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NOTE

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| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| To: | Delegations |
| No. prev. doc.: | 13757/2/22 REV 2 |
| Subject: | Operational Action Plan 2024-2025: Migrant smuggling |



Delegations will find attached the Operational Action Plan 2024-2025 on *Migrant smuggling* developed under the responsibility of the DE driver. The draft OAP was shared with National EMPACT Coordinators (NEC) and brought to the NEC meeting for discussion on 26-27 October 2023.

In line with the agreed OAPs template set out in 10595/22, the participation in operational actions is set out in document 14540/23.

In accordance with the Council conclusions on the permanent continuation of the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime: EMPACT 2022 +¹, COSI/COSI SG are invited to adopt the Operational Action Plan.

¹ 7100/23



Migrant smuggling Operational Action Plan

1. Aim

This Operational Action Plan (OAP) has been created within the EMPACT framework and corresponds to the following priority:

Migrant smuggling

The aim of this priority is “to fight against criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling, in particular those providing facilitation services to irregular migrants along the main migratory routes crossing the external border of the EU and those involved in facilitation of secondary movements and legalisation of residence status within the EU, particularly focussing on those whose methods endanger people’s lives”.

This OAP outlines a list of all the operational actions that will be carried out during the years 2024-2025 as means to implement the following strategic goals:

- CHSG 1 - Criminal intelligence picture
- CHSG 2 - Investigations and judicial response, with a specific focus on high-risk criminal networks (HRCN) and key individuals
- CHSG 3 - Coordinated controls and operations targeting the online and offline trade in illicit goods & services
- CHSG 4 - Criminal finances, money laundering and asset recovery

- CHSG 5 - Document fraud
- CHSG 6 - Capacity building through training, networking and innovation
- CHSG 7 - Prevention and harm reduction, assistance to victims, awareness raising
- CHSG 8 - External dimension: cooperation with non-EU partners

2. Context

2.1. EU Intelligence contributions

Definition of criminal activity/crime area:

Migrant smuggling is the process of facilitating the unlawful entry, transit or residence of an individual in a country with or without obtaining financial or other benefits. Migrant smuggling entails the facilitation of illegal entry to the EU and of secondary movements within the EU. It can also involve facilitating the fraudulent acquisition of a residence status in the EU.

Policy developments:

The activities of the Operational Action Plan ‘Migrant Smuggling’ will contribute to reinforcing the fight against migrant smuggling, as per the New Pact on Migration and Asylum and the EU Security Union Strategy. They will directly contribute to the implementation of the EU action plan against migrant smuggling (2021-2025).

Key threats:

- Migrant smuggling remains a key activity for criminal networks operating in the EU, sustained by continuous demand for facilitation services.
- Criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling have proven to be highly adaptable and able to quickly modify their business model and routes, in response to law enforcement activity, travel restrictions, logistical and environmental changes.
- Migrant smuggling networks increasingly endanger the physical and psychological well-being of irregular migrants, by using violence and life-threatening means of transportation, in their attempt to maximise profits, reduce time and operational costs.
- Facilitation services for secondary movements remain a major concern for the security of the EU; they continue to be in high demand but often remain undetected due to the use of dangerous *modi operandi*.
- The proliferation of sophisticated digital technologies and the widespread use of social media and encrypted communications create opportunities for migrant smugglers to advertise their services, to coordinate among each other and recruit victims, eluding law enforcement intervention.
- Highly organised smuggling networks also maintain connections and internal capabilities to exploit irregular migrants after they have arrived at their destination, often through debt bondage.
- Leaders of smuggling networks have solid managerial skills and are able to orchestrate the criminal business remotely, mostly exposing low-level criminals involved in transport and logistics.

Key developments:

- Migrant smugglers remain flexible in their choice of routes, means of transportation, types of fraudulent documents and the modi operandi used to legalise the stay of irregular migrants.
- Facilitation services are proactively and increasingly offered to irregular migrants already present in the EU.
- Developments in the external environment, such as those generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, highlight the fact that global crises do not significantly disrupt irregular migration flows or diminish the demand for smuggling services. Furthermore, economic effects have and are expected to continue to fuel migration flows towards the EU.
- With a large number of irregular migrants awaiting further, smuggling initiatives have involved a higher degree of risk and a higher cost for migrants than before.
- The hybrid aggression by Belarus through the creation of an artificial migration crisis has led to an uptick in smuggling activity via the Eastern borders route, affecting Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and onward EU destinations.
- Migrant smuggling in small boats across the English Channel to the UK has increased.
- Increasing usage of sophisticated digital technologies and the widespread usage of social media and encrypted communications have become integral parts of the migrant smuggling business model. The use of cryptocurrencies has recently been reported and may increase in the foreseeable future.

