



European
Commission

FACTSHEETS

Internal Security
Fund - Police (ISFP)

Justice Programme – Drugs Policy
Initiatives (JUST-DRUGS)



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SUPPORTING EU COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND TERRORISM

Project name:
ATLAS

Purpose:

Ensuring the safety of EU citizens, institutions and infrastructure in crisis situations

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Project coordinator:

GSG 9 of Federal Police Germany

Beneficiaries:

DSI (the Netherlands), TEK (Hungary), OMEGA (Latvia), KARHU (Finland), GOE (Portugal), BOA (Poland), GIGN (France), GIS - NOCS (Italy), DSE COBRA (Austria) and DELTA (Norway)

Budget:

Up to € 1.5 mln annually

EU contribution:

95 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Duration:

Ongoing. The Network was established after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 and has been receiving EU funding since 2006.



Overview

The European Union faces increasing threats from organised crime groups and terrorists. These threats do not respect national borders, so any adequate response requires efficient inter-agency and cross-border cooperation, as insufficient coordination between special intervention units in EU Member States may hamper the response to these attacks and result in larger numbers of fatalities in crisis situations. This was a situation that the ATLAS project aimed to address.

For the EU's law enforcement response to crisis situations to be effective, it must be based on cooperation between well-trained, interoperable EU-wide special intervention units. This requires the special intervention units to meet regularly and organise joint training sessions in order to benefit from mutual experiences. The ATLAS project acted as a catalyst for these meetings, in addition to arranging joint operations to fight terrorism and organised crime with a cross-border or European dimension.

Goals

The ATLAS project aimed to develop cooperation between the special intervention units of police forces in the participating EU Member States. This goal was facilitated by another of the project's objectives – the development of the ATLAS network, a cooperation platform of 38 special intervention units in EU Member States, Switzerland, Norway and Iceland.

The project aimed to establish operational procedures at the European level in the event of a large-scale crisis. With a view to facilitating cooperation between the various special intervention units, the project organised a series of meetings, seminars, workshops, exercises and training sessions. These made it possible to share best practices and fine-tune command and control capabilities, as well as improve tactical skills to respond to terrorist attacks. Another aim of the project was to identify challenges for ATLAS in command and control issues and in counter-terrorism tactics for potential future joint operations.

Migration and Home Affairs

Results

The ATLAS project achieved its objectives and enhanced the professionalism of all special intervention units in the ATLAS network, guaranteeing uniformly high capabilities to launch joint counter-terrorism operations across the EU. The project facilitated information exchange on recent counter-terrorism operations in the EU, and the sharing and development of tactical best practices.

Other key project outcomes included the standardisation and synchronisation of operational procedures, the upgrading and implementation of command and control procedures for joint operations, and the standardisation of these capabilities within the ATLAS network. Tactical counter-terrorism capabilities were also improved and harmonised, and a special emergency medical care service was benchmarked and standardised for ATLAS special intervention units.

The ATLAS network generated a comprehensive set of results in hostage release operations and in combating suicide terror attacks in urban and rural areas and on transport, such as aeroplanes. A set of documents was also produced, including special operations procedures, manuals, handbooks and databases to ensure the same level of counter-terrorism capabilities across the ATLAS network.

Initial steps were taken to improve ATLAS communication through the procurement of the European Platform for Experts (EPE) devices. Progress was also made in developing and upgrading ATLAS equipment, such as assault vehicles, assault boats, forced entry tools, entry explosive charges, special intervention unit weaponry and ammunition, and medical supplies.

The ATLAS network generated several manuals and leaflets for Special Operation Procedures to achieve the ATLAS objectives in the fields of counter-terrorism operations. All information is published on the internal ATLAS website to promote the sharing of knowledge within the ATLAS network. The EPE also serves as a communication platform for all ATLAS special intervention units. The project's results, procedures, information and training tools were distributed through internal operational channels.

Looking to the future

In the short term, the project's impact will be to enhance the operational readiness of all EU special intervention units; in the medium term, the units' experience can be used to support EU missions in third countries, and hence improve the application of the internal security strategy of the EU. In the long term, the project can also play a role in supporting Member States, not only reactively in combating terrorism but also as regards preventative measures targeting vulnerable critical infrastructure in the EU.

To ensure equal protection for all citizens in the EU, the ATLAS network will continue to exchange best practices and procedures, and undertake joint exercises and training. The ATLAS network is a lifelong learning organisation.

CASE STUDY: PROJECT SILENT TEAM

This knowledge-sharing exercise involved the sharing of information and equipment related to soft-entry tactics and clandestine urban operations. In particular, participants in the exercise exchanged their experience of silent team equipment, coordinated their market research efforts and jointly evaluated new tactical approaches. This exercise made it possible to refine Silent Team Special Operation Procedures.

Skydiving is one method of transiting ATLAS special intervention units from an airplane or a helicopter. During a simulation exercise, a vertical wind tunnel was used to simulate free fall for the advanced training of ATLAS special intervention unit members so as to improve their skydiving techniques and skills.

The participants also exchanged best practices regarding silent approach skydiving tactics with the goal of improving the freefall skills of the Airborne Silent Team and enhancing their skydiving capabilities, especially in the clandestine final approach to a designated landing zone.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/ATLS/7242

Title: ATLAS

Resources: [ATLAS Exercise 2018](#), [ATLAS European Platform for Experts](#) (access restricted)



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SOFTWARE IN SUPPORT OF CYBERCRIME INVESTIGATION

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Project name:
FREETOOL v2.0 – Maturing and
extending the FREETOOL tool
development initiative

Purpose:

Developing software to support law enforcement in the area of digital forensics and cybercrime

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

Global

Project coordinator:

University College Dublin (UCD)

Beneficiaries:

Hessen State Police Academy (Germany), Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (Italy)

Budget:

€ 823 255

EU contribution:

90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

January 2016

End date:

April 2018

Overview

The FREETOOL v2.0 project is an EU-funded initiative set up to develop a range of open-source, validated software tools to help law enforcement officers in the area of digital forensics and cybercrime investigation. During the 2 years that the project was implemented, the Centre for Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigation at University College Dublin in Ireland ([UCD CCI](#)) worked with law enforcement officers from across Europe to develop nine tools, which will be available for law enforcement officials to download from EC3 SPACE – a secure platform for accredited cybercrime experts – at Europol.

A continuation of the FREETOOL project that was completed in 2015, the main aim of the project's second edition was to update existing and develop new open-source forensic tools, and to disseminate these tools among the wider law enforcement community. The project fine-tuned the software development process to address not only the requirements of forensic investigators, which was the focus of the original project, but also those of cybercrime investigators for Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) gathering.

Goals

FREETOOL v2.0 aimed to build on the success of the initial project and extend the scope of the initiative by incorporating the development of additional tools and upgrading the existing ones. It also aimed to make the tools more robust by setting up an external tool validation process.

The DeepThought, Roast Lamb, FiRST, FREETOOL HUB and DAEMON tools were upgraded in the project's second phase, while APINGA, GELATO, FoBro, VINOME and EntDetect were produced as new tools. (See the info box for information on all the FREETOOL projects.)

While the aim of the original 2012 project was to establish a community of software developers creating free forensic tools for law enforcement authorities, the second project aimed to facilitate the uptake and use of the FREETOOL outputs by incorporating them into European training courses on law enforcement and improving capacity building across Europe.



Results

The project successfully developed a range of forensic and Open Source Intelligence gathering tools, which have been enthusiastically adopted by law enforcement authorities globally. Thanks to the project, these authorities now have access to a range of resources that will enable them to conduct investigations at little or no cost.

The project's impact can be seen in real investigations, where results have shown one of the tools outperforming an equivalent commonly used commercial solution. In a recent case, the tool uncovered 1 500 child sexual abuse images that had been missed by the standard forensic solution. In another instance, the Irish Police have seen case backlogs dramatically reduced as a result of using the first responder and forensic preview tools together as part of a triage strategy.

The FREETOOL tools are being integrated into training events as part of a wider capacity building strategy. The project developed an online course for digital forensic practitioners incorporating three of the tools. The resulting online course will be used for large-scale training of law enforcement officers across the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region. Awareness of the project and its outputs is increasing thanks to showcase events and webinars.

MAIN WORK AREAS

Tool development streaming – the project streamed the development process to address not only the requirements of forensic investigators, but also to meet the needs of cybercrime investigators for Open Source Intelligence Gathering (OSINT) tools.

OSINT – OSINT is used by investigators across a range of crimes where the internet is used as the facilitating mechanism, such as online child sexual exploitation, financial fraud, terrorism and malware attacks.

Review and enhancement – reviewing the tools developed during the original FREETOOL project and managing a process for the tools' upgrade and maintenance.

Validation – external validation to ensure the robustness of the tools.

Capacity building – training first responders in the use of the project's tools.

TOOLS

FIRST – a responder can run FIRST on a live machine encountered at a search site to see if the machine can be powered down, or if expert assistance should be sought.

DeepThought examines the artefacts contained on digital media and focuses on retrieving images, movies, documents, web history, emails, chat, keyword searches and registrations from allocated, deleted and unallocated space.

Roast Lamb is designed to quickly parse flat binary RAM dumps, Pagefile.sys files or decompressed hiberfil.sys files for 'RAM resident artefacts' that are commonly of interest to law enforcement officers, such as IP addresses, email addresses, web searches, passwords, and so on.

GELATO quickly analyses large collections of media for metadata such as timestamps and location information, and presents this in a user interface through which the data can be visualised and filtered.

VINOME provides automated analysis of videos and images, with the goal of identifying similarities between distinctly different media files.

EntDect is a tool for discovering the use of encryption in raw data.

APINGA, the All Purpose INtelligence GAttherer, is a framework for amalgamating Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) scripts within one tool.

DAEMON conducts triage, e-discovery or digital forensic tasks on several devices within a network, depending on the needs of the case.

FoBro – the goal of the Forensic Browser (FoBro) is to gather and preserve online evidence during online investigations.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/CYBR/7160

Title: FREETOOL v2.0 – Maturing and extending the FREETOOL tool development initiative

Other projects: FREETOOL





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IMPROVING A KEY TOOL FOR TACKLING ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Project name:

I-CARE – International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database connectivity and awareness-raising enhancements

Purpose:

Enhancing and launching the fourth version of the ICSE database

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

4 project beneficiary countries:
Belgium, Netherlands, Sweden, Moldova – and a total of 54 ICSE member countries

Project coordinator:

International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL)

Total costs:

€ 2 142 101.90

EU grant:

€ 1 810 395.31

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

January 2016

End date:

June 2018

The International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database

Images and videos of child sexual abuse found on the web are not virtual; they are a crime involving real children and real suffering. These photographs are evidence of a crime, and through careful police analysis may provide clues to help identify the location of the crime, the victim or the abuser.

The International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database is one of the key tools helping police forces identify child sexual abuse victims and offenders. Managed by the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) and housed in its headquarters in Lyon, France, the database contains over 2 million images and videos seized through online child sexual abuse investigations by police forces around the world.

The database allows certified specialised investigators from across the world to exchange information and share material. Sophisticated image and video comparison software enables them to instantly make connections between victims, abusers and locations. They can retrieve clues, identify overlap between cases and combine their efforts to locate victims. The database currently includes material relating to over 21 000 victims identified around the world, and numerous images and videos depicting victims that are yet to be identified and safeguarded. Close to 10 000 offenders have been identified in relation to the stored material. Police forces in 62 countries and at Europol are connected to the database, and are able to consult it and also upload data.

I-CARE goals

The main objectives of the I-CARE project were to enhance and launch the fourth version of the ICSE database, to increase the quantity of data uploaded to it and to improve its interconnectivity with national databases. The project also aimed to enhance monitoring of the database's performance and to conduct and publish a study on unidentified victims.



Results

Thanks to the project, the fourth major version of the ICSE database, with newly developed and tested functionalities, was launched to hundreds of certified specialised investigators in June 2018. The project provided an updated user guide and training curriculum, and organised training sessions for national trainers from around the world.

In addition to enhanced features such as the advanced sorting of videos and images, statistics and chat functions between officers, Version 4 allows for a more efficient upload process. Under the project, an Open Interface platform has been developed, which not only makes it faster to enter images and videos into the ICSE database but also enables investigators to check and upload material directly from within their national system, thus raising efficiency and saving valuable investigation time. The project also produced a standalone tool that enables bulk uploads through a secure online connection.

The project enabled INTERPOL to implement mechanisms for testing and monitoring the database's performance and to study its long-term sustainability and scalability. This is crucial because countries that are not yet connected to the system account for over 50 % of the world's population.

The project also sought to identify trends and indicators in child sexual exploitation by analysing randomly sampled non-personal data on unidentified victims (see box). The report of this study was presented to European governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in March 2018 in Brussels, Belgium and later in Bangkok, Thailand and Nairobi, Kenya. Other outcomes have equally been disseminated to stakeholders at meetings and conferences, and online.

Beneficiaries

The project outcomes benefit law enforcement investigators, who use the ICSE database to work on cases and exchange information, and who rely on it to avoid duplicating efforts. The project enhanced the performance of the database and established mechanisms that ensure its sustainability and continued development into the future.

GAINING KNOWLEDGE ON SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS

As part of the project, [INTERPOL](#) and [ECPAT International](#) analysed data on unidentified victims in the ICSE database. The findings were presented in the report 'Towards a Global Indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material'. It identifies a number of alarming trends, such as a link between the age of the victim and the severity of abuse – very young victims were more likely to suffer severe abuse. Boys made up a significant proportion of victims and were more likely to feature in extreme imagery. More than 60 % of unidentified victims were prepubescent, including infants and toddlers. And even though most offenders were male, there were also females involved in the abuse and exploitation of children.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/CYBR/7184

Title: I-CARE – International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database connectivity and awareness-raising enhancements

Website: <https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children/International-Child-Sexual-Exploitation-database>

Reports: Summary – [Towards a Global Indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material. February 2018](#)

[Technical report – Towards a Global Indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material. February 2018](#)



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BUILDING CAPACITY TO FIGHT WASTE CRIME

Project name:
Development Of Tools to COunter
illegal Management and trade of
Waste – DOTCOM Waste

Purpose:

Improving international
collaboration in the fight against
cross-border waste crime

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

- Europe: Germany, Ireland, Italy and Switzerland
- International: China, Ghana and Nigeria
- Worldwide impact through UNU and H-Lab members

Project coordinator

United Nations University -
Institute for the Advanced Study of
Sustainability, Operating Unit SCYCLE
(UNU-IAS SCYCLE)

Budget:

€ 824 559

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

January 2016

End date:

December 2017

The problem of waste crime

The illegal management and trade of waste is a criminal activity - with annual profits of billions of dollars. DOTCOM Waste is one of a series of EU-funded projects aimed at tackling the illegal trade in cross-border waste.

To safeguard human health and the environment, the export of hazardous waste to non-OECD countries and the export of waste for disposal are banned under the international [Basel Convention](#) and under [European Union rules](#). However, every year, millions of tonnes of hazardous and non-hazardous waste leave the EU illegally. Most of this illegally exported waste ends up in Asia and West Africa.

The trade in illegal waste is difficult to detect, investigate and prosecute because of its cross-border nature. This means that there are many different parties involved, located in different countries. Waste crime is often committed alongside other serious offences, and carried out by highly organised criminal networks. Cross-border cooperation between law enforcement authorities has been challenged by differences in legislation, priorities, capacities and languages.

The DOTCOM Waste project sought to overcome some of these challenges and to intensify international collaboration in the fight against cross-border waste crime. Thanks to the extended networks of the project partners and members of its high-level advisory board, DOTCOM achieved an impressive reach for activities, capacity-building and dissemination. The project improved the general understanding of the situation, brought together practitioners from across borders and disciplines, and provided them with best practices, training and tools.



Strengthening the response chain

DOTCOM's beneficiaries were those directly involved in the fight against waste crime. It covered the entire response chain, mainly concerning the EU-China and EU-West Africa routes, and the relevant waste streams such as plastics, e-waste and so on. Police, prosecutors, customs, port and environmental authorities in the European Union, Ghana, Nigeria and China benefited immediately from the new knowledge, training material and tools that were designed for ease of replication and use.

Responding faster and more effectively

The initial and fundamental step of DOTCOM was to improve general understanding of the authorities' challenges, best practices and training needs.

Through in-depth research, questionnaires and detailed interviews with stakeholders across the regions, the project compiled a **Compendium of Good Practices** – an overview of good practices in waste crime detection, inspection, investigation, prosecution and sentencing. A detailed risk analysis looked at current trends in waste crimes and at law enforcement activities, key priorities and training needs. The project was also able to meet stakeholders and observe the inspection of a container in the port of Bari, Italy. An international workshop in Bonn, Germany, helped to fine-tune the results.

The project then translated this knowledge into educational materials and tools that were used in multidisciplinary training sessions held in Rome, Italy, and Beijing, China, and in a set of e-learning webinars. Ultimately the material was also crafted into an online training toolkit that will continue to be used and updated by a subsequent project, [WasteForce](#). It also led to the creation of the mobile phone application **Watch-IT** targeting inspectors.

The different project events facilitated information exchange, promoted networking and built trust among those working to prevent waste crime, especially between national government agencies and international organisations such as INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization. The materials and tools created by the project will continue to help practitioners to respond to waste crimes faster and more effectively.

Keeping up the fight

The project organisations were always determined not to reinvent the wheel, but rather to collect the best of already existing information, material and tools, and then to take them to the next level. The final recommendations of DOTCOM Waste reflect this desire for continuity, coherence and strategic thinking in proposing the adoption of a systematic approach to tackling waste crime.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/EFCE/7205

Title: Development Of Tools to COunter illegal Management and trade of Waste – DOTCOM Waste

Social media accounts: www.linkedin.com

(now Waste Force – follow up page)

Website: dotcomproject.eu

Reports: dotcomproject.eu/newsletters

Related projects: [CWIT](#), [BlockWaste](#), [WasteForce](#)

WATCH-IT: A TOOL FOR DETECTING AND INSPECTING WASTE

Watch-IT (WAsTe and CHemicals Inspection Tool), is an app that supports law enforcement officers who perform inspections of shipments of waste and chemicals covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. It includes example documents, interactive decision-making schemes and searchable databases of waste and chemicals. It suggests what to look out for and zooms in on the relevant legal provisions.

The development of the app was made possible with the support of UNU, the Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste (REN) and GRID-Arendal. The app is available in all stores for free downloading.

ENDING IMPUNITY FOR WASTE CRIMES

A previous EU-funded project, [CWIT](#), pinpointed prosecution and sentencing as the weakest links in the enforcement chain. Few prosecutors or judges are specialised in environmental crimes, and as the judiciary is continuously confronted with difficult situations, environmental issues have ranked low.

By providing training to all practitioners and by facilitating the exchange of information and best practices across borders and through enforcement chains, DOTCOM Waste tried to change the ideas of customs and port officials as to what they should be looking for, to inspire investigators to delve into the financial aspects of waste crime, and to give prosecutors and judges meaningful sentencing references.

This has made it more likely that future inspections of shipments will yield evidence that can be used to successfully prosecute waste crimes. At the same time it is hoped that waste crimes will no longer be treated as administrative offences or misdemeanors punishable with low fines, but as highly profitable activities of organised crime.



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Courtesy of the project (SoeSC)

TACKLING CORRUPTION AND CLIENTELISM IN STATE-OWNED COMPANIES

Project name:

State-owned enterprises – preventing corruption and state capture - SoeSC

Purpose:

Providing strategic analysis of clientelism regarding state-owned companies

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

4 countries: Romania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Italy

Project coordinator:

Asociația Centrul Român de Politici Europene

Budget:

€ 346 754

EU contribution:

90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

January 2016

End date:

December 2017

Pushing back

This project aimed to provide a strategic analysis of ‘clientelism’ (the exchange of goods and services for political support). In particular, state-owned companies’ resources, such as energy, road, rail, postal services or telecommunications, have a major impact on the economies and public budgets of EU Member States. Putting it simply, clientelism in state-owned companies is costing Member States (and their citizens) money, by triggering unnecessary spending, sometimes in corrupt and underhand ways.

An EU anti-corruption report published in 2014 highlighted the issue of state-owned companies, and the legislative shortcomings in supervising these companies. The report also highlighted the lack of merit-based appointments, a lack of transparency regarding the allocation of funds and the misuse of funds through corrupt practices.

An early warning system

The project aimed to provide more objective methods for detecting corruption in state-owned companies. Among the measures proposed were new administrative processes, early warning and policy instruments to combat what is called ‘state capture’ (the systemic political corruption in which private interests significantly influence a state’s decision-making process to their own advantage) in state-owned companies across the EU.

The project also highlighted the link between good corporate governance of state-owned companies and the economic performance of these companies. The project developed an innovative and very comprehensive approach to evaluating the risks of state capture and corruption in state-owned companies across the EU, by combining corporate governance issues with indicators of economic performance to identify the misuse of funds.



The fight goes on

The project provided strategic analysis of clientelism regarding state-owned companies in four EU countries - Romania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Italy. It also created a framework for applying detection measures that can be used across the Member States.

The project was very well received at both national and EU levels. Through the use of different communication channels including traditional media, online and advertising agencies, a wide and diverse audience was reached. This helped to raise awareness of the issue. The tools that were designed and applied during the course of the project have proved to be very useful. The tools have helped to provide recommendations and highlight potential political interference or other corrupt behaviours. These combined outcomes enhance understanding and knowledge on how to best to tackle clientelism in state-owned enterprises.

GOALS:

To carry out strategic analysis to assess the degree of state clientelism and exposure to corruption within state-owned companies;

To provide specific and measurable indicators assessing the level of political influences in state-owned enterprises and the level of funds allocation from public and EU sources;

To evaluate the quality of the policy response and related tools in each Member State to combat state capture and high levels of corruption;

To identify best practices and knowledge at policy level, covering both ante factum and post factum measures (preventive and repressive);

To design policy recommendations for policy makers at national and EU level.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/EFCE/7211

Title: State-owned enterprises – preventing corruption and state capture – SeoSC

Website: www.statecapture.eu

Reports: www.statecapture.eu/projects-reports





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Courtesy of the project (AcOd)

WHISTLE-BLOWING: SOUNDING THE CHARGE AGAINST CORRUPTION

Project name:

A change of direction. Fostering whistle-blowing in Europe in the fight against corruption

Purpose:

To foster whistle-blower protection in Europe

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Project coordinator:

FIBGAR

Budget:

€ 605 606

EU contribution:

90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

January 2016

End date:

February 2018

What is whistle-blowing?

Whistle-blowing is defined as the act of telling the authorities or the public that the organisation you are working for is doing something immoral or illegal. The general objectives of the project were focused on developing a conceptual, normative and social framework to enable employees and citizens to safely report crime and corruption, in accordance with guidelines capable of clarifying their rights and obligations. This was made possible through the involvement of various academic institutions such as the University of Pavia, Italy and the University of Aix-Marseille, France, which produced high-quality academic research on whistle-blowing and corruption.

The legal community, through organisations such as FIBGAR or Blueprint for Free Speech, also played a big part in the project and conducted extensive research into the legal status of whistle-blowing and the practical implications of legislation, while taking into account the actual experiences of whistle-blowers. Additionally, successful communication and advocacy campaigns were developed by Latte Creative, and used both online educational material and audio-visual content to deliver the message to the wider public.

What were the goals of the project?

The goals of the project were to foster protection for whistle-blowers in Europe by working on three important areas simultaneously: legal, social and cultural. This was achieved by holding successful academic and public events, two of which were organised by the University of Pavia, one by the University of Marseille and another by Libera Internazionale.

Additionally, 28 briefing papers that sum up the general status of whistle-blowing in each of the 28 Member States were produced as well as a report, [Gaps on Whistle-blower protection](#), which measured whistle-blower laws and policies for all EU countries against nine key European and international standards. Several other reports were also published that helped to further strengthen the work being done to provide protection to whistle-blowers.



How was the information communicated?

The project provided a number of communication tools through which the public could interact and provide feedback, as well as learn more about the topic. This was carried out through direct access to the project website, where interactive tools can be found as well as [information campaigns designed specifically for schools](#).

In conjunction with the educational information campaign for schools, the general public and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) could access interactive material through the project's website as well as social media platforms. The production of those tools allowed for the relevant information to be easily communicated to schools, the public and NGOs.

Results

Throughout the entirety of the project, there was one overriding core principal; the European perspective. Considering the complexity of the European labour market, shared economy and common European interests, bringing whistle-blower protection forward as a European issue has been a major step forward. The project not only had an impact on the public perceptions of whistle-blowing but also on institutional practices, and it contributed to the national efforts that successfully resulted in whistle-blower laws being passed in France and Italy.

Outreach material developed during the process of the project is available for use by NGOs and civil society groups to help raise awareness, as well as to inform the public and experts through [e-learning and audio-visual content](#). The project has been outstanding in its achievement as an integrated effort – crossing national borders and different disciplines – to improve the use of whistle-blowing as a tool to fight crime and corruption.

SUCCESS THROUGH NUMBERS

E-learning and information campaigns for schools led to:

Web page views: 18 841

Unique users: 14 595

Social media reach: 217 644

Impressions: 336 129

Unique clicks: 6 520

HOW THE PUBLIC USED THE WEBSITE

This is how people interacted with the website:

Web page views: 60 955

Website sessions: 47 049

Unique users: 40 963

Social media reach: 1 011 777

Total videos views: 158 233

Interactions with contents: 199 081

Impressions: 2 113 170

Unique clicks: 47 392

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/EFCE/7233

Title: A change of direction. Fostering whistle-blowing in Europe in the fight against corruption

Social media accounts: Twitter [@whistleblowCOD](#)
Facebook.com/whistleblowCOD

Website: www.changeofdirection.eu

Reports: [Changeofdirection](#)



European
Commission



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IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF FORENSIC SCIENCE ACROSS EUROPE

Project name:

Towards the development of pan-European databases in forensic science (TDPEDFS)

Purpose:

Sharing forensic databases through a single access point

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

12 countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, France, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden

Project coordinator:

European Network of Forensic Science Institutes e.V.

Budget:

€ 1 163 163

EU contribution:

95 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

January 2016

End date:

May 2018

Forensic science is vital for law enforcement to gain convictions. With terrorism, organised crime and human trafficking on the rise, forensic cooperation across borders has never been more important.

Despite this urgent need, the vast majority of forensic databases are held internally and are not readily available for other forensic institutes to use.

Coordinated by the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), this project is helping realise the EU's long-term vision of sharing more forensic databases through a single access point, thereby avoiding duplication and providing a better understanding of laboratory results.

Goals

The project partners, comprising forensic science institutes and police forces across 12 EU Member States, initially carried out a feasibility study on the potential of sharing forensic data. This involved looking at the technical, commercial, legal and financial challenges of creating an overarching pan-European infrastructure.

