



Action for Europe

EU PROJECTS TO ENHANCE
SECURITY AND EFFECTIVELY
MANAGE MIGRATION

Migration
and Home
Affairs

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INTRODUCTION

The European Union has been actively supporting national efforts to improve the management of migration flows, border management and security with funding under the current multiannual financial framework (MFF).

The migration crisis led to more than a doubling of the total budget for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), while resources for the Internal Security Fund (ISF) also rose significantly in light of various security incidents.

A great deal of this funding goes towards national programmes and emergency assistance, but so-called Union actions, projects managed directly by the European Commission, have also benefited. Funding for specific transnational or particularly innovative initiatives that can be of benefit to the EU as a whole (Union actions) are the focus of this brochure.

In the 2014–2017 period, 245 projects were funded in these areas, whereas 2018 saw the largest ever wave of fresh money, with 177 grant agreements signed.

Consequently there is a high number of transnational projects being implemented, boosting practical cooperation among Member States. This demonstrates the high level of interest in European partnership.

This brochure provides a snapshot of the Union actions funded by the EU budget from 2014 to 2017. For example:

- Integrating third-country nationals into their new societies can be seen in the *Urbagri4Women* project, which

encourages migrant women to participate in various urban farming initiatives across the EU, inspiring some to even start their own businesses.

- Organised crime groups are being stopped in their tracks due to projects like *SPECTRE*, which is combining technology and intelligence to catch mobile and organised criminals.
- *Forced-Return Monitoring*, which established a pool of forced-return monitors, has contributed to compliance with fundamental rights in forced-return operations.
- In the fight against drugs the *Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics)* is able to stop significant drug shipments across the Atlantic and around the Mediterranean.

Many Union actions are improving the skills of law enforcement officials across Europe. And they have led to a better cooperation between different organisations and levels of governance in and across Member States, which are today regularly joining forces through guidance, common tools and joint operations.

The following pages provide a snapshot into how some Union actions are addressing today's migration and security challenges. They showcase the great work being done.

The snapshot is complemented by factsheets on individual Union actions available on the DG Migration and Home Affairs website.

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FOREWORD

The challenges Europe is facing today are multiplying by the day. Migration and security represent two of the most important issues which score high in the concerns of European citizens and require a European response.

The European Commission has taken a proactive stance to address these challenges and has continuously helped Member States to deliver by providing financial and operational support.

On migration, we have put in place a firm but fair migration policy on the basis of solidarity and responsibility. This policy sets out a coherent European response, combining both internal and external aspects of migration by using all available tools in a comprehensive and thorough way.

Our comprehensive approach has focused on strengthening and better protecting our borders, saving lives, reducing the incentives for irregular migration, including returns, dismantling criminal networks, creating a strong common asylum policy and fostering legal migration.

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) has played a key role by promoting the efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common approach to asylum and migration. The projects it finances, and which you will read about in this brochure, address critical issues on the ground, including migrant integration and trafficking in human beings, as well as readmission and return.

On security, building on the foundations of the 2015 European Agenda on Security, we have been supporting a more efficient cooperation between Member States concerning security threats, including countering radicalisation,

boosting cybersecurity and cutting terrorist financing, as improving information exchange.

The Internal Security Fund (ISF) promotes the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy, law enforcement cooperation and the management of the Union's external borders, by providing targeted support to many of the projects in these areas, focusing on prevention by better protecting our infrastructures, while reinforcing cooperation and exchanges between law enforcement agencies from all over Europe.

In particular, we are supporting joint operations in the fight against crime, the prevention of radicalisation through the Radicalisation Awareness Network and the better protection of public spaces through the implementation of the 'security by design' principle, including rail transport as well as through training and awareness raising.

All of the projects in the following pages are translating the European Union's policies into concrete actions and showcase the results of this work.

They are making a real difference on the ground and reflect our common European values. It is therefore our commitment to continue offering our full support.

Our aim is to continue working together with our partners in every part of the world in order to deliver sustainable policies that have a real impact. I would like to thank everyone involved in these initiatives and I look forward to learning about many more.

Paraskevi Michou

Director-General, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

OVERVIEW

The EU Funds provide financial contributions to strengthen the areas of freedom, security and justice and to develop a common EU policy

on asylum and immigration based on solidarity. The Funds run for a period of 7 years (2014-2020) and are designed to be flexible and

responsive to both the common and differing challenges and opportunities faced by Member States in relation to migration and security.

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) promotes the efficient management of migration flows, and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common EU approach to asylum and immigration.

The Internal Security Fund (ISF) provides EU financial support for law enforcement cooperation under the Union's internal security strategy and for the management of the Union's external borders. The ISF is composed of two instruments:

Internal Security Fund - Borders (ISFB) covering the areas of borders and visas.

Internal Security Fund - Police (ISFP) police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management.

The Justice Programme's drugs policy initiatives (Justice-DRUGS) aim to support efforts in the field of drugs policy, with a particular focus on judicial cooperation and crime prevention.

The AMIF and ISF are divided into two parts: funds managed directly by the European Commission (Union actions and emergency assistance) and funds managed by the EU Member States (national programmes).

The Member States implement their multiannual national programmes covering the entire 2014-2020 period. These programmes are prepared, implemented, monitored and evaluated by the responsible authorities in the Member States, along with the relevant stakeholders, including civil society.

For Union actions and emergency assistance, the Commission adopts a work programme each year, in which it sets priorities and identifies the budget for the different types of actions.

In particular, Union actions make it possible to finance more complex, long-term or transnational projects, such as projects that involve running EU-wide networks, new ways of working, testing of tools or methods throughout the Union, or cooperation activities between Member States and third countries.

Consequently, Union actions serve a useful function as part of the EU's toolbox under the funds and contribute to the Agenda for Migration and the Internal Security Strategy, in addition to national capacity building and system reform programmes and emergency assistance for urgent needs in individual countries.

The interim evaluation of the AMIF, covering the period from January 2014 to June 2017, showed that the Fund has been an important instrument in dealing with a difficult situation, by providing both short-term emergency support and more long-term capacity building of the asylum, integration and return systems.

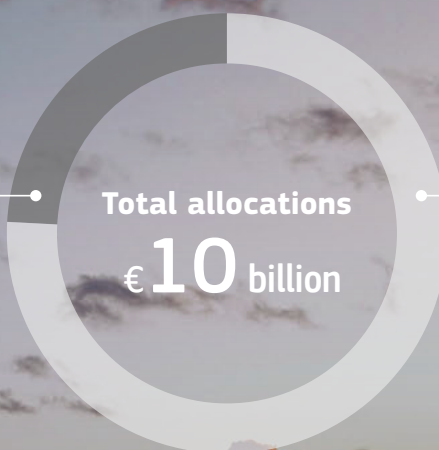
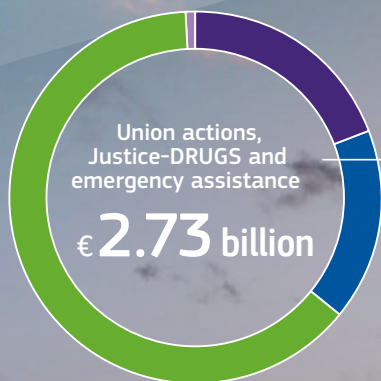
An interim evaluation of ISF Borders and Visa shows that the instrument provided EU added value through innovative investments in infrastructure and equipment. The results for ISF Police show that the instrument has helped strengthen Member States' capabilities to combat cross-border, serious and organised crime, including terrorism, while strengthening their mutual cooperation as well as improving their capacity to effectively manage security-related risks and

crises. This was even in light of the changing political priorities that have made security issues a major concern in recent years.

