg** of BMK Glycidic Acid, **110 kg** of amphetamine and arrest **3** persons (criminal business organizers) in Poland and Germany.

Operation Tú Thép

18 investigations were initiated under the framework of this operation: the criminal group behind was involved in the trafficking of meth for the German market but also for the smuggling of ecstasy pills from NL via DE to Vietnam, via postal parcels.

- › First phase
 - ▶ **23** arrested persons,
 - ▶ **25 kg** meth and **83 kg** marijuana seized.
 - ▶ Further investigation (Tú Thép) against the source of the drugs initiated.
- › Second phase
 - ▶ **2,5 kg** meth, **45,5 kg** ecstasy, **14 kg** marijuana and **0,5 kg** ketamine were seized
 - ▶ **6** persons (mainly couriers) were arrested.
- › Final action day
 - ▶ **18** persons were arrested,
 - ▶ **3,4 kg** meth, **4,2 kg** ecstasy, **1 kg** marijuana and **45 kg** dimethylsulfon (special cutting agent for crystal meth) and **132** mobile phones, **16** notebooks, **21** tablets, **27** SIM-cards and **5** PCs were seized.

Overall file scope: **1 000 kg** meth, **1,1 million** ecstasy tablets and **18 kg** marijuana in **63** cases.

Expert Meeting on Drugs

Discussions centred around the effects of crisis contexts on drug trafficking: COVID-19, the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021 and the war in Ukraine.

Context: Global Illicit Flow Programme (GIFP) Crime Fighting Week, organised by FPI (DG NEAR and DG INTPA). Attended by nearly **100** participants. Both EMPACT drugs priorities NPS/Synthetic and Drugs and Cannabis/Cocaine/Heroin, represented by the two Drivers, **21** EU Member States, **15** EU-funded projects with external dimension scope, EU agencies and international organizations.



COOPERATION WITH NON-EU PARTNERS AND PRIVATE PARTIES

A coordination meeting was held in Bogota between representatives of the Polish and Colombian Police (ISF WhiteSnow project). Cooperation with the National Police of Colombia remains one of the priority directions of cooperation for the joint fight against organized drug crime.



TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

CEPOL with the support of Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, and Serbia developed:

- ▶ **8** eLessons with **360** degree virtual tours on drug production facilities.
- ▶ **7** eLessons – amphetamine, MDMA, methamphetamine (small-scale), precursors, NPS, tableting and dump-sites – directly linked to EMPACT NPS/Synthetic Drugs priority.

The on-site and online training solutions made possible to exchange good operational practice and knowledge.

ONLINE FRAUD SCHEME (OFS)

2022 Results



2 609 arrests



Seizures

- › Loss value prevented **€ 17.5 million** (not seized)



Investigation initiated

1 727

No data reported in the categories 'seizures', 'assets seized' and 'tax evasion prevented'.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR PUBLIC VERSION (From Driver's report)

e-commerce fraud method

The investigations included the use of surveillance methods, crypto currency transactions, tracing and confiscation of vehicles and technical devices in many European countries.

Fighting digital skimming

Several good practices were identified:

- › A better analysis and understanding of what data leaks represent (legal frameworks).
- › To increase knowledge of the criminal ecosystem in relation to data leaks.
- › Sharing law enforcement feedback on investigations.
- › The need to establish a more fluid and swift cooperation.
- › The need to develop relevant technical tools to tackle this phenomenon.

Three concrete solutions proposed to fight against data leaks:

- › The deployment of the *No More Leaks platform* (NL).
- › The wider deployment of the open source platform (Switzerland).
- › The project to create a European platform (instant detection of vulnerabilities using data science tools associated with data encryption algorithms).

A criminal analysis report produced (1).

Training activities

Training activities designed to address operational challenges related to online fraud schemes. Onsite and online training solutions. Special focus on **card fraud, cross-border exchange of e-Evidence, cyber-intelligence, or online fraud schemes**. The courses were supported by EMPACT experts that provided the didactic contents. The overall satisfaction rate was very high.

Prevention in payment fraud

14 EU member states and **2** third countries (IS, CH), together with the EU Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) + Europol.