“The feasibility study looked at how we could set up a common platform, on which databases could be integrated and made available to interested member organisations,” says project coordinator Dr Richard Gill.

The work involved building a pilot demonstrator known as the Forensic Objects Extensible and Exchangeable (FOEE), which integrated a number of local databases. The team also used big data analytics to explore how the data stored in the accumulated databases might provide enhanced information for future investigations.

In addition, the project developed a database on gunshot residue prevalence across various EU regions, a second on spectral information from typical gunshot residue particles from specific ammunition brands, and a third giving technical firearm and ammunition information.



Meanwhile, five forensic institutes developed another database that can identify international links between stained notes and specific attacks or robberies.

The project also created a forensic substance database on explosives using data from previously unavailable commercial and military explosives, which will help in crime and terrorism investigations.

Lastly, seven databases on various forensic document examination methods were merged, allowing law enforcement agencies to look at various forensic aspects of a document, such as ink colour or printing defects, with just one query.

The project is already making the lives of forensic scientists much easier as they can search for forensic information in a more efficient and effective manner. However, the impact goes beyond the forensic community to include all those with an interest in the delivery of justice across the EU. These include police forces in their crime investigations and courts in administering justice. EU citizens also stand to gain as a result of better forensic services.

Finally, the project has taken a significant step towards the creation of the European Forensic Science Area – a top EU priority.

As for the future, the team is currently in talks with the European Commission and Europol as part of the process to realise the project's long-term vision of sustainable and shared pan-European databases. This vision includes common forensic approaches across the EU, with police operations in one country using, and most importantly trusting, forensic information from another country.

ABOUT ENFSI

The European Network of Forensic Science Institutes was founded in 1995 with the purpose of improving both the mutual exchange of information in the field of forensic science and the quality of forensic science delivery in Europe. The European Commission considers ENFSI as the preeminent forensic science organisation.

EUROPOL SUPPORT

Europol concluded a Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU) with the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes in 2015. This allows for the exchange of knowledge and expertise, underpinning the need for enhanced cooperation in the area of forensic science in the fight against crime.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/ENFS/7822

Title: Towards the development of pan-European databases in forensic science (TDPEDFS)



European Commission



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BETTER PUBLIC PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY TECHNOLOGY

Project name:
ENLETS Security Technology and Procurement

Purpose:
To ensure proper coordination between the Member States for public procurement

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
EU-wide

Project coordinator:
The National Police of the Netherlands

Estimated budget:
€ 500 000

EU contribution:
95 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
February 2016

End date:
June 2018

The problem at hand

Societies are built on technology. From the wheel to the computer, society benefits from the innovation behind technological advancements. However, criminals also use technology to break the law, and law enforcement needs technology to fight crime.

As Europe changes, law enforcement agencies need a more flexible type of platform where they can discuss technology that relates to operational activities. These types of platforms allow police and other law enforcement agencies to better coordinate, strengthening investigative capacity. To help law enforcement choose the most appropriate security technology, the project invited all affiliated members to participate in Technology Interest Groups.

The project also supported the European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services in its efforts to make sure that proper coordination happens between the Member States when it comes to public procurement. Putting it simply, this means that the users of the technology, and the people who purchase it, are connected and the most suitable technology is bought, based on the most accurate information: information from those who will use it.

How does the project support better public procurement?

The project brought together the members of the European Law Enforcement Technologies Services network in order to create a Technology Interest Group. This group was set up to establish the status quo, and to provide an overview of the technology needs of law enforcement, and the purchasing process. This allowed Member States to see where improvements could be made to make the process more efficient. The discussions within the Technology Interest Group were fruitful and operationally-focused. Members joined in tests, hackathons and a cross-border exercise.



Importantly, law enforcement's expectations of, and demands for, technology were defined. This was important because it provided a road map. This enabled closer working ties with industry and small and medium-sized enterprises – and improved procurement procedures. Above all, it means technology that law enforcement will actually find useful, as it is based on their feedback and requirements.

THE OBJECTIVES:

Ensure EU involvement in security technologies and becoming the leading platform;

Bridging the gap between end-users and industry;

Sharing best practices, knowledge-building, co-creation and research for law enforcement practitioners throughout Europe;

Coordination between Member States for public procurement.

In the end, what does the project hope to achieve?

Technology transfers across many areas, from crime and terrorism to frontline policing. This project has helped to identify the many challenges and opportunities faced when choosing technology for law enforcement purposes. The creation of the Technology Interest Groups in which law enforcement agencies could discuss best practices, knowledge-building, co-creation and research for law enforcement practitioners throughout Europe, had a big impact on how technology was chosen and eventually procured. The ability to have discussions, and receive feedback from the users was invaluable and led to better outcomes.

One of the most important achievements of the project is that the ENLETS group will continue. The project has shown its value and the grants from the European Commission ensure its continuation.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/ENLE/7537

Title: ENLETS Security Technology and Procurement

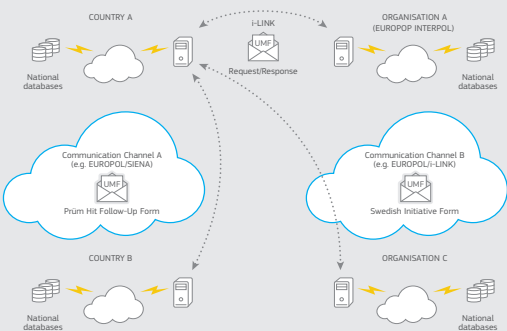
Website: www.enlets.eu



European Commission

ENABLING EFFECTIVE INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Courtesy of the project (UMF)



Project name:
Universal Message Format 3 – UMF 3

Purpose:
Supporting cooperation and information exchange in the area of Justice and Home Affairs

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
6 countries: Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Poland and Spain

Beneficiaries:
Estonian Police and Border Guard Board, Spanish National Police Force, Hellenic Police Headquarters, Finnish National Police Board, Polish National Police Headquarters – all in close cooperation with Europol

Project coordinator:
Federal Criminal Police Office, Germany

Estimated budget:
€ 1 438 060

EU contribution:
90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
November 2015

End date:
April 2018



Overview

Universal Message Format (UMF) is a standard used in the area of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA). In the same way that banking, insurance, transport and other sectors have their own data transmission standards, governments also follow common requirements and use the UMF standard to exchange information across borders.

UMF supports a structured cross-border information exchange between European government authorities in the areas of justice and security. The data involved typically comprises names, information on stolen vehicles, stolen or misused documents and firearms, and other information needed to prevent illegal activities or help solve crimes. Harmonising and standardising this information helps improve interoperability, and this speeds up the exchange of information and reduces the need for multiple data input – thus decreasing the risk of human error.

Project goals

The core aim of the UMF 3 project was to improve the exchange of information between law enforcement authorities by reviewing and enhancing the UMF standard and implementing it within national systems, as well as preparing a governance model for maintaining and developing the standard. This began with a pilot implementation in five EU Member States (Estonia, Finland, Greece, Poland and Spain) with the involvement of Europol.

The project built upon the results of the EU-funded UMF and UMF 2 projects, which had been conducted previously, revealing a need to further enhance the UMF standard.

How it achieved its goals

The UMF 3 project was implemented in three separate parts. The first of these involved enhancing the UMF standard based on requirements for cross-border information exchange by Member States, and European institutions, such

as Europol, euLISA (the European Agency for the Operational Management of large-scale IT Systems in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice) and Frontex – the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. The enhanced and agreed version of the UMF business model was then disseminated to all 23 active project participants.

The second part involved designing a governance structure for the UMF that would support the continuous development and implementation of the standard. Requirements were collected from the partners and a governance concept was shared and agreed on by all the project participants. Implementation requires a legal framework, which has already been initiated by the European Commission and is currently being discussed with Member States and the European Parliament.

The third part focused on pilot projects, one of which was implemented by Europol and allowed partners to access information on persons of interest through the QUEST web service, which EU Member States can use to consult the Europol Information System (EIS) database and receive responses in a UMF-compliant format. Additional pilots prepared the systems of five Member States to access the Europol service via a UMF interface, enabling end users either to access Europol databases that they could not access before or to access them more efficiently and flexibly.

UMF BENEFITS FOR JUSTICE, HOME AFFAIRS AND SOCIETY

- Shorter response time;
- Better decision-making;
- Improved data quality;
- Better case understanding, including breaking down language barriers;
- Fewer resources needed.

Main achievement

The project's main achievement was completing the review and enhancement of the UMF standard, and proposing a governance model to maintain the standard and further develop it for the future. Another important outcome was organising the pilot implementation in Member States.

Project impact

In the short term, the most direct benefit will be felt in the pilot partner states, where new or improved police information services will be available to police organisations combatting crime and terrorism. The higher quality and efficiency of communications will help these end users to achieve better results. What's more, these organisations will require fewer resources than before because it is easier to transmit and process structured information automatically; unstructured information often needs to be handled manually.

The medium-term benefit will be felt by all the UMF 3 project partners, who should be in a position to implement the standard within their systems whenever the opportunity arises. That said, given the importance of efficient information exchange in the area of Justice and Home Affairs, the benefits of the successful completion of the UMF 3 project and the continuation of the UMF initiative will extend far beyond the project partners.

In the long term, the benefits of the project will extend to a wide range of JHA authorities in Member States of the EU and beyond, with countries and society benefitting, at least indirectly, from better data protection and more efficient crime fighting.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/LAWX/6982

Title: Universal Message Format 3 – UMF 3

Resources: [Brochure](#)

Related projects: [UMF](#), [UMF 2](#)



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WHY PASSENGER RECORDS ARE IMPORTANT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND SERIOUS CRIME

Project name:
Pilot programme for data exchange of the Passenger Information Units

Purpose:
To prevent, detect and prosecute terrorism and other forms of serious crime through effective communication

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
EU-wide

Project coordinator:
Hungarian Ministry Of the Interior

Estimated budget:
€ 455 642

EU contribution:
90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
January 2016

End date:
June 2017

Overview

The purpose of the project was to explore how using existing law enforcement data exchange channels for passenger name record data, between national Passenger Information Units, would be of benefit.

The Passenger Name Records (PNR) is an important law enforcement tool that helps to prevent, detect and prosecute criminals involved in terrorism and other forms of serious crime. The Passenger Information Units are responsible for collecting the PNR data from airlines, comparing the data against law enforcement databases, then processing them against pre-determined criteria in order to identify people that may be involved in terrorism or serious crime.

In fact, the creation of a network of Passenger Information Units, which can quickly and securely exchange PNR data, is as important as the creation of the system itself. Hence, the development of an EU-wide cooperation network would itself enhance the ability of the law enforcement authorities to effectively fight serious crime and terrorism within the EU.

How was the project carried out?

A number of EU Member States and EU agencies were involved in developing the pilot programme for data exchange between the Passenger Information Units during the project. Meetings took place with 56 experts participating from 17 Member States, the European Commission, Europol, EU-Lisa (the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice), the USA and Australia.

The meetings provided an opportunity for the experts to discuss important issues related to the practical operation of the Passenger Information Units and the possibilities of exchanging information between them.



Communication and collaboration: The results speak volumes

The discussions that took place helped the project achieve its main goals, which were to conduct a study on the possibilities of connecting the units and provide solutions on how to create this connection. The meetings between the experts also provided an opportunity to discuss current issues related to personal data protection. It also looked at the purposes for which this data would be used, such as the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution associated with terrorist offences and serious crime. This greatly helped in identifying some best practices and interesting approaches that could be shared between everyone involved. The participation of US and Australian officials added to the discussions, offering different perspectives that contributed to the results of the project.

In the end, the overall aim was to ensure that, while increasing the knowledge of law enforcement when it comes to the movements of terrorists and criminals, the safety of citizens around Europe was ensured. The result of the project was a baseline for the procedures and tools of the PNR data exchange.

HELPING LAW ENFORCEMENT BECOME MORE EFFICIENT:

The project helped to increase the level of efficiency in the use of Passenger Name Records data for law enforcement purposes;

The project also improved the efficiency of the sharing of Passenger Name Records data in the various Member States involved;

It helped to explore how best to involve Europol and its existing channels for transferring data;

It put in place effective and adequate safeguards for the protection of personal data and the sharing of experiences and best practices between Member States.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/LAWX/7150

Title: Pilot programme for data exchange of the Passenger Information Units



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CREATING EXCHANGES BETWEEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND STRENGTHENING THEIR CAPACITY TO **FIGHT VIOLENT RADICALISATION**



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Project name:
Local institutions against violent
extremism – LIAISE 2

Purpose:
Supporting local authorities in
preventing the radicalisation
of young people

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
10 countries: Belgium, Czech
Republic, Germany, Greece, Spain,
France, Italy, the Netherlands,
Portugal and Sweden

Project coordinator:
European Forum for Urban Security

Budget:
€ 610 614

EU contribution:
90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
January 2016

End date:
January 2018

Overview

Local public services form the front line in preventing radicalisation. To avert radicalised persons turning into violent extremists or terrorists requires a united approach, involving police and probation officers, social workers and cultural experts, housing and employment agencies, and departments for sports and recreation.

The Liaise 2 project gathers expertise and experience from 18 cities and 3 regions in 10 EU Member States, and its training materials are being piloted in other cities across Europe. The programme is making its resources freely available to all local authorities.

Liaise 2 provides local services with practical and proven preventive methods to help potential extremists to change direction and move away from violence. This project helps them to work together to pick up the signals. It also lets them gain the knowledge to mobilise and motivate their citizens.

Working together to prevent and undo

The project is focused on the prevention of radicalisation and the disengagement or de-radicalisation of young people. The most effective method requires an interdisciplinary approach, one that encourages agencies to come together. It is only as partners that they can effectively deal with radicalisation and extremism. Liaise 2 federates European local and regional authorities, strengthening their capacity to prevent and deal with violent radicalisation.



Catching up on the more advanced cities

One of the lessons learned by Liaise 2 is that few cities have a unified, multi-disciplinary approach. In most, the police will be watching out for radicalisation, and so will social workers, but rarely will they meet regularly to discuss the best course of action. “We should have teamed up years ago,” is a common comment, reports the Liaise 2 project.

However, there are cities that have well-advanced programmes. Three examples are Brussels and Liege in Belgium and Dusseldorf in Germany, according to Liaise 2. These cities show other towns and cities how much work still needs to be done.

A METHODOLOGY FOR ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Liaise 2’s Local institutions against violent extremism project ran from January 2016 until January 2018, and mobilised a strong network of local authorities to prevent violent radicalisation.

The cities and towns that participated in the Liaise 2 programme included Augsburg, Alexandroupolis, Bagneux, Barcelona, Bordeaux, Brussels, Dusseldorf, L’Hospitalet, Liege, Malmo, Paris, Sarcelles, Setubal, Toulouse, Bologna, Essen, the City of Reggio Emilia and the Generalitat de Catalunya.

Within the Liaise 2 project, the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS) produced the following resources:

- Methodological guide for the development of a local strategy to prevent radicalisation leading to violent extremism;
- Practice sheets presenting the pilot actions implemented;
- Policy recommendations embedded in the EFUS Manifesto.

Four thematic notes:

- The reintegration of prisoners engaged in violent extremism through restorative justice: findings and lessons from Northern Ireland;
- Local and national policies against discrimination, hate crimes and radicalisation in Poland;
- The contribution of social media analysis to the prevention of polarisation and extremism;
- Conspiracism and extremism: What role can prevention and local actors play?

INVOLVING YOUTH

In several of the towns and cities, young citizens were successfully included in the Liaise 2 programme. In many, the project saw school students joining discussions with police, youth workers and representatives from local prisons. Here are two examples:

Augsburg (Germany) –
Aufdrehen (Turnup)

Aufdrehen is a film that reflects on the gender roles promoted by Daesh and shows young women in Augsburg reflecting on their own life expectations and goals. The young actors were also the film-makers (supported by a media producer and media educator). Their goal was to prevent other girls and young woman being deceived by extremist religious narratives.

Malmo (Sweden) – Mammakraft
(Mothers’ power)

The city of Malmo invited Saliha Ben Ali, the mother of a Belgian radicalised youth who died in Syria, to talk to a group of mothers concerned about their children. For 2 days, the mothers discussed family dynamics, radicalisation, non-violent communication and drug abuse.

Inspiration for the meeting was the ‘Mother schools’ from the Women without Borders Association. The meetings involved 12 organisations, educational associations and municipal services.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/RADX/7193

Title: Local institutions against extremism – LIAISE 2

Website: <https://efus.eu/en/category/topics/risks-forms-of-crime/liaise-project/>

Resources: The Manifesto: Security, Democracy and Cities: Co-producing Urban Security Policies, available on the EFUS website



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CRITICAL THINKING CAN DEFLECT PROPAGANDA



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Project name:

Countering propaganda by
narration towards anti-radical
awareness – CONTRA

Purpose:

Getting young people to
think about the reliability of
information on the internet

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

3 countries: Austria, Germany
and the Netherlands

Project coordinator:

German Federal Criminal Police
Office – BKA

Budget:

€ 642 990

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

March 2016

End date:

June 2018

Overview

Fake news is everywhere, and young people especially may find it hard to determine what items contain bias, lies and propaganda. As digital natives who get most of their news from social media, they face a barrage of information that is influenced by their friends' opinions and not always reliable. This project aims to counter both Islamic and far-right extremism by teaching students to think critically about what they see and read.

The project has created a three-part teaching plan on the themes of awareness, reflection and empowerment. The material can be integrated into normal school lessons or run as a stand-alone activity. Informed by the latest research, it is professionally presented and backed by counter-terrorism researchers in three European countries.

Propaganda can be subtle

Much of the extremist material on the internet today is skilfully produced and subtle in its arguments. Another problem is the algorithms that decide who sees what on social media. For example, a young person using YouTube to research Islamism for a school project is sooner or later likely to be offered extremist videos.

So if we can't eliminate harmful material, one way to neutralise it is to show students how to recognise bias and trust their own judgment. The aim of this project was to produce concise, effective teaching material on critical thinking. The project partners were police and counter-terrorism agencies in Germany, Austria and the Netherlands, the German universities of Cologne and Mannheim, and Islamic educational organisation Ufuq.de.

The project targeted the large majority of school students who have not started to become radicalised. Young people who have already set foot on that road need special approaches best delivered via other channels. The ultimate



beneficiaries are not just the students themselves but everyone in Europe who may be touched by extremism, whether through terrorism, persecution of minorities or simply the fragmentation of society.

Awareness, reflection, empowerment

The project partners created a manual setting out three 90-minute lesson plans and background material for teachers. The lesson plans can be used in the classroom as part of standard courses on politics, history or Islamic studies. They can also feature in special projects or sessions outside school.

The first section helps students recognise propaganda from videos they are shown. The project has an online library of suitable material – clearly it is important to avoid showing youngsters videos that call for violence. Next, the students learn about how much of what they see on the internet depends on their past consumption. Finally, they learn to create positive stories to argue against the negative views that are typical of propaganda.

Positive feedback

Radicalisation is a sensitive topic and after the project began several schools decided they were not comfortable with the topic. Schools in Cologne have tested the project material, with very positive feedback, and the final handbook will be published in February 2019.

TRAPPED IN YOUTUBE'S FILTER BUBBLE

The second lesson plan (named 'reflection') gets students to think about everyday media content and specifically about the popular video platform YouTube. By clicking on the videos recommended by YouTube they get to understand how the website's algorithms feed them more of the same material – the 'filter bubble' – and how an innocent search for information on Islam can quickly spiral into dangerous territory.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/RADX/7532

Title: Countering propaganda by narration towards anti-radical awareness – CONTRA

Website: www.project-contra.org

Reports: [Current publications of Consortium Partners listed on the project website](#)

Related projects:

[Propaganda 2.0 \(2013\), Effect of counter narratives used for prevention purposes against right-wing extremist and Islamic extremist propaganda \(2017\)](#)

[Propaganda 2.0 - Psychological Effects of Right-Wing and Islamic Extremist Internet Videos](#) (Information in English and German)

[Videos gegen Extremismus? Counter-Narrative auf dem Prüfstand](#) (Information in German only)

www.propstop.de (Information in German only)

www.online-propagandaforschung.de (Information in German only)



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Commission



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PREVENTING RADICALISATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

Project name:

Practitioners dealing with radicalisation issues – Raising awareness and encouraging capacity building in the Western Balkan region – FIRST LINE

Purpose:

Getting different communities to take responsibility and talk to one another with a view to stopping radicalisation in the Western Balkans

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

- **EU consortium:** Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Croatia and Slovenia
- **Western Balkan beneficiaries:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia

Project coordinator:

Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia

Budget:

€ 354 432

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

January 2016

End date:

June 2018

Overview

Keeping Europe safe from violent extremists is a job for everyone in our society. Teachers, religious leaders, parents and citizens can all help to spot potential terrorists and stop people from becoming radicalised.

The countries of the Western Balkans have historically seen preventing radicalisation as the sole responsibility of the police. This project brought together local and national stakeholders to build common ground in recognising radicalisation and stopping it early, before it becomes a matter for law enforcement.

Asking communities to take responsibility

The project partners represented the police services and interior ministries of 11 nations in and around the Western Balkans. The coordinator was the police service of Slovenia, a country well placed both geographically and culturally to understand its neighbours to the south-east.

The aim was to convince a wide cross-section of society that preventing violent extremism needs to be part of everyday life, not just something to be left to the security services. Teachers, healthcare workers, social workers, prison officers, religious leaders, journalists, researchers, charities and ordinary citizens can all play their part in spotting potential radicalisation early on.

The project also aimed to persuade governments to develop national coordination mechanisms to counter violent extremism.

Besides raising awareness, the plan was to build foundations for effective cooperation and define the role of each stakeholder, both governmental and non-governmental.



Benefits spread across Europe

The primary beneficiaries of the project have been the citizens of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, who may face not only home-grown terrorism but also foreign fighters. The resulting improved security has benefited the other project partners and the rest of Europe as well.

Groups talk for the first time

The main visible work of the project has been through fact-finding missions and workshops that involved stakeholders at levels from local to national, including civil society representatives, religious leaders, researchers and international groups. The workshops, which brought together up to 70 people at a time, were originally planned to take place at regional level, but in practice it proved important to concentrate first on national events.

Right from the start, many of the local groups said this was the first time they had been able to sit at the same table as the police and other stakeholders. Religious leaders responded well, especially in Albania, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, wanting to show that the Islamic community as such is not the source of the problem.

Albania and Kosovo already had national coordinators for violent extremism when the project started. During the course of the project other Western Balkan countries followed suit.

A firm foundation for future work

This project was just one part of the EU's ongoing Western Balkan Counter-Terrorism Initiative.

Although time was in short supply, the coordinators believe they have left a foundation on which future work can build. A follow-up project is already planned to further develop the 'Prevent – Refer – Address' model used in this project and adapt it to new environments.

The project confirmed the importance of identifying and involving every appropriate stakeholder at both local and state levels.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/RADX/7533

Title: FIRST LINE Practitioners dealing with radicalisation issues – Raising awareness and encouraging capacity building in the Western Balkan region – FIRST LINE

Website: www.policija.si/eng/index.php/internationalcooperation/disbursement-of-eu-funds/2014-project-first-line-awareness-raising-and-prevention-of-radicalisation

Reports: FIRST LINE: Practitioners dealing with radicalisation issues – Raising awareness and encouraging capacity building in the Western Balkan region: COMPENDIUM, Klavdija Zajc and Albert Černigoj, editors, published by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, Police, Ljubljana, June 2018, ISBN 978-961-6797-43-6.

Related projects: The Western Balkan Counter-Terrorism Initiative is planning a follow-up to this project.



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© Courtesy of the project (STRESAVIORA)

STANDING STRONG AGAINST RADICALISATION

Project name:
Bounce resilience training, network
and evaluation – STRESAVIORA II

Purpose:
To develop tools that help strengthen
young people’s resilience against
violent radicalisation

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
Belgium, Germany, France,
the Netherlands and Sweden

Project coordinator:
Belgian Federal Public Service
Home Affairs

Budget:
€ 645 578

EU contribution:
88 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
November 2015

End date:
March 2018

What is the STRESAVIORA II project?

The project is designed to implement the BOUNCE Resilience tools on a large scale in different settings across five EU Member States. The [BOUNCE tools](#) are used in three main activities: raising awareness for parents and frontline workers, resilience training for young people, and a train-the-trainer tool for frontline workers. These tools have been developed to help strengthen young people’s resilience by working with topics such as identity, strengths and talents, work groups, standing strong and developing a critical mindset. In addition to these tools, two more tools were developed to raise awareness among young people’s parents and in social networks, and to train professionals in using the tools.

Prevention is better than cure

To combat the existing threat of radicalisation of young people, the project provided concrete early-prevention training for young people, their parents and frontline workers. This identified alternatives to radicalisation, sourced from the experiences and views of those young people. The project set out to reach a broad representation of cities from around Europe. This was also the first project to collect existing knowledge from around the EU on resilience training and then return that knowledge to the Member States. This knowledge focused on issues of radicalisation and the resilience training that can help to prevent it. The project empowered the young people, their social groups, parents, and frontline workers to provide active and beneficial alternatives to the radicalisation propaganda encountered.



The success of STRESAVIORA II

The project was well received by the majority of participants in all 10 pilot cities. The training was widely appreciated as it provided participants with the practical tools they needed to allow them to work more effectively with young people. Participants were equipped with the theory and concepts behind radicalisation, and how best to build resilience against it. Following the training, some of the participants have organised their own events based on what they have learned from the project.

The positive results of the project will be used to further develop future training and knowledge building. This will benefit all those involved, and society as a whole.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS

Train the trainer sessions in 10 pilot cities with 101 participants.

Publication of the Manual on the State of Play of Prevention training in Europe.

Exchange of best practices and promotion of resilience trainings at conferences.

BOUNCE EU expert meeting and final conference, gathering representatives from European governments, youth work associations, partner organisations.

Publication of research report 'Evaluating the BOUNCEup Tool: Research Findings and Policy Implications', laying foundations for future research on resilience training.

A database of resilience trainings in the EU on the project website.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/RADX/7541

Title: Bounce resilience training, network and evaluation – STRESAVIORA II (strengthening resilience against violent radicalisation)

Social media accounts: [Twitter: #BounceEuConference](#)

Website: www.bounce-resilience-tools.eu

Reports: www.bounce-resilience-tools.eu/downloads



BOUNCE
resilience tools



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© Courtesy of the project (CELECTIVE)

TRAINING LAW ENFORCEMENT TO BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST

Project name:
Law enforcement training initiative – CELECTIVE

Purpose:

Training police to be prepared for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

3 countries: Czech Republic, The Netherlands and Sweden

Project coordinator:

European CBRNE Centre at Umea University

Estimated budget:

€ 531 269

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

June 2017

End date:

May 2019

Overview

Hopefully it won't ever be necessary. But for anti-terrorism police officers, getting into a decontamination suit should be second nature.