The interim evaluation of the Justice programme confirmed its crucial role in the development of a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and trust.

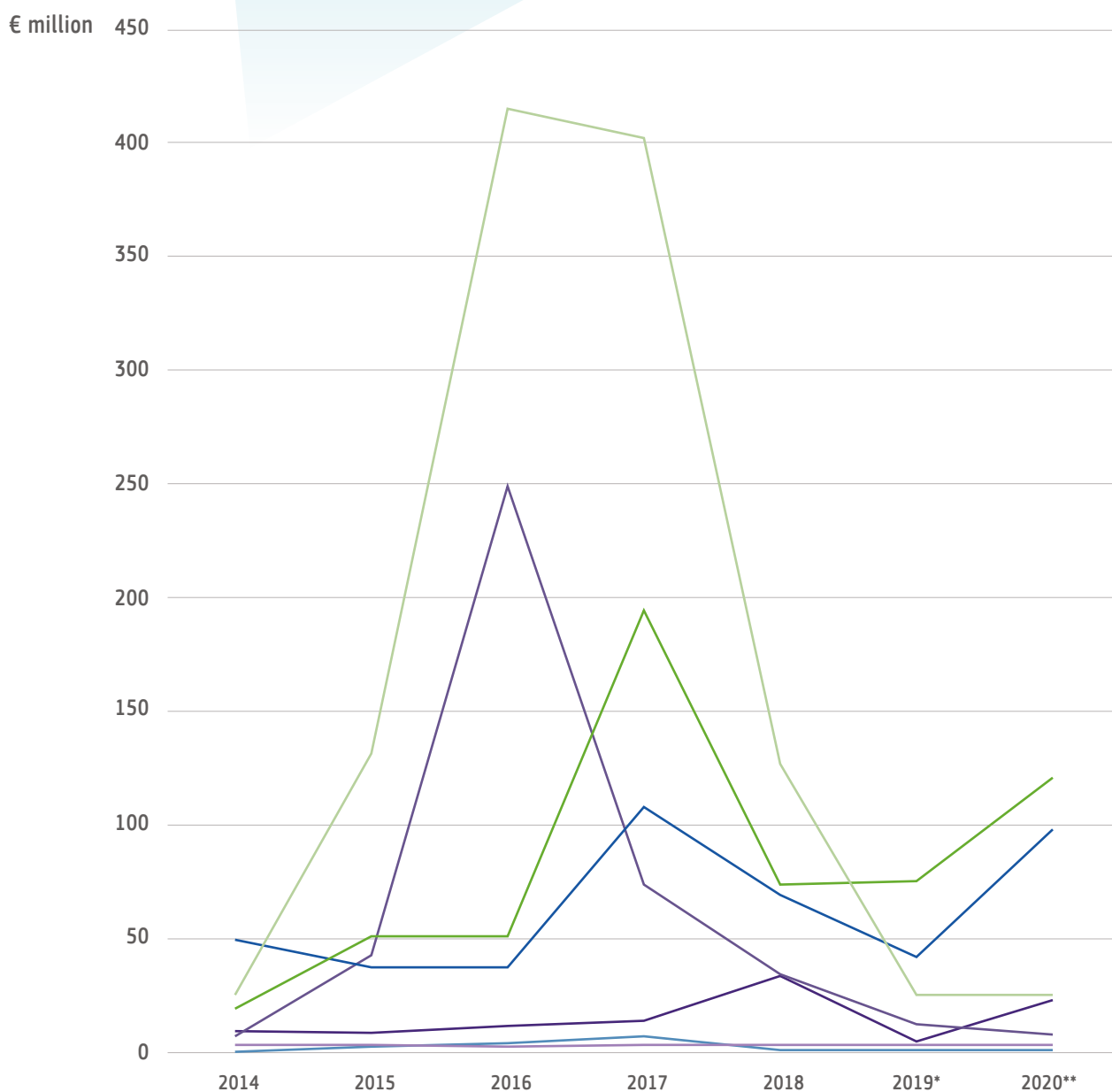
In the future EU budget for the period of 2021-2027, the Commission has proposed to almost triple the funding for migration, borders and security to EUR 34.9 billion, as compared to EUR 13 billion in the current period. Migration, borders and security will be covered by four instruments under three Funds: the Asylum and Migration Fund (AMF) to contribute to efficient migration management; the Internal Security Fund (ISF) to ensure a high level of security in the Union; the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF) consisting of the Border Management component to support the implementation of European Integrated Border Management and the common visa policy; and the Customs Control Equipment component to enhance customs controls.

EU SPENDING ON SECURITY, MIGRATION AND DRUGS 2014-2020



FUNDING FOR UNION ACTIONS, JUSTICE-DRUGS AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

TOTAL AMIF, IFS AND JUSTICE-DRUGS ALLOCATIONS 2014-2020



ISFB

INTERNAL SECURITY FUND
- BORDERS AND VISA

ISFB
Union actions

ISFB
EMAS

ISFP

INTERNAL SECURITY FUND
- POLICE

ISFP
Union actions

ISFP
EMAS

AMIF

ASYLUM, MIGRATION
AND INTEGRATION FUND

AMIF
Union actions

AMIF
EMAS

JUST-DRUGS

JUSTICE PROGRAMME
- DRUGS POLICY INITIATIVES

JUST-DRUGS

* 2019 amounts: Budget available as per the latest (draft) work programme at the time of publication

** 2020 amounts: Draft budget not yet available; preliminary budget estimate at the time of publication

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES

TOTAL AMIF AND ISF ALLOCATIONS 2014-2020

unit: Millions



● Total AMIF + ISF allocation

● AMIF Emergency

● ISF Emergency

*ISFB only

**AMIF and ISFP only

***AMIF only



INTEGRATION

WHY MIGRANT INTEGRATION IS GOOD FOR EUROPE

For migrants who have obtained a residence permit in an EU Member State, starting a new life in the EU is often extremely hard due to many factors, including misconceptions, lack of support, fear and negative attitudes towards them in the media and among local residents.

But most can make a significant contribution to the EU's economy, if only they had the chance.

Supporting migrants to learn the local language, have their educational and professional skills and qualifications validated or recognised and receive further training

or other services is therefore essential for their overall integration, positive economic impact on the EU and contribution to cohesive societies.

Local communities play a key role. It is only here that migrants and non-migrants have the opportunity to interact, through working, studying, taking part in cultural or sports activities, and raising their families.

Although Member States are primarily responsible for integration, the EU is supporting national and local policies with policy coordination, exchange of knowledge and financial resources.

HOW IS THE EU HELPING?

In June 2016, the European Commission adopted an [Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals](#). This plan supports Member States' efforts in developing and strengthening their integration policies, while setting out the Commission's actions in this regard.

And in May 2017, the Commission launched the Employers together for integration initiative to promote what employers are actually doing to help migrants integrate into the labour market.

In December of the same year, the [European Partnership for Integration](#) was also set up by the Commission, together with social and economic partners.