- › **2** rounds of requests for information (modus operandi and good examples).
- › **2** in person workshops with hands-on work and discussions in Stockholm and Brussels.
- › **2** online briefings.
- › **1** final online meeting (2022).
- › **1** extra working meeting.
- › **1** working meeting to plan and discuss the next workplan. Selected participants: (SE, FI, EUCPN, CZ, DE, NL).



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Western Balkans countries, Iceland, and Switzerland.

The networking between EU and Latin American countries is providing with a strategic result while operational outcomes are expected to increase in future.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

2022 Results



30 arrests
(Offenders identified)



Investigation initiated
60



Victims identified
40 (safeguarded)



Other

- > **303** suspects identified
- > **684** CSE material series identified, **536** new
- > **278** intelligence packages created
- > **320** Sites of production identified (30 countries)

No data reported in the categories 'seizures', 'assets seized' and 'tax evasion prevented'.



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

VIDTF operation CII Group

This operation takes maximum advantage of the EMPACT network. The funding allows to get more experts together ("right people"). The results and numbers from VIDTF again prove its value.

No details because of the sensitive character of this work.

Innovative approach to LDCA

A new one that started in 2022 with "modest" results, but it is expected to lead to good results in the next years.



COOPERATION WITH NON-EU PARTNERS AND PRIVATE PARTIES

Cooperation with Western Balkan countries, the US, UK, and Latin American countries.



TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Multidisciplinary training activities related to CSE facilitated by CEPOL in cooperation with the EMPACT CSE network.



PREVENTION

Evaluation of crime through prevention projects. This is considered a completely new but necessary step.

CYBER ATTACKS AGAINST INFORMATION SYSTEMS (CAIS)

2022 Results



6 arrests



Seizures

€ 20 000 000
value of assets seized/
frozen/confiscated



Assets seized

> € 20 000 000



Investigation initiated

15

No data reported in the category 'tax evasion prevented'.



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

(From Driver's report)

Operation Vaccination:

Sprint in Vienna, April 2022. AT, NL, US Secret Service (USSS) and EC3/AP Cyborg carried out disruptive actions against a mobile malware infrastructure such as a takedown in NL. Results: Identification of proxy and C2 servers, malware intelligence on fresh samples, R&D of intel gathering tool, contributions on handlers, and IoCs, domains. Further analysis and intelligence on the suspects were shared and discussed.

Prevention against ransoms

Efficient and collective fight against ransoms: a beta version of the R2IP was set up and a R2IP introduced to 5 private incident response companies.

The R2IP Initial Incident Report was enriched. Besides, in the perspective of the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2024 in Paris, an experimentation is being implemented about the enrichment of technical data (IP addresses, etc.)

- > Number of distributed reports: **41** and crossmatch reports: **88**
- > Number of phishing websites taken down: **65**
- > Intelligence report indicating potential criminally complicit exchangers and hosting providers: **1**
- > Knowledge products created on the digital evidence: **27**
- > Value of assets seized/frozen/confiscated: **20 000 000 €**.



NON-OPERATIONAL COOPERATION

The Google Ads campaign succeeded in preventing youngsters from engaging in a cybercriminal career. The ICOP (International Cyber Offender Prevention) network started in October 2022 and new projects will be launched in this context.



TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

EMAS Workshop

This workshop (30/11/2022 – 01/12/2022) gathered participants from several EU MS, Europol and provided training to all the highly-specialised participants and focused on the malware investigations techniques and on the updated features of the solution.



EBC 2019



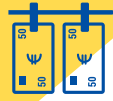
Mario Draghi

100

EURO
ΕΥΡΩ
ΕΒΡΟ

CRIMINAL FINANCES, MONEY LAUNDERING AND ASSET RECOVERY (CFMLAR)

2022 Results



162 arrests



Seizures

€ 7 000 000 cash



Assets seized

- > € 65 100 000 asset value
- > 851 kg drugs



Investigation initiated
213

No data reported in the category 'Tax Evasion'.



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR PUBLIC VERSION (From Driver's report)

Operational achievements (operations, EMPACT action days and EMPACT Joint Action Days)

ACTION DAY

Europol (AP SUSTRANS), Eurojust, Bulgaria, Germany, and Greece. Results of the action day:

- > 24 searches (including 2 call centres and 2 accounting offices);
- > 66 witnesses interrogated;
- > 1 suspect arrested;
- > 19 mobile phones, 16 computers, 47 hard discs and 2 servers;
- > 11 other electronic devices and notebooks (containing personal data, bank accounts, brokers);
- > 16 stamps of trade companies;
- > Video record of conversation between brokers and victims.