Intelligence gaps:

- The extent and routes of facilitated secondary movements within the EU, including the criminal networks involved, and the features of their cooperation with key parallel facilitators.
- Remote management of smuggling networks, often from outside the EU, rendering critical actors unidentified or out of the reach of law enforcement.
- There is a limited view on criminal networks' involvement in enabling the legalisation of irregular migrants' residence in the EU. Known modi operandi involve the misuse of long-stay visa, marriages of convenience, and the use of fraudulent breeder documents to obtain genuine documents.
- Existing links with other criminal activities, specifically the cross cutting elements with trafficking in human beings, and the further exploitation of irregular migrants (sexual, labour, forced criminality, etc.).
- Smuggling of UAMs, as an especially vulnerable category of irregular migrants, and the lack of intelligence needed to track their movement.
- Financial flows generated by migrant smuggling criminal networks remain challenging to trace, making the overall profits difficult to estimate and seize, and impeding the identification of criminal leaders.
- In the context of digitalisation and that of the shift to internet-based platforms, intelligence on digital footprints of criminal networks, including those left in the dark web, and digital evidence to support investigations and prosecution of criminal actors, are limited.

Key locations:

- The three Mediterranean entry routes (Western, Central, and Eastern) are still predominantly used by smuggling networks to introduce irregular migrants into the EU.
- Türkiye remains an important hub for recruitment of migrants entering via the Eastern Mediterranean route.²
- Poland is an important transit hub for smuggled irregular migrants originating from China and Vietnam, coming via the Eastern borders route, through Russia, as well as Belarus.
- Northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands remain key locations for the recruitment of irregular migrants and a departure point for smuggling towards the UK.
- The facilitation of secondary movements is complex and multidirectional. Migrant smuggling networks continue to facilitate secondary movements from the first points of entry to the EU (mainly, Greece, Italy and Spain), via various routes, to preferred destination countries such as France, Germany and the UK. Reception centres located in the first countries of arrival inside EU territory are often used by migrant smugglers to offer facilitated secondary movements and to recruit new potential customers.
- The Western Balkan region remains a key transit area for secondary movements, where criminal networks proactively offer their services to irregular migrants.

² Different routes towards Cyprus and Greece

Enabling factors/enablers:

- Migrant smuggling often involves the use of fraudulent documents including identity and travel documents or fraudulent visas. Migrant smugglers often cooperate with experts in document forging on a crime-as-a-service basis.
- Digitalisation and the online environment are already omnipresent in the *modi operandi* of migrant smugglers. They frequently use digital services and tools, such as social media and mobile applications, for various purposes: recruitment, communication, money transfers, pick-up and handover of migrants, mobilisation of migratory movements, guidance, sharing pictures and videos of documents, and countermeasures to law enforcement activities.
- Legal business structures such as rental and transportation companies are used in migrant smuggling activities, as well as companies that provide fake employment documents to obtain residence permits and working visas. Money transfer services, restaurants or stores are used to launder proceeds from migrant smuggling.
- Migrant smuggling networks use experts with knowledge of migration legislation, such as lawyers and other specialists, on a crime-as-a-service basis.

Most relevant (non-EU) partners/countries of interest:

- Afghanistan, Albania^o, Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina^o, Brazil^s, China^s, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kosovo^{*w}, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova^o, Morocco, Montenegro^o, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia^o, Pakistan, Russia^{s3}, Senegal, Serbia^o, Syria, Sudan, Switzerland^o, Tunisia, Türkiye^s, Ukraine^o, United Kingdom^w, Vietnam
- Private sector (transportation companies, providers and developers of digital tools, providers of public transportation, parcel services, banking sector, rental sector, travel agencies, air companies, commercial actors legally purchasing goods used in migrant smuggling)
- Other relevant actors internationally operating in this domain: INTERPOL^o, UNODC^s, IOM, ICMPD

^o Operational Agreement with Europol

^s Strategic Agreement with Europol

^w Working arrangement

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

³ Strategic agreement has been suspended in the context of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

Key areas to target:

- Target criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling focusing on High Value Targets jointly identified at EU level and in partner countries of relevance, and reinforce transnational investigations;
- Disrupt criminal networks involved in the facilitation of secondary movements and in legalisation of residence status within the EU;
- Enhance investigations into migrant smuggling criminal networks engaging in exploitation of irregular migrants;
- Target overlapping with other criminal areas, including joint use of routes and infrastructure supporting commodity based criminal activities;
- Enhance investigations into the logistical supply chains supporting migrant smuggling operations;
- Disrupt criminal networks involved in the production and provision of fraudulent documents for migrant smuggling;
- Initiation and/or continuation of systematic investigations into parallel financial flows and infrastructure, with a view to identify and seize criminal assets;
- Focus on digital tools and services used by criminal networks in order to increase law enforcement capabilities and reach leaders of the networks managing criminal activities remotely;
- Enhance collection and exploitation of travel and custom intelligence, in support of migrant smuggling investigations;
- Establish or increase cooperation with the private sector, including car rental and transportation companies, digital solutions' suppliers and developers, or money transfer services.

Additional elements to the intelligence picture from Driver & OAP participants: none.

3. Structure

The OAP is essentially a coordination overview presenting the general outline of OAs, rather than the specific detail of each OA and does not include sensitive nor classified information. These details will be found in the related OA planned implementation document based on the Planning and reporting template.

An overview of the OAs within this OAP, that should be updated whenever relevant, can be seen below.

Overview of OAs:

| No | OA | AL | Short title |
|----|------|----------------|--|
| 1 | 1.1 | EUROPOL | Situational picture of migrant smuggling |
| 2 | 1.2 | EUROPOL | Use/abuse of legal business structures (LBS) |
| 3 | 2.1 | PL | URSUS |
| 4 | 2.2 | EL | East Med |
| 5 | 2.3 | DE | Risk |
| 6 | 2.4 | IT | Central MED Route |
| 7 | 2.5 | FR | JOT DIUNKETT |
| 8 | 2.6 | FR | Small Boats |
| 9 | 2.7 | ES | Stopover |
| 10 | 2.8 | EUROPOL | JOT MARE |
| 11 | 2.9 | PT | Bride |
| 12 | 2.10 | CY | AKRITAS |
| 13 | 2.11 | FRONTEX | Reflex 2024/25 |
| 14 | 3.1 | FR | JOT B@lltring |
| 15 | 4.1. | United Kingdom | Hawaladar mapping |

| No | OA | AL | Short title |
|----|-----|---------|--|
| 16 | 5.1 | FR | DOC FRAUD |
| 17 | 5.2 | FRONTEX | CED |
| 18 | 5.3 | DE | Joint Expert Teams (JETs) |
| 19 | 5.4 | Frontex | TRU -Training activities on document and identity fraud |
| 20 | 6.1 | CEPOL | LE cooperation and capacity building through learning and training |
| 21 | 6.2 | eu-LISA | Training EURODAC & SIS II |
| 22 | 6.3 | DE | PCCC |
| 23 | 7.1 | FRONTEX | EUROSUR |
| 24 | 8.1 | AT | Task Force Western Balkans |
| 25 | 8.2 | EUROPOL | Information Clearing House |
| 26 | 8.3 | CEPOL | EU Neighborhood Projects |

Action leaders – relevant actors: AT, CY DE, EL, ES, FR, PL, PT, CEPOL, EUROPOL, EUROPEAN COMMISSION, eu-LISA, FRONTEX

Action leaders – partners: United Kingdom

4. Management, Coordination & Support

4.1. OAP Management

Overall management responsibility for this OAP lies with the Driver, supported by the Co-Driver(s) of the OAP as identified by COSI and set out in the list of relevant actors.

Each OA of this OAP has a designated Action Leader duly tasked and empowered for this role, assisted if required by a Co-Action Leader.

Management responsibility for each operational action is outlined in the list of operational actions.

The management of the OAP shall be in line with the EMPACT Terms of Reference.

4.2. OAP support

In order to allow the Driver to focus on OAP management, Europol shall provide the support to the OAP in line with the EMPACT Terms of Reference.

Furthermore, the Coordinator(s) of CHSGs, in line with the tasks and responsibilities set out in the EMPACT Terms of Reference, will support the various Drivers/Co-Drivers with all issues related to the successful implementation of CHSGs, together with the Action Leaders and the OAP group.