To be prepared for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks, police officers, public health workers and civil protection authorities need to be drilled in field exercises and practise standard operating procedures. The Celective project is making training material available to help prepare police officers and other first-responders involved in protecting civilians.

Celective boosts the capacity of the European Union Member States to prevent and mitigate the risks of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks effectively, improving the existing realistic training opportunities for law enforcement agencies.

In 2018, Celective's training material was tested by police officers in the Czech Republic and Sweden. The project will next be piloted in the Netherlands in early 2019.

The training combines theory and discussions on emergency situations with field practice. This is an established three-step pedagogical approach that encourages participants to reflect on their behaviour and actions. In 2019, the project will disseminate the training programme and its recommendations so that it can be used by law enforcement agencies across the European Union.

A real challenge

Protecting critical infrastructures and soft targets presents challenges for law enforcement, public health and civil protection authorities. Attacks using chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons are not very likely, but



that also means there is very little experience in how to deal with attackers using dangerous substances and technology.

Celective is convinced that their training material will adequately help prepare for the worst: the programme delivers realistic training opportunities.

The programme builds on existing best practices and incorporates the results of other EU-funded research projects into security. It improves the current tools that are used in training facilities across the EU, and draws on the experience of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training and the European Explosive Ordnance Disposal Network.

Tested, validated and revised

The theoretical knowledge on emergency operations and crisis behaviour, the role-playing scenarios and the field exercises have been tested, validated and revised. The next challenge is getting law enforcement agencies and others to devote their time. This is why the platform helps to train trainers, who can then go on to teach groups. However, as the project experienced when visiting the Czech Republic, half of a group of police officers that were enrolled for the training might end up being called away to an emergency.

In Sweden, individual police officers can use the Celective eLearning platform whenever they have an hour or two to spare from their daily police work, an approach used to reach police officers all over the country.

To complete the training this way takes a minimum of 8 hours. Is that too long? Not if you also want to know how to test your decontamination suit for leaks, and how to get out of it the right way, or what to do if you discover dangerous bomb ingredients during a routine traffic control.

Effective, cross-border training

Effective training of Europe's security community to prepare them for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks is essential for properly implementing security measures and enhancing Member States' capacity to manage security-related risks and crises. Celective recommends its multidisciplinary training methods be used to train teams with participants from different Member States. Attacks will probably have consequences across national borders, emphasising the need for cross-border and cross-sector exercises.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/CBRN/8446

Title: Law enforcement training initiative – CELECTIVE

Website: www.umu.se/en/research/projects/celective/



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DELIVERING A HIGHER STANDARD OF TRAINING TO EUROPEAN LAW ENFORCEMENT



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Project name:
EU Police Intervention and Response
Training Centre of Excellence
(EUIRTCE)

Purpose:
Creating a centre for excellence
to ensure a harmonised response
to terrorist attacks in Europe

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
EU-wide

Project coordinator:
Belgian Federal Police

Estimated budget:
€ 849 358

EU contribution:
90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
July 2016

End date:
June 2019

Overview

Recent attacks in Europe, at places such as the Jewish museum in Brussels, Verviers, the Charlie Hebdo assault, the attack in Copenhagen and the Thalys shooting, make it quite clear that terrorist attacks can occur across the European Union. The objective of this project is to create an EU Police Intervention and Response Training Centre of Excellence.

After the training centre is completed, those who respond to terrorist attacks can further refine their training, using the most up-to-date materials and information. In addition to this, the facility will also ensure that the training is the same for everyone, thus maintaining the highest quality and guaranteeing an effective and adequate response in the event of an emergency.

How will the project achieve its goals?

This project will lead to the creation of a modern training facility that will be adapted to the latest training needs and will allow all European law enforcement agencies to address terrorist attacks in the same way. It is important to ensure that there is one unified response to such attacks; it also guarantees the same level of professionalism and response among the different law enforcement agencies across Europe.

The EU Police Intervention and Response Training Centre of Excellence will develop new training techniques as well as modifying existing ones. This will address how terrorists operate and continue to change their methods. The state-of-the-art training facility will also be open to all European Member States. It will have a modern shooting range, an area for advanced driving training, and infrastructure for specialised training on public transport. There will be a special focus on law enforcement units that must deal with terrorist attacks, such as special intervention units, in addition to the police officers who normally arrive first at the scene.



What will the results be?

The project's main aim is to provide a facility where law enforcement from around Europe can come and train, learn the newest techniques and become familiar with the latest methods used by terrorist organisations. This will ensure that the level of professionalism and response among all different law enforcement entities across Europe is held to the same standard, accomplished by the training centre being open to all law enforcement agencies from across Europe. This, in turn, will noticeably increase the level of security within Europe.

A TRUE STATE OF THE ART FACILITY:

The interior will have a modular design that can be used to stage multiple training scenarios;

Using high quality equipment, the centre will provide the best possible training for law enforcement personnel;

The use of a standardised training curriculum for different law enforcement agencies, with different training modules, will be used to address any new methods used by terrorists;

New training modules will be developed that will address a wide range of missions and scenarios in different and challenging environments.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/CBRN/8458

Title: EU Police Intervention and Response Training Centre of Excellence



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Courtesy of the project (SE-CBRN-URE)

KEEPING EUROPE SAFE FROM CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR ATTACK

Project name:

Support for European Union Action in the field of CBRN Security Managers' Education – SE-CBRN-URE

Purpose:

Improving the anti-terrorist capacity of EU Member States

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Project coordinator:

University of Lodz

Estimated budget:

€ 615 940

EU contribution:

90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

November 2016

End date:

October 2018

Overview

Terrorism is a constant threat in Europe. A terrorist with a simple homemade device or even just a car is capable of killing large numbers of people and inflicting major damage to property. However, if a terrorist were to receive access to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons of mass destruction, then the threat level is significantly higher and the potential damage that could be inflicted is incalculable.

The use of any CBRN weapons in an act of terrorism could destabilise the European Union and undermine economic stability, public security and the integrity of the EU community. An additional problem is the threat of explosives, especially homemade devices, which can be used by themselves or as a release mechanism for CBRN agents. This risk has created an urgent need for actions to prevent and combat possible CBRN terrorism.

Key aims

To help fight this threat, the SE-CBRN-URE project set up a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRN-E) postgraduate course at the University of Lodz to improve the anti-terrorist capacity of EU Member States by equipping highly specialised personnel with both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed, not only for CBRN-E crisis management but also for the early detection of CBRN-E risks.

This involved putting together a multidisciplinary team of experienced specialists to share their experience and professional knowledge on the risks of CBRN-E. The programme they offered was targeted at two groups: the first consisted of 16 Polish police officers, border guards and members of the State Fire Service and Special Services; the second group was made up of 15 specialists from EU Member States (Estonia, Italy, Slovakia, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, France and Croatia), recruited in cooperation with Europol. In Poland,



the course was offered at the University of Lodz, the Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry, the Military Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, the Police Academy in Szczytno and at the Polish National Police Headquarters. All work related to explosives was conducted at the International Security and Emergency Management Institute in Žilina, Slovakia.

The project and the recruitment drive for the course was promoted at national and EU levels and was very successful, with 80 applications being submitted through the online application system. From these applicants, 31 were selected and all successfully completed the course. The success of the recruitment drive indicates that there would be demand for more courses in the future. A second, commercial edition of the course will start in March 2019.

Main achievements

One of the most important project outputs is the CBRN Security Managers [Study Programme](#). This programme trained a highly specialised group of CBRN Security Managers, giving them skills that can be used in a variety of crisis situations involving the risk of terrorist attacks using chemical, biological and radiological or nuclear agents. Another key output from the project is the [CBRN Security Manager Handbook](#), which covers everything that CBRN managers need to know with regard to CBRN risk evaluation and response.

Lessons learned

During recruitment it was noted that the requirement for candidates to have a university degree might make it difficult for beneficiary organisations in some EU countries, where a degree is not common among management in the security services. As a result, it was advised to also offer the course in another format, such as certified training, which would open it up to a greater number of participants.

Long-term impact

The CBRN managers who graduated from the programme will strengthen the EU's human capital at various levels of response to potential CBRN-E threats, including through better cooperation between Member States. What's more, a long-term effect of this project will be the creation of a professional education and training base for various groups of CBRN-E responders from EU Member States. After the project ends, this university curriculum will be available as a commercial educational programme for EU students and as supplementary courses for specialists in various fields.

COURSE MODULES

Management and legal aspects of CBRN-E;

The biological basis of CBRN;

Practical fieldwork training in the detection and sampling of biological materials;

Detection and liquidation of toxic chemical agents;

Radiation and nuclear defence;

The basis of sapper-pyrotechnic recognition;

Counter-terrorism.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/CBRN/8459

Title: Support for European Union Action in the field of CBRN Security Managers' Education – SE-CBRN-URE

Website: www.secbrnure.uni.lodz.pl

Resources: [Brochure](#)
[Study Programme](#)

Reports: [CBRN Security Manager Handbook](#)



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TACKLING THE THREAT FROM 'INSIDE JOBS'



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Project name:
Aviation Insider Threat Recognition
and Prevention – AITRAP

Purpose:

Free online training helps organisations deal with terrorist and other threats posed by their own staff

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

2 countries: Belgium and Germany

Project coordinator:

Confederation of European Security
Services – CoESS

Estimated budget:

€ 749 550

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

January 2017

End date:

December 2018

Overview

If people within your organisation are helping criminals and terrorists, external security is of limited help. Whether you run a bank, an airline or a nuclear plant, good internal security is also essential. The key is to recruit the right people and keep them alert to suspicious behaviour within the organisation.

Under the name Help2Protect, this project has created two free and accessible training programmes to address insider threats. The web-based awareness programme takes just 30 minutes to complete, while the Insider Threat Programme Development Training takes 3 hours. Although there are many books and white papers on insider threats, this is the first free online training course.

Insider threats are widespread

Organisations that have recently faced attempted sabotage by employees include British Airways, Belgium's Doel nuclear plant and the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in France. Yet while attacks on critical infrastructure make the headlines, even small organisations may face internal security issues.

Security professionals have studied insider threats for many years. Ironically, the sheer volume of published material – and its specialist nature – makes it hard for non-experts to grasp, let alone build their own programmes. The AITRAP team therefore set out to create a training course that anyone can use, with the aim to help spread the word among employees at all levels, especially in organisations without much experience of insider threats.

At one level, the beneficiaries are the organisations that can use the training material to counter insider threats. At another level, individual employees will benefit from becoming more aware of security issues and being able to play a personal role in reducing risks. Thirdly, Europe's citizens can feel safe knowing that travel and other critical infrastructures are well protected.



Learning from the aviation industry

The project partners are the Confederation of European Security Services (CoESS), Securitas, DHL and Palmyra Aviation Advisors. These organisations have a great deal of experience in the aviation industry, which takes insider threats seriously. Accordingly, the four partners used a series of workshops across Europe to gather their own knowledge and that of human resources, legal and other specialists, and process it into a form suitable for beginners.

The Help2Protect website offers two levels of training. The short awareness programme is available to all visitors with no need to register. To access the seven modules of the Insider Threat Programme Development Training, visitors will have to identify themselves. An accompanying downloadable handbook provides a reference for those in charge of building the programme within their own organisations.

The project's main achievement is in creating web-based training that is accessible, free of charge and aimed at the general public. Everyone from shop-floor workers to senior executives can use the awareness training, whilst the programme development training is for those who may have to design an insider threat programme from scratch.

Spreading the word

Insider threats of varying seriousness can affect any organisation, and by no means do all the people involved have malicious intent. They may simply be unaware of security issues, or unwilling to let a colleague down, for instance.

Protecting against insider threats requires all parts of the organisation to work together. This starts with the human resources department, which should probe candidates' security weaknesses as well as their competence. The Help2Protect programme is a valuable starting point towards a safer Europe.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/CBRN/8460

Title: Aviation Insider Threat Recognition and Prevention – AITRAP

Social media accounts: Twitter: [#Help2Protect](#)

Website: Help2Protect.info



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REAL-TIME ANALYSIS FOR REAL-TIME ACTION



Courtesy of the project

Project name:
Acquisition of an automated solution
for analysing mass video data

Purpose:
Identify and utilise a system
to more efficiently process
data for law enforcement

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
France

Project coordinator:
Ministry of Interior France (Direction
de la Coopération Internationale)

Budget:
€ 899 848

EU contribution:
90% co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP) /
Emergency Assistance (EMAS)

Start date
April 2016

End date:
September 2016



A new system to combat a growing threat

In 2016, the French Ministry of the Interior began an EU-funded project aimed at tackling the issue of mass-scale video data processing. After the horrific terrorist attacks of 13 November 2015, the French authorities urgently needed to access and process video records faster. It was quickly understood that a solution was needed: one that could process vast amounts of video, in real time. The system would have to be able to review a lot of data, and simultaneously, to examine the video and extract vital information, such as number plates, faces and movement.

In this cutting-edge project, scale was a key challenge. The system had to process the information from an increased number of video-sensors and also to integrate with the devices used to capture the video data. The adoption of the Morpho Video Investigator tool enables its users to identify sections of video recordings with motion, to use facial recognition (from either an image taken from a video, or a photograph), silhouette recognition (for when facial recognition is not possible), and to recognise vehicle licence plate numbers.

Building out the system

As the system was implemented, a working application quickly emerged from the project. In turn, this gave rise to additional actions for the project, as the system requirements grew, enabling the system to process data extracted from different sources as quickly as possible. This was by no means a small undertaking and the project team worked hard to ensure that the speed of the system increased, along with system reliability and efficiency.

Law enforcement agencies praised the efficiency of the new system. It was capable of processing large amounts of video data, a great asset to the work carried out by investigators. The system allowed for quicker response times, and faster actions. It was regarded as a positive addition to the tools used by law enforcement agencies, for its operational speed and contribution to investigation efficiency.

Results

This has become a valuable tool for reducing the time required to process video data. It has allowed for clearer detection of movements, silhouettes, faces and the automatic reading of vehicle number plates. In addition, faces can be compared, and large amounts of videos can be linked together from various sources to create a more fluid movement and timeline. Police investigations are simplified, and more fluid collaboration is possible – which means that police can more swiftly apprehend dangerous terrorists.

The system itself is a fantastic support tool for investigators and opens up a host of new opportunities for law enforcement agencies. It was used to help solve four terrorist cases between 2016 and 2018, (using face and licence plate recognition) and is currently the best all-around device available for mass video data processing.

THE MORPHO VIDEO INVESTIGATOR TOOL: WHAT DOES IT DO?

Greater flexibility, speed and reliability;

Decisions can be made faster, with more access to information leading to better real-time responses to evolving situations;

It allows the user to get ahead of the situation, thus taking control, and bringing the situation to an end faster;

Due to the processing power of the system, terrorist threats can be tracked in real-time and stopped before their actions become life-threatening.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/EMAS/0001

Title: Acquisition d'une solution informatisée d'analyse des données vidéo de masse



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A BACK-UP AT THE BORDERS

Project name:

Secondary security checks at hotspots, including training and deployment of guest officers and own staff for monitoring and guiding purposes

Purpose:

Providing extra police for counter-terrorism checks at migration hotspots

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

3 countries: The Netherlands, Italy and Greece

Project coordinator:

European Police Office – Europol

Budget:

€ 1 500 000, € 2 205 936

EU contribution:

100%

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP) / Emergency Assistance (EMAS)

Start date:

March 2016; March 2017

End date:

March 2017; January 2018

Overview

In recent years the numbers of migrants entering Europe from Africa and the Middle East has put severe pressure on police and immigration service staff in southern Europe, notably in Italy and Greece.

These two projects, which followed one another over a 2-year period, allowed Europol to support the Italian and Greek authorities by providing so-called secondary security checks at migration hotspots.

Their focus was on preventing terrorism, with illicit migrant smuggling as a second objective.

A pool of 200 extra officers

Europol's role in these projects was to supply 'guest officers' to support local police authorities with secondary security checks at migration hotspots and areas of disembarkation.

The Italian and Greek authorities continued to be responsible for first-line screening of all new migrants. They were then able to refer any suspicious cases to the Europol officers for more detailed checking.

From its base in the Netherlands, Europol has assembled a pool of more than 200 guest officers from law enforcement services across Europe. Around 30 officers are currently deployed at any one time, though there have been occasions when this number was up to 50. The normal length of secondment is 3 months with possible extensions of the secondment when required.

The officers have backgrounds in border policing, counter-terrorism and organised crime. They also get several days of extra training to familiarise themselves with the legal framework of the host countries and the working procedures of Europol.



Quicker access to intelligence related to terrorism and criminal threats

The presence of the Europol officers gives the host nations greater technical as well as human resources.

The national authorities of the host countries retain authority over what information is referred to/requested from Europol officers and how it is referred/obtained. In principle, they also have access to all the Europol databases. Having Europol guest officers on the spot facilitates and speeds up the information exchange, and creates additional situational awareness about terrorist and criminal threats.

The Europol officers also provide, at the request of the competent authorities, extra resources for the forensic examination of phones and other electronic devices, which is an important source of intelligence. In addition, awareness about Europol's support capabilities is generated at local level, leading to the development of wider international investigations.

Success translates to bigger budgets

Europol officers in 2017 checked 9 898 persons and found 83 hits. In 2018, 7 118 persons and 20 261 means of communication were checked, which generated 381 hits.

A hit does not necessarily mean a terrorist or a member of a criminal gang, but simply a match with information that already exists in a Europol database, and usually requires further background work and investigations involving Europol HQ staff and communication with other law enforcement partners. That could certainly be a person's identity, but it could also be any other piece of information that is useful in fighting crime and terrorism.

In short, the Europol officers were looking for anything that enriched the information on file – and not just immediate threats, but investing in information for the future.

The projects were deemed successful. The work has continued in subsequent years, but is now supported by grants covered by the Europol budget, which required a specific increase for this purpose. This is being well received by the host countries.

HOTSPOTS IN GREECE AND ITALY

In Greece, Europol staff were present in 2016 and 2017 at the port of Piraeus, as well as on the islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos.

In Italy they began by supporting the authorities in Catania, Sicily, in 2016. Later, officers deployed to Pozzallo, Trapani and Agrigento in Sicily, Taranto on the Italian mainland, and the island of Lampedusa. The locations of Palermo, Messina and Augusta were also covered by deployments to Trapani (covering Palermo) and Catania (also covering Messina and Augusta).

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/EMAS/0002
HOME/2016/ISFP/AG/EMAS/0003

Title: Secondary security checks at hotspots, including training and deployment of guest officers and own staff for monitoring and guiding purposes



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CRIMINAL COMMUNICATIONS IN CYBERSPACE

Project name:
Protection of public spaces based on preventive detection of criminal actions – HORUX

Purpose:
Fighting terrorism by tracking messages on social media and the Dark Web

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
Spain

Project coordinator:
Guardia Civil

Estimated budget:
€ 2 675 000

EU contribution:
95 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP) / Emergency Assistance (EMAS)

Start date:
August 2018

End date:
October 2019

Overview

Modern terrorists and other criminals use sophisticated digital communication channels that can expose law enforcement officers who try to infiltrate them. This project will provide Spain's Guardia Civil with a state-of-the-art system to monitor communications on social media and the Dark Web, including bots capable of defeating the criminals' own surveillance systems.

Real-time monitoring

Terrorists and criminals use all kinds of digital communication channels to plot their activities, some of which are hard for security services and law enforcement officers to crack. Others are technically easier but allow criminals to hide in plain sight – on social media, for instance – thanks to the ubiquity of digital messaging.

This project will equip the Spanish national police force, the Guardia Civil, with the latest systems to monitor suspicious communications on social media and the internet, including the hidden part known as the Dark Web.

The new software will integrate with the Guardia Civil's existing systems for monitoring phone calls and other communications. Working semi-autonomously, it can check out digital conversations in volumes too high for any human agent to cover, and in multiple languages including Arabic.

Crucially, the new system includes the ability to probe the Dark Web with avatars – software agents or 'bots' that mimic the behaviour of people but are cheaper and more flexible than human operators. Thanks to their ability to cover their digital tracks, avatars can also do a better job of evading the criminals' own security systems.



Proven software

The new system is based on a proven commercial product that is widely used by police and security services internationally. Such powerful and well-protected technology does not come cheap – hence the project's EUR 2.5 million budget – but the Guardia Civil believes the money will be well spent. The new software is also designed to integrate well with other communication interception systems operated by the Guardia Civil.

The avatars and other characteristics of the new system are already covered by Spain's legal code. This is important, since the system will be gathering information from large numbers of people, but it will not try to defeat encrypted communications, as this may pose legal as well as technical challenges.

Safer Spain is safer Europe

The 2004 Madrid train bombings, in which 193 people died, were one of Europe's deadliest terrorist attacks and continue to haunt Spain's memory. The country's status as a tourist destination and a transit point between Africa and the rest of Europe emphasises the need for excellent security.

This new system will not only strengthen Spain's internal security but will also allow the Guardia Civil to provide valuable information to other police services across Europe.

LEARNING THE HARD WAY IN BARCELONA

Enforcement agencies need to be able to track phone and internet-based communications if they are to foil sophisticated modern criminals. Like a jigsaw, even tiny details of each interaction can reveal the big picture if officers can collect enough of them sufficiently quickly.

A case in point is the 2017 Barcelona attacks, in which 16 people were killed and 155 injured when terrorists drove into crowds of pedestrians. The terrorists were later discovered to have left a trail of digital clues in their wake in the run-up to the attacks. Spanish police unfortunately did not spot these quickly enough to prevent the tragedy.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME-2015-ISFP-AG-EMAS-0010

Title: Protection of public spaces based on preventive detection of criminal actions – HORUX



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HELPING TO GUIDE AT-RISK AND RADICALISED YOUTHS TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Project name:
Multi-agency training exit strategies for radicalised youth – MATES

Purpose:
Ensuring the re-education and integration into society of radicalised youths

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
6 countries: Italy, Portugal, Spain, Estonia, Slovenia and Germany

Project coordinator:
Psychoanalytic Institute for Social Research, universities and social partners

Partner universities:
Universitat Autònoma Barcelona (UAB), Catholic University of Porto, Tartu University, Università La Sapienza, Alma Mater Europaea-Maribor

Estimated budget:
€ 557 017

EU contribution:
90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
November 2016

End date:
July 2018



Overview

In recent years, Europe has seen a rise in the number of marginalised youths who may, or may not, have migrant backgrounds but have been exposed to the ideologies of terrorism, online hate speech and marginalisation. They have been increasingly targeted due in part to their sensitivity on such matters and are at risk of being actively recruited by terrorist organisations.

This increases their chances of turning towards crime, including terrorism, which could be prevented if these at-risk and radicalised youths are provided with adequate knowledge, education and stable job opportunities. Many law enforcement strategies and re-education campaigns do exist but only target certain aspects of the issue. Current practices simply do not do enough to prevent them from being radicalised and recruited. Re-education and de-sensitisation are the keys to helping them.

Tackling the problem

This is where the MATES project comes in. In accordance with the latest EU strategy and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe guidelines, MATES is designed specifically to improve the re-education of radicalised youths by helping them to better understand the society into which they are integrating. This is achieved through a close working relationship between professionals, social partners and the radicalised youths themselves. It is only through this close cooperation that the youths in question come to understand their place and importance in society as a whole.

This approach helps in fostering the social integration of radicalised youths and increases the chances that they themselves will help to prevent, tackle and reduce the risk of other youths being recruited by terrorist organisations.

Goals

The main goals of the project were to develop a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach, which combines psychological, legal, sociological and criminological skills while bringing skilled professionals of different backgrounds together using a common curriculum and toolkit. These were tested thoroughly with well-trained probation officers and frontline practitioners to improve the chances of re-educating and reintegrating radicalised youths into society. This will contribute further to helping other young people who may be at risk and create larger and more tight-knit support groups. These support groups will also include counsellors, Islamic faith representatives and frontline services working together in a community setting.

This will, in turn, be a stepping stone for programmes that help us to understand what the driving force and the personality traits behind adopting extreme ideologies are, such as those promoted by terrorist organisations. Once these indicators are understood and studied, including the psychological build-up of radicalised youths, positive counter ideas can be applied in order to help them.

Results

The MATES project gathered data from prosecutors, intelligence experts, scientific literature on psychological approaches, studies on personality traits in terrorists, together with vulnerable youth profiles in order to prevent terrorist ideologies from further influencing those most at risk.

The success of the project can be seen all around Europe. From Germany to Slovenia, a greater understanding of what causes radicalisation and how best to tackle it has been gained.

With the help of the MATES project and all those involved, the radicalised, marginalised and at-risk youths of today will continue to contribute towards a brighter tomorrow for everyone.

MATES PROVIDES THOSE WHO WORK WITH YOUNG OFFENDERS WITH THE POSSIBILITY TO:

participate in the development of rehabilitation programmes based on a multi-agency approach;

cooperate with local communities to ensure programme success and the reintegration of radicalised youths;

de-sensitise radicalised youths via the use of counter-narratives and support their social reintegration;

help prevent the risk of youth enrollment in terrorist groups;

monitor online activity.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/LETX/8772

Title: Multi-agency training exit strategies for radicalised youth – MATES

Website: [IPRS website](#)

Resources: [MATES brochure](#)





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Courtesy of the project (MAOC (N))

SWOOPING IN ON INTERNATIONAL DRUG SMUGGLERS

Project name:
Maritime Analysis and Operations
Centre – Narcotics – MAOC (N)

Purpose:
International cooperation boosts success in tracking Atlantic and Mediterranean drug smugglers

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
7 countries: France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom

Project coordinator:
Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) – MAOC (N)

Estimated budget:
€ 2 970 109

EU contribution:
95% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
October 2015

End date:
December 2018

Overview

In the vast Atlantic Ocean, a boatload of Colombian cocaine heading for Europe is a tiny target. Enforcement agencies have the best chance of intercepting drug shipments if they work together, pooling intelligence and striking wherever makes the most sense operationally.

The Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) – MAOC (N) – was set up 11 years ago as a coordination platform for navies and law enforcement agencies as they intercept drug shipments across the Atlantic and around the Mediterranean. Based in Lisbon and working with seven European Member States, the organisation also works closely with the US Drug Enforcement Agency and authorities in West Africa and Central and South America.

Lean and mean

The centre has around 23 staff members, including 14 country liaison officers who represent the police, customs, military and maritime authorities of the participating European nations.