<https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/bulgarian-authorities-take-down-online-investment-scam-responsible-losses-more-eur-10-million>

Operational achievements on corruption

Europol/AP CORRUPTION has supported 49 operations from MS covering different types of corruption. 6 out of 49 of these operations have been supported as high-profile cases and led to 6 Action Days in 2022 in different MS with the following operational outcomes: 68 suspects arrested; 103 real estate properties valued at approximately 31.9 million euro seized, and other assets (including cash, bank accounts and luxury cars) seized valued more than 1.650 million euros for an overall grand total of 33.5 MLN euros. The actual value of the total assets seized is considered even higher.

International cooperation and exchange of information

- > Questionnaire on the "Cooperation with China" and gathered 20 responses.
- > Questionnaire on the "Impact of the scams committed by Israeli OCGs" and gathered 10 responses.
- > Questionnaire on "the implication of OCGs linked to Turkey in international Money Laundering Networks".

"ASP COVID"

France/Belgium + cooperation with Europol and Israel: Operation in Israel for a COVID-related fraud case. Reported results:

- > 7.6 million € in criminal assets seized (cash, bank and investment accounts, crypto-assets, vehicles, leather goods, jewellery, and luxury watches)

- › In France: **9** people were taken into custody, of which **4** were indicted and **2** imprisoned.
- › In Israel: **7** people were arrested, of which **5** were indicted and **2** imprisoned.
- › Real estate property in Tel-Aviv worth **€1.5 million** and a vehicle worth **€250,000**.

Development and consolidation of a good practice guide and an IT-tool list for big data analysis (Corruption)

- › An intelligence report (presented by Spain) on this type of money laundering in the EU, and the different risk areas associated.
- › A "Workshop on Money Laundering of corruption in third countries". Good practices were shared, and several practical cases (France and Portugal) related to this typology were presented. EUROPOL AP Corruption presented the latest trends detected by this analysis project.



COOPERATION WITH NON-EU PARTNERS AND PRIVATE PARTIES

- › China
- › Turkey
- › Israel
- › Joining of the United Arab Emirates on the 30th of May to the AMON Network.



TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- › Webinar on the phenomenon of illegal sale of financial services (CEPOL). Trainers from Italy and Europol participated as speakers to illustrate good investigative practices.
- › Two-day Workshop on Next Generation EU Funds for practitioners. A practical tool to the investigators.
- › **1** training provided to EU MS and other **9** trainings to EU neighbouring countries (projects: WBPaCt, Topcop, and Euromed)
- › A strategic meeting held in Amsterdam. Participation of police and financial investigative units (FIUs). Analysis of STR data sets.

ORGANISED PROPERTY CRIME (OPC)

2022 Results



980 arrests



Seizures

€ 31 533 000



Assets seized

- > **800 g** of explosives
- > **100** luxury stolen watches
- > **30 kg** of jewellery



Investigation initiated

1033

No data reported in the category 'Tax Evasion'.



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR PUBLIC VERSION (From Driver's report)

Current trends of concern include the following two issues (Intelligence AP Furtum Europol).

- > Burglary and aggravated robbery remain a problem for the EU, including the discovery of a new modus operandi using acid.
- > Trafficking in motor vehicles (and spare parts) also remains a problem in the EU

Car theft

A car theft criminal group using a fraudulent software to steal vehicles without using the physical key fob was dismantled. As a result of a coordinated action carried out in the three countries involved (France, Spain, and Latvia), **31** suspects were arrested. A total of **22** locations were searched, and over **EUR 1 098 500** in criminal assets seized. Among those arrested feature the software developers (resellers and the car thieves who used this tool to steal vehicles). Supported by Europol and Eurojust.

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/31-arrested-for-stealing-cars-hacking-keyless-tech>

ATM attacks

Police operation against a Dutch criminal gang attacking cash machines in Germany (**12** attacks). High risk and dangerous modus operandi because of the use of heavier explosives to gain access to the cash machines' content. Investigation and action day supported by Europol (ESOCC).