Crucially, the European Commission, through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) is providing funding to Member States to implement integration measures and is financing directly a number of important local grass roots integration projects, two of which are presented in this brochure.

The 2-year *Urbagri4Women* project has helped integrate migrant women into the labour market and society by encouraging them to participate in various urban farming initiatives.

And the *Cities integrating migrants and refugees through work – CITIES GROW* project has helped migrants and refugees to integrate through work by encouraging cities across Europe to work together on the issue.

Participants of both projects have been inspired to integrate more fully in both society and the workplace.

PROJECT

INTEGRATING MIGRANTS THROUGH WORK

Cities integrating migrants and refugees through work – CITIES GROW

Geographical coverage:

Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the UK

Estimated budget:

€ 648 248

EU contribution:

90 % funded by the European Union

Duration:

February 2017 – January 2019

In almost every city, newcomers make their mark on the local economy. People with the determination needed to start a new life abroad often have a strong work ethic, and some even want to set up their own businesses.

Yet today's migrants face obstacles as both employees and entrepreneurs. They may not be familiar with the local language, job market or business culture, while prejudice is often a problem.

The *Cities integrating migrants and refugees through work – CITIES GROW* project worked to help migrants and refugees integrate through work. Working together in pairs and small groups, cities across Europe aimed to create policies that help migrants find work, set up businesses and win contracts.

Representatives from pairs of cities visited one another to discover what each could learn in terms of helping migrants contribute to the economy. These study visits covered a number of topics including:

- improving access to public and private contracts;

- ways to fight discrimination in the job market;
- how cities can work with other local partners to improve migrants' access to jobs;
- other services for migrant entrepreneurs.

The project has resulted in a large number of case studies and videos that are presented on the project's website, as well as four specific guides on examples of good practice.

Some of the later visits brought together four cities, rather than the two originally planned. This proved to be a fruitful approach, since more cities could share their experiences and learn from each other. The organisers say they will continue to work this way in their follow-up project, so that concrete practices can be spread more readily.

12
countries

16
cities

4
best
practice guides



PROJECT

MIGRANT WOMEN BOOSTING URBAN AREAS (AND THEIR CAREERS)

Innovative practices and joint urban initiatives to foster the integration of migrant women in the receiving society within urban agriculture practices – Urbagri4Women

Geographical coverage:

Austria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and the UK

Estimated budget:

€ 512 802

EU contribution:

90 % funded by the European Union

Duration:

December 2016 – December 2018

Migrant women often find it harder to integrate into European society than their male counterparts. This is down to the fact that these women tend to be charged with taking care of the entire family and as a result lose out on finding a job and integrating socially.

There is therefore a need for better measures to improve female migrant integration across the EU. It's a win-win situation as these women can make a significant contribution to the economy, especially when they are highly educated. Examples of good practice could feed back into government policy, helping to improve their lives in Europe.

Urbagri4Women was a 2-year project that helped integrate migrant women into the labour market and society by encouraging them to participate in various urban farming initiatives. The women's entrepreneurial spirit resulted in urban rehabilitation, which has in turn brought economic, environmental and social benefits.

The women have been inspired and have gained a lot of confidence from their ex-

perience of working in the various labs. For example, in Cyprus, the migrant women are planning to host workshops on health and well-being, while those in Italy are hoping to form a collective on producing African food. Meanwhile, in Austria, migrant women are looking at setting up a commercial venture to sell their garden decoration products.

All of the above is helping the women believe that they can develop professionally and become financially independent. The women are also closely collaborating with the partner organisations, bringing them closer to the community in which they are living.

Crucially, the results of this project will feed into future national measures and European policy designed to help and integrate migrant women. In fact, at the project's final conference in Lisbon, policy recommendations were presented.

Last but not least, the environment stands to gain as a number of previously barren urban areas have been regenerated and transformed into areas with economic, environmental and social benefits.

7

countries

7

cities

200

cultural
organisations



RETURN AND READMISSION

REDUCING THE INCENTIVE FOR IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Irregular migration often ends in deep disappointment. The trek is far more dangerous than expected, often at the mercy of criminal networks who put profit before human life. Those who fail the test of asylum face the prospect of forced return; those who stay irregularly in Europe have a precarious existence and can easily fall prey to exploitation.

Unsuccessful asylum claimants who try to avoid return, visa overstayers and migrants living in a permanent state of irregularity corrode confidence in the

system and offer strong arguments for those looking to criticise or stigmatise migration. This in turn makes it harder to integrate those migrants lawfully staying in the EU.

Ensuring the return of irregular migrants is crucial in order to enhance the credibility of policies in the field of international protection and legal migration. One of the incentives for irregular migrants is the knowledge that the EU's return system does not function optimally.

The low return rates undermine the credibility of the system for the public and increase incentives for irregular migration and secondary movements. This requires action from the EU and third countries.

Effective return and readmission policies are therefore part of the EU's approach to reducing the incentives for irregular migration.



A HUMANE AND EFFECTIVE RETURN AND READMISSION POLICY

A humane and effective return and readmission policy – in line with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and based on the principle of giving preference to voluntary return – is essential for a comprehensive and sustainable migration policy.

The EU is seeking to harmonise and support national efforts to better manage returns and to facilitate reintegration with the [Return Directive](#), as well as with the [Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund \(AMIF\)](#).

While voluntary return is the preferred option for returning illegally staying third-country nationals, Member States' authorities will not always be able to avoid the use of forced return. In such cases, it is of paramount importance that the appropriate procedures are applied, fully respecting the fundamental rights of the third-country nationals.

The *Forced-Return Monitoring (FReM)* is an example of an AMIF-funded project that is providing such support. Since 2013, the EU has supported FReM through three grants to help establish a pool of forced-return monitors within the structures of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex). The project helped to set European standards for independent and transparent forced-return monitoring, and supported Member States in building up and strengthening their national monitoring systems.

An efficient return policy also requires cooperation with non-EU countries to ensure that they are prepared to fulfil their international obligation to take back their own nationals residing irregularly in Europe

The *Readmission Capacity Building Facility (RCBF)* has helped third countries improve their ability to manage readmissions. Since 2013, the EU has supported the facility in three phases. Through this mechanism, the European Commission and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) work with third countries to select and carry out capacity building projects. As a result, data management, readmission case management, identity determination and national data registries have become more efficient in a number of third countries. The project has also focused on more open communication, delivering awareness raising campaigns and direct assistance to migrants. In addition, it has highlighted the dangers and risks associated with illegal migration, and how migration through official channels is much safer.



PROJECT COMING HOME: STREAMLINING THE READMISSION PROCESSES IN COUNTRIES PRONE TO MIGRATION

Readmission Capacity Building Facility (RCBF), Phase I, Phase II and Phase III

Estimated budget:

€ 5 000 000 for Phase I
€ 7 000 000 for Phase II
€ 26 300 000 for Phase III

EU contribution:

Phase I 95 % funded by
the European Union
Phase II and III 100% funded
by the European Union

Duration:

April 2016 – December 2021
(across the three phases of
the facility)

Since April 2016, the *Readmission Capacity Building Facility, Phase I and Phase II* has contributed to more effective readmission of migrants returning to their homelands from the EU.

The project has helped third countries improve their ability to manage readmissions. As a result, areas such as data management, readmission case management, identity determination and national data registries have become more efficient. The importance of this is that it helps to prevent irregular migration and enables countries to readmit their citizens more easily.