Despite its modest size, MAOC (N) has achieved a great deal. From 2007 to December 2018, the centre supported the coordination and seizure of over 151 tons of cocaine, 433 tons of cannabis and 1 ton of heroin, together worth nearly EUR 15 billion. Operations coordinated by MAOC (N) yielded more than a quarter of the cocaine seized in Europe in 2017.

The drugs trade is so international that the project benefits most of Europe's citizens, not just its Member States. Victims of violence and oppression in the nations where the drugs originate may be grateful too.



Ongoing benefits need continued support

MAOC (N) is an ongoing success story that has to date coordinated operations leading to the interception of 206 vessels and more than 1 100 arrests. The vessels targeted include cargo ships, fishing boats and pleasure craft. Similar procedures are in place to track aircraft involved in drug smuggling in the future.

Advances in navigational and communications technology are helping to drive a huge increase in the number of vessels crossing the Atlantic – some of which will inevitably be carrying drugs.

TRUST IS KEY

Enforcement agencies that may have spent years tracking a particular smuggling route are understandably reluctant to share their hard-won knowledge in case someone else gives the game away. But the alternative – where several countries or agencies may be tracking the same vessel, without telling one another – is a recipe for confusion and wasted effort.

So it is notable that of all the interceptions coordinated by MAOC (N), two-thirds were made by countries that did not supply the original intelligence. Clearly, the trust model works.

The 24 countries that have supplied information to date include Colombia, Brazil and Cape Verde.

LOCKING DOWN THE AZORES

Atlantic archipelagos such as the Azores are sometimes used as transit points for smugglers in small boats. MAOC (N) provides ongoing support to Portuguese law enforcement agencies in the Azores. In May 2018, cocaine worth EUR 1.3 million was seized from a yacht there.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/MAOC/0001

Title: Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics – MAOC (N)

Social media accounts: Facebook: @MaritimeAnalysisAndOperationsCentre

Website: www.maoc.eu





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TRACKING NEW DRUGS AROUND EUROPE

Project name:
Improving knowledge on NPS and
opiate trafficking in Europe – NarcoMap

Purpose:

To collect information on drug trafficking, especially new synthetic drugs linked to terrorism

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

4 countries: Bulgaria, Italy, Lithuania and Serbia

Project coordinator:

Research Centre on Security and Crime, Turin, Italy (RiSSC)

Estimated budget:

€ 405 587

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

March 2017

End date:

May 2019

Overview

Drug trafficking in Europe is a complex problem, not least because new types of drugs are constantly appearing. Laboratory-made ‘designer drugs’ – officially called novel psychoactive substances (NPS) – may even escape legal sanctions until they are specifically banned. Users are also turning to drug cocktails, and to opioid painkillers such as Fentanyl that are licensed as medicines, though often made illegally too.

These new drugs also link Europe with conflict and terrorism. Organisations like ISIS profit from the drugs trade, while individuals take drugs to steel themselves for battle or suicide bombings. Some of these drugs are made in Europe, while others pass through Europe on their way to the Middle East.

Working mainly by bringing together existing information sources and assessing their quality and quantity, this project has improved researchers’ knowledge of the supply chains for both designer drugs and opioids, in particular their trafficking routes across Europe.

Breaking down institutional barriers

The project’s four partners have strong links across Europe, so besides the host countries of Italy, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Serbia the research also covered the Netherlands, Spain, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The project partners collected data from institutions in all four of the countries involved, and from other international organisations. They also developed a case study on recent drug seizures at Malpensa Airport, in collaboration with the Italian Agenzia delle Dogane and Guardia di Finanza.



The partners developed specific tools to collect the information, harmonise data between different sources, assess the quality of those sources and quantify their respective contributions to knowledge on drug trafficking. They also developed a tool to represent the relationship between data coverage and trend analysis, so to make it clear how the data quality affects the process of generating knowledge about trafficking.

Finally, the researchers used their data to develop an in-depth analysis of trafficking routes and emerging criminal scenarios.

As the project draws to a close the partners are preparing infographics and e-learning materials to publicise its conclusions.

ON THE TRAIL OF TRAMADOL AND CAPTAGON

In 2017, Italian authorities in Genoa intercepted a shipment of the painkiller Tramadol valued at EUR 75 million on its way from India to Libya. Tramadol is a synthetic opioid popular in North Africa and the Middle East, where terrorists and fighters use it to reduce pain and increase endurance. Tramadol is used in the Gaza Strip and by Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Fenethylamine (Captagon) is an illegal amphetamine-like drug used by terrorists, including probably in the 2015 Paris attacks. It is popular in the Middle East, where exports from Bulgaria and Turkey have supplemented local production.

PINK FOR DANGER

The synthetic opioid known as Pink or U4 is often bought online in the belief that it is safer than traditional drugs. In Europe, Pink has been linked to deaths in the UK, Belgium, Finland and Italy, as well as that of the musician Prince. At least 13 EU Member States have made seizures of Pink.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/TDFX/8742

Title: Improving knowledge on NPS and opiate trafficking in Europe – NarcoMap

Social media accounts: Twitter: @RiSSC_it

Website: www.narcomap.eu



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THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS: THE SMARTER APPROACH TO COMBATTING DRUG CRIME



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Project name:

Detection of drugs trafficking & drugs production: train-the-trainers course, course curriculum, toolkit & exchange of best practices (TURNING)

Purpose:

To provide state-of-the-art training to law enforcement agencies throughout the EU in the fight against illegal drugs

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Project coordinator:

Belgian Federal Police

Estimated budget:

€ 429 094

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

June 2017

End date:

January 2019

This project in a nutshell

The production and trafficking of illegal drugs have always proved to be a problem for law enforcement throughout Europe and beyond. Over the years, many approaches have been taken to combat this, but it has always been the continuous improvement of knowledge and skills that have proved to be truly effective in tackling this problem. The Belgian Federal Police decided to address the need to further improve the skills and knowledge already available. They designed the Detection of drugs trafficking & drugs production: train-the-trainer course, course curriculum, toolkit and exchange of best practices (TURNING), a project to aid the police, forensic officers and customs services across EU Member States on how to detect drug production sites and drug trafficking.

The project is designed to focus on the latest concealment techniques and modus operandi being used by organised criminal gangs to produce and traffic drugs. It also aims to develop new and specific methodologies, techniques and skills that will help to further improve law enforcement agencies' knowledge in this area. This will include the detection of secondary laboratories, indoor cannabis cultivation and labs making synthetic drugs. The project also looked at the latest technologies available and how they can be used to effectively combat these drug activities.

Achieving excellence through knowledge sharing

First, two expert meetings were organised to identify best practices with regard to the detection of drug production sites and drug trafficking. These meetings also helped to identify the specific training, which, in turn, helped contribute towards the development of a training plan.



In order to implement this training plan, the project designed a train-the-trainer course for customs, forensic and police officers from all over the EU, which is delivered over a period of 5 days. Luckily the Belgian Federal Police already had a suitable training facility available; it just required some updating to meet the training requirements for this project. It is now a state-of-the-art facility and a true centre of excellence.

Training that will benefit Europe

This project was set up with the aim of aiding all law enforcement agencies across the EU. However, the main groups that will benefit from this training are frontline responders such as customs, forensic and police officers.

In addition to these officers, EU agencies such as EUROPOL, EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction) and CEPOL (European Police College) will use the facility, as well as the judges and prosecutors who have to deal with the prosecution of drug-related crimes.

High-level training leads to positive impacts

In order to improve the knowledge and skills of the police, forensic officers and customs services in the EU and achieve the best results from the training, it was important to develop and implement a knowledge management strategy. This included the exchange of best practices, the dissemination of an information toolkit (handbook, training plan), networking, and theoretical and practical training that are recognised as being effective tactics.

With all of these elements in play and used in combination, this training has formed a very strong foundation for the future development of the project's positive results. Having one central repository of knowledge and training has proven to be of huge benefit to law enforcement throughout the EU and will continue to be so for many years to come.

THE STEPS TOWARDS PROVIDING EXCELLENCE:

- The production of a toolkit containing the best practices, and specific advice on how to detect drug production sites and drug trafficking;
- A handbook about how to implement the training curriculum;
- A state-of-the-art training facility adapted to the needs of customs, forensic and police officers;
- Tailor-made, multidisciplinary training on how to detect drug production sites and drug trafficking;
- Strengthening the network and communication between all those who are involved in the fight against drug trafficking.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/TDFX/8746

Title: Detection of drugs trafficking & drugs production: train-the-trainers course, course curriculum, toolkit & exchange of best practices (Turning)



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BLOCKING THE SALE OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS

Project name:
SAFTE-project: Studying the
Acquisition of illicit Firearms
by Terrorists in Europe

Purpose:
Enhancing knowledge and prevention
of illicit firearms in the EU

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
EU-wide

Project coordinator:
Flemish Peace Institute

Budget:
€ 525 388

EU contribution:
90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
January 2017

End date:
April 2018

What is the project about?

The SAFTE (Studying the Acquisition of illicit Firearms by Terrorists in Europe) project has studied, described and analysed the main characteristics of illicit firearms markets in the EU, as well as the main players in these markets. A particular focus was how terrorists access these markets across the EU. The study includes an overview of the main national and international governmental organisations involved in preventing terrorist access to illicit firearms markets and identifies relevant legislative and policy initiatives. Finally, this study provides EU policy-makers, Member States and other countries with best practices and recommendations to help reduce and prevent terrorist access to illicit firearms markets.

The aim of the project was to improve the knowledge of illicit firearms markets in the EU, the networks used by terrorists to access these markets, and policies aimed at preventing and combatting such trade.

Who has this helped?

Those working in policy, law enforcement and the judicial sector have benefited from the project. With better knowledge of, and expertise in, terrorist access to illicit gun markets and the legislative/policy state of play, criminals' and terrorist organisations' access to firearms can be severely limited. In addition, the project has shared best practices on combating cross-border crime and terrorism. This will, in turn, enhance the capacities of participants to effectively manage these security risks.



Learning from success

By carrying out such an in-depth study of illicit firearms markets in the EU and terrorist access to these markets, SAFTE has complemented the work carried out by other projects on illicit firearms trafficking. These include the project FIRE (focused on improving quantitative data collection on international firearms trafficking), the project EFFECT (focused on the collection and exchange of ballistic information), the Study to Support an Impact Assessment on Options for Combatting Illicit Firearms Trafficking in the European Union, and the Study to support an Impact Assessment on a possible initiative related to improving rules on deactivation, destruction and marking procedures of firearms in the EU, as well as on alarm weapons and replicas.

Real-time research with real-time benefits

The SAFTE project involved researchers and national stakeholders from a number of EU Member States, and from the European level. In total, eight countries – Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and the United Kingdom – were studied. The results were analysed to arrive at a comprehensive Europe-wide understanding of the phenomenon. In addition, the project also analysed the illegal proliferation of firearms in the EU neighbourhood, with a specific focus on Ukraine and North Africa. Through cross-border and cross-institution communication and cooperation, along with focused research and investigation, this project has strengthened the EU's broader security strategy. Future policy measures inspired by this project will be more likely to make Europe safer.

SOME OF THE QUESTIONS SAFTA PUT FORWARD:

What are the characteristics of illicit firearms markets in the EU?

Who are the main actors involved in these illicit markets? How do terrorists access these markets?

What is the national and EU regulatory framework to combat terrorist access to illicit firearms markets?

What recommendations can be provided to EU policy-makers, Member States and third countries to reduce and prevent terrorist access to illicit firearms markets?

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/TDFX/8748

Title: SAFTE-project: Studying the Acquisition of illicit Firearms by Terrorists in Europe

Social media accounts: [Twitter @projectSAFTE](#)

Website: www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/safte

Reports: www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/safte/publications



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FOLLOWING THE MONEY TO CRACK DOWN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Project name:
Financial investigations as
a means to combat THB

Purpose:
Tackling the financial aspects of
trafficking in human beings (THB)

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
EU-wide, Australia, Canada
and the USA

Project coordinator:
Association of Law Enforcement
Forensic Accountants (ALEFA)

Estimated budget:
€ 247 151

EU contribution:
90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:
International Security Fund –
Police (ISFP)

Start date:
November 2016

End date:
October 2018



Overview

Trafficking in human beings (THB) is a very profitable business for criminals, and breaking down the business model of traffickers remains a priority for the Commission. In this serious and organised crime, victims are often recruited and trafficked between countries through deception or coercion. They are stripped of their autonomy, freedom of movement and choice, and are forced to endure physical and mental abuse.

Although trafficking in human beings is highly lucrative, financial investigations are not routinely used as a method of detection. What's more, there is no structured way in which forensic accountants in law enforcement can securely communicate. A more effective and consistent use of financial investigation is critical. Confiscating criminal proceeds will act as an effective deterrent.

The Association of Law Enforcement Forensic Accountants (ALEFA) project is addressing these gaps through a combination of research and training. Their work has produced a common methodology on financial investigations in cases involving trafficking in human beings, which can be used by law enforcement agencies across Europe and beyond.

Financial investigations at the centre

“Our goal was to enhance the role of forensic accountants and financial investigators in trafficking in human beings cases across all EU Member States,” says ALEFA project coordinator Sara Jakobsson, Forensic Accountant and Senior Financial Investigator at the Swedish Prosecution Authority.

Initially, the project carried out research visits to law enforcement agencies in Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Spain, in order to gather information on how these countries approach investigations on trafficking in human beings. The team then interviewed key global specialists in the field from Australia, Canada and the USA.

Following this, a 2-day training event was held at Europol's headquarters, which brought together 125 participants from 25 countries and the European Commission. The training event focused on developing a best practice approach by looking at a multitude of high-profile cases on trafficking in human beings from a financial perspective.

Helping victims and society

It is expected that the findings will help law enforcement agencies in their efforts to crack down on organised crime groups involved in trafficking in human beings across the EU and beyond.

Crucially, with a more efficient means of solving such crimes, the victims of trafficking in human beings can be set free from abusive situations. The wider society will benefit from these perpetrators being stopped in their tracks.

A one-stop shop for financial investigations

The main output of the 2-year project is a handbook which presents a proposed common methodology for use in financial investigations of cases of trafficking in human beings across all EU Member States. This handbook helps financial investigators across the EU and around the world to follow the money, trace assets and analyse financial evidence in cases of trafficking in human beings. The handbook includes contact points in EU Member States and other countries. This increases cooperation among national enforcement agencies, bringing a strong element of international cooperation to the project.

In addition, the project has produced a leaflet to raise awareness of trafficking in human beings and of the importance of financial investigations. A dedicated website has also been set up for law enforcement agencies across the EU, presenting the project's findings and methodologies.

'Not routinely carried out'

Through its research, the project found that financial investigations are not routinely carried out in cases of trafficking in human beings. It therefore recommends that this approach should be mandatory in all investigations on trafficking in human beings, as it is vital for tracing assets and detecting criminal networks.

The project recommends deeper cooperation between Europol and Eurojust. This is because Europe-wide agencies that help police and prosecutors can share vital information across EU borders, and thus play a key role in resolving such cases.

Spreading the word

Although the project finished in October 2018, the network still holds regular meetings to develop methods and best practice in forensic accounting.

The network is ready to cooperate with other organisations and projects to further disseminate its findings and spread the 'follow the money' approach to investigations on trafficking in human beings. In fact, Jakobsson has already participated in international meetings organised by Europol, Interpol and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and others.

The partners are also further developing the website and plan to disseminate the handbook to all of those involved in the project. It is hoped that this is a product that will be increasingly used well into the future – not just in Europe but across the world.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/THBX/8420

Title: Financial investigations as a means to combat THB

Website: www.alefa.eu

Reports: [Trafficking in Human Beings \(THB\) financial investigation handbook](#)

NIGERIA: SEXUAL EXPLOITATION CASE

The Belgian police discovered that a 'Madame' based in Brussels had arranged for the trafficking of five Nigerian girls from Africa to Belgium for the purpose of sexual exploitation. She was at the same time working with a Nigerian grocery shop owner, who was transferring the proceeds back to Africa for a commission. Through financial investigations, the police established that some EUR 125 000 had been sent to Nigeria from Belgium over a 3-year period and arrested the perpetrators.

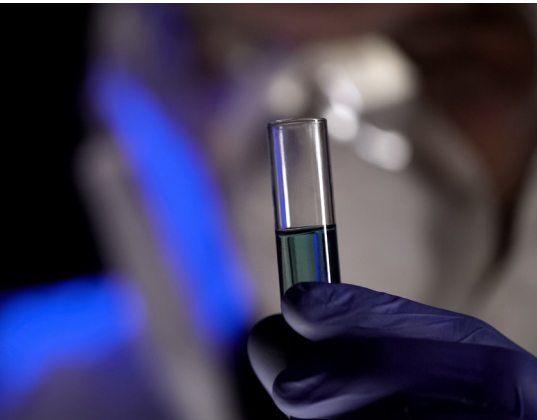
CHINA: OP GAVELO PROSTITUTION RING

This case involved Chinese women trafficked for sexual exploitation in Spain. Thanks to in-depth financial investigations, a total of 31 victims were rescued and 31 alleged perpetrators were arrested, with police taking control of 21 bank accounts before seizing EUR 70 000 and seven luxury cars from the traffickers' premises.



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WATCHING FOR DRUGS IN WASTEWATER



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Project name:
Wastewater Analysis of Traces of
illicit drug-related Chemicals for law
enforcement and public Health – WATCH

Purpose:

Assessing wastewater analysis as
a tool for monitoring illicit drug use

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

- **Partners from 7 countries:** Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Norway
- **Samples from 47 cities in 12 European countries** – the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Norway – and from Australia

Project coordinator:

KWR Water Cycle Research Institute

Budget:

€ 500 000

EU funding:

100 %

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

January 2017

End date:

June 2018

Monitoring illicit drug use through wastewater analysis

Communal wastewaters can be tested for the presence of illicit drugs and their metabolic products in order to estimate their consumption within the area served by the sewer network. Wastewater analysis can provide a non-invasive, close to real-time method of monitoring drug-use trends at population level. This rapidly developing multidisciplinary field could potentially offer valuable insights for law enforcement and public health officials.

WATCH

The WATCH project was commissioned by the European Commission / DG HOME to investigate the potential of wastewater analysis for law enforcement and public health agencies. The project covered 47 cities in 12 European countries and more than 18 million inhabitants. A team of experts – from the fields of wastewater analysis, wastewater catchment technology, drug epidemiology, survey methods, modelling and biostatistics – tested wastewater samples for four substances: amphetamine, MDMA (ecstasy), methamphetamine and benzoylecgonine (a metabolite of cocaine).

One of the objectives was to gain knowledge of the stimulant drug market in Europe and of the differences within and between countries. The project also sought to compare the resulting estimates against other data on drug use, such as records of police seizures, arrests or hospital admissions. Wastewater analysis cannot provide information on the number of users, consumption patterns or purity of the drugs, so the project investigated if it could be used in combination with other models. Finally, the project aimed to review and assess the utility of wastewater analysis in revealing the production of synthetic drugs.



Results

WATCH created a database of the consumption of amphetamine, MDMA, methamphetamine and cocaine in 47 European cities. This meant it could visualise the geographical differences in the stimulant markets across Europe. The project is unable to provide national or EU averages, however, because sampling in locations with greater amounts of drug use tends to result in overestimates. For example, if the cocaine use in the cities and countries sampled by the project was representative of the entire European Union, the annual consumption of pure cocaine would be approximately 290 tonnes.

The project used longer-term wastewater analysis to track temporal variations and monitor the impact of police activity or changing availability. It selected Oslo, Milan and Eindhoven to represent Europe's north, south and west, and different classes of dominant stimulants (amphetamine, cocaine and MDMA, respectively). In these three cities, the project collected and analysed wastewater samples on a daily basis for a minimum of 6 consecutive weeks. It also collected data on population fluctuations. In Oslo, this consisted of the number of mobile devices connected to the network within the catchment area.

The results raise hypotheses about differences in drug use by geographical area. For example, during the summer holiday period upwards of 50 % of the population leave Oslo. Yet there was little or no change in the total amount of drugs consumed in the city. In Milan, however, changes in population were paralleled by changes in drug residue amounts.

The sampling in Oslo coincided with the largest drug seizure in Norwegian history which included 40 kg of amphetamine. This amount could supply a large user population for an extended period of time, but only a marginal decrease in use was observed.

Lessons for the future

The project highlighted the utility of wastewater analysis in providing potentially useful information to authorities. Wastewater data could be used, for example, to indicate the presence of illegal drug labs in the area or to measure the impact of interventions in a direct, objective way.

On the other hand, the project underlined several areas as requiring further study. First, cost-effective ways should be found to accurately estimate the de facto population. In Oslo, for example, the true number of people using the treatment plant in the summer months was around 33 % less than the census estimate. Failure to account for this could lead to misleading results. Secondly, the amount of detected residues typically varied a great deal, even between successive samples. The project therefore recommends long-term or ongoing sampling, and furthermore, across carefully matched control areas. These locations would ideally have comparable data from other indicators, enabling an in-depth analysis of the market.

WASTEWATER ANALYSIS IN SHORT

Originally used to monitor the environmental impact of liquid household waste, the method involves sampling a source of wastewater such as a sewage influent to a wastewater treatment plant, analysing it for selected substances and measuring the quantities. A daily figure for the residues can then be calculated, and based on that, the amount of drugs consumed. This is divided by the number of people estimated to be in the catchment area in order to obtain a per capita figure.

WASTEWATER ANALYSIS AS A TOOL FOR REVEALING ILLEGAL DRUG MANUFACTURING

The project monitored three areas known for the production of illicit drugs: Eindhoven and Tilburg in the Netherlands and Turnhout in Belgium. The results showed that wastewater analysis can be used to reveal synthetic drug production. The MDMA entering the water treatment plant at Eindhoven, for example, was almost entirely in its unconsumed form: it came from waste discharges by manufacturers. The Dutch partner established a strong relationship with the national police, leading to a close collaboration in the province.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2015/ISFP/PR/DRUG/0062

Title: Wastewater Analysis of Traces of illicit drug-related Chemicals for law enforcement and public Health – WATCH

Resources: [Latest wastewater data reveal drug-taking habits in over 70 European cities and an increase in the detection of stimulants](#)

More on the topic: www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/wastewater_en



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TRAINING DOGS TO DETECT HOME-MADE EXPLOSIVES



© Getty Images

Project name:
Increased explosive and firearm
detection – DEFEnDER

Purpose:

A new dog-training facility will help Belgian police detect home-made terrorist explosives

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

Belgium

Project coordinator:

Belgian Federal Police

Budget:

€ 751 482

EU-contribution:

95% co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

September 2017

End date:

August 2018

Overview

As European cities continue to suffer terrorist attacks, Belgian police face a shortage of sniffer dogs trained to detect the home-made explosives favoured by terrorist bombers.

This project is creating a purpose-built training facility for the home-made explosives TATP (triacetone triperoxide) and HMTD (hexamethylene triperoxide diamine) and increasing the number of sniffer dogs available to the Belgian security services. The new training centre will also be open to security services and private contractors from other EU countries.

Getting on the right scent

In recent years Belgium has suffered several terrorist attacks, notably the bombings in March 2016 that killed 35 people. The bombs used in this and many other atrocities across Europe were based on the home-made explosive TATP. Powerful and relatively easy to make, TATP has become the explosive of choice for many terrorists operating in Europe, while HMTD has featured in terrorist attacks in the USA.

Dogs are still the most versatile and effective way to hunt down explosives. However, they need special training to detect TATP and HMTD, which have a different chemical make-up from standard industrial and military explosives. The exact composition – and hence the smell – of home-made TATP and HMTD varies and the materials are dangerously unstable.

This project has allowed the Belgian police to set up a new regional centre to train its 'K9' units to detect TATP and HMTD. The centre is located in the town of Neerhespen, where Belgian police dogs are already being trained.



Delivering value for money

Built on the site of an old military barracks, the new training centre is a no-frills wooden building designed to deliver value for money. The dogs will learn to sniff out TATP and HMTD among piles of boxes, as well as in old buses and an aeroplane fuselage. The centre also has plans to add a railway carriage for training.

Included in the budget are kennels for the dogs, an electric generator, a vehicle to transport dogs and materials, a video system to record training activities, and fireproof storage for the explosives, supplied by the military in quantities of just a few grams.

Although the project was originally scheduled to end in August 2018, funding delays caused the procurement process to slip. The project leader applied for a four-month extension.

Reinforcing the Brussels airport K9 team

The project has also allowed the Belgian police to acquire three new dogs for training. Brussels currently does not have enough sniffer dogs, considering its size and importance as a hub of EU institutions, so the new arrivals will make a real difference.

The new training centre will be open to K9 units from other EU countries, including the military and private contractors. The US military in Wiesbaden, Germany, are already training their dogs with the Federal Police in the new centre.

Another aim is to develop a standardised training manual that takes into account new trends in the way terrorists make and use explosives.

INCREASING SAFETY IN BELGIUM AND BEYOND

The primary beneficiaries of the project will be the professionals concerned with terrorist attacks: police officers, the military and private security contractors serving facilities such as airports and railway stations. Sniffer dogs must be re-certified every year, so the new centre will have a steady flow of work. On a wider scale, EU agencies such as Europol, the European police college CEPOL, and of course ordinary citizens will also benefit from better detection of explosives.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2016/ISFP/AG/EMAS/0002/BE

Title: Increased explosive and firearm detection – DEFEnDER



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© ECTEG Yves Vandermeer, Victor Voelzow

FIGHTING CYBERCRIME IS A SERIOUS GAME

Project name:

IT crime and IT forensics course
package creation for LEA – ECTEG 2.0

Purpose:

Training police to fight cybercrime

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Project coordinator:

European Cybercrime Training and
Education Group

Budget:

€ 1 595 838

EU contribution:

95 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

November 2017

End date:

October 2019

Overview

How do you identify and secure new internet of things' devices and potential electronic evidence? How do you carefully pry apart a computer virus? How do you find useful needles of information in haystacks of computer data in order to understand precisely how a mobile phone works? Police officers across Europe are learning how to hone their skills in fighting cybercrime, thanks to the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group (ECTEG). It is one thing to know how to do all this, but quite another to do it in such a way that it can be admitted as evidence in a courtroom.

Founded in December 2016 and gathering together specialised law enforcement units and universities, ECTEG wants to share and improve the available expertise, free of charge, to law enforcement officers across Europe. To reach this goal, course materials, eLearning courses and qualification programmes are provided in a coherent and sustainable approach. All of the training material and teaching modules are kept up to date and new modules will be added to match technology and crime evolution.

ECTEG is funded by the European Commission, and its cybercrime training sessions are organised in close cooperation with Europol and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training. Its main target group are police officers that are, or want to become, specialised in fighting cybercrime. The courses are only available to law enforcement agencies in Europe.