- > **13** members of the gang arrested.
- > Over **100** police officers deployed
- > **1.6 million €** (stolen)
- > Over **4 million €** worth of damage on the targeted premises

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/thirteen-arrested-over-german-cashpoint-explosions-netted-gang-over-eur-16-million>

Operation SWORD (Burglaries)

An investigation was conducted against a Serbian-Croatian criminal group suspected of hundreds of burglaries in Europe and whose leader was identified as a high-value target (HVT). Action simultaneously coordinated in France, Spain, the Netherlands, Croatia, and Italy.

- > **25** people arrested, including the HVT, most of them women.
- > Total damage estimation is over **2 million Euros**.
- > Million Euros collected from burglaries(stolen).

Those operations received the fully support of EMPACT OPC (HVG and/or LVG) and ISF SWORD.



COOPERATION WITH NON-EU PARTNERS AND PRIVATE PARTIES

AL, BA, CH, CL, CO, EC, GE, Kosovo*, MD, ME, MK, NO, PE, RS, UA, USA.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME AND COUNTERFEITING OF GOODS (IPCCGC)

2022 Results



115 arrests



Assets seized

- > **9.4 million** counterfeit cosmetics and perfumes;
- > **1.2 million** counterfeit car parts;
- > **100 kg** of illicit drugs (NPS, anabolic substances) and 2 million pharmaceutical products;
- > **320 000** counterfeit clothes items and accessories,
- > **301 341 kg** fish and 10 120 kg additives seized for illegal fishing;
- > Counterfeit products seized with an assessed value of **€ 42 million**
- > **4 419** websites taken down along with **133** instant messaging and social media accounts



Investigation initiated

51



Other

- > **7 Meetings**

No data reported in the category 'Tax Evasion'.



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR PUBLIC VERSION (From Driver's report)

Operational achievements (operations, EMPACT Action Days and EMPACT Joint Action Days)

Op. Aphrodite IV

Op. Aphrodite IV targeting counterfeit cosmetics and perfumes that are traded illegally on online platforms and on physical markets

- > **9.4 million** counterfeit cosmetics and perfumes seized, along with other **119.958** counterfeit luxury products (including clothing, footwear, personal accessories, jewellery, watches, mobile devices and accessories, IPTV set-top boxes and toys).
- > **26** people reported to judicial authorities and **624** perpetrators reported to the administrative and health authorities.
- > **4.419** websites taken down along with **133** instant messaging and social media accounts.

Op. Fake Star

Op. Fake Star targeting counterfeited goods, violating well-known branches' intellectual property rights by focusing on checks of warehouses, stores, street markets, etc.

- > **64** arrests,
- > **1135** places inspected,
- > **1,2 million** goods seized (infringing the rights of **136** different brands) with an assessed value of **40 million EUR**.

Op. Shield

Op. Shield tackling illegal trafficking, distribution, and sale of medicines, doping substances and COVID-19 related products.

- > **7** arrests,
- > more than **100 kg** of illicit drugs (NPS, anabolic substances) and **2 million** pharmaceutical products seized with a value of more than **€ 2 million**
- > **€ 200 000** in cash seized

Joint investigations and/or separate operations against **illegal online platforms and websites**.

- > **10** investigations initiated
- > **35** persons arrested
- > over **200 000** counterfeit items (clothes, shoes, phone cases and other accessories) seized.

Investigation handbook developed by EUIPO. The document illustrates prevailing criminal business models in the field of IP crime, occurring both online and offline.

Joint Cyber-patrolling activity

31 vendors, suspected in disseminating counterfeit currencies in Darknet, social media and various internet sites.

**COOPERATION WITH NON-EU PARTNERS AND PRIVATE PARTIES**

Turkey

2 coordination meetings with non-EU partners from the Western Balkan region on enhancing international cooperation in the fight against currency counterfeiting.

**TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING**

40 experts from various EU MS trained on online investigation techniques against the dissemination of counterfeit currencies through internet.