In addition, the authorities of these countries have now increased their understanding of readmission processes, and are familiar with what makes for a comprehensive return migration policy. This allows migrants to return in a dignified, safe and orderly way.

The project has also focused on more open communication, delivering awareness raising campaigns and direct assistance to migrants. It has also highlighted the dangers and risks associated with such a journey, and how migration through official channels is much safer.

1

toolkit for developing
electronic platforms for
communication

3

readmission case
management systems

95 %

EU funding



PROJECT

UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF RETURNEES

Forced-Return Monitoring (FReM)

Geographical coverage:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland

Estimated budget:

FReM I: € 521 755.38

FReM II: € 1 054 544.54

FReM III: € 1 972 999.75

EU contribution:

90 % funded by the European Union

Duration:

FReM I: September 2013 – April 2015

FReMII: September 2016 – October 2018

FReM III: December 2018 – April 2021

Forced-return monitoring means that independent fundamental rights experts observe the removal of a third-country national. The monitors' unbiased and neutral reports help to identify and correct possible shortcomings, thus safeguarding the returnees' fundamental rights.

A 2011 study recommended harmonising the monitoring systems and creating a common pool of monitors. The project *Forced-Return Monitoring I (FReM I)* laid the groundwork by producing monitoring **guidelines** and a training **manual** and programme, and established a pilot pool of monitors from competent national institutions.

Building on these results, *Forced-Return Monitoring II (FReM II)* helped to establish the pool of forced-return monitors within the structures of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (**Frontex**).

The project equipped the pool with comprehensive reporting and training frameworks. It produced a reporting template, a guide to the reporting process and 15 country

factsheets. It worked out a long-term training concept, produced a background reader and trainer's manual, and organised training for monitors and monitor trainers.

Various EU Member States requested and received support from the project through expert consultations, workshops, roundtables, targeted training and analysis of monitoring systems.

The project helped to set European standards for independent and transparent forced-return monitoring, and supported Member States in building up and strengthening their national monitoring systems.

While the project directly benefited national monitoring institutions and Frontex, its ultimate objective was to contribute to fundamental rights compliance in forced-return operations.

15

country factsheets

66

return monitors

1

training manual



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

ADDRESSING THE TRAFFICKING

OF HUMAN BEINGS

Trafficking in human beings is a highly profitable form of serious and organised crime, often taking place across borders. It is a grave violation of fundamental rights.

Victims are recruited and trafficked between countries or within countries through diverse means, including deception or coercion. Driven by considerable profits and a very complex interplay of supply and demand, trafficking involves a complex chain of actors, where perpetrators and abusers exploit people's vulnerabilities.

Among the 20 532 victims registered in the EU in 2015 and 2016, 68 % were women and girls. Most victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation (56 %) or for labour exploitation (26 %). Nearly half are EU nationals; around 56 % are non-EU citizens.

Given the harm caused to victims, prevention remains a key element of the EU's anti-trafficking policy priorities.

The EU has a comprehensive legal and policy framework⁽¹⁾ in place that focuses on providing assistance, support

and protection to victims of trafficking, the criminalisation of the crime, and its investigation and prosecution. The joint EU-level action involves the European Commission, relevant actors in EU and non-EU countries, and cooperation with EU agencies, civil society and other key organisations. To this end, the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator is pivotal in combating trafficking in human beings (THB).

1 Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, OJ L-101, 15.04.2011, p 1 and European Commission Communication 'Reporting on the follow-up to the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of trafficking in human beings and identifying further concrete actions' (COM(2017)728).

EU POLICY PRIORITIES FOR RESULTS

The 2017 European Commission Communication² sets out EU action on five priorities:

- Fighting against organised criminal networks by means that include disrupting the business model and untangling the trafficking chain;
- Providing better access to and realising the rights for victims of trafficking;
- Intensifying a coordinated and consolidated response, both within and outside the EU;
- Widening the knowledge base;
- Providing appropriate funding in support of anti-trafficking initiatives and projects.

The EU is supporting a number of projects under ISFP and AMIF to address, respectively, the criminal dimension of trafficking in human beings and the needs of third-country nationals, especially women and children, who are victims of trafficking and to assist in their integration in the host society.

The Transnational Action to support victims of Trafficking returning to priority countries (TACT) project, for example, has improved the identification of victims of trafficking as well as the appropriate national and transnational referral of victims. The project also encourages cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as with civil society and international organisations.

A second project, *Financial Investigations as a means to combat THB*, adopts a follow-the-money approach, turning trafficking in human beings into a 'high-risk, low-return' crime. This is being achieved via a new methodology that is helping solve investigations and gain prosecutions across Europe.

² European Commission Communication 'Reporting on the follow-up to the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of trafficking in human beings and identifying further concrete actions' (COM(2017)728).

PROJECT

HELPING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING RETURN HOME SAFELY

Transnational Action to support victims of Trafficking returning to priority countries – TACT

Geographical coverage:

Greece, Spain, France, Italy,
Poland, Morocco, Albania
and Ukraine

Estimated budget:

€ 362 460

EU contribution:

95 % funded by
the European Union

Duration:

May 2015 –
October 2016

Trafficking in human beings is a crime where the perpetrators exploit people's vulnerabilities, which are exacerbated by factors such as poverty, war and gender inequalities. Trafficking is a global phenomenon that also affects the EU, where there were 20 532 EU and non-EU victims of trafficking registered in 2015 and 2016.

The *Transnational Action to support victims of Trafficking returning to priority countries (TACT)* project worked to create conditions for the safe and sustainable voluntary return and reintegration of victims of trafficking from France, Greece, Italy, Poland and Spain to three priority countries of origin: Albania, Morocco and Ukraine.

This was made possible by putting in place the necessary mechanisms to help identify victims in need of dedicated support and to refer them to the relevant services.

One of these mechanisms, and an important tool developed by the project, is the Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM), linking stakeholders from two or more countries involved in identifying, referring, helping and monitoring victims by defining clear roles for each stakeholder, along with procedures to follow to ensure that the victims' rights are protected the whole way along their reintegration path.

The TRM is supported by other project deliverables, including a [Counter-Trafficking Directory](#) targeted at embassy and consulate staff who can act as frontline practitioners and, if they are properly trained, identify victims of trafficking.



Another tool is the TACT website, which is an online platform that gathers together standard operating procedures for each step of the transnational referral process for the voluntary return and reintegration of victims.

The project also organised a number of meetings, conferences and training sessions targeted at stakeholders along the reintegration chain, ensuring that they have all the information needed to identify and assist victims of trafficking. These efforts were supported by leaflets and other informational materials produced by the project team.

The project helped to build the capacities of authorities in these countries in order to protect and reintegrate victims being returned voluntarily from the EU. This ensured the safe and sustainable return and reintegration of both children and adult victims of trafficking, by developing a well-coordinated, transnational approach that put the victims at the centre of its efforts.

8

countries

1

counter-trafficking
directory

1

online platform

PROJECT

FOLLOWING THE MONEY TO CRACK DOWN ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Financial investigations as a means to combat THB**Geographical coverage:**

EU-wide, Australia, Canada and the USA

Estimated budget:

€ 247 151

EU contribution:

90 % funded by the European Union

Duration:

November 2016 – October 2018

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. Despite being a highly lucrative business, 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.