It's not a game

So far, the programme has developed 19 training modules available in English. Each module teaches how things are working in the background. They use hands-on exercises and allow the participants to master dedicated specialised software tools. Some modules take them deep into the internal workings of computer systems to show them how to gather evidence that can be used in court.

There are also games, except these are really serious. ECTEG has found that these computer games are a good way to learn, and participants rapidly build up their knowledge and expertise. The game scenarios are put together by experienced police officers, with new ones added to cover new criminal phenomenon.

Special training, but not just for specialists

ECTEG finds that its courses attract a varied group of law enforcement officials, not all them trained computer scientists but most have an interest in working with computers.

However, the ECTEG course material is not targeted solely at police officers who are already specialised in ICT. All police officers face challenges related to technology. When they are doing a house search, they need to pay attention to all kind of devices that may provide evidence to contribute towards solving the case. A simple barcode may be linked to a virtual currencies' wallet that criminals may use to launder money. A digital camera may contain fundamental evidence in a case of child abuse. Some of the modules provide a general overview and come with practical exercises to show how all types of criminals may use the internet to facilitate crime. This type of training will be available for all police officers in Europe who need to understand how the internet actually works, and be able to detect common methods that criminals use to hide their activities.

There is also a 5-day course to learn how to develop forensic scripts in Python, a popular computer programming language. This has been designed for participants who have no experience of using any type of computer programming language at all.

TRAINING MODULES

The topics of the 19 training modules that have so far been developed by the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group will be very revealing for anyone interested in or knowledgeable about computers.

- Introductory open source IT forensics;
- Live data forensics;
- Dark web and virtual currencies basic;
- Linux as an investigative tool, part 1;
- Linux as an investigative tool, part 2;
- Python programming for investigators;
- Malware investigations;
- Core skills in mobile phone forensics;
- Intermediate mobile phone forensics;
- Network investigations;
- Network forensics intermediate course;
- Internet investigations;
- Wireless LAN & VOIP investigations;
- Windows forensics;
- Applied NTFS forensics;
- Mac forensics course;
- Solid state and other storage media forensics;
- Data mining and databases;
- Forensic scripting using Bash.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2016-AG-IBA-ECTEG 777603

Title: IT crime and IT forensics course package creation for LEA ECTEG 2.0

Social media accounts: [Twitter: @ecteg](#)

Website: www.ecteg.eu



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LINKING FORENSIC SCIENTISTS ACROSS EUROPE

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Project name:
Steps Towards a European Forensic
Science Area – STEFA

Purpose:

Harmonising techniques and sharing
best practice in forensic science

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

7 countries: Austria, Estonia, Finland,
Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and
Portugal

Project coordinator:

European Network of Forensic Science
Institutes – ENFSI

Estimated budget:

€ 1 578 950

EU contribution:

95 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

January 2018

End date:

December 2019

Overview

Will fingerprint evidence collected by police in, say, Poland carry weight in a Spanish court? As terrorists and organised criminals range increasingly across national borders, forensic scientists need to do the same. Standardised ways to collect and analyse evidence, and especially to share data, help extend the long arm of the law.

The European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) works to share knowledge across the EU and beyond. This project forms part of the EU’s plan to create a unified European Forensic Science Area, which began in 2011. It brings together experts from 31 organisations in 18 EU Member States and 5 other countries to agree on common methods of training, working and handling data.

A wide range of topics and results

The project includes 10 specific activities covering almost every area of forensic science. Apart from a general objective of benchmarking laboratories for strategic planning purposes, the other activities cover chemistry, fingerprints, hair, textile fibres, soil, handwriting and information technology. They include collaborative exercises, benchmarking methods, specific technical tools, database standards, training packages and manuals.

Some of the objectives have a narrow focus: for instance, what are the best practices to consider when comparing traces of soil? Others are more general: how do workflows and management styles vary across different institutions, and are there any winning strategies?



Keeping up with moving targets

New scientific techniques and tools for analysing evidence – from DNA to messages on mobile phones – are appearing all the time. To keep pace, forensic scientists must be able to prove that their results are reliable, which in turn requires appropriate test methods and supporting data. In recent years they have also improved the way they interpret complex statistical evidence for police officers, judges and juries.

The first line of beneficiaries from the project will be the forensic scientists themselves and their managers. Given its importance in fighting crime, however, high-quality forensic science is clearly good news for police and legal professionals across the EU, and ultimately for every citizen.

Tracking DNA across Europe

A data exchange format developed by ENFSI lets crime-fighters search DNA records across borders without compromising privacy or security. If a sample from one country finds a match in another country's DNA database, police or prosecutors can make a formal application to learn the suspect's identity.

This system only works as long as everyone uses the same analytical techniques – but the science of DNA matching is improving all the time. As part of the current project, scientists are updating the database standards to handle next-generation sequencing profiles.

How to test the testers?

For quality control purposes it's common practice to compare results from several forensic laboratories. But it can be hard to ensure that test samples – such as microscopic droplets of blood – are truly identical. Results may also depend on the order in which tests are run: a document, for instance, might be analysed for paper, ink, handwriting, fingerprints and DNA.

This project is continuing to develop protocols and standards for quality control as well as for the actual analytical procedures. This helps to ensure consistent results regardless of which lab they come from.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2016-AG-IBA-ENFSI 779485

Title: Steps Towards a European Forensic Science Area – STEFA

Website: www.enfsi.eu

Related projects: TEFSBPM, TVEFS, TDPEDFS



European Commission



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PUTTING CRIME PREVENTION ON THE AGENDA

Project name:
EUCPN Secretariat

Purpose:
Financial support to the European Crime Prevention Network

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
EU-wide

Project coordinator:
Service Public Fédéral Intérieur, Belgium

Estimated budget:
€ 3 000 000

EU contribution:
95 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
October 2016

End date:
March 2020

European Crime Prevention Network

Crime prevention covers all the activities that can halt and reduce crime. These include not only the activities of law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system, but also those of social services, the education system, civil society organisations, industry, banks, the private sector, academic researchers, the general public and the media.

The EU believes that, by working together in innovative ways, these different actors can greatly reduce crime and increase citizens' feelings of safety and security. To facilitate collaboration, especially in the form of exchanging best practices, research and information on crime prevention, the Member States set up in 2001 a **European Crime Prevention Network** (EUCPN). This Network is a platform for exchanges related to crime prevention at local, national and European levels.

EUCPN is headed by a board of national representatives, and its chair rotates every 6 months according to the presidency of the Council of the European Union. Each presidency/chair chooses a specific topic for the Network to focus on. However, in its 2015 multiannual strategy (MAS), the Network decided to put more emphasis on EU priorities such as those in the [European Agenda on Security](#), so the presidency's topics and the Secretariat's output will now be linked to these.

EUCPN Secretariat

Since 2011, EUCPN has benefited from a professional Secretariat in Brussels. The Secretariat is a 'project' supported by the Internal Security Fund through successive action grants.

The Secretariat provides general administrative, technical and analytical support, acts as a focal point for communication with members and represents the Network externally. It brings together crime prevention practitioners, policy-makers and academic researchers, and produces recommendation papers, toolboxes, newsletters and so on. The Secretariat also supports the Chair of the Network.



At the same time the Secretariat has also supported, in similar ways, another network, the **European Network on the Administrative Approach tackling serious and organised crime** (ENAA). This Network was likewise created by EU Member States to facilitate the exchange of best practices with a specific focus on disrupting organised crime through administrative measures, such as denial of permits or setting up barriers between the illegal and legal economy. The EUCPN Secretariat recently helped establish and now hosts the ENAA Secretariat.

All EU Member States benefit from the two networks. Additionally, all European, national and local policy-makers and practitioners can benefit from the materials developed by the project and distributed via the EUCPN website, newsletter and social media channels.

EUROPEAN CRIME PREVENTION NETWORK (EUCPN)

The EUCPN's objective is to contribute to crime prevention policies and strategies at EU level and to support activities at national and local levels. Its tasks include facilitating cooperation, collecting information and providing expertise to the Council and the Commission. It organises conferences, in particular an annual conference of best practices in crime prevention. Projects nominated for the European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA) are presented at this conference.

EUROPEAN NETWORK ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPROACH TACKLING SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME (ENAA)

The ENAA's goal is to stimulate and facilitate a network of contact points – authorities with administrative powers that can be used to tackle organised crime. ENAA promotes an 'administrative approach', which can mean, for example, preventing persons involved in criminal activities from accessing permits, tenders or subsidies.

Project activities and expected outcomes

The EUCPN Secretariat project seeks to make multidisciplinary preventive action an integral part of tackling crime at EU, national and local levels. To this end, the Secretariat aims to make a greater contribution to policymaking at EU level. It also aims to involve stakeholders more, for example by organising further meetings with National Crime Prevention Councils. It will monitor and compare national, regional and EU policies, and endeavour to get agreement on a common concept of crime prevention.

The EUCPN wants to strengthen its ties with the academic world, increase the knowledge on crime prevention and become a centre of expertise. The project will develop tools for practitioners and assemble and distribute good practices. It will, for example, organise workshops and academic meetings, write and commission thematic papers and manuals and develop videos about the presidency topics, conduct and subcontract research and develop crime prevention campaign materials in different languages. The Secretariat will also organise the first ever EU-wide Focus Day on domestic burglary.

The project also expects to increase the visibility of the EUCPN. It will update its communication plan and website and produce an increasing amount of visually appealing content for newsletters, social media, etc. It will produce promotional materials, develop relations with the media and network with target groups at events.

Finally, the project aims to support the ENAA in improving knowledge about the administrative approach. It will develop an EU Handbook and two barrier models, organise workshops, support the exchange of information, give presentations in Member States and develop a database of good practices.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: (I) ISFP-2016-AG-IBA-EUCPN-74028;
(II) ISFP-2017-AG-IBA-EUCPN-811611

Title: EUCPN Secretariat

(I) The implementation of the MAS of the EUCPN and the Informal Network on the Administrative Approach; (II) The further implementation of the MAS of the EUCPN and the Informal Network on the Administrative Approach

Social media accounts: [Twitter @EUCPN](#)

[www.facebook.com/eucpn](#)

[www.linkedin.com/company/eucpn](#)

[www.youtube.com/channel/UC9mY5BRf04uulW4BbGUMK-Q/featured](#)

Website: [www.eucpn.org](#)





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STRATEGIC INSIGHTS FOR IMPACTFUL COMMUNICATIONS IN PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Project name:
European Strategic Communications
Network (ESCN)

Purpose:
Contributing to the generation of
new communications capacity within
the EU that addresses the challenge
of violent extremism

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
EU-wide

Project coordinator:
Service Public Federal Interieur

Estimated budget:
€ 1 266 987

EU contribution:
90% co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
October 2016

End date:
December 2017

Background

The European Strategic Communications Network (ESCN) is a network of 26 EU Member States, funded by the European Commission, collaborating to share analysis, good practices and ideas on the use of strategic communications in countering violent extremism (CVE).

Violent extremism has been an ongoing and major national security and social challenge in Europe in recent years, with young people travelling to and returning from Syria and other conflict zones. The attacks in Paris and Brussels in 2015 and 2016 highlighted the very real threat posed by terrorists on European soil. Consequently, there is unprecedented pressure on Member State governments and at EU level for an adequate response.

The advent and scale of the ‘migration crisis’ in Europe has added significantly to the challenge, as Member States struggle to deal with the return of foreign fighters from Syria and the region, and also with pressure from domestic members of the far and extreme right, often with international connections.

An effective response to this challenge is one that involves many stakeholders and campaigns, aimed at many audiences across all sections of society, including young vulnerable people and communities. To reach these audiences, it is necessary to build partnerships with industry and civil society – a ‘whole-of-society’ approach. EU Member State governments can breathe life into the partnerships, providing resources, support, analysis and research.

The ESCN aims to intensify the exchange of expertise and support Member States in developing domestic capacity to coordinate a sustainable long-term approach, and in creating innovative responses.

ESCN approach

Strategic communications means understanding how to achieve a strategic effect using a choice of communications. Simply put, it is about what we need to say, to whom and by what means in order to achieve the desired strategic



Migration and
Home Affairs

effect. When applied to the counter-terrorism challenge, strategic communications is not an addition to, but an integral part of governments' efforts to prevent radicalisation within society.

The ESCN provides a guiding process to help Member States develop their own bespoke strategic communications for the prevention and countering of violent extremism. The ESCN process combines a 'seven-step' methodology with a model – an architecture – that integrates government resources and insight, civil society outreach, credibility and community understanding, and private sector expertise to deliver the response at the required pace, scale and sustainability.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To develop a tailor-made consultancy on the effective use of communications to counter violent extremism and terrorism;

To build up and share specific knowledge on messages that counter extreme views;

To exchange best practices during three European Strategic Communications Network meetings.

Generating new EU communication possibilities

During the project, the Network met on three occasions in order to share knowledge and best practices, and to participate in a training session on crisis communications. The ESCN also developed a research and analysis programme that sets out a basic understanding of the communications challenges related to violent extremism.

The ESCN notes that strategic communication is necessarily only one of many government responses to the violent extremist and terrorist challenge. However, it is a vitally important part of the response. While governments may lean towards a heavily securitised approach, this intervention is often far into the radicalisation process and can risk alienating vulnerable communities further.

In comparison, strategic communications can be deployed in interventions at all stages of the radicalisation process, from reducing the pool of recruits upstream to disengagement and direct de-radicalisation at the other end of the spectrum.

Whilst each intervention for counter-terrorism and the prevention of radicalisation has its own merits, strategic communication is a particularly effective approach for prevention and countering the influencing effort.

ESCN activities have so far helped to develop a greater understanding among governments of the role they can play in steering strategic communications initiatives. Furthermore, the confidence that has been generated by this understanding has resulted in Member States' recognition of the importance of facilitating the delivery of new communications campaigns. As a result, the ESCN is contributing to the generation of new communication possibilities within the EU that directly addresses the challenges faced now, and that may be faced in the future.

Ultimately, all of these outcomes have led to a notable and welcome change in the conversation about using strategic communication and the role it plays in the prevention of radicalisation. This has led to more open and constructive conversations between national and local authorities. It is through these conversations that the foundations for more robust future campaigns are being built, to the benefit of society as a whole.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2016-AG-IBA-SCAT 75445

Title: European Strategic Communications Network (ESCN)



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© Courtesy of the project (SPECTRE)

TRACKING ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS ACROSS EUROPE

Project name:

Struggling against and pursuing experienced criminal teams roaming in Europe – SPECTRE

Purpose:

Coordination across Europe and beyond aimed at breaking up sophisticated mobile organised crime groups

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

- **Leader and co-leaders:** France, Germany, Lithuania and Romania
- **Participants:** Albania, Bulgaria, Belgium, Georgia, Greece, Latvia, Moldova, Spain and Ukraine

Project coordinator:

Ministry of the Interior, France

Budget:

€ 813 057

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

October 2017

End date:

September 2019

Overview

Robbers, pickpockets and burglars working for organised crime groups are a big problem for many European citizens and businesses.

These groups are often highly professional, organised and mobile, changing their targets frequently to make them hard to track. Many group bosses are based outside the European Union, so neutralising them requires specific cooperation with the EU's neighbouring countries.

The SPECTRE project is tackling these mobile organised crime groups by using a combination of high-level coordination, street intelligence and the latest technology, such as drones.

Building in-depth knowledge of organised groups

SPECTRE aims to build in-depth knowledge of the mobile crime groups plaguing Europe and to break them up. It operates by helping to coordinate operations across EU Member States and third countries, using innovative tools and improving the training of police experts.

The final goal is to dismantle at least 50 groups, including top-level ones, and recover a minimum of EUR 2 million-worth of ill-gotten assets.

Reaching out from France

The French Gendarmerie Nationale is leading the project with three partner countries – Germany, Lithuania and Romania – and the support of Europol. Other EU Member States and third countries gain support through their involvement in cross-border investigations.

The beneficiaries are national law enforcement agencies, investigators, experts, prosecutors and magistrates, but above all the European citizens who suffer at the hands of mobile criminal groups.



Coordination is essential

The project's main activity consists of bringing investigators together, both for high-level planning and during individual operations. With groups spanning multiple countries, careful coordination is essential if the 'Mr Bigs' are not to escape. For maximum impact, the investigators aim to arrest all the senior leaders of each group simultaneously.

Project funds allow police from a non-EU country to be present when a criminal group leader from their country is taken into custody, wherever the arrest takes place. Georgian investigators, for example, have already provided valuable support during a French operation involving criminals from Georgia.

The second pillar of the project relates to technology, which is becoming increasingly important in catching sophisticated criminals. The project partners have invested in a wide variety of equipment such as nano-drones, night-vision equipment, long-range cameras and microphones, and GPS trackers, plus the training needed to use them effectively.

Good progress towards targets

By December 2018 the project had dismantled 15 mobile criminal groups – well on their way to their original target of 50 – and made around 200 arrests.

They had also exceeded their target by seizing assets worth more than EUR 3.5 million.

The project has acquired more than EUR 200 000-worth of equipment – including cameras, drones and analysis software – to be used by the partner countries. These advanced materials have been deployed so far in 30 cross-border investigations.

The main lesson learned is that the most effective answer to cross-border crime networks is to build a common approach that brings together all the European police forces concerned. Operational cooperation and trust have already proved to be the keys to the success of the project.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2016-AG-MC 766473

Title: Struggling against and pursuing experienced criminal teams roaming in Europe – SPECTRE

Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-9tBDSfF5c



European Commission



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SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT IN COMBATING THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS

Project name:
Addressing migrant smuggling along the Silk Road migration route

Purpose:
Tackling organised smuggling networks operating along the Silk Road

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
3 countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary (and Interpol)

Project coordinator:
Austrian Ministry of the Interior

Beneficiaries:
General Directorate Combating Organised Crime (Bulgaria), National Police Headquarters (Hungary), Interpol

Estimated budget:
€ 1 420 858

EU contribution:
90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
January 2018

End date:
December 2019



Overview

Migrant smuggling is a serious crime that undermines the national integrity of countries and causes untold human misery. It is linked with severe human rights violations and loss of life, and is an issue that is very much at the forefront in Europe, with frequent reports in the media of smuggled migrants losing their lives, particularly at sea. Furthermore, migrant smuggling is also a profitable business for criminal networks, earning them an annual turnover estimated to be billions of euros. Taking action against these networks and disrupting their criminal activities is the specific focus of the Silk Road project.

A large number of migrants travel to Europe along the Silk Road migration route from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey, and then further into eastern Mediterranean countries. From Turkey, migrants are smuggled along the Balkan route to Europe to reach the primary target countries of Austria and Germany, through Bulgaria and Hungary, which are two of the main transit countries. The Silk Road project aims to combat the organised networks smuggling migrants along this route by supporting data exchange between the countries involved and strengthening investigations at strategic and operational levels.

Targeting networks at their source

The criminal networks smuggling migrants along the Silk Road cannot be combatted without intense professional cooperation and data exchange between the countries along the route. As a first step, the project aims to build up confidence in operations with Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey in an effort to tackle the problem at its source.

By identifying offender networks in the countries of origin and analysing the intelligence obtained on these groups, law enforcement agencies will be able to exchange information quickly and to take the necessary action to combat the smugglers. The Joint Operational Office (JOO), set up at the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service in Vienna, is playing a central role in supporting

this process. The involvement of Europol, through its European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), Interpol and Eurojust (an agency of the European Union dealing with judicial cooperation in criminal matters) will speed up action taken against the networks.

Effective cooperation delivering results

To ensure effective cooperation between all law enforcement organisations along the smuggling route, the project will generate guidelines for police information management with partner countries, specifically Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey. It will also produce case studies based on EU best practices for investigations in these countries, taking regional needs into account. These will be translated into the respective national languages and made available as 'train the trainer' materials.

Other aspects that the project will target to ensure an effective response include identifying lines of enquiry for combating organised migrant smuggling groups, exploring possibilities for parallel criminal procedures, setting up Joint Investigation Teams and organising Joint Action Days. What's more, the project will examine previous investigative results together with the relevant law enforcement services in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey to identify circumstances that have obstructed criminal proceedings in the past in an effort to optimise processes.

Training courses will be developed to support investigations into smugglers and human traffickers and subsequent criminal proceedings. Working meetings will be organised in Austria and in the partner countries to exchange intelligence and best practices, and workshops will be held at the Joint Operational Office in Vienna to build capacity in identifying criminal networks and to enhance operational cooperation. The Joint Operational Office has also set up a call centre, which is reachable 24/7 and provides interpreting and translation services.

Looking to the future

Operational intelligence obtained from the third countries involved will be forwarded via Interpol to the Joint Operational Office, which in turn will make it available to Europol and Eurojust through the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) channel, as far as legislation allows. This intelligence will also be provided to the target countries in an effort to encourage local operational work.

The project will create added value for all EU Member States. The rapid detection of criminally organised migrant smuggling groups and their interconnections will make it possible to effectively combat them at international level, resulting in fewer migrants being illegally smuggled into Europe.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

Operational working meetings with the countries involved.

Developing and organising training courses to support investigations related to smuggling of people or human trafficking as well as criminal proceedings.

Joint Operational Office workshops aimed at identifying criminal networks and enhancing operational cooperation.

Setting up a call centre which is reachable 24/7 and provides interpreting and translation services.

Joint Action Days.

Joint Investigation Teams.

Guidelines for police information management.

Trainings courses and workshops.

Intelligence, best practice and case studies.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2016-AG-SRMR 776014

Title: Addressing migrant smuggling along the Silk Road migration route

Resources: Hotline: +43 677 61343434 (24/7)



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ROOTING OUT CORRUPTION AT ITS CORE



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Project name:
Developing A Tool to Assess Corruption
Risk factors in firms' Ownership
Structure – Datacros

Purpose:
To help highlight and prevent
corruption in business

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
EU-wide

Project coordinator:
Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Estimated budget:
€ 337 764.54

EU contribution:
90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
March 2019

End date:
February 2021

Why is Datacros needed?

Corruption is a term, and a reality, that has been around for as long as people have conducted business, and it still represents a deeply rooted problem in the EU. Evidence suggests that legitimate businesses play a crucial role in facilitating corruption schemes. In particular, complex corporate ownership schemes, set up in different countries – including tax havens – can be used to conceal corrupt practices. According to the World Bank, 70 % of corruption cases between 1980 and 2010 involved anonymous shell companies. More recently, the 'Panama Papers' and 'Paradise Papers' scandals uncovered a dense network of companies and trusts established for concealing the identity of beneficial owners and the criminal origin of their proceeds.

How will Datacros work?

The objective of the project is to prevent corruption in high-risk areas, such as the construction, healthcare, energy and procurement sectors, by developing a risk assessment and management tool. This tool will aim to detect anomalies in a firm's ownership structure, which could help uncover schemes concealing collusion, corruption and the laundering of corruption proceeds.

In addition, the tool will also improve the effectiveness of investigations carried out by law enforcement agencies. Such improvements will then strengthen the abilities of – for example – investigative journalists and non-governmental organisation (NGO) watchdogs. This will lead to the identification of suspicious interactions between, potentially, politically exposed people and businesses. Importantly, this will allow for the transparency of public spending to be monitored.

However, studies on the use of ownership schemes for corruption purposes are rare, mainly due to a lack of information. Datacros aims to address this in the fullest possible ways.



What does the project hope to achieve?

The tool developed by the project aims to achieve more than one specific result. It will represent a risk assessment tool which, by increasing business ownership transparency, will allow both public authorities and civil society elements, such as NGOs and investigative journalists, to improve the surveillance of areas characterised by high risks of corruption.

It will also be a practical tool that will enable public authorities to detect corruption risks behind suspect ownership business structures. This will improve their investigation and prosecution capabilities, especially in cross-border cases of corruption and the laundering of its proceeds.

It will be a platform for exchanging information and for enhancing communication among different organisations, such as anti-corruption and tax agencies.

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS?

Police agencies and judicial authorities, which can improve their investigation and prosecution capabilities in cases of transnational corruption and the laundering of corruption proceeds;

National and local public bodies, such as anti-corruption agencies, competition authorities, and public and private contracting authorities;

Investigative journalists, by increasing their capability to investigate anomalous corporate schemes used for corrupt and criminal purposes;

National and EU supervisory authorities, by mapping the activity of entities from opaque and risky jurisdictions in public spending and contracts.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-CORRUPT 823792

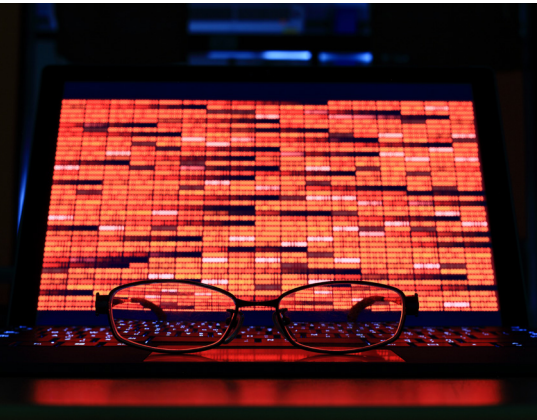
Title: Developing A Tool to Assess Corruption Risk factors in firms' Ownership Structure – Datacross

Website: www.transcrime.it



European
Commission

BLOWING THE WHISTLE ON CORRUPT PRACTICES



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Project name:

Whistle-blowing open data impact.
An implementation and impact
assessment (WOODle)

Purpose:

To assess and measure the current
implementation and impact of
whistle-blowing measures

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

7 countries: Austria, Estonia, France,
Ireland, Italy, Romania and Slovenia

Project coordinator:

Universita Degli Studi di Torino

Estimated budget:

€ 467 117

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

January 2019

End date:

January 2021

Overview

In recent years, whistle-blowing has become a more widely used form of reporting when it comes to deterring, detecting and highlighting corruption in public procurement. The purpose of the project is to assess and measure the current implementation and impact of whistle-blowing measures in seven Member States (Austria, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Romania and Slovenia). By looking at how these countries have implemented their policies regarding whistle-blowing will help develop an information and communications technology (ICT) tool for public administrations, local authorities and public companies.

In addition to whistle-blowing, access to data is also important and the EU continues to ensure that data is freely available for use and re-use; this also includes public procurement. Government transparency is important as it allows citizens to see how their elected officials conduct themselves, especially when it comes to the awarding of government contracts. Having access to the information related to such things tends to foster more citizen participation and trust in government.

What exactly are the goals of the project?

The project will first look at the recent developments made by EU initiatives on whistle-blowers and open data in the countries involved. This research will allow the team to then understand how these measures work and identify any major factors that may affect the project.

Following this, an assessment based on the results of the research along with an ICT tool will be developed. This will allow for a self-evaluation of policies on whistle-blowing and open data by those taking part.



The aim of the tool is to provide public bodies with a useful instrument for increasing transparency and preventing corruption within their organisation. This will lead to better practices and, as transparency increases, improved public trust in the organisation.