4.3. Information management

The Europol Analysis Projects shall be the primary means by which operational data emanating from the operational actions within this plan shall be processed. Other Europol tools may also be used where appropriate.

It is recommended that all operational information exchange within the OAP shall be done using the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA), which provides a quick, secure and auditable means of communication between all competent authorities and Europol. Proper access to SIENA should be ensured as necessary for the implementation of OAs.

5. Methodology

5.1. OAP drafting process

The OAP drafting process has recently been modified to adapt to changing circumstances and a continuous increase in the number of participants. The details on the OAP drafting process for EMPACT 2022+, including the engagement of the Partners in the drafting and implementation, the release of the OAP to the Partners as well as the specific steps of the OAP development can be found in the EMPACT Terms of Reference.

The scope of the OAs included in the OAP corresponds to the EU SOCTA 2021 and additional intelligence contribution gathered by the OAP groups.

When available, the actions should also include administrative measures. Wherever possible, due use will be made of opportunities and processes for a wider inter-agency approach.

The OAP will be validated by COSI SG/COSI.

5.2. Implementation

The OAP will be implemented via the set of OAs and timescales contained in the OAP. The Driver, assisted by the Co-Driver, will be the authority to execute or delegate the management/leadership of a specific OA to the Action Leader, who then has the responsibility for initiating and reporting on each action to the Driver.

Member States are invited to integrate the relevant OAs developed in the OAP at the appropriate level into their national planning and to allocate resources to support a common EU approach. Similarly, the agencies and relevant EU networks, should commit the actions developed into their annual work programmes pursuant to the Council conclusions on the permanent continuation of the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime: EMPACT 2022+ and the EMPACT Terms of Reference.

5.3. Monitoring and reporting

The reporting is composed of three steps: 1. light reporting on the progress of the OAP, 2. Comprehensive reporting on the results of the OAP and 3. Annual fact sheets on the results of OAP.

Monitoring and reporting shall be done in line with and using the template set out in the reporting mechanism.



Draft Operational Action Plan 2024-2025

Migrant smuggling



EU crime priority/OAP: Migrant smuggling - OAP 2024-2025

List of actions

Strategic Goal 1: Criminal intelligence picture

Objective: develop or keep updated, through the detection of intelligence gaps, the monitoring of threats (including from high-risk criminal networks – HRCN), trends and new developments (e.g. the use of new technologies), and the identification of links to other crime areas, the strategic and operational intelligence picture relating to each EU crime priority, and to integrate it in the strategic and operational planning of the relevant stakeholders.

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Ref.: OA 1.1. | Leader: EUROPOL |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action | |
| Title: Situational picture of migrant smuggling | |
| <p>Provision of the situational picture of migrant smuggling. Delivery of the strategic intelligence, threat assessment and other analysis products. Update on migratory routes to/within and from the EU, nationalities involved, modi operandi, the criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling, current and possible future trends/ scenarios building. Including dedicated and focused thematic strategic analysis on tools facilitating migrants smuggling, increasing phenomenon and potential links to other crime area (for example document fraud, digital smuggling, secondary movements THB etc.)</p> <p>EMLO reports will be made accessible to Europol to enhance the situational picture.</p> <p>Monitoring emerging crisis in key areas with potential impact at the EU external borders as well as migrant smuggling to/within the EU. (e.g. Afghanistan, Ukraine, Belarus).</p> <p>Open for Member States and third countries.</p> | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | |
| a) Number of strategic intelligence / risk analysis products issued by Europol and Frontex (minimum: 80 EPMTs, 6 ad-hoc strategic/thematic reports contributing to EU situational awareness) | |
| b) Number of the updates provided during the Migrant Smuggling EMPACT meetings. | |
| c) Number of joint Europol-Frontex analytical products. | |
| d) Number of focused thematic reports, such as secondary movements etc. | |
| e) Number of contributions regarding emerging crisis or arising threats | |
| Type of Operational Action | |
| <i>2-Data collection/data exchange, 3-Strategic</i> | |