The *Financial investigations as a means to combat THB* project is addressing these gaps through a combination of research and training. The 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.

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 THB.

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. It is expected that the findings will help the agencies in their efforts to crack down on these organised crime groups across the EU and beyond.

Crucially, secondary victimisation can be avoided with a more efficient means of solving such crimes. Victims of trafficking can have their participation in criminal proceedings alleviated by not having to re-live their horrific experiences, and can receive compensation from the seized criminal proceeds. Wider society will also benefit from the perpetrators being stopped in their tracks.

125
participants

25
countries

1
common methodology
handbook

A control room with multiple monitors displaying surveillance footage. The monitors show various scenes, including a street with cars, a building, and a person. The text "POLICE COOPERATION COMING TOGETHER TO PROTECT EUROPE" is overlaid on the image.

POLICE COOPERATION COMING TOGETHER TO PROTECT EUROPE

Effective cooperation between EU law enforcement authorities is crucial for combating serious cross-border crimes such as drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings and cybercrime. This co-operation is also vital to counter the rising threat of terrorism.

National law enforcement authorities need timely access to accurate and up-to-date information and criminal intelligence in order to prevent, detect and investigate

criminal activity successfully. As crimes know no borders, effective and rapid co-operation amongst Member States is key.

The EU seeks to facilitate cooperation between Member States with the aim of achieving a faster, safer, and more structured approach to the fight against cross-border crime.



CATCHING EUROPE'S MOST WANTED CRIMINALS

The Commission and EU law enforcement agencies, such as Europol, have no autonomous investigative or operational law enforcement capacities. This is the responsibility of EU Member States themselves.

The Commission and EU law enforcement agencies, however, play a key role in improving police cooperation across the EU by:

- establishing a [European Agenda on Security](#) 2015-2020;
- improving the sharing of EU Passenger Name Records (PNR) data among Member States and information exchange through the Schengen Information System (SIS) and the Visa Information System (VIS) databases;
- promoting the sharing of information among Member States and Europol through the so-called European Information Exchange Model (EIXM);
- helping EU Member States implement existing EU legislative measures through funding, training, research and innovation.

Through the IFSP, the EU is funding a number of projects to further enhance police cooperation.

For example, the *Pilot programme for data exchange of the Passenger Information Units (PNRDEP)* has paved the way for the more efficient use of Passenger Name Records (PNRs) – a crucial law enforcement tool used in the fight against serious cross-border crime.

Another successful project is *Universal Message Format (UMF)*, which supports a structured cross-border information exchange between European government authorities in the areas of justice and security.

PROJECT

ENABLING EFFECTIVE INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Universal Message Format 3 – UMF 3

Geographical coverage:

Estonia, Finland, Greece, Poland and Spain

Estimated budget:

€ 1 438 060

EU contribution:

90 % funded by the European Union

Duration:

November 2015 – April 2018

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

The EU-funded *UMF 3* project set out to improve the exchange of information between law enforcement authorities by reviewing and enhancing the existing UMF standard and implementing it within national systems.

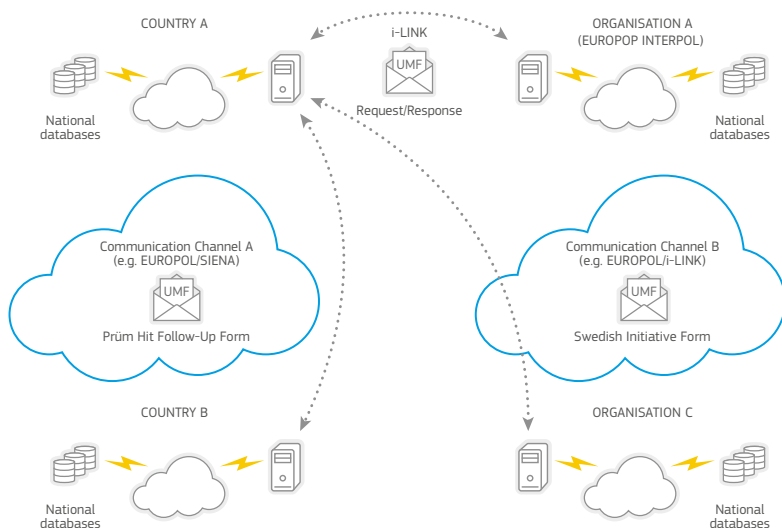
The project built upon the results of the EU-funded UMF and UMF 2 projects, which had been conducted previously, revealing a need to further enhance the UMF standard.

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 a pilot implementation of the revised standard in five EU Member States with the involvement of Europol.

In the short term, the most direct benefit will be felt in the pilot Member 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 their end users to achieve better results. In addition, 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 will 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 Justice and Home Affairs 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.



5

countries

23

project participants

1

UMF standard

PROJECT

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

Pilot programme for data exchange of the Passenger Information Units – PNRDEP

Geographical coverage:
EU-wide

Estimated budget:
€ 455 642

EU contribution:
90 % funded by the European Union

Duration:
January 2016 – June 2017

Passenger Name Records (PNRs) are an essential law enforcement tool that helps to prevent, detect and prosecute criminals involved in terrorism and other forms of serious crime. Passenger Information Units (PIUs) are responsible for collecting this data from airlines, which have collected the information in the course of their business.

The purpose of the *Pilot programme for data exchange of the Passenger Information Units* project was to identify effective channels of communication so that PNR data could be exchanged rapidly between law enforcement authorities in EU Member States, to support the fight against terrorism and serious crime.

In total, 56 experts from 17 Member States, the EU Institutions, the USA and Australia participated in the project. These experts looked at the data protection requirements and the purposes for which this data would be used, namely prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution associated with terrorist offences and serious crime. Their

input greatly helped in identifying best practices and approaches that could be shared with everyone involved.

The participation of Australian and US officials added to the discussions, offering different perspectives that contributed to the results of the project. Overall, the discussions that took place helped the project achieve its main goals. In the meantime, in April 2016 the European Commission adopted the Passenger Name Records Directive (2016/681) which the EU Member States had to implement by 25 May 2018. One of the most crucial elements of the Directive was the establishment of the Passenger Information Units (PIUs) as the sole custodian and processor of the PNR data. During the setup of the EU PIUs, the Member States could utilise relevant information from this project. The conclusions and recommendations generated by the activities of the project have been further used to create a solution to enhance communications between PIUs in the fight against terrorism and serious crime.

56

experts participated

EU-wide impact

International best practice



ORGANISED CRIME SOLVING INTERNATIONAL CRIME

Organised crime is a global problem and Europe has not been immune to its negative impacts. Organised crime is a threat to European citizens, businesses and state institutions as well as to the economy as a whole. As the criminals involved in this type of crime tend to operate across borders, there is a need for a coordinated response at both European and international levels to effectively tackle this issue.

Due to the growing complexity of the situation and to ensure that its response remains fit for purpose, the EU is continuously adapting its approach to this form of crime. It has also set up specialised EU crime agencies, such as Europol, Eurojust and CEPOL to help alleviate the problem.

While traditional crimes such as international drug trafficking remain a

principal cause of concern, globalisation has resulted in new forms of organised crime. In fact, Europol's 2017 Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) has identified eight priority organised crime threats: cybercrime; drug production, trafficking and distribution; migrant smuggling; organised property crime; trafficking in human beings; criminal finances and money laundering; document fraud; and online trade in illicit goods and services.