What are the results the project wants to achieve?

It is hoped that the results of the project will include an increased awareness and understanding by Member States and EU institutions on the importance of whistle-blower protection and open data policies.

Last but not least, the project wants to help contribute to improving the trust citizens have in their public bodies when it comes to the correct use of public funds. Strengthening oversight and monitoring public procurement procedures will achieve this. In addition to all of this, it is hoped that the project will lead to an increased willingness to report wrongdoing and corrupt practices in the workplace without fear of retaliation or negative consequences.

THE PROJECT WILL:

- gain a deeper understanding of how countries are performing when it comes to the implementation of whistleblower protection policies and open data policies;

- assess the effectiveness and impact of whistleblower protection and open data policies on reducing corruption;

- provide an information and communications technology tool to measure the impact of whistleblower protection and open data policy that can be adopted by any public administration.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-CORRUPT – 823799

Title: Whistle-blowing open data impact. An implementation and impact assessment (WOODle)



European
Commission

GETTING TO THE HEART OF CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS

Project name:
Reducing corruption risks with
data – RECORD

Purpose:
Tackling corruption through
early detection

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
4 countries: Poland, Spain,
Hungary and Romania

Project coordinator:
Fundacja Epanstwo

Estimated budget:
€ 630 251

EU contribution:
90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
January 2019

End date:
December 2020

Overview

Caused by a lack of monitoring capacities, knowledge and effective institutional oversight, corruption is a big issue in public spending. It has a negative impact on investment, fiscal deficit, tax collection, gender equality and the absorption of EU funds. And the scope of the problem can be seen in a recent Eurobarometer survey, which states that 43 % of respondents think that corruption is widespread among officials awarding public tenders.

The recently launched project Reducing corruption risks with data (RECORD) aims to alleviate this worrying situation by developing an unprecedented monitoring tool that can reveal corruption risks early. The project also wants to improve the overall system of public spending by enhancing related procurement processes and institutional capacities.

A multifaceted tool

Currently being developed, the bespoke IT tool will analyse corruption risks associated with public bidding contracts. Using data from the four partner countries, it will detect structural weaknesses and behaviour patterns likely to cause corruption. Typical patterns will include short application periods, restrictive bidding criteria, and differences between the estimated and contracted price.

In order to raise awareness of corruption among the wider public, the project will also produce high-quality investigative journalism, examining procurement issues from a local and European point of view. Interested journalists will also be trained on how to use the tool to help in their reporting.

In addition, consumer watchdogs will be encouraged to use the tool to monitor corruption, while both national and EU policy-makers will be fully briefed on what they need to do to reduce the risk of corruption.



A win-win situation

Local governments stand to gain from the project, as they will receive immediate feedback on the level of corruption in their vicinity. Meanwhile, policy-makers and local investigative journalists across the EU will benefit from the knowledge arising from the investigations, the project data and policy recommendations.

In the longer term, the project will help the EU to tackle corruption, as it will be able to adjust its monitoring framework according to the project's findings, which will also feed back into EU policies and Directives.

SPIRALLING COSTS

A 2013 study on identifying and reducing corruption in public procurement found that, in 2010, the overall direct costs of corruption in public procurement in the road, rail, water and waste sectors in eight Member States ranged from EUR 1.4 billion to EUR 2.2 billion.

SLOW DIGITAL UPTAKE

The Commission has observed that digital transformation of public procurement is slow. In a 2016 survey, only four Member States said they used digital technologies for all the major steps in the procurement process.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-CORRUPT 823833

Title: Reducing corruption risks with data – RECORD

Website: <http://tenders.guru>



European
Commission

MAKING WHISTLEBLOWING SAFER AND MORE SECURE WITH TECHNOLOGY



© Getty Images

Project name:

Widely expanding anonymous tipping technology deployment, operation, and trustworthiness to combat corruption in eastern and southern Europe (EAT)

Purpose:

Building a more secure and anonymised system to encourage whistleblowers to come forward with information about wrongdoing

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Project coordinator:

Fundacion Internacional
Baltasar Garzon

Estimated budget:

€ 563 381

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

February 2019

End date:

January 2021

Overview

Corruption in both business and government can have significant impacts on a society's economic growth. Unfortunately it is an issue in some shape or form throughout many countries today. However, whistleblowing against corruption is on the rise and it provides an essential, corrective mechanism to combat corruption. This project will create anonymous whistleblowing mechanisms with the highest level of security to ensure the anonymity of those who make reports of wrongdoing. By deploying the technology, the project will strengthen the power of whistleblowing, allowing it to further impact public and private-sector corruption.

Whistleblowers, by their nature, are often motivated by strong morals and a sense of fairness. In reporting fraud and other forms of wrongdoing within a company or institution, these whistleblowers feel that they are contributing to a fair and open society. However, in order for a whistleblower to come forward, they will need to feel that there will be mechanisms in place to protect them. As very few companies are interested in learning about their internal failings or wrongdoings, any means of allowing for protected disclosures will not be well advertised by that company. And, unfortunately, reports are rarely acted upon, and those who do make reports can suffer reprisals such as retaliation, firing or personal or professional persecution.

This project, as stated above, will work towards the development of secure means by which to make reports by potential whistleblowers safer and confidential. This, in turn, will help to encourage others to come forward with information about possible wrongdoing within businesses and institutions.



Giving a voice to those who want to do right

By providing whistleblowers with a guarantee of anonymity through the use of technology, it is hoped that more and more people will come forward with information that highlights corrupt practices. With the technology in place, improvements made to it by the project over time will ensure that the functionality of the tools will also promote employees to comply with anti-fraud regulations through marketing and dissemination activities. This will ensure that the information is of the highest quality and based on reality as opposed to the misgivings of a disgruntled individual.

By analysing the anonymised metadata from whistleblowers, the project will improve managers' understanding of the role whistleblowing can play in reducing corruption within a business. And by marketing the whistleblowing mechanisms in conjunction with the media, the project will expand awareness about the availability of tip lines and their use.

The results will speak for themselves

The results of this project will benefit society as a whole. By providing safe, secure and technologically anonymised means of providing information, whistleblowers will feel more confident about coming forward with the information they believe might help highlight wrongdoing. Additionally, law enforcement agencies will benefit from more 'inside information' about illegal activities. Ultimately, the project will contribute to a lower general level of corruption, from which the public and society at large will benefit.

THIS PROJECT:

gives whistleblowers the confidence to report wrong doing by deploying secure dropboxes to accept and relay whistleblowers' reports in businesses where corruption is suspected;

enhances communication, coordination and cooperation between enforcement authorities and other relevant authorities at national and international levels;

develops tools promoting an integrated approach to measuring progress in preventing, detecting, prosecuting and sanctioning corruption;

provides whistleblowers with a technologically secure means by which to make a report, ensuring their anonymity

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-CORRUPT – 823840

Title: Widely expanding anonymous tipping technology deployment, operation, and trustworthiness to combat corruption in eastern and southern Europe (EAT)



European
Commission

LISTENING TO ITALY'S DISAFFECTED YOUTH



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Project name:

Beyond the horizon: Counter-narratives placing marginalised young people at the centre – OLTRE

Purpose:

Understanding radicalisation in Italy by giving voice to young Muslims and crafting positive stories

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

Italy

Project coordinator:

University of Rome Tor Vergata

Estimated budget:

€ 1 068 011

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

November 2018

End date:

November 2020

Overview

Although Italy has so far escaped serious violence from Islamist terrorists, the country has its share of people at risk of becoming radicalised, and it remains a gateway to Europe from the Middle East and North Africa. This project is working with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with the aim of better understanding some of the routes to extremism in Italy. It will canvass their views, investigate their social networks and give them the chance to exchange opinions in a supportive environment.

The project will thus provide opportunities for young people to create positive messages through video, social media and music. The end result will combine rigorous academic research with practical anti-radicalisation techniques based on openness and the avoidance of confrontation.

Listening, learning and encouraging discussion

Getting young people to share their views is the best way, the project partners believe, to understand how they might become radicalised and how to prevent this. The researchers will start by collecting the life stories of 42 young people through in-depth interviews and focus groups, and analysing their social networks. Talking to both Muslims and non-Muslims may explain, for instance, how radicalisation can arise from everyday social conflict as well as 'top-down' indoctrination by religious or political leaders.

Next will come workshops allowing around 200 young people to get to know each other, share and craft their stories, develop protective strategies and enhance their sense of self-worth. The well-known cultural organisation Arci, for instance, plans sessions based on the 'theatre of the oppressed' to turn spectators into actors. The intention is to create opportunities for regular meetings and discussions that will outlive the project itself.



Journalists and photographers from the organisation Witness Journal will help the youngsters build narratives through video and social media that reject radicalisation and build self-confidence.

Finally, the partners will create an online communication campaign to spread the messages developed by the young people themselves.

Escaping the cycle of rejection

Many young Muslims from deprived backgrounds will be tempted to reject the societies that surround them as long as they feel rejected in their turn. This project will increase our understanding of how economic hardship and social tensions contribute to radicalisation. It will also develop practical measures to increase integration by promoting dialogue and self-confidence, while avoiding stereotyping and stigmatisation. The knowledge gained will be transferable to other countries and other groups.

HARDENING PUBLIC OPINION IN ITALY

Italy's relative freedom from Islamist terrorism has not stopped debate about radicalisation among academics, politicians and the general public. Until 2017, the official attitude to migration and inclusion was fairly tolerant. Since many Muslims in Italy are first-generation immigrants, deporting extremists – including several imams – was the main defence against radicalisation.

In the last year, however, attitudes have hardened in both public opinion and government policy. The partners have had to allow for this in planning their project, and fear it will be harder to learn about radicalisation if Muslims are less willing to speak out.

MUSIC AS A UNIFYING FORCE

The creative activities planned for the project will provide input for a professional online communication campaign by Milan-based agency AB Crea. The partners plan to recruit a well-known musician to promote the message of respect and self-respect.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-CSEP 812584

Title: Oltre l'orizzonte. Contro narrazioni dai margini al centro (Beyond the horizon: Counter-narratives placing marginalised young people at the centre) – OLTRE

Website: www.progetto-oltre.eu



OLTRE
LA VOCE DEI NUOVI EUROPEI



European
Commission



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PROMOTING ALTERNATIVES TO EXTREMISM THROUGH VISUAL AND INTERACTIVE MEANS

Project name:

Promoting democracy and fighting extremism through an online counter-narratives and alternative narratives campaign - DECOUNT

Purpose:

Create and spread educational content to prevent extremism

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

This is an online campaign

Project coordinator:

Institute for the Sociology of Law and Criminology, Vienna (IRKS)

Estimated budget:

€ 791 688

EU contribution:

90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (IFSP)

Start date:

November 2018

End date:

October 2020

What is the purpose of this project?

In recent years, communication technology has advanced in leaps and bounds, and the lines between online and offline communication have become blurred. Due to the always-connected society that we live in, it is hard to see the difference between online and offline. Now, there are almost infinite ways in which to make contact with one another, regardless of where in the world a person may live. Like most things in life, there are both good and bad aspects. Consider the unprecedented improvements in video production, the ease with which such productions can be created, coupled with hateful propaganda, and it is clear that there is a new challenge for authorities and organisations engaged in deradicalisation and the prevention of radicalisation.

Currently, extremist organisations of various ideological orientations radicalise and mobilise by using social media and online platforms in highly professional and effective ways. This project aims to address the overall need to create a counter and alternative message that will be able to help build resilience against extremist propaganda.

What are the overall aims of the project?

The project aims to design and deliver an online campaign providing access to existing resources for the prevention of radicalisation, videos produced by vulnerable and at-risk youth, and a video game designed to be an interactive learning experience and which will highlight the consequences of extremist choices in a playful manner while offering alternatives.



Who will DECOUNT help?

The main audiences of this project are the general public, as well as young people who might be targeted by extremist organisations. These may be young people who are struggling with personal or societal issues and might be looking for answers in extremist online propaganda. However, if these young people can be shown that there is an alternative to extremist solutions, it will have a positive impact on them and their thinking. This positive action will prevent the impact of extremist influences in their lives and help them to spread positive messages to others. Furthermore, the project will provide online resources for teachers and other educators who are dealing with the challenge of radicalisation and how to prevent it.

What does the project hope to achieve?

The aim of DECOUNT is to design and deliver an online campaign that provides resources for preventing radicalisation. The video game and the videos will be used by teachers as well as being played and watched by (vulnerable) youth. The online campaign builds on scientific evidence and is developed in close cooperation with those who work with both juveniles and vulnerable youngsters. The results of the project and the lessons learned will be shared with the European research and practitioners community and can be replicated in other European countries.

HOW WILL DECOUNT HELP?

It will provide credible and alternative narratives and thus challenge extremist content.

It will enhance digital resilience and critical thinking in a playful manner.

It will help the target audience reject violent extremism.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-CSEP 812617

Title: Promoting democracy and fighting extremism through an online counter-narratives and alternative narratives campaign (DECOUNT)



European
Commission



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REINFORCING COOPERATION TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING

Project name:

Coordinated tackling of new trends
in drug trafficking (SNOW WHITE)

Purpose:

Cooperation and capacity
building to counter developments
in illicit drug trafficking

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

4 countries: Romania, Belgium,
Lithuania and Germany

Project coordinator:

Parchetul de pe lângă Înalta Curte
de Casație și Justiție (PICCJ)

Estimated budget:

€ 419 352

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

December 2018

End date:

November 2020

Overview

Recent developments in the illegal drug market in Europe pose a challenge to law enforcement agencies. The number of new psychoactive substances on the market is soaring and alternative drug trafficking routes are emerging. Romania, for example, is becoming an additional entry point for cocaine into Europe: cocaine seizures there have gone up from 54 kg in 2012 to more than 2.3 tonnes in 2016. And last but not least, investigative methods need to be adapted to the growing online trade in illicit drugs.

The objective of the project SNOW WHITE, 'Coordinated tackling of new trends in drug trafficking', is to enable authorities in Europe to respond effectively to these developments. The project seeks to develop the capabilities of law enforcement agencies in Romania, Belgium, Lithuania and Germany and strengthen the cooperation between them.

Goals

SNOW WHITE will enhance cooperation between all EU law enforcement agencies by relaunching the informal network of experts in 'controlled deliveries' (allowing drug shipments to reach their destination in order to identify the criminals involved). The project will expand its purpose to cover all traffic in illicit drugs.

The project will develop methods and techniques for investigating the illegal trade in synthetic drugs on the Dark Web. Training sessions and an international workshop will spread the new knowledge and skills across Europe, enable the exchange of best practices and methods, and strengthen the cooperation between Member States and with specialist organisations.



The project will build the partners' operational capability to disrupt and dismantle heroin and cocaine trafficking networks. The main focus will be on the main entry points of these drugs into Europe, the ports of Constanta (Romania), Antwerp (Belgium) and Rotterdam (the Netherlands). Study visits will facilitate the exchange of good practices, build trust and reinforce cooperation.

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of this project are European law enforcement agencies involved in fighting drug trafficking. The work carried out here will lead to an increased number of joint investigations.

Project outline

The project will relaunch the EU-wide informal network of experts at a meeting in Bucharest, Romania. Participants will develop and endorse an action plan for future cooperation, and receive training in national and European legislation and in the use of the European Investigation Order.

The project will organise two 4-day training sessions on the Dark Web and cryptocurrencies for law enforcement personnel (police, border guards, customs officers and prosecutors) in Romania and in Lithuania. Practitioners from Estonia, Latvia and Poland will also attend the Lithuanian training session.

The training will continue in Germany with an international workshop on cooperation with Europol and Eurojust, with case studies of Dark Web drug crimes. Additional participants will include representatives of the Belgian and German project partners, and practitioners from Spain, the Netherlands and Bulgaria.

The project will organise study visits to the ports in Romania and Belgium. Practical exercises onsite will enable an exchange of best practices, build trust and create a foundation for future investigations in the framework of joint investigation teams (JITs).

PORTS AS ENTRY POINTS FOR ILLEGAL DRUGS

The project will commission a risk assessment study of the ports of Constanta, Antwerp and Rotterdam to create knowledge of the networks that use them to traffic heroin and cocaine into the EU. The study will provide a theoretical background to the project's harbour visits, and its English version will benefit all European law enforcement personnel.

INITIATING EUROPE-WIDE COLLABORATION AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING

The project's final conference in Bucharest will be a platform for disseminating outcomes and establishing contact with other anti-drug trafficking networks. Invitees will include representatives from, for example, Europol, Eurojust, the Council of Europe Pompidou Group, the Ibero-American Network of anti-drug prosecutors and the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC).

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-DRUGS-822561

Title: Coordinated tackling of new trends in drug trafficking (SNOW WHITE)

Website: www.mpublic.ro/en/content/ump-proiecte-ce-20

Other projects: Enhancing the cooperation of European Union Legal Enforcement Agencies for successful controlled deliveries



European
Commission

TACKLING DRUG TRAFFICKING ON THE DARK WEB

Project name:

Law enforcement technological
innovation consolidation for fight
against online drug crimes – Lion DC

Purpose:

Enabling law enforcement agencies
to combat online drug crimes

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

6 countries: Lithuania, Bulgaria,
Greece, the Netherlands, Poland
and Romania

Project coordinator:

Mykolas Romeris University (MRU)

Estimated budget:

€ 1 102 159

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

December 2018

End date:

December 2020

The internet has changed the illegal drug market

Globalisation and the internet, specifically the World Wide Web, have had a significant impact on the market in illegal drugs. New ways of accessing customers and suppliers have appeared alongside new opportunities for making offline criminal activities more efficient and secure.

The World Wide Web can be divided into three parts. The *Surface Web* is the part we all know, where content is accessible with regular search engines. The *Deep Web* contains everything else. It includes things like private forums, online banking or content behind paywalls. But it also includes content that can be accessed only through special *anonymising* software networks, and this part is called the *Dark Web*.

The anonymity of the Dark Web allows almost anyone with sufficient technological skills to buy illegal drugs and sell them on to customers around the world, simply by using postal deliveries. At the same time, retail sales to drug users can also be observed in social media and other open source environments.

Law enforcement agencies need to adapt

At the moment, European law enforcement agencies only have a limited and fragmented knowledge of how to investigate online drug crimes, of how to collect evidence and determine the chain of custody.

The Lion DC project aims to provide law enforcement agencies with the skills, methods and tools they need to counter drug trafficking on the internet. The project will improve practitioners' understanding of online drugs crime phenomena (including potential interception and international cooperation points) and build their skills in dealing with the Dark Web. It will explore investigative techniques and tactics and test innovative technologies. It will also test ways to go beyond the 'follow the money' principle, which relies on tracking cryptocurrencies and blockchain technologies. By using a wide range of sources, the project hopes to provide better ways of identifying criminals.



Lion DC activities

The project will first consolidate input from Member States and obtain insights from specialists. It will assess the needs of law enforcement agencies (police, customs and border guards) and analyse the challenges they encounter in identifying and investigating online drug crimes. The project will use this information to select technological tools and investigative methods for its exercise scenarios.

Exercises in intelligence-led cross-border investigations will form an integral part of the project. They will allow the project to evaluate the performance of the selected methods and tools. They will also provide opportunities to share expertise, methodologies and analytical capabilities with academia, and indicate avenues for cooperation with public and private partners.

Finally, the project will create a Digital Online Drug Crimes Investigation Knowledge Hub that will include a training platform. The hub will contain the most relevant open-source intelligence tools, a Dark Web simulator, and frameworks for tracing the illegal use of cryptocurrencies. The project will also develop and trial online training modules on drug crime investigation, including modules for future trainers. This will build competence and ensure long-term knowledge transfer.

The existing EU networks of practitioners and academia (e.g. ENLETS, ILEA.net, SINCERE, SENTER) will facilitate the co-creation process between law enforcement agencies and academia. They will also enable sharing the experiences and knowledge accumulated during the different stages of the project. Practitioners' EU networks will play a pivotal role in dissemination and communication, spreading project results across Member States.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-DRUGS 822616

Title: Law enforcement technological innovation consolidation for the fight against online drug crimes – Lion DC

Social media accounts: www.linkedin.com/groups/13688229
www.linkedin.com/company/lion-dc/about

Twitter [@LIONDC2](https://twitter.com/LIONDC2)

Website: www.lion-dc.eu



LION DC
FIGHT AGAINST ONLINE DRUG CRIMES



European
Commission



Courtesy of the project (CO3DIL)

JUST SAY NO: COMBATTING THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE IN EUROPE

Project name:

Collaboration for Dismantling Drugs
Distribution and Illicit Laboratories -
CO3DIL

Purpose:

Disrupting and dismantling the trade
of illicit drugs in Europe

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Project coordinator:

Policejní Prezidium České Republiky

Estimated budget:

€ 548 166

EU contribution:

90% co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (IFSP)

Start date:

February 2019

End date:

January 2021

The biggest criminal market

The production, trafficking and distribution of illegal drugs is a major problem for Europe, and represents the single biggest criminal market. The market for synthetic drugs, such as MDMA, amphetamine and methamphetamine, is dynamic and complex. Methamphetamine produced in the European Union (EU) is distributed within the EU and exported to other regions of the world, such as Australia and Japan.

Distribution of methamphetamine, or 'meth', affects all EU Member States. Meth is a potent stimulant that targets the central nervous system and is mainly used as a recreational drug. It is highly addictive. The organised criminal groups involved in meth production are extremely flexible and have significant financial resources to constantly explore new market opportunities and new production technologies. Additionally, the online drug market is growing, evidenced by the large numbers of parcels containing meth that are seized.

How does the project work towards preventing this?

The project has several activities, with the overarching goal of stopping the illegal trade of drugs in Europe. The initial focus is on dismantling meth laboratories, disrupting criminal gangs, arresting those involved and seizing the drugs. Subsequently, increased security measures will be put in place to prevent drug manufacturing and at the same time, reveal more about the processes behind the setup and running of these labs.

When these measures are operational, ensuing benefits will include a reduction of synthetic drug production and supply in the European market. It will also improve investigation techniques used to detect organised drug crime, drug lab detection and improve how intelligence is gathered and shared. The goal is more cooperation and knowledge-sharing between police, customs and the judiciary.



What does the project hope to achieve?

There is a lack of forensics information on meth and how it is produced. To address this gap, the project will examine how information about meth is gathered and analysed, including how meth is made, produced, transported and sold. Money laundering and how it relates to the financing of radicalisation and terrorism-related activities will also be studied. This, combined with operational and strategic elements, will strengthen law enforcement agencies' capacity and ensure greater security for citizens, while reducing the supply of meth to the European market.

CO3DIL SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BY:

Strengthening joint case-by-case investigations and the exchange of information;

Detecting, monitoring, controlling and overseeing the supply of medicines and other products used for the production of synthetic drugs; and

Identifying targets (such as criminal gangs) who control drug production.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-DRUGS 822773

Title: Collaboration for Dismantling Drugs Distribution and Illicit Laboratories - CO3DIL





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TERROR IN PUBLIC SPACES – MAKING CROWDS SAFE



© Getty Images

Project name:
COMPSAT: Control and monitoring LPR system of public spaces and massive events

Purpose:

Improving Spain's ability to protect crowds from terror attacks

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

Spain

Project coordinator:

Guardia Civil Spain

Estimated budget:

€ 751 482

EU contribution:

95 % funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

August 2018

End date:

July 2019

Overview

Public events attracting large crowds have become a target for terrorists wishing to gain notoriety by inflicting the greatest amount of damage on the largest number of people. Attacks like this have been carried out to devastating effect in Barcelona, Nice, Berlin, London and other European cities.

Access to these events is mainly by car, and the car itself can be used as a weapon by terrorists, either loaded with explosives or simply used to ram into the crowd. To ensure the safety of people attending these events, security forces need to be able to control and monitor the movements of suspicious or recently stolen vehicles in real time, using the most advanced technologies to capture and check licence plates quickly and reliably.

Addressing this need, the COMPSAT project focuses on deploying the latest licence plate recognition (LPR) technology and communications equipment to improve the ability of Spain's security forces to protect large concentrations of people, where the danger of a terrorist attack is greater, allowing them to respond more quickly and apprehend terrorism suspects before they can attack.

Goals

As a general objective, COMPSAT aims to enable greater control of vehicles being used in areas where the public congregate and where major events are taking place. The COMPSAT system will allow the security forces to monitor traffic and check suspicious vehicles against data in government databases on stolen vehicles or vehicles that might be used as a weapon by terrorist elements.



Deployment of the system will give security agencies access to a powerful information tool, allowing them to make timely decisions, avoid risky situations for the public and anticipate terrorist acts. To make it as effective as possible, the licence plate capture systems will be adapted to different scenarios, such as highways, roads, streets, rural/urban areas, etc. The systems should be able to quickly recognise and capture licence plates, allowing security forces to apprehend suspects and prevent an attack, or to quickly identify and find the perpetrators as soon as possible following an attack.

SPAIN AT HIGH RISK OF AN ATTACK

According to the Spanish Home Office Prevention and Protection Antiterrorist Plan, Spain is currently on high alert for a terrorist attack, at alert level 4 out of 5. Spain hosts numerous major mass events throughout the year, especially in summertime, including music festivals, major sporting events and religious processions.

The Guardia Civil Information Command is responsible for ensuring public safety at these types of event, when they correspond to its territorial demarcation. The current system that they use is based on analogue licence plate recognition systems with low connectivity capacity. As a result, they are unable to check data against government databases quickly enough. This means that the data has to be compared manually, which requires significant human resources and time. What's more, the fleet of vehicles used to place the LPR systems is outdated and needs to be modernised.

Results

As a result of this project, the Spanish Guardia Civil will acquire 23 compact licence plate recognition systems for semi-permanent installation at strategic points on the national road network, enabling them to track vehicles considered a threat in real time. The Civil Guard will also be equipped with 12 portable LPR systems for covert rapid installation, in addition to 12 camouflaged vehicles capable of installing concealed portable LPR systems.

The project will significantly improve the protection of people attending mass events, making them more secure and increasing the responsiveness of the security forces to terrorist threats, especially those in which vehicles are used as a weapon. As a result of the project, both the possibility of human error and the response time of security forces will be dramatically reduced. The state-of-the-art equipment acquired as part of the project will increase the effectiveness of security deployments by Spain's Guardia Civil.

Looking to the future

Budgetary constraints in Spain have resulted in cuts in public spending on security. This project will help reduce the impact of these cuts on the security situation in the country into the future. The beneficiary Guardia Civil units will implement the project as a pilot and will disseminate lessons learned throughout the EU. The project's results will be shared with police and intelligence forces in other EU Member States at regular meetings and seminars.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2017/ISFP/AG/EMAS/0009

Title: COMSAT: Control and monitoring LPR system of public places and massive events



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COMBATTING WILDLIFE CYBERCRIME

Project name:

Disrupting and dismantling wildlife cybercriminals and their networks in the European Union

Purpose:

To disrupt and dismantle organised criminal networks who are involved in trafficking wildlife

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Project coordinator:

World Wide Fund for Nature-Belgium

Estimated budget:

€ 959 065

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

February 2019

End date:

January 2021

What is wildlife cybercrime?