HIGH RISK CRIMINAL NETWORKS (HRCN)

2022 Results



121 arrests



Seizures

- > € 11 900 000 cash
- > € 680 200 value of stolen vehicles
- > € 226 050 value of stolen goods



Assets seized (Drugs related)

- > **4714.6 kg** cocaine
- > **930 kg** cannabis + 1 cannabis plantation (600 plants)
- > **18.5 kg** amphetamine
- > **250 kg** of drugs (MDMA pills and hashish)
- > vehicles: **2** trucks, small aeroplane, luxury cars (€ 1.5 million)



Assets seized (other)

- > Luxury goods
- > **15 million** illegal cigarettes
- > **216 litres** of unlabelled and untaxed alcohol
- > **157** gambling objects
- > weapons, firearms, ammunitions



Investigation initiated

74



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR PUBLIC VERSION (From Driver's report)

- > **High Value Targets (HVT) detected/targeted: 12 + 22 potential**
- > **List of potential HVTs: 51 prioritized targets**
- > **Europol OTFs established: 5**
- > **Tactical early warnings: 3**
- > **OCGs detected/dismantled: 42**
- > **House searches: 151**
- > **Strategic intelligence on North EU HRCNs and violence-as-a-service**

OTF JOKER

An unprecedented international operation involving judicial and law enforcement authorities from **11** countries.

- > **44** individuals arrested (suspected to belong to a top polycriminal dangerous HRCN operating in several EU MS)
- > **94** searches executed across Europe, targeting leaders and their associates.
- > Potential High Value Targets (HVTs) involved.
- > **10** tons of hashish and **6** tons of cocaine seized

JAD IG (2022)

Austrian led operation/special investigation on illegal gambling".

- > Deployment of several hundred officers.
- > Seizure of **56** gambling-related objects.
- > **13** people arrested
- > Seizure of **35,1** grams of cocaine
- > **13 000 €** cash.

In the Czech Republic:

- > **247** officers were deployed
- > **25** illegal gambling locations
- > **50** gambling objects seized
- > **€ 7,600** confiscated
- > **2** persons arrested.
- > **134 litres** of unlabelled and untaxed alcohol in the illegal gambling scene.

In Spain:

- > Several hundred officers deployed
- > **51** gambling objects seized,
- > **33** charges under the Criminal Code and **13** charges under the Gambling Act.
- > Official plant closures of **2** locations. (Dominican Lottery and bingo).

SEPCA Action Day

Dismantlement of a gang of car thieves operating across Germany. This criminal network was comprised of Bosnian nationals illegally residing in Germany. Suspected of breaking into residential buildings at night and stealing the keys of expensive vehicles before driving them off.

The total value of the stolen vehicles exceeds **1.5 million €**. **4** properties were searched in Dortmund. **3** suspects arrested.

Heads of Homicide Investigation Departments & HRCN

Collaboration between the police of Latvia and the Italian D.I.A. Supported by the @ON Network project and Europol. Activity: Meeting focused on the cross border and organized crime angles of this severe form of crime (contract killings, intra OCG murders).



COOPERATION WITH NON-EU PARTNERS AND PRIVATE PARTIES

Western Balkans, Latin American countries. The US, UK.



TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Satisfaction rate CEPOL training HRCN activity: **96,41%**

CEPOL webinar awareness and knowledge on high-risk Nigerian criminal networks operations in the EU. Involvement of these networks in different types of organised crime.



Disclaimer

This publication has been produced by the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union (GSC) and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the European Union institutions nor the member states. Neither the Council of the European Union nor any person acting on behalf of the Council can be held responsible for the use that might be made of the information contained in this publication.

Print: ISBN 978-92-824-9493-6 - doi:10.2860/022653 - QC-04-23-623-EN-C
PDF: ISBN 978-92-824-9494-3 - doi:10.2860/73252 - QC-04-23-623-EN-N

Reuse is authorised provided the source is acknowledged. The reuse policy of the Council is implemented by the Council Decision (EU) 2017/1842 of 9 October 2017 on the open data policy of the Council and the reuse of Council documents (OJ L 262, 12.10.2017, p. 1).

© European Union, 2023

Cover: © European Union

p2, 3, 8: © European Union - p4: © Shutterstock; Gorodenkoff - p12: © Shutterstock; Corepics VOF - p14: © Shutterstock; Bilal Kocabas - p24: © Shutterstock; Svitlana Hulko - p34: © Shutterstock; MVelishchuk - p43: © Shutterstock; Parilov.

For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the European Union, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

CS_2023_225