EU efforts in this area are aimed at supporting Member States in combatting these organised cross-border crimes and strengthening cooperation between the Member States to ensure that their response is both targeted and effective. Operational activities, such as pursuing and prosecuting criminals, remain the responsibility of the individual Member States.

LAWS, STATISTICS AND PROJECTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

EU action targeting organised crime ranges from crime prevention to law enforcement. This action comes in various forms, such as legislative measures to harmonise rules on offences by criminal organisations, and the gathering of reliable crime statistics. Through the ISFP, the EU is funding European projects or specialist networks such as the European Crime Prevention Network and the Anti-Money Laundering Operational Network.

The main EU framework is the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime or EMPACT, which was launched in 2010. This framework sets out a 4-year policy cycle aimed at creating continuity in the fight against serious international and organised crime. The policy calls for effective cooperation among law enforcement agencies, EU agencies, EU institutions and relevant third parties.

Recent examples of EU legislation include the Confiscation Directive, the Directive on the Criminalisation of Money Laundering, and the Directive on Access to Financial Information.

Since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the EU is now in a position to promote and support EU Member States' actions in the area of crime prevention. In addition, there are a number of EU-funded projects that are helping in the fight against organised crime.

A prime example is the ongoing *Struggling against and pursuing experienced criminal teams roaming in Europe (SPECTRE)* project, which combines street intelligence and the latest technology to stop organised burglars in their tracks. So far, 144 criminals have been arrested, while EUR 1.9 million of assets have been seized.

The *European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN)* is another successful EU-funded initiative that prevents organised crime from happening in the first place. It offers an EU-wide platform for exchanging best practices, research and information on different aspects of local crime prevention.

PROJECT TRACKING ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS ACROSS EUROPE

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

Geographical coverage:

Albania, Bulgaria, Belgium, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Spain and Ukraine

Budget:

€ 813 057

EU contribution:

90% funded by the European Union

Duration:

October 2017 – September 2019

Robbers, pickpockets and burglars working for organised crime groups cause considerable harm to many European citizens and businesses. The cost of organised crime is high, both in terms of its impact on victims' sense of security and in financial terms – some estimates put the cost of organised crime to the European economy at EUR 110 billion annually.³

While the offenders are often considered petty criminals, they are frequently extremely professional and mobile, making them difficult to trace. Often the leaders of such groups are located outside of the European Union. Finding and neutralising them therefore requires close cooperation with the EU's neighbours.

Relying on a comprehensive multi-agency strategy that includes international coordination, special tactics experts, financial investigations of the organised crime groups, as well as street intelligence and the latest technology, such as drones, the *SPECTRE project (Struggling against and pursuing experienced criminal teams roaming in Europe)* is tackling these mobile and organised criminals.

Over the course of 2 years, the project aims to dismantle 50 Mobile Organised Crime Groups and seize EUR 2 million of illegal assets. By December 2018, the project had already dismantled 15 mobile crime groups, made around 200 arrests and had seized assets worth more than EUR 3.5 million.

To achieve these results, the project has acquired technical equipment including cameras, drones and analysis software worth more than EUR 200 000. The partner countries have already deployed this cutting-edge technology in 30 cross-border investigations to date.

France's Gendarmerie Nationale is coordinating the project together with three co-leaders – Germany, Lithuania and Romania. Europol is providing strategic and operational support while nine other partner countries are participating in the project through their involvement in cross-border investigations.

15

mobile gangs dismantled

€ 3.5 million

in seized assets

30

cross-border investigations

€ 200 000

worth of equipment acquired

Financial support to the European Crime Prevention Network – EUCPN

Geographical coverage:
EU-wide

Budget:
€ 3 mln

EU contribution:
95% funded by the European Union

Duration:
October 2016 – March 2020



PROJECT PUTTING CRIME PREVENTION ON THE AGENDA

To facilitate collaboration, research and information on crime prevention, the EU and its Member States set up a European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) in 2001. The network is a platform for exchanges of best practices in crime prevention at local, national and European levels.

Since 2011, the EUCPN has benefited from a professional Secretariat in Brussels. The Secretariat is a 'project' supported by the Internal Security Fund through successive action grants. It provides general administrative, technical and analytical support, acts as a focal point for communication with members and represents the network externally.

The EUCPN Secretariat project seeks to make multidisciplinary preventive action an integral part of tackling crime at the European, national and local levels. Towards this end, the Secretariat aims to increase its contribution to policymaking at EU level by participating in concrete preventive operational actions as well as policy and strategy debates.

The project expects to develop tools for practitioners, in addition to assembling and distributing good practices. It will, for example, organise workshops, write manuals, and produce videos and crime prevention campaign materials in different languages.

At the same time, the EUCPN Secretariat also supports the European Network on the Administrative Approach (ENAA) tackling serious and organised crime. This is a network of national contact points that act as a gateway to law enforcement agencies, government departments, administrative bodies and academia in their respective countries. EUCPN hosts the ENAA Secretariat, enabling it to make use of the EUCPN's administrative support and communication expertise.

The EUCPN also seeks to strengthen its ties with the academic world, increase knowledge on crime prevention and become a centre of expertise. These goals are supported by a proactive communications approach that also aims to increase the EUCPN's visibility.

1

crime prevention
network

EU-wide
impact

1

set of tools and best
practices for practitioners

COUNTER-TERRORISM

A SWIFT AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

The terrorist threat in Europe has been high in recent years. The latest wave of terror attacks began in 2015 with the killings at the office of the *Charlie Hebdo* magazine in Paris, which was followed by attacks in other major European cities such as Brussels, Barcelona, London and Nice.

Today, fighting terrorism is a top EU priority. Measures to prevent any new attacks are wide-ranging and thorough. They include tackling the phenomenon of radicalisation, limiting terrorist access to financing and to substances that can be used in attacks, improving information

exchange between police forces of the EU Member States, as well as strengthening border controls. The overall goal is to protect European citizens and infrastructures.

In 2017, 62 people were killed in 33 terrorist attacks in the EU, compared to 135 deaths in 13 attacks the year before. Also in 2017, 23 attacks were foiled or failed compared to just three in 2016.

Crucially, in 2015, the number of terrorist deaths peaked at 150, while in 2017 the attacks were markedly less lethal.

UNITING TO PROTECT

Under the Security Union, several initiatives have been introduced to better protect European citizens and infrastructures.

On prevention, the European Commission is attempting to counter radicalisation, both on and offline. This is done, for instance, via the Radicalisation Awareness Network, which connects some 5 000 practitioners from across the EU. To address the threat posed by terrorist content online effectively, the Commission is working with EU countries, the internet industry and other stakeholders through the EU Internet Forum. This forum focuses on reducing accessibility to terrorist content online and empowering civil society to come up with alternative online narratives. The Commission has also proposed new legislation to prevent the dissemination of terrorist content online.

Under the EU's Action Plan to protect public spaces, the Commission has set up networks and provided guidance material, such as the EU vulnerability assessment tool and a [good practices document](#) to support the protection of public spaces. Moreover, the EU's preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) security risks is being enhanced through a number of practical measures such as training, workshops and exercises.

In addition, under Union actions through the IFSP, the Commission is financing a number of projects to help in the fight against terrorism.