Wildlife crime is a major transnational criminal activity. Previously, the sale of illicit wildlife took place in shops and other retail outlets. In recent years, the growth and accessibility of the internet has allowed wildlife traffickers to move online and gain access to a vast marketplace, making wildlife crime a form of ‘*cyber-enabled*’ crime.

Cyber-enabled wildlife crime has been identified by the European Union (EU) as an enforcement priority. As a major consumer of wildlife and wildlife products globally, the EU has a significant role to play in reducing illegal trade and ensuring that legal trade is sustainable. In 2017, environmental crime, including wildlife trafficking, was identified as one of the EU’s 10 priorities for the fight against organised and serious international crime. The draft [Multi-Annual Strategic Plan for Environmental Crime Priority](#) set out targeted areas, including the online trade in illicit goods and services.

The growth in online retail has also increased the volume of mail and small package consignment – a challenge for enforcing the [EU Wildlife Trade Regulations](#), especially for customs officials. Furthermore, checks and controls are often carried out by private companies, rather than directly by the relevant enforcement authorities.

How will the project achieve its goals?

The overall aim of the project is to disrupt and dismantle organised criminal networks that are trafficking wildlife in, or via, the EU using the internet, postal or fast parcel services. This requires research and analysis, capacity building and training in online monitoring and investigations, and building partnerships with the private sector.



Project activities include developing case studies, and holding training workshops, including in Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands. However, the action is relevant to all 28 EU Member States: law enforcement authorities from across the EU will benefit from improved information, analysis, tools, training, and strengthened cooperation and information exchange between enforcement agencies and the private sector.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

EUROPOL

INTERPOL

European Commission

World Customs Organization

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime

A minimum of 20 key players from the private sector representing online technology companies and post and parcel services in the EU

At least 60 officials from law enforcement authorities across the EU

WWF Belgium

WWF Hungary

WWF France

International Fund for Animal Welfare Germany

Cybercrime Unit of the Belgian Customs

Why is this important?

Research has shown that the scale of cyber-enabled wildlife crime is significant while enforcement capacity is limited. For example, the 2014 [IFAW report Wanted - Dead or Alive](#) found a total of 33 006 endangered animals and wildlife products, worth at least € 8.7 million, for sale over a period of 6 weeks across 16 countries and 280 online marketplaces globally. The report found more than 11 000 items, worth nearly € 3.7 million, for sale across eight European countries during a 6 week period.

Apart from the economic impact, wildlife crime also has a devastating affect on biodiversity . It undermines efforts to ensure that trade in wildlife is sustainable and not threatening wild animals and plant species.

What does the project hope to achieve?

The ambition is to make it much more difficult for criminals to use the internet and postal services in the EU for their wildlife-related criminal activities. This means an increased risk of detection, and having advertisements removed, accounts blocked and products seized will make it harder to reach online customers. This will, ultimately, make wildlife crime over the internet much less attractive because of the high risk it will involve and, as a result, low profitability.

The analytical and research findings will be made available to the EU enforcement community. In addition, increased awareness, willingness and commitment within the business sector to collaborate with law enforcement will complement and scale-up efforts to combat wildlife trafficking.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-ENV 821180

Title: Disrupting and dismantling wildlife cybercriminals and their networks in the European Union



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CLEANING UP THE ILLEGAL TRADE AND MANAGEMENT OF WASTE IN EUROPE AND BEYOND

Project name:

Deterring and disrupting illegal trade and management of waste by developing tools for enforcement, forensics and capacity building (WasteForce)

Purpose:

Increase national and international cooperation on the issue of illegal trade and management of waste

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Project coordinator:

The European Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)

Estimated budget:

€ 773 004

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

December 2018

End date:

November 2020

Overview

The illegal trade and management of waste causes significant damage to the environment, undermines the health of millions of people and leads to unfair competition. Despite strong efforts to better detect and investigate waste crimes, it remains quite challenging to carry out proper investigations and prosecutions. This can be overcome through more international cooperation, prosecution strategies that are more aligned, and increasing a country's ability to properly deal with the illegal trade and management of waste.

The aim of this project is to develop new tools, forensics and methods that will support the activities and capacities of enforcement authorities. In addition to this, the project will provide environmental inspectorates, law enforcement agencies, customs, port authorities and prosecutors with up-to-date knowledge on the current trends in waste crime. The project will also provide practical and up-to-date support for everyday operations that will allow agencies to use more proactive approaches. One of the most important elements of the project will be an effort to increase national and international cooperation amongst those who are dealing with the issue of illegal trade and management of waste. Through cooperation, communication and by sharing best practices, authorities will not only help themselves, but also Europe and the environment as a whole.

How will the project achieve its goals?

In order to achieve its goals, the project will provide up-to-date tools, including tools for information-sharing and forensics. These tools will help in detecting illegal trade and management of waste in Europe and along the Europe-Asia-Pacific route. As well as these instruments, the project will organise training sessions and webinars that will further help authorities.



When it comes to the international routes of waste shipments, the project will look to enhance international cooperation between Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. This will be carried out through information-sharing activities and the use of dedicated training materials. As a result, it is hoped that the project will help build stronger relationships between those dealing with the issue of cross-border waste and that those relationships can continue after the project has ended.

THE PROJECT WILL HELP WITH:

developing new methodologies and strategies to support law enforcement in combating waste crime;

increasing the skills of those involved in inspection and enforcement;

new tools to support inspectors and officers in the field;

improved communication with counties who receive waste from the EU.

What results does the project hope to see?

Considering the really transnational nature of illegal waste management and trade, the project will also increase international networking, not just within the EU, but also to the Asia-Pacific Region, one of the main destinations of the EU's waste. The project will support some current initiatives such as the United Nations Environment' Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste. It will include technical assistance for problem-solving, information and intelligence sharing. This will help to not only support authorities, but it will provide a solid foundation from which to build future cooperation with more countries with whom Europe exports waste.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-ENV 821345

Title: Deterring and disrupting illegal trade and management of waste by developing tools for enforcement, forensics and capacity building (WasteForce)

Social media accounts: Twitter [@Waste_Force](#)
[LinkedIn.com/groups/8512400](#)

Website: www.wasteforceproject.eu





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BE PREPARED: WHY THE MELODY PROJECT IS IMPORTANT FOR EUROPE



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Project name:

A harmonised chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agent (CBRN) training curriculum for first responders and medical staff

Purpose:

Building a more harmonised CBRN curriculum for Europe

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Project coordinator:

SCK-CEN (Belgium Nuclear Research Centre)

Estimated budget:

€ 3 103 481

EU contribution:

90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

November 2018

End date:

October 2021

Overview

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents may be released as a result of accidents; for example, a rail or road accident with a truck carrying chemicals. It is also possible that the release is caused intentionally, for example, by terrorist actors. According to the latest EU CBRN action plan, there are credible indications suggesting that terrorist groups might have the intention of acquiring chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials or weapons, and are developing the knowledge and capacity to use them. First responders need to be prepared, and their needs for training must be addressed, so that they are better able to perform their tasks under dangerous circumstances, whatever their cause.

The purpose of the project

The main objective of the MELODY project is to develop and deploy a harmonised chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training curriculum for first responders and medical staff, such as ambulance drivers, paramedics and emergency room personnel, by harmonising and strengthening the training curricula.

The objectives set out for the project will be achieved through a number of work packages, leading to a draft curriculum which, through consultation with end-users and practitioners, such as police, firefighters and emergency service personnel, will determine what the required training needs are.

How will the objectives be achieved?

The objectives of the MELODY project will be achieved with a well-functioning consortium of experienced experts in the field of CBRN, and through the creation of a comprehensive collection of training curricula and teaching materials. The curriculum will be based on identified professional training needs of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear first responders, gaps in the existing training curricula and teaching materials.



Delivering a harmonised CBRN training curriculum, including training guidelines with explanations for users deployed and evaluated by the target audience, will contribute to better equipping practitioners and operational personnel to be successful in their roles and take on their responsibilities with confidence.

Once the curriculum has been established, the project team will organise demonstration activities in order to raise awareness about the project's accomplishments. Ultimately, these activities are designed to allow European Member States to include CBRN in the training curriculum for first responders.

What results can be expected?

Through the use of training trials, field exercises, and continuous efforts in raising awareness on the project and its activities, a more solid CBRN response will emerge throughout Europe. The trials and exercises will serve as a platform for both testing the findings of the project and identifying areas for improvement – should improvement be required. Additionally, through the involvement of a number of training facilities, this project will lead to the identification of new opportunities for cooperation among training institutions.

BENEFITS OF MELODY

It will create a comprehensive collection of existing CBRN training curricula and teaching materials.

It will foster cross-sector cooperation through multi-agency training.

It will promote the harmonisation of European Union preparedness and responses to CBRN incidents.

It will enhance the protection of public spaces and urban areas via training, sharing of best practices and awareness raising activities.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-PROTECT 814803

Title: A harmonised CBRN training curriculum for first responders and medical staff

Website: <http://melody.sckcen.be>





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SAFE IN THE CITY: BEING PREPARED FOR AN ATTACK

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Project name:

Simulation, training and evaluation platform for the protection of crowded public spaces

Purpose:

Protecting public spaces and soft targets in urban environments

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

5 countries: France, Belgium, Greece, Italy and the Netherlands

Project coordinator:

DIGINEXT

Estimated budget:

€ 2 108 705

EU contribution:

90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

November 2018

End date:

October 2020

Safe in the city: being prepared for an attack

On 13 November 2015, a series of coordinated terrorist attacks took place in Paris, France, in which 130 people were killed and another 413 injured. And on 22 March 2016, 32 civilians were killed and another 300 injured in three suicide bombings at Brussels airport and in the underground system.

Today's cities clearly face multiple threats like terrorism, organised crime and the insurgency of local populations. This means police, urban planners, security experts and architects must all do their utmost to secure public spaces and other soft targets, such as shopping centres and underground stations, while maintaining their accessibility.

EU-funded STEPWISE is a game changer. This 2-year project is aiming to develop and industrialise its predecessor, the Virtual studio for security concepts (VASCO) prototype. A final product would enable security professionals to visualise and gauge risks, threat scenarios and situations, thereby assessing the vulnerabilities of public spaces and providing a valuable toolkit to staff involved in the protection of these buildings: first responders, law enforcement agencies and firefighters alike.

“There was already a need to better protect public spaces but the attacks in London, Paris and Brussels reinforced the urgency of this need,” says STEPWISE project coordinator Patrick Garnier.

The prototype enables the rapid 3D reconstruction of real-world locations in a virtual environment. This means that security experts can assess the potential impact of threats such as a bomb explosion, a building on fire, a hostage situation or violent protests – all in a virtual environment. And it avoids the need for experts and operational units to physically visit the site, a process that can disrupt and stress the local population.



New and improved

The project team plans on making the prototype more robust and secure, adding missing features, and developing 3D modelling and virtual reality training modules. User manuals and tutorials will also be provided.

In addition, the project will organise training programmes for the relevant authorities and security personnel, which will be rolled out across the EU.

These security personnel will also be encouraged to further collaborate on developing strategies to improve response procedures. This will see both technology and security experts across the EU uniting in order to build a product with real commercial value.

Delivering on the EU's Action Plan

Such a product would greatly help civil servants, security forces, first responders and fire fighters deal effectively with crisis situations. The general public also stands to benefit, as many lives could be saved in such situations.

This ambitious project is still in its early stages but experts predict that it will be a very useful tool for the EU to realise its Action Plan on the Protection of Public Spaces. It could also be pivotal for the adoption of a pan-European approach towards safe public spaces.

THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY

STEPWISE uses cutting-edge virtual reality and disaster management tools, as well as mapping technologies. Combined, these create accurate three-dimensional representations of buildings in their urban environment using existing blueprints, 360° camera shots and other data on the buildings' interior and exterior.

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

The innovative 3D technology helps police work on simulated situations with private security officers, fire crews, urban planners, public space operators and city managers, in order to assess the vulnerability of public spaces, and jointly develop and evaluate strategies to improve both their security and resilience, without having to actually 'be there'.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-PROTECT 815182

Title: Simulation, training and evaluation platform for the protection of crowded public spaces

Social media accounts: Twitter: @STEPWISE_EU

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/13678557/

Website: www.stepwise-project.eu



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TAKING TO THE SKIES: ASSESSING THE RISK OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

Project name:

Skyfall: LEA training for counter-UAV

Purpose:

Develop a European counter UAV training programme for incident-based UAV interception

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

Antwerp & Bucharest

Project coordinator:

Politiezone van Antwerpen

Estimated budget:

€ 1 146 369

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

January 2019

End date:

December 2020

What are the threats posed by drones?

As unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), or 'drones' as they are more commonly known, are becoming more and more common in daily life, they are not always seen as a security threat. In fact, they should not be seen as a security threat, but, unfortunately, there are those out there who will use any means necessary to inflict harm on others. A recent example is the grounding of aircraft at Gatwick airport in the UK. This caused widespread disruption to flights across Europe, all with a minimum amount of effort.

As a terrorist attack in which weaponised drones are used is no longer unlikely, European Law Enforcement Agencies are moving to increase their readiness and response levels in order to make sure that the citizens of Europe remain safe from such threats. The aim of Skyfall is to develop a European counter unmanned aerial vehicle training plan that will allow for law enforcement to basically disable drones that pose a threat. The training will focus on where and when to intercept a drone and how to ensure a safe outcome from such interceptions. As with any emergency situation, it will all depend on the situation; an immediate interception will not always prove to be the best solution as drones can be weaponised using a variety of weapons, such as improvised explosive devices. The training plan will allow for law enforcement to refine, test and train for all possible threats where a drone could be used as a weapon.

What is currently being done?

There are already a number of products available that can be used to detect, identify and destroy drones. However, as tests and demonstrations by law enforcement agencies have shown, there is still no one-size-fits-all solution.

Most of the products available on the market are still very complicated and cannot always be deployed fast enough in order to address an emergency situation. As a result, this project aims to identify the best systems that can physically bring down a drone in a controlled and safe way.



What does the project hope to achieve?

In order to achieve the largest impact possible, two training sessions will take place where those who are familiar with the technology will be given the resources to enable them to train others. This will make sure that all EU law enforcement agencies have the necessary skills and knowledge to counter an unmanned aerial vehicle attack, while at the same time be able to train others within their organisation. This will allow more people to be trained without the need for others to organise the training sessions.

The training will help develop and deploy an interception plan that will be designed around the very unique threats that drones can pose. The plan itself will not just be about physically stopping the drones, but also what to do in order to make sure the public remains safe from harm. That is, after all, the whole reason for developing this project: ensure the safety of all EU citizens against such threats.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To create an unified EU drone threat risk assessment;

To provide an analysis of the most appropriate 'off-the-shelf' counter-drone solutions available;

To conduct two training courses for EU law enforcement agencies on how to safely intercept unmanned aerial vehicles that pose a threat.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-PROTECT 815244

Title: Skyfall: LEA training for counter-UAV

Website: www.projectskyfall.org



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Courtesy of the project (CERBERUS)

GETTING AHEAD OF FUTURE THREATS THROUGH TRAINING AND COOPERATION

Project name:

The establishment of the Central European Regional Mobile CBRN-E/Dirty Bomb First Responder Unit (CERBERUS)

Purpose:

Building a first responder unit to deal with a radiological, biological or chemical weapon incident

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

Budapest, Hungary

Project coordinator:

Keszenletti Rendorseg

Estimated budget:

€ 3 132 762

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

September 2018

End date:

September 2021

Overview

The project aims to create and maintain a regional, mobile, first responder unit that can react to the threats posed by the illicit use of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear materials, especially when they are combined with explosives devices. These devices are more commonly known as 'dirty bombs'. The project will develop cooperation and coordination abilities between cross-border and cross-sectoral first responders that, currently, does not exist within the European Union. This will be achieved by providing training for unit members, which will include practical, operational and knowledge-sharing exercises.

This evolution is initiated by dedicated bomb disposal agencies of Member States cooperating within the framework of the Central European CBRN-E¹ Training Centre, namely: Improvised Explosive Device Disposal unit of the Ministry of the Interior in Austria, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Department of the Czech National Police, the Hungarian National Police Bomb Disposal Unit and the Institute of Forensic Science of the Ministry of Interior in Slovakia.

Fail to prepare, prepare to fail – why it is important to have such a unit

The establishment of the first responder unit will allow for cooperation at an operational level among the EU Members States in response to these threats. In order to achieve this, the project will set up, train and equip the Central European Mobile chemical, explosive, biological, radiological and nuclear/ dirty bomb First Responder Unit. This, in turn, will greatly increase the preparedness of EU Member States' agencies and authorities to chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear incidents, helping to ensure the safety of citizens.

¹ Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Emergency.



Training activities will consist of basic and advanced lectures as well as exercises covering the various ways in which chemical, explosive, biological, radiological and nuclear threats can occur. By the end of their training, unit members will be capable of deployment as members of a multi-national, first responder unit in any of the EU Member States that are collaborating on the project, to fulfil bomb disposal and crime scene management duties in a chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear-contaminated environment.

The overall result?

This project will result in a unique and important capability: the rapid deployment of the unit to areas that have suffered an attack in the central European region. The unit will be able to collect and analyse important data on chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear incidents, should they ever occur. Due to the high-risk nature of these types of attacks, the first responders will have access to the most up-to-date technology and resources to ensure that they and others, including civilians, can remain as safe as possible. Additionally, unit members will have special knowledge to provide guidance and advice on technical and forensic issues to the authorities of the affected area.

The availability and visibility of such assets will further increase EU citizens' sense of safety and security while adding to the overall re-enforcement of that security throughout Europe.

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

Overall, this project will benefit a number of areas, such as:

The chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear experts who are involved in the establishment of the unit within the framework of the Central European CBRN-E Training Centre;

The police forces of the central European countries, which will be trained and prepared for operating as unit members;

And ultimately, the citizens of the EU Member States because the unit will establish a chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear/dirty bomb response capability that is currently absent within the EU.

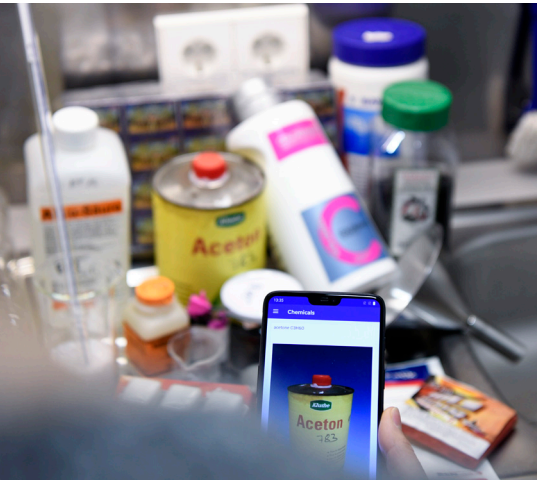
MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-PROTECT 815310

Title: The establishment of the Central European Regional Mobile CBRN-E/Dirty Bomb First Responder Unit (CERBERUS)



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Courtesy of Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) Germany

THERE IS AN APP FOR THAT: USING TECHNOLOGY TO IDENTIFY CLANDESTINE EXPLOSIVES LABS

Project name:

Application for mobile devices to identify a clandestine laboratory for homemade explosives (XClanLab)

Purpose:

Developing an app to help guide first responders identify bomb-making labs

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

3 countries: Sweden, Finland and Germany

Project coordinator:

Bundeskriminalamt, Germany

Estimated budget:

€ 585 925

EU contribution:

90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

December 2018

End date:

January 2021

Making Europe a smaller target for terrorists

Europe is a target for terrorist attacks. Bombings in Madrid, London, Stockholm, Oslo, Paris and Brussels show, all too well, the horrific outcomes of such attacks.

Home-made explosives were used in each of these incidents. Such explosives are popular among terrorists because several types can be prepared, with little or no chemical knowledge, from household substances or items that are available through hardware shops and pharmacies. Add to this that it does not take a complicated laboratory or expensive equipment to prepare these explosives, and it's a recipe for disaster.

Occasionally, members of uniformed police come across bomb factories when making house searches as part of investigations that may have nothing to do with explosives. Additionally, most members of frontline police don't typically have experience, or knowledge, in dealing with home-made explosives, or what to look out for when they come across possible explosive-making laboratories. This means that it is of utmost importance that the police are able to recognise a bomb factory from the items they see at the site. It is also very important that they know how to act in such a situation and what information to convey to the experts who are called to the scene.

It may also happen that neighbours call the fire brigade or rescue services when they suspect a fire or an injured person in the apartment next door. These first responders may stumble on a bomb factory completely unaware of the danger at hand.



Putting technology in the hands of first responders

Prior to the XClanLab project, the [EXPEDIA project](#) created a European guide for first responders that includes instructions on how to identify a bomb factory and how to act, and provides a report function via a mobile application, which connects the first responders with the correct experts for further guidance. This guide helps to increase the safety of the first responders and increases the chances of detecting bomb factories, thereby reducing the possibility of terrorist attacks.

Following on from this, as more and more of these labs are discovered, through direct investigation or secondary discovery, the use of the app will lead to a more comprehensive picture, and understanding, of how these labs operate, what the indicators are and how to respond.

Looking forward: The perceived outcomes

The project aims to provide knowledge about explosive components and their safe handling by first responders, law enforcement agencies and rescue services, who, typically, are not experts in this field but may encounter situations where they will be forced to deal with these substances. Their knowledge on how to handle these situations properly will enhance security, not only to the rescue services involved but also for the whole of Europe.

National Contact Points will be established in as many Member States as possible and this network will promote the app, gather feedback and make recommendations on new or updated content based on incidents in their respective countries. In addition to this, the project will allow for greater cross-border cooperation, not only in the field of explosives but also for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence, which will make the app a valuable tool throughout the EU, especially in the context of an immediate threat of terrorist attacks.

THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF XCLANLAB

It helps the first responders to recognise a clandestine bomb laboratory from what they see at the scene.

It gives guidance on what immediate actions to take and not to take at the scene.

It helps identify key chemicals and common explosive materials.

It guides the first responder in making certain observations at the scene that need to be reported to the experts;

It allows photos to be taken of the scene and a site report to be created that can be sent to experts.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-PROTECT 815359

Title: Application for mobile devices to identify a clandestine laboratory for homemade explosives (XClanLab)

Website: www.xclanlab.eu

Other projects: [EXPEDIA](#)





European Commission



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SEEKING REHABILITATION THAT WORKS

Project name:
Integrated exit programme for prison and probation – WayOut

Purpose:
Europe needs to agree on how to identify, contain and control radicalised prisoners

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
5 countries: Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Portugal

Project coordinator:
University of Toulouse II – Université de Jean Jaurès

Estimated budget:
€ 697 520

EU contribution:
90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
December 2018

End date:
November 2020

Overview

Locked up in Europe’s prisons are tens of thousands of people with violent political or religious views. Most of them will be released sooner or later. When that happens, how can we reduce the dangers they pose?

Prison and the probation system are obvious places to try to rehabilitate extremists, but across Europe there is little agreement about how best to achieve that. This wide-ranging project will gather knowledge and opinions on so-called ‘exit programmes’, create a consensus on what works best and develop training materials for the specialists tasked with this challenging work.

We don’t yet know the best approach

Some people go to prison as a result of their extremist views; others become radicalised after being put away for other crimes. Some are Islamists; others are neo-Nazis or political terrorists. Almost all of them will eventually be released – so how can we make sure they do not pose a threat after they leave prison?

In general, EU Member States believe that education in prison can persuade many violent radicals to stay out of trouble after their release. However, agreeing on what works best is challenging.

For a start, experts argue about the extent to which we can change people’s thinking. Some believe in ‘deradicalisation’, meaning that someone abandons an extremist ideology, changes their belief system and accepts the values of the majority.

Others prefer ‘disengagement’, which means changing people’s behaviour – such as getting them to abandon violence – without altering their basic opinions. Supporters believe this approach is more practical than, say, arguing about complex religious matters.



It's difficult to assess the effectiveness of any particular method of addressing radicalisation. In any case, we need to constantly compare different programmes and tools for deradicalisation and disengagement, both in prison and outside. When experts cannot show that disengagement or deradicalisation is working, it's no surprise that governments and ordinary people are sceptical.

From evidence to solutions

This project plans to unify Europe's approach to prison exit programmes by bringing together seven partners in five European countries, plus a large number of associated organisations and independent experts.

The project partners will start by gathering evidence from practitioners and academics on what works best in particular situations, and understanding why it works. Following rigorous academic analysis of their findings, they will then create a unified approach that could be adopted across Europe, including training materials.

Another key part of the project will be to spread the word on the effectiveness of exit programmes to lawyers, prison officers, police and probation services, and religious leaders. Politicians are also key targets, since governments keep close control over what happens in prisons and may prefer to follow public opinion rather than evidence.

CHANGING PRIORITIES IN FRANCE

Countries including Austria, Belgium and Canada have national policies based on deradicalisation – the idea that it is possible to get extremists to renounce beliefs that lead to terrorism. In France, on the other hand, the authorities have traditionally put their faith in disengagement – simply getting people to abandon violent behaviour.

For 2 years now, France has used exit programmes to try to change prisoners' behaviour. Faced with continuing high levels of prison violence, however, the country now believes the solution lies in stopping people becoming radicalised in the first place.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/2017/ISFP/AG/RAD/823690

Title: Integrated exit programme for prison and probation – WayOut

Website: www.wayout-prison.eu





European Commission



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CALLING A HALT TO CROSS-BORDER CRIME

Project name:
Strengthening the Polish-German joint police stations – JPSs

Purpose:
Creating an effective, well connected cross-border police force

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
2 countries: Germany and Poland

Project coordinator:
Bundespolizeipräsidium

Estimated budget:
€ 678 986

EU contribution:
90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
November 2018

End date:
April 2020

Cross-border crime and how to combat it

The overall aim of this project is to enhance the effectiveness of combatting cross-border crime and illegal migration at the Polish-German border, and improve the feeling of security for the population along the border region. The vehicle routes between Germany and Poland play a key role, not only for the exchange of goods and services but also for the EU-wide transportation of goods between eastern and western European Member States. Unfortunately, such areas of heavy traffic between borders bring with them high instances of cross-border crime. Stolen goods, and in particular stolen vehicles, are also transported via these routes. To combat this, three police stations, located along the border region, were selected to work in conjunction with one another. This involved sharing resources and knowledge in the fight against cross-border crime.