| Activities under the Operational Action and timing | |
|---|------------------|
| Activity | Timing |
| 1) European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) to provide Early Warning Notifications and Intelligence Notifications to ENUs and specifically to participants to the priority. Preparing and sharing Europol strategic analysis products on migrant smuggling on a regular basis, including the EPMT (Europol Monitoring Team) reports, to participants of the priority (e.g. threat assessments, risk assessments, gap analysis, stakeholder analysis, strategic country reports, tactical analysis). | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Preparing and sharing Frontex analytical products on regular basis to participants of the priority (e.g. monthly analysis, Annual Risk Analysis report, thematic analysis such as European Union Document-Fraud annual risk analysis, Eastern Partnership (EaP-RAN) products, Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community (AFIC) products, Western Balkans (WB-RAN) products, Turkey-Frontex (TU-RAN) products). | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Drafting strategic joint analytical product(s) but also tactical ones if justified by operational needs (e.g. planning of common JAD coordinated/participated by both Agencies) or secondary movement in EU perusal). | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Regular updates on migratory pressure at the EU external borders and within the secondary movements as well as the investigation on migrant smuggling overview at EMPACT migrant smuggling review meetings delivered together by Europol and Frontex. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority | |
| Potential links to the OAP THB | |
| Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD) | |
| Joint analytical products to be issued prior to the implementation of the selected JADs shared by Frontex and Europol. | |

| Ref.: OA 1.2 | Leader: EUROPOL | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|---|--|---|---------|---|---------|--|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| <p>Activity summary of the Operational Action</p> <p>Strengthening the strategic and tactical intelligence picture on the use/abuse of legal business structures (LBS) by criminal networks over all EU priorities for fighting serious and organised crime.</p> <p>This operational action is proposed as a horizontal action throughout all 15 OAPs.</p> <p>The main objective is to enhance the intelligence picture on the use/abuse of LBS throughout all main crime areas affecting the EU.</p> <p>The analytical findings of this report will inform future OAs, will feed into the EU SOCTA, and may inform initiatives with regard to prevention/administrative approach.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Strategic or operational information contributed via SIENA: at least 5 per OAP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Online workshop with OA participants across participating OAPs organised: 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Number of strategic analysis reports produced: 1</td> </tr> </table> | | a) Strategic or operational information contributed via SIENA: at least 5 per OAP | b) Online workshop with OA participants across participating OAPs organised: 1 | c) Number of strategic analysis reports produced: 1 | | | | | | | |
| a) Strategic or operational information contributed via SIENA: at least 5 per OAP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| b) Online workshop with OA participants across participating OAPs organised: 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| c) Number of strategic analysis reports produced: 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Type of Operational Action</p> <p><i>2-Data collection/data exchange, 3-Strategic,</i></p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Activities under the Operational Action and timing</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>Timing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1) Collection and collation of strategic and operational data available at Europol on LBS</td> <td>Q1 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2) Online workshop with OA participants across participating OAPs</td> <td>Q2 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3) Analysis of data provided to Europol for EU SOCTA (2021 / 2025)</td> <td>Q3 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4) Drafting strategic analysis report</td> <td>Q4 2024</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Activity | Timing | 1) Collection and collation of strategic and operational data available at Europol on LBS | Q1 2024 | 2) Online workshop with OA participants across participating OAPs | Q2 2024 | 3) Analysis of data provided to Europol for EU SOCTA (2021 / 2025) | Q3 2024 | 4) Drafting strategic analysis report | Q4 2024 |
| Activity | Timing | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1) Collection and collation of strategic and operational data available at Europol on LBS | Q1 2024 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2) Online workshop with OA participants across participating OAPs | Q2 2024 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3) Analysis of data provided to Europol for EU SOCTA (2021 / 2025) | Q3 2024 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4) Drafting strategic analysis report | Q4 2024 | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority</p> <p>Proposed for all OAPs</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |

Strategic Goal 2: Investigations and judicial response, with a specific focus on high-risk criminal networks (HRCN) and key individuals.

Objective: prepare and conduct investigations, coordinated actions, and prosecutions, in each EU crime priority, to detect, identify and disrupt criminal networks active in the EU, and individuals with key roles in these networks, with a special emphasis on high-risk criminal networks (HRCN) undermining the rule of law by using corruption and intimidating power in order to infiltrate a Country’s legal economy and administrative management system, those who commit acts of violence and use firearms to further their criminal goals and take advantage of vulnerable groups, as well as those who launder their criminal proceeds through a parallel underground financial system.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Ref.: OA 2.1 | Leader: PL (Police Forces) |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action | |
| URSUS | |
| Eastern Borders of the EU | |
| <p>Detection and disruption of OCGs involved in the process of organising illegal immigration, facilitation and smuggling of migrants via Russia, Belarus and Ukraine to Europe.</p> <p>The scope of the operation includes all types of migrant smuggling phenomena/modi operandi across land, air and sea borders and all nationalities of migrants.</p> <p>Particular attention will be paid to the secondary movements, current operational picture regarding the Belarusian border with Lithuania and Poland and the involvement of OCGs operating on both the Baltic and Balkan routes.</p> | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | |
| a) Number of OCGs identified/dismantled – 20 per year | |
| b) Number of initiated and supported investigations – 100 per year | |
| c) Number of facilitators arrested – 200 per year | |
| d) Number OTFs and HVTs – at least 1 per year | |
| Type of Operational Action | |
| <i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange,</i> | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|---|--------------------|
| 1) Organisation of an operational (kick-off) meeting for participants in the action to discuss planned activities and exchange operational information. Organise an annual meeting to summarise the activities carried out. | Q1, Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Collection and exchange of intelligence via SIENA between participating MS and Europol in the area of activity. With the support of the EMSC, analyses of the shared intelligence will be made available to the participants in the form of cross match reports/operational reports. | Q1- Q-4 2024/25 |
| 3) Operational meetings | Q1- Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Enhance operational cooperation between third countries and MS | Q1- Q-4 2024/25 |
| 5) Support the participants in their actions, both strategically and operationally: - Use available tools such as OTF, JIT when needed - Prioritise joint arrests and joint activities - Supporting the use of financial resources | Q1- Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority**Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)****JAD ARKTOS**

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Ref.: OA 2.2 | Leader: EL (Police Forces) |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action | |
| Title: East Med Conduct intelligence-led operations aiming at dismantling OCGs involved in the facilitation of illegal migration from Türkiye to Greece and further on to South East, Central and Western Europe, focusing on illegal border crossings through the main corridors, migration logistical hubs and intermediaries, as well as the production, supply and use of false documents, money laundering and migrant smuggling services offered on social media. | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | |
| a) Number of OCGs dismantled. At least 1 per year. | |
| b) Number of smugglers-facilitators arrested. At least 5 per year. | |
| c) Number of OTFs and HVTs. At least 1. | |
| d) Number of seizures of assets, false documents and production material, criminal proceeds and other relevant commodities (e.g. cash, printshops, means of transportation, communication devices) At least 1 of each. | |
| e) Number of EMPACT Action Days. At least 1 per year. | |
| Type of Operational Action | |
| <i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange</i> | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|--|-------------------|
| 1) Collection and analysis of information by Greece and other participating MS, targeting organised migration crime and coordinating the actions undertaken by the Hellenic LEAs in combating migrant smuggling, with a view to improve the intelligence picture and establish whether concrete criminal acts have been committed or may be committed in the future. Identification of High Value Targets (HVT) under the umbrella of potential Operational Task Forces (OTF) and high priority transnational migrant smuggling cases. Information and intelligence cross-checking and exchange regarding smuggling activities from Türkiye to Greece and further on to South East, Central and Western Europe, suspicious financial transactions and social media accounts facilitating illegal migration through SIENA with EUROPOL and relevant MS and INTERPOL, in case of Third Country involvement. Special attention will be paid to criminal intelligence operations focusing on migration logistical hubs (e.g. accommodation, transportation), the intermediaries involved (e.g. Legal Business Structures), the supply and use of false documents (e.g. print-shops), including the online sale, other migrant smuggling services offered on social media (e.g. smuggling packages) and the financial assets of migrant smuggling networks. | Q1- Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Dissemination of analytical findings and social media reports regarding the OCGs activities among MS or 3rd countries for further development and exploitation aiming at identifying concrete connections or other relevant links between information related to persons who are suspected of having committed or taken part in migrant smuggling. | Q1- Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Conduct parallel or joint investigations with a view to identifying facts and suspects regarding concrete criminal acts, involving concerned MS, 3rd countries and Europol EMSC staff at the EURT Piraeus and consider the development of parallel financial investigations, supported by EUROPOL. Organize and participate to operational meetings with the relevant actors. Focus on tracing financial flows and criminal assets with a view to seizing and confiscating them, as well as the production, purchase and retail of false documents. Hold operational meetings, with the participation of relevant countries, EUROPOL, EUROJUST and INTERPOL, where applicable, to develop and coordinate further operational actions. | Q1- Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Launch EMPACT action days to dismantle smuggling networks and seize criminal proceeds or other relevant commodities. | Q1- Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority

THB

Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)

Connection with MLAR, depending on each individual case's characteristics.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Ref.: OA 2.3 | Leader: DE (Police Forces) | | | | |
| <p>Activity summary of the Operational Action</p> <p>OA Risk - Investigative action targeting OCGs smuggling migrants by transporting them clandestinely in concealments primarily related to the Balkan routes and into and within EU-MS. This pertaining modus operandi poses considerable threat to health and lives of the smuggled migrants. There are frequent apprehensions of irregular migrants in Central and Western Europe and in the Balkan region, who are smuggled in these dangerous conditions by OCGs operating from various hubs.</p> <p>To tackle this phenomenon effectively, there is a need for a focused, dedicated and coordinated approach. The action will be carried out in conjunction with the Task Force Western Balkan activities. The aim of the action is to jointly identify and arrest the key facilitators and disrupt OCGs operating from various hubs by conducting common investigations, central analyses by AP Migrant Smuggling and joint operational activities in all concerned countries. Strong involvement of Third Countries is inevitable to successfully combat this highly dangerous phenomenon. The focus on financial investigations shall support the gathering of further intelligence and enhance the effectiveness of disruption of the criminal activities.</p> <p>The OA is linked with the ISF COP projects SCOPE and SCOPE II focusing on building Common Operation Partnership with Western Balkan countries and Türkiye. This COP is instrumental to enhance cooperation with law enforcement and judicial authorities of the abovementioned countries. Additional support might be received by the IPA III project.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Number of initiated and supported investigations (300/year)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Number of detected irregular migrants (5000/year)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Number of facilitators apprehended or arrested (500/year)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) Number of initiated JITs, JADs, OTFs and CADs (1 each/year)</td> </tr> </table> | | a) Number of initiated and supported investigations (300/year) | b) Number of detected irregular migrants (5000/year) | c) Number of facilitators apprehended or arrested (500/year) | d) Number of initiated JITs, JADs, OTFs and CADs (1 each/year) |
| a) Number of initiated and supported investigations (300/year) | | | | | |
| b) Number of detected irregular migrants (5000/year) | | | | | |
| c) Number of facilitators apprehended or arrested (500/year) | | | | | |
| d) Number of initiated JITs, JADs, OTFs and CADs (1 each/year) | | | | | |
| <p>Type of Operational Action</p> <p><i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange</i></p> | | | | | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|--|------------------|
| 1) Intelligence gathering and sharing | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Operational meetings | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Common operational activities (JADs and CADs) | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Reporting and evaluation | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority

Due to the high amount of criminal profit within this MO, the OA is linked to financial investigations. An additional link to High-risk criminal networks might also be established due to the high level of professionalism shown by operating OCGs.

Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)

The participation within JADs is intended

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Ref.: OA 2.4 | Leader: IT (Police Forces) | | | | |
| <p>Activity summary of the Operational Action</p> <p>Title: "Central MED Route"</p> <p>The aim of the action is to detect and disrupt organized crime groups active in migrant smuggling by developing and conducting intelligence led operations, investigations and prosecutions and by creating ad-hoc investigative/operational task forces whenever necessary.</p> <p>In the last few years, an unprecedented migration wave has hit Europe and Italy along the Central Mediterranean Route and numbers of migrants crossing the Mediterranean have increased significantly. The geopolitical situation will still play an important role in 2024-2025.</p> <p>The action improve and make effective the real-time information exchange (as well as financial data) and the operational response, including the exchange of intelligence/information with Europol and Eurojust, to enhance investigations in source, transit and destination countries along the Central Mediterranean Route.</p> <p>Tailored operational and coordination meetings are envisaged in the framework of the investigations. These events shall be funded when necessary; videoconferences are envisaged to take place on frequent basis.</p> <p>The action will focus in 2024-2025 also on fostering/boosting cooperation with departure and transit countries, through running of tailored operational initiatives.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Number of identified and arrested criminals active along the CMR. At least 5.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Number of HVTs identified and arrested. At least 1.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Number of financial operations initiated. At least 1.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) Initiation of new judicial investigations on the basis of Europol, number of JITs and Coordination Centres. At least 1.</td> </tr> </table> | | a) Number of identified and arrested criminals active along the CMR. At least 5. | b) Number of HVTs identified and arrested. At least 1. | c) Number of financial operations initiated. At least 1. | d) Initiation of new judicial investigations on the basis of Europol, number of