The *ATLAS* network, for example, has enhanced cooperation between the special intervention units of the EU's police forces in order to respond to terrorist threats. To this end, the project set up an effective platform of 38 special intervention units in all EU Member States and Switzerland, Norway and Iceland. Through joint training and exercises, these forces enhance collective EU preparedness for terrorist threats.

The *Liaise 2* project, meanwhile, focused on support for local and regional authorities in implementing local actions to prevent violent radicalisation. It managed to do this by gathering experts in the field from 29 partner organisations in 10 EU Member States, including representatives of 18 cities and 3 regions.

PROJECT

SUPPORTING EU COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND TERRORISM

ATLAS

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Estimated budget:

Up to € 1.5 mln annually

EU contribution:

95 % funded by
the European Union

Duration:

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

For years, the European Union has been facing a high level of threat from organised crime groups and terrorists, with recent terrorist attacks highlighting the importance of a rapid law enforcement response by special intervention forces.

The *ATLAS* network of 38 police special intervention units from the 28 EU Member States, Switzerland, Norway and Iceland is a key EU asset when it comes to minimising the damage caused by terrorist attacks and serious crime and increasing the effectiveness of the response to these threats. The aim of *ATLAS* is to improve police cooperation and enhance skills by conducting training, seminars and studies, developing specific materials, exchanging best practices and carrying out joint exercises.

The benefit of *ATLAS* is recognised across Europe, as the network provides a unique and important EU tool to further improve law enforcement's response to terrorism and criminal activities, regardless of where these acts may take place within Europe. Since the *ATLAS* network allows for and supports different training platforms and sharing of best practices in terms of proficiency and tactics, all EU special intervention units benefit and are able to respond quicker and more effectively to crisis situations.



The development of joint training programmes helps reduce the need for each Member State to set up its own costly training centres. Moreover, by establishing common platforms for training and tactics, sharing equipment and closely cooperating in Member States' trans-border areas, the network increases the proficiency and expertise of all special intervention units, which delivers major benefits in terms of public security.

In October 2018, the *ATLAS* network conducted a large-scale exercise in seven regions in Europe involving more than 1 000 operators from 36 European *ATLAS* special intervention units. The aim of this counter-terrorism training was to test the effective operational readiness of the special intervention units for cross-border or transnational operations.

38

special
intervention units

EU-wide impact

26

joint exercises
and training

PROJECT

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

Local institutions against violent extremism – LIAISE 2

Geographical coverage:

Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden

Estimated budget:

€ 610 614

EU contribution:

90 % funded by the European Union

Duration:

January 2016 – January 2018

Local authorities and cities form the front line in preventing radicalisation and play a crucial role in strengthening urban security more broadly. A united approach is required to prevent radicalisation, with actions at the local level involving all local actors, including security and intelligence services, police and probation officers, social workers, cultural experts, housing and employment agencies, as well as departments for sports and recreation.

In this context, the main aim of the *Liaise 2* project was to support local and regional authorities in implementing local actions to prevent violent radicalisation. To this end, the project gathered 29 partner organisations in 10 EU Member States, including representatives of 18 cities and 3 regions.

Specifically, based on the results of the first *Liaise* project which gathered knowledge on the role of local authorities, *Liaise 2*

provided local services with practical and proven preventive methods to develop and implement 17 pilot projects covering different aspects of prevention of radicalisation (e.g. awareness raising of local actors, alternative and counter narratives, support for families, strengthening the resilience of young people, etc.). In addition, the project contributed to the development of a methodological guide and recommendations that were made publicly available.

The project has therefore provided local authorities with practical guidance to develop projects adapted to their needs and local settings. As such, this project has supported the creation of local partnerships focused, for example, on identifying positive narratives to prevent violent extremism, supporting families of people at risk of radicalisation or helping radicalised people to disengage from violent extremism and reintegrate into society.

9


countries

18

cities

1

methodological guide
on the prevention of
radicalisation



CYBERCRIME

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH ONE OF TODAY'S BIGGEST THREATS

Cybercrime is any criminal activity carried out using computers or the internet that threatens citizens, businesses, governments and critical infrastructures. It is a bigger threat than ever before, now that more and more people are online via laptops, smartphones and tablets. It is also one of the most profitable ways to make money in the criminal world.

There are a wide variety of cybercrimes, which can broadly be placed into three categories:

- Internet crimes like attacks against information systems through malware;

- Online fraud and forgery through identity theft, phishing, spam and malicious code;
- Illegal online content, including child sexual abuse material, incitement to racial hatred, incitement to terrorist acts and the glorification of violence, terrorism, racism and xenophobia.

In recent years, the EU has taken a number of legislative and non-legislative measures to combat cybercrime. But this is not enough.

New technological developments coupled with new patterns in cybercrime mean that European law enforcement agencies require more sophisticated tools and specific knowledge to effectively investigate and combat cybercriminals. Law enforcement and judicial authorities must therefore improve their skills to achieve this goal.

CUTTING-EDGE TOOLS TO CRACK CYBERCRIME

In order to combat cybercrime, the EU has implemented legislation as part of its [EU Cybersecurity Strategy](#). Examples of such policies include the 2013 Directive on attacks against information systems and the 2011 Directive on combating the sexual exploitation of children online and child pornography.

In addition, Europol set up the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) in 2013 to strengthen the law enforcement response to cybercrime in the EU and thus help to protect European citizens.

The Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP) supports a wide variety of projects in police cooperation, exchange of information, crime prevention, the fight against cross-border, serious and organised crime, including cybercrime, and the escalation of child abuse images and child pornography.

Most of these projects are public-private partnerships, culminating in ready-to-use tools that are meeting the training needs of law enforcement agencies across the European Union.

At a local level, projects under the Internal Security Fund – Police are helping improve the skills of law enforcement to help them understand and predict changes in the cybercrime landscape and to investigate such crimes.

ECTEG 2.0 and *FREETOOL v.2.0* are two excellent examples of projects that have done just this.

ECTEG 2.0 has developed a wide array of course materials, eLearning and qualification programmes, while new modules are being continually added to keep pace with technology and crime evolution.

FREETOOL v.2.0, meanwhile, has worked tirelessly with law enforcement officers from across Europe to develop nine tools to assist in digital forensics and cybercrime investigations.

New investigative tools are available to use at little or no cost, while training is being offered to cybercrime investigators to develop their skills.

Thanks to both projects, law enforcement personnel have improved knowledge in this area and this is resulting in more cybercriminals being caught red-handed. EU citizens, meanwhile, are being protected as the perpetrators are being taken offline.

Find out more overleaf.



PROJECT FIGHTING CYBERCRIME IS A SERIOUS GAME

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

Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

Budget:

€ 1 595 838

EU contribution:

95 % funded by
the European Union

Duration:

November 2017 –
October 2019

Police officers across Europe are learning how to hone their skills in fighting cybercrime, thanks to the EU-funded European Cybercrime Training and Education Group (ECTEG).

Started in December 2016 and uniting specialised law enforcement units and universities, the project is sharing and improving expertise, free of charge, to law enforcement officers across Europe. To reach this goal, course materials, eLearning courses and qualification programmes are provided, while new modules will be added to keep pace with technology and crime evolution.

The cybercrime training sessions are organised in close cooperation with Europol and the European Union Agency for Law

Enforcement Training (CEPOL). The main target group are police officers that are, or want to become, specialised in fighting cybercrime.