Responding faster by communicating better

In order to ensure a successful project and for law enforcement to be effective, the equipment, training and intercultural awareness of the three police stations were evaluated and it was determined that further improvements were required. In addition to these enhancements, the number of combined patrols carried out by these police officers will be increased by making six more patrol cars available and dedicating them exclusively to the three police stations.

Having six extra patrol cars is a great benefit to the police stations, but they also need to be fit for purpose. With that in mind, the quality of patrols will be enhanced by outfitting these six cars with specialised mobile equipment. This will allow officers to access national and EU databases for the purposes of carrying out searches. Additionally, radio communication in the border area will be supported by the use of specialised equipment.



In order to improve the day-to-day cooperation between team members, as well as contact with the general public, the language proficiency of all team members will be enhanced through continuous classroom training. The benefits of this will be substantial, as the basis of an effective team is, after all, communication!

HOW THE ISSUES ARE BEING ADDRESSED:

Increasing the quantity and quality of controls that are already in place;

Increasing the visibility of police cooperation in the border area;

Procuring additional equipment, which will be dedicated exclusively to the joint police stations;

Facilitating operational cooperation within the joint police stations, as well as with other units, through increased language proficiencies and a deeper understanding of police structures;

Basing joint operational activities and coordinated actions on a joint risk analysis.

Continuous improvement leads to continued success

By the end of this project, the overall results will include a number of improvements. These will range from training and knowledge building to improvements in the equipment and resources available. In the fight against cross-border crime, it is important that law enforcement officers have the highest possible levels of confidence when carrying out their duties. This will, in turn, be observed by those who may commit crimes of a cross-border nature, making them prone to mistakes.

Overall, it will not just be the law enforcement officers who will benefit from this; EU citizens will benefit from a safer, more secure Europe.

MORE INFORMATION

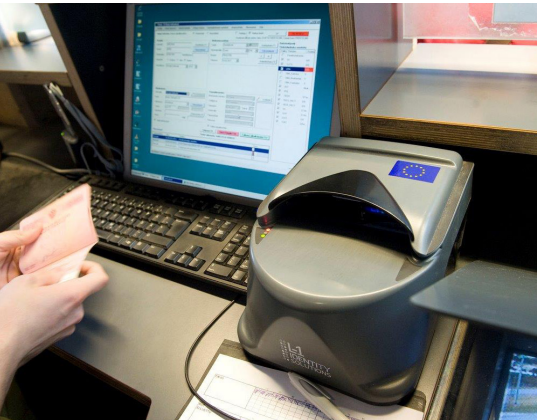
Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-SCHEN 818452

Title: Strengthening the Polish-German joint police stations – JPSs



European
Commission

COOPERATING TO ENHANCE SECURITY IN THE BALTICS



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Project name:
Strengthening of the cross-border
police cooperation in the Baltic Sea
region (COOPERANT)

Purpose:
Removing barriers to police
cooperation in the Baltic Sea region

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
5 countries: Lithuania, Latvia,
Estonia, Poland and Finland

Project coordinator:
Policijos departamentas prie Lietuvos
Respublikos vidaus reikalų ministerijos
(PD prie LR VRM)

Estimated budget:
€ 397 582

EU contribution:
90 % co-funded by
the European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
December 2018

End date:
June 2020

Overview

The Baltic countries, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, have strong geographical and historical ties. In police matters, there is well-established cooperation between them and Poland and, to a lesser extent, with the Nordic countries. They all belong to the Schengen Area where there are no internal border controls. People can move around freely, but the powers of the national police end at the border. This intensifies the need for effective cross-border police cooperation, for example in responding to cross-border terrorist threats or migrant mass movements.

Effective police cooperation around the Baltic Sea faces several barriers. Cross-border cooperation agreements exist but are not always fully implemented. Legal and practical obstacles limit the use of available cooperation tools. There is insufficient information exchange between neighbouring countries, a lack of joint threat analysis, and police officers' training on international cooperation and its tools are outdated. Finally, the law enforcement agencies are unprepared to reinstate border controls or to carry out checks in border areas should a serious threat to public security require them.

Goals

The COOPERANT project seeks to strengthen cross-border police cooperation in the Baltic Sea region through four complementary actions. First, it will eliminate barriers to the use of cross-border cooperation tools, such as joint patrols or cross-border surveillance; second, it will develop tools for joint threat and risk analysis; third, a user-friendly e-learning tool on how to make the most of the cooperation instruments will be developed; and finally, it will improve the readiness of agencies to carry out checks in border areas or to reintroduce borders.



Project outline

The project will examine police cooperation agreements with a view to fully implementing them and/or updating them to increase reciprocity and efficiency. The partners will evaluate the agreements and the use of cooperation instruments during bilateral workshops and reciprocal visits, identifying practical and legal obstacles and starting to eliminate them, for example by drafting amendments.

The project will design and implement methods and tools that enable a joint analysis of regional threats. These could be, for example, interactive maps of crimes across the region, or they could be customised from models developed by other Member States. The project will hold seminars to evaluate the different options, and organise training courses and a study visit to Europol. The methodology for joint analysis will be agreed and tested on a selected crime trend during bilateral workshops. The analysis will be used to create an action plan for coordinated checks. All the results will be shared in a seminar.

The project will organise training for police officers taking part in joint patrols and operations, and for officers working in anti-terrorist units. It will also develop new training solutions, specifically an innovative, user-friendly e-learning tool on police cooperation instruments.

Finally, the project will organise study visits, workshops and bilateral cross-border training events, including practical simulations, to develop appropriate responses to cross-border threats to public security. Training curricula and relevant materials will also be developed on the subject.

Expected results

The project is expected to expand and intensify cross-border police cooperation between the relevant law enforcement agencies in the Baltic Sea region. Raising awareness of cross-border police cooperation instruments, improving officers' skills in using them and creating opportunities for networking should result in an increased use of these tools. New forms of cooperation could emerge. The project will evaluate the results through monitoring and statistical analysis. For reference, Lithuanian-Latvian and Lithuanian-Polish border regions currently organise one joint patrol per month.

The project should enhance security in the region and in the wider Schengen Area. Other Member States will benefit also from the e-learning platform and the good practices developed.

COOPERANT COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

The project will strengthen police cooperation through four complementary actions:

Elimination of barriers to the use of cross-border cooperation tools,

Development of tools for joint threat and risk analysis,

Development of a user-friendly e-learning tool,

Improving the readiness of agencies to carry out border checks or to reintroduce borders.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-SCHEN 818468

Title: Strengthening of the cross-border police cooperation in the Baltic Sea region (COOPERANT)



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NO MONEY FOR TERROR: A HANDS-ON PROJECT AGAINST TERRORISM- FINANCING NETWORKS



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Project name:

Best practice, capacity-building and networking initiative among public and private actors against terrorism financing (BeCaNet)

Purpose:

To stop terrorist organisations accessing financial resources

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Project coordinator:

Bundeskriminalamt, Germany

Project partners and supporters:

Sous-Direction Anti Terroriste, France
Policía Nacional-Comisaría General de Información, Spain
Federal Bureau of Investigation, USA
Europol
Western Union

Estimated budget:

€ 1 561 243

EU contribution:

90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

December 2018

End date:

November 2020

Going straight to the source: Financial support of terrorist organisations

In recent years, terrorist attacks in France, Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom have highlighted the need for the European Union to focus on ways of preventing acts of terror, and the organisations behind them. Terrorist organisations and individual terrorists need financing – to maintain their networks, to recruit and supply, and to commit the terrorist acts themselves. Identifying and investigating sources of finance, making it harder to escape detection when using these funds, and using any information from the financing process to best effect can all therefore make a powerful contribution to the fight against terrorism.

Setting investigators' sights on those who finance terror

Terrorist organisations, their members and supporters, as well as the jihadist returnees from conflict zones, pose a significant terrorist threat throughout EU Member States. Such threats require effective financial investigation techniques, together with better cooperation and exchange of information among European law enforcement agencies, public authorities and, indeed, the private sector. In order for this to be an effective undertaking, the project will look beyond the terrorist organisations themselves to the support structures of these organisations, such as foreign terrorist fighters, financial backers and fundraisers, and anyone who knowingly helps support terrorist activities.

The project will look to build closer ties between the EU and international authorities, in particular the US authorities and private sector organisations, such as the global money service businesses that are often used by terrorists to transfer money. It is important that information sharing allows financial institutions and law enforcement agencies to make better use of the available resources and exploit new technologies to develop innovative techniques to tackle terrorism financing.



In today's rapidly evolving digital world, new financial tools such as online payment services and virtual currencies create new challenges when it comes to combatting terrorism financing. This advent of financial technology, or FinTech as it is commonly known, brings with it new risks. It is a constantly evolving sector, allowing for transactions between two parties, sometimes without even the need for a traditional financial institution. This project will address these trends, strengthening the capabilities of counter-terrorism financial investigators and the IT capacities of financial investigation units.

Drain terrorist organisations of their funding and benefit society

Reflecting the complexity and importance of the topic of terrorism financing and looking for professional and flexible responses and solutions, the project brings together expertise from counter-terrorism and financial intelligence. By building a close network of organisations and institutions, on a global level, through the use of specialised conferences, knowledge-building sessions and developing strategies together, the project will succeed in its mission to enhance capabilities and capacities in the fight against terrorism financing networks. Beyond the project, the knowledge learned will continue to benefit future investigations, and as terrorist organisations adapt, so will law enforcement agencies, maintaining constant pressure on the terrorists. Corresponding with the EU Action Plan against Terrorism Financing, the project activities are directed to further detect and prevent terrorist organisations and their backers from moving funds and other assets, and to ensure that financial movements can, wherever possible, help law enforcement agencies to trace terrorists and prevent them committing crimes. This will directly contribute to a Europe of free, safe and open societies.

TRAINING THE INVESTIGATORS:

A 3-day practitioners' forum for counter-terrorism financial investigators from all European Member States took place at Europol in March 2019.

Seven 1-week training courses for more than 100 counter-terrorism financial investigators on financial data analysis will take place between August 2019 and April 2020.

An expert conference on financial monitoring measures against persons posing a potential terrorist threat will take place in June 2020 over several days.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-TERFIN 821962

Title: Best practice, capacity-building and networking initiative among public and private actors against terrorism financing (BeCaNet)

Social media accounts: Twitter [@bka](#)

Facebook [@bundeskriminalamt.bka](#)

Website: www.bka.de/EN_BeCaNet



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TIGHTENING THE PURSE STRINGS OF TERRORISM



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Project name:
Public-private partnerships on
terrorism financing

Purpose:
Disrupting the flow of finance
to terrorism

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
4 countries: Germany, France,
Italy and Spain

Project coordinator:
Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur
Förderung der Wissenschaften e.V.

Estimated budget:
€ 689 722

EU contribution:
90% co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
April 2019

End date:
March 2021

A noble cause, but what is the project about?

Terrorism relies on funding from various sources: the sale of illicit goods, trafficking of humans, to name but a few. The aim of this project is to work towards a more effective tracing and disruption method of illicit financial flows to terrorist organisations.

Additionally, this project aims at developing and strengthening public-private partnerships in order to enhance information sharing between authorities and financial and payment service providers at national and EU levels. To achieve this, the project, conforming to current laws and legislation, will liaise with national authorities and policy-makers to discuss the creation, or expansion, of public-private partnerships at national level and enhance cross-border cooperation between nations by providing best-practice guidance to national authorities.

Success is a two-way street

In order to really enhance and strengthen the effectiveness of measures to disrupt illicit financial flows, the project aims to improve information sharing between authorities, especially when it comes to law enforcement. This objective will be achieved by establishing or strengthening public-private partnerships at EU level and in four Member States – France, Germany, Italy and Spain – ensuring that any work or information being shared is harmonised and coherent. In addition to this, the project will improve the quality of reporting to the public sector by improving the private sectors' ability to identify illicit financial flows. It must be noted that in order for this endeavour to be a success, it will require extensive outreach between the public and private sectors, and extensive legal expertise from experts across the Member States.



One of the more important elements of the project is, of course, confidentiality. Any exchanges of information between the participating public and private entities would follow stringent rules and allow for a more trusting and open sharing of knowledge. This holds true, in particular, to representatives of financial and payment service providers.

What are the results the project is aiming for?

The project will provide a road map for authorities on how to establish public-private partnerships under their current national legal frameworks, and provide guidance on best practice. Furthermore, the action would improve the cross-border information exchanges between the Member States involved and existing public-private partnerships at EU level.

Additionally, the project will contribute to developing and strengthening national public-private partnerships, especially when it comes to the transfer of information from the public to the private sector. In addition, these actions will help form the foundation for an EU legal framework that will strengthen existing public-private partnerships at EU level, as well as cross-border co-operation at national level in the private sector.

As this project provides in-depth analysis of the relevant legal issues under EU and respective national laws, and by sharing best practices from other countries, the project will further build the confidence of national authorities and really drive home the lessons learned from other countries.

RESEARCH CARRIED OUT:

Comparative legal analyses of public-private partnerships involving eight countries in and outside the EU in the area of anti-money laundering/ counter-terrorism financing;

Research involving security law, data protection law and public international law;

Socio-legal research on public-private partnerships, including interviews with authorities and private stakeholders;

An interdisciplinary investigation into the relationship between law and technology regarding financial analytics.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-TERFIN 822023

Title: Public-private partnerships on terrorism financing



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CALLING A HALT TO TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS INVOLVING CHINESE CITIZENS



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Project name:
Chinese Trafficking in Human Beings -
Chinese THB

Purpose:

To raise awareness and combat
Chinese trafficking of human beings

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide, China

Project coordinator:

The National Police of the Netherlands

Estimated budget:

€ 388 778

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the
European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

August 2018

End date:

July 2020

A serious problem

Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) by Chinese organised crime groups is a very serious problem in Europe. The criminals traffic victims of the same nationality or ethnic origin as the criminals, and therefore have strong links with communities in the transit and destination countries. These communities assist the crime groups by providing forged identifications and other such documentation, thus abusing the visa system. The criminal groups rely on shared ethnic and language backgrounds to recruit and control victims. In order to combat this, deep and meaningful cooperation between the EU Member States is vital in order to identify and tackle this phenomenon in the EU.

How does the project work towards preventing this?

In order to fully combat this issue, it is important to understand the value of exchanging information, knowledge and effective intervention strategies while examining where operational cooperation on investigations and prosecutions can take place. To achieve this, meetings allow experts in the field to develop checklists that help to identify the key areas in which to focus the efforts and resources of the project. This will allow for a more refined and focused approach while, at the same time, building greater awareness of how the traffickers operate.

In addition, identifying and supporting victims is crucial. To better understand this aspect, the project has entered into cooperation with the International Organization for Migration in China, which provides training in China on the fight against trafficking in human beings and on victim support.



In the end, what does the project hope to achieve?

In order to achieve its goals, the project will involve a host of different partners. These partners will include representatives from areas such as the labour inspectorate, Financial Intelligence Units and the judiciary. The Chinese judiciary (the Supreme People's Procuratorate) has also been invited to take part and it is hoped that their participation will add further to the sharing of knowledge and best practices, which in turn will benefit the project immensely.

Through cooperation at both an EU and international level, this project will lead to more concrete results from activities such as investigations, and also build a picture of how the traffickers operate.

The overall result will undoubtedly include greater awareness and understanding of trafficking in human beings. This will allow evidence-based policies, procedures and actions to be put in place that will help prevent this trafficking.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT DOING?

Strengthening knowledge of trafficking of human beings involving Chinese citizens, cross-border trends and *modi operandi*

Carrying out investigations and prosecutions, where possible, in cooperation between EU Member States and with China

Enhancing multidisciplinary cooperation in areas such as the labour inspectorate, Financial Intelligence Units, etc.

Exchanging knowledge and best practices on prevention, and on the creation of barriers

Contributing to awareness and capacity-building through cooperation with the International Organization for Migration in China

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-THBX 814868

Title: Chinese Trafficking in Human Beings (Chinese THB)



European
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HELPING CITIES DEAL WITH DRUG NUISANCES

Project name:
Supervised drug consumption facilities to instil harm reduction and social cohesion at local level – Solidify

Purpose:
Supporting European cities in dealing with illegal drug use

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
7 countries: Belgium, Germany, France, The Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain
11 cities: The Hague, Liege, Lisbon, Barcelona, Essen, Mannheim, Augsburg, Paris, Strasbourg, Brussels and Ljubljana

Project coordinator:
European Forum for Urban Security (Efus)

Estimated budget:
€ 441 554

EU contribution:
80% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:
Justice Programme – Drugs Policy Initiatives (JUST-DRUGS)

Start date:
January 2018

End date:
December 2019

Experience

For Augsburg (in Germany) and Liege (in Belgium), it's all rather new. But Barcelona (Spain) and The Hague (Netherlands) already have decades of experience in dealing with the nuisances of illegal and legal drug use.

These and other European cities have 'supervised drug consumption facilities'. This is a neutral description for a basic room or rooms with often no more than a table, a few chairs and perhaps a coffee machine where drug users can come and use their drugs in a safe and calm environment. In these facilities drug users can exchange needles and other necessary materials, access other harm reduction services, and get social and medical help if they want or need to. Some provide showers; others offer a bed or two that can be used to take a short nap. In some cities, doctors, nurses and social workers are on hand.

Crucially, these experienced cities know how to involve the people that live next door. They know how to reach the neighbourhood and include others that find this all hard to handle. They employ these facilities as a means to reduce these problems, fears and the feelings of insecurity that often come with drug use in public spaces.

To help other cities learn from these experiences, the cities and non-governmental organisations that form Solidify's consortium are working on a best practice guide that will be full of tips and practical ideas.

The guide will come with two checklists. One can be used by cities to see if they are dealing correctly with the issues that come with drug use. This will make sure they contact all persons and organisations that need to be involved. It also lists all actions they could or should consider.

The other will help them measure the impact of a 'supervised drug consumption facility' on the people living or working nearby. This checklist lets cities evaluate the cleanliness of the neighbourhood (the presence of signs of drug use). It also helps them find out how safe the neighbourhood is for those living and working there.



The idea is that any town or city where open-air drug consumption is becoming a real problem can use this guide and follow the recommendations and, hopefully, involve everyone around common solutions.

Project roadmap

The overall goal is to help cities establish and manage supervised drug consumption facilities as part of their local drug policy or action plan. It will take the project at least four steps to get there.

The first thing to do is to study the more experienced cities. Talking to those involved in The Hague, Barcelona, Essen, Paris and Strasbourg, the project will review how these cities introduced supervised drug consumption facilities, and how they involved local residents.

Next, it is important to understand the kind of questions that come up in cities that are considering creating such rooms. To do that, the project will study the needs and wishes of Liege, Lisbon, Mannheim, Augsburg, Brussels and Ljubljana.

Thirdly, study visits and project meetings help to build a network of contacts. This can be used by any town or city that is thinking of doing something similar.

And finally, the project hopes to improve links between all the people involved. This includes those running the rooms, the town council, the police and health workers, and of course those living next door.

Results

Everything will come together in 2019. The project partners will hold a conference in Lisbon where they will present their best practice guide, and start sharing it with any town or city that is interested.

At this meeting, the project will present the checklists, or rather the two methods that help cities deal with and measure the nuisance of a 'supervised drug consumption facility' on the neighbourhood.

The project already includes 11 cities, and many more local organisations involved in the prevention or reduction of drug abuse. By way of Efus' network of local authorities, they can reach close to 300 local and regional administrations.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: JUST-2016-AG-DRUG 729205

Title: Supervised drug consumption facilities to instil harm reduction and social cohesion at local level – Solidify

Social media accounts: [Twitter: @efusnews](#)

Website: www.efus.eu



European
Commission

MAGNIFYING THE CIVIL SOCIETY VOICE ON DRUGS

Project name:
Civil Society Forum on Drugs – CSFD

Purpose:

Strengthening the activities of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

5 countries – Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, but wider national coverage via CSFD membership, and activities with impact at EU and global levels

Project coordinator:

Ana Liffey Drug Project (Ana Liffey)

Estimated budget:

€ 414 980

EU contribution:

80 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Justice Programme – Drugs Policy Initiatives (JUST-DRUGS)

Start date:

November 2017

End date:

October 2019

The Civil Society Forum on Drugs

This project aims to support and enhance the work of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD).

The Civil Society Forum on Drugs is an [expert group](#) created by the European Commission in 2007 to facilitate the active and meaningful participation of civil society in the formulation and implementation of drugs policy at national, European and international levels. It is composed of 45 civil society organisations from across Europe, representing a variety of fields of drug policy and different stances within those fields.

The project reinforces activities previously undertaken by the CSFD on a voluntary basis and supports new, capacity-enhancing ones. It is structured according to the four thematic working groups of the Forum: EU Action Plan on Drugs, relations with international institutions, civil society involvement with national drug policies and minimum quality standards on drug-demand reduction.

Beneficiaries

The project beneficiaries include civil society organisations working across the spectrum of drug-demand reduction: in prevention, recovery, treatment, social reintegration, and risk and harm reduction. Other beneficiaries include decision-makers working in drug policy at national, EU and international levels. Research and publications produced by the project also benefit the academic research community. In the long term, the CSFD expects its advocacy of effective and evidence-based drug policies and service delivery to benefit both people who use drugs and societies at large.



Results

The project has helped set up, operate and maintain support structures for the work of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs. For example, the Forum now has a [website](#), which provides information about its work and allows members to access past and current files. An online call system facilitates work between meetings.

It has also been delivering on core aspects of the Forum's work, for example by producing a report and a video on civil society views on the [EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020](#) and the [2017-2020 Action Plan](#). This impact assessment of the EU approach on drugs from the perspectives of civil society will facilitate evidence-based decision-making in the future. It can also be a useful resource for the research community.

In addition, the project has developed a tool to help civil society organisations self-assess against the [Council conclusions](#) on minimum quality standards in drug-demand reduction. Work is ongoing with a feasibility study, and user-friendly guidelines and their practical implementation.

INCREASING IMPACT BY TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE TO NATIONAL LEVEL

Civil society engagement at national level is often disconnected from efforts and policies at EU level. By providing a brief on the content and potential impact of the Action Plan, practical recommendations and a model advocacy video, the project assists NGOs in bridging this gap. It will also identify good practices and examples of addressing drug policy challenges in specific national contexts.

AMPLIFYING THE VOICE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

The project has made it possible to contribute insights and concerns from the front lines of service delivery to bilateral dialogues between the EU and third countries, and all the way up to high-level drug policy debates at the United Nations. EU officials, Member State representatives and senior policy audiences from the UN have been presented with concrete recommendations via policy papers on global drug control matters and dialogues during strategic meetings.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: JUST-2016-AG-DRUG-760099

Title: Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD)

Website: www.civilsocietyforumondrugs.eu



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REDUCING DRUG DEMAND BY INVOLVING PEER EDUCATORS



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Project name:
Peer2Peer: Reinforcing peers'
involvement in outreach work

Purpose:

Improving effective cooperation practices in outreach work for public-public partnerships

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

8 countries: Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Portugal

Project coordinator:

Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento – APDES

Estimated budget:

€ 356 029

EU contribution:

80 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Justice Programme – Drugs Policy Initiatives (JUST-DRUGS)

Start date:

November 2018

End date:

October 2020

Overview

This project aims to reinforce the capacity of outreach civil society organisations (CSOs) to reduce drug demand in accordance with the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan. It seeks to increase the efficiency of CSO outreach work by promoting the inclusion of peer educators and by researching best practices in cooperation between all relevant actors.

The approach of the project is inspired by the European tradition of rights and liberties, which values the active participation of all citizens. It is also founded on research that has shown that community involvement is essential to reducing drug demand. When dealing with intravenous drug users the involvement of peers, particularly friends, colleagues or people involved in the same activity or context, is acknowledged to be more effective than interventions by healthcare providers.

The project will carry out in-depth research in order to develop an evidence-based programme for the creation of more equal and collaborative relations between the various stakeholders involved, including professionals, outreach workers, peers, small-scale drug dealers and police forces. The project strategy emphasises human rights and dignity, and actively includes end-users in the planning and implementation of processes.

Goals

The general objective of the project is to reinforce the capacity of outreach civil society organisations to reduce drug demand. It seeks to do this by recovering and scaling up traditional European practices of cooperation between peers and professionals, outreach workers, small-scale drug dealers and law enforcement officials.



Project outline

The project aims to improve scientific knowledge and expertise, stimulate social innovation, generate useful synergies, develop practices that correspond to the final beneficiaries' needs, and place these on the political agenda. Expected impacts include a change in policies, practices and power relations, and the revitalisation and renewal of the culture of drug cooperation.

It first aims to mitigate gaps in scientific knowledge about cooperation between actors in outreach interventions. It will identify these gaps by convening Needs Assessment Focus Groups in six countries of law enforcement officers, judges, social workers, healthcare professionals, drug users, small-scale drug dealers, academia experts, outreach workers, and policy- and decision-makers. It will review existing cooperation practices and gather information from the field about outreach and peer education traditions. The project partners will analyse the results in order to plan subsequent research, a scoping review and go-along interviews. They will also develop recommendations and systematise best practices and transferable methods of formal and informal cooperation with the help of a European Advisory Group for best practices.

The project will test the findings in three case studies or pilot interventions in Lithuania, Poland and Greece. It will develop training programmes for outreach teams and then monitor their activities. The aim is to evaluate the role of the peer educator and the efficiency of cooperation with other actors such as healthcare professionals, law enforcement officers and drug dealers. The cooperation mechanisms tested in these pilots are expected to increase the efficacy of CSO outreach work.

Finally, the project will advocate for the scaling up of these practices. It will identify policy gaps and best practices and create advocacy strategies. It will hold discussion forums to stimulate partnerships and promote cooperation, and dialogues with academia experts, in addition to National Advocacy Seminars and a Policy Dialogue Meeting at the European Parliament.

Beneficiaries

- 9 consortium partners
- 1 000 key actors in outreach work
- 5 000 public-public partnerships
- 10 000 of the general public

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUTREACH ACTORS

The project wants to spark debate about cooperation between key actors in outreach work addressed at drug users. It specifically wants to highlight the importance of integrating peer educators into outreach teams and to share this methodology. It seeks to develop communication channels between all actors and stimulate the development and implementation of evidence-based strategies.

DISSEMINATION AND ADVOCACY

The project will have a website that will include information about its aims and objectives, news, reports, useful documents and the tools it will create. It will produce an e-book about its results and recommendations and an advocacy video to highlight the advantages of cooperation. National policy and decision-makers will also be targeted in order to raise awareness and advocate the policy uptake of best practices.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: JUST-2017-AG-DRUG-807062

Title: Peer2Peer: Reinforcing peers' involvement in outreach work