So far, the programme has developed 19 training modules in English. The trainers use hands-on exercises to enable 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.

The project has also created bespoke computer simulations, allowing participants to rapidly build knowledge and expertise.

19

training modules

EU-wide
impact

1

5-day course

PROJECT SOFTWARE IN SUPPORT OF CYBERCRIME INVESTIGATION

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

Geographical coverage:

Global

Budget:

€ 823 255

EU contribution:

90 % funded by
the European Union

Duration:

January 2016 –
April 2018

EU-funded *FREETOOL* v2.0 developed a range of open-source, validated software tools to help law enforcement officers in the area of digital forensics and cybercrime investigation. The Centre for Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigation at University College Dublin in Ireland ([UCD CCI](#)) worked with law enforcement officers from across Europe for 2 years to develop nine tools.

A continuation of the *FREETOOL* project that was completed in 2015, this project updated existing and developed new open-source forensic tools. It also 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.

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.

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 with police authorities in the EU 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 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 the large-scale training of law enforcement officers across the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region. In addition, awareness of the project and its outputs is increasing thanks to showcase events and webinars.

9

tools

1

online course

Global
impact



DRUGS

FINDING WAYS TO DEAL WITH THE GLOBAL DRUG PHENOMENON

The human, social and economic costs of drug addictions are astronomical, while there are also major health and security concerns.

The illicit supply of drugs is worth billions of euros each year and is a catalyst for organised crime groups. Drugs form one of the most lucrative parts of their business and often result in violence, corruption, money laundering, exploitation of people and firearm trafficking.

In a constantly evolving drugs market, reducing drug use and demand as well as drug supply requires an effective and coordinated global response. To tackle this immense challenge, governments must develop policies based on evidence and best practice, supported by objective monitoring and evaluation systems.

This approach, which is already at the heart of the EU's action on drugs, has not only proven to be most effective for

addressing the drug phenomenon, but also the best for designing responses to new trends and developments, including new psychoactive substances and online markets.



REDUCING DEMAND AND SUPPLY

The EU and its Member States have, over the past two decades, developed a number of European drug strategies to address the problem. The [current strategy](#), which looks specifically at drug demand and drug supply reduction, covers the period 2013-2020 and is implemented via EU Action Plans on Drugs.

The EU is also funding projects on the ground through its Internal Security Fund – Police and through the Justice Programme to reduce both the demand and the supply of drugs in Europe.

One such project, the *Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) – MAOC (N)*, acts as a coordination platform for navies and law enforcement agencies as they intercept drug shipments across the Atlantic and around the Mediterranean. Despite its modest size, the centre has made astonishing progress, seizing colossal quantities of drugs.

A second project known as *Wastewater Analysis of Traces of illicit drug-related Chemicals for law enforcement and public Health – WATCH* has been making headlines with its findings. Among other actions, the project analysed wastewater in 47 cities in 12 European countries to explore the drug-taking behaviours of their inhabitants. The results are significant, giving a fascinating insight into drug-taking habits across the EU.

Both projects are helping in the fight against drugs. One is catching the shipments before they reach the citizen; the other gives insights into which drugs are consumed and when.



PROJECT SWOOPING IN ON INTERNATIONAL DRUG SMUGGLERS

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

Geographical coverage:

France, Ireland, Italy,
Netherlands, Portugal,
Spain and the UK

Estimated budget:

€ 2 970 109

EU contribution:

95 % funded by
the European Union

Duration:

October 2015 –
December 2018

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 such drug shipments if they work together, pool intelligence and strike 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 EU Member States, the organisation also works closely with the US Drug Enforcement Administration and authorities in West Africa and Central and South America.

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

Despite its modest size, the centre 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. Moreover, its operations yielded more than a quarter of the cocaine seized in Europe in 2017.

The centre has to date coordinated operations leading to the interception of 206 vessels and making more than 1 100 arrests. The vessels targeted include cargo ships, fishing boats and pleasure craft. The project has been renewed for a further 3 years and will involve similar procedures to track aircraft involved in drug smuggling.

7

countries

206

vessels intercepted

1 110

arrests made

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

Geographical coverage:

Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, the UK and Norway

Budget:

€ 500 000

EU contribution:

100 % (public procurement)

Duration:

January 2017 – June 2019

PROJECT

WATCHING FOR DRUGS IN WASTEWATER

The *WATCH* project investigates the potential of wastewater analysis for law enforcement and public health agencies.

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).

WATCH created a database of the consumption of all of these drugs in 47 European cities. This meant it could visualise the geographical differences in the stimulant markets across Europe.

The project also used longer-term wastewater analysis to track temporal variations and monitor the impact of police activity or changing availability.

The results raise hypotheses about differences in drug use by geographical area. In Milan, for example, changes in population were paralleled by changes in drug residue amounts.

Overall, the project highlights the utility of wastewater analysis in providing potentially useful information to authorities and it underlined several areas as requiring further study.

Wastewater analysis has now moved from being an experimental technique to being a new method in the epidemiological toolkit. Its ability to rapidly detect new trends can help target public health programmes and policy initiatives at specific groups of people and the different drugs they are using.

47

cities

12

EU countries

1

multi-city study

ACRONYMS

AMIF	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
CBRN	chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CITIES GROW	Cities integrating migrants and refugees through work
EC3	European Cybercrime Centre
ECTEG	European Cybercrime Training and Education Group
ECTEG 2.0	IT crime and IT forensics course package creation for LEA
EIXM	European Information Exchange Model
EMAS	Emergency assistance
EMPACT	EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime
ENAA	European Network on the Administrative Approach
EUCPN	European Crime Prevention Network
FREETOOL v2.0	Maturing and extending the FREETOOL tool development initiative
FReM II	Forced-Return Monitoring II
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
ISF	Internal Security Fund
ISFB	Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa
ISFP	Internal Security Fund – Police
JUSTICE-DRUGS	Justice Programme – Drugs Policy Initiatives
LEA	law enforcement agency
LIAISE 2	Local institutions against violent extremism
MAOC (N)	Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics)
MDMA	ecstasy (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine)
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OSINT	Open Source Intelligence
PIU	Passenger Information Unit
PNR	Passenger Name Record
PNRDEP	Pilot programme for data exchange of the Passenger Information Units
RCBF	Readmission Capacity Building Facility, Phase I and Phase II
SIS	Schengen Information System
SOCTA	Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment
SPECTRE	Struggling against and pursuing experienced criminal teams roaming in Europe
TACT	Transnational ACtion to support victims of Trafficking returning to priority countries
THB	trafficking in human beings
TRM	Transnational Referral Mechanism
UCD CCI	Centre for Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigation at University College Dublin
UMF	Universal Message Format
UMF 3	Universal Message Format 3
Urbagri4Women	Innovative practices and joint urban initiatives to foster the integration of migrant women in the receiving society within urban agriculture practices
VIS	Visa Information System
WATCH	Wastewater Analysis of Traces of illicit drug-related Chemicals for law enforcement and public Health

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This brochure offers a snapshot of some of the Union actions that address the security and migration challenges facing Europe. To provide you with a more comprehensive overview of the European Commission's work in these areas, DG Migration and Home Affairs has produced a series of factsheets which are available on its website.

www.ec.europa.eu/home-affairs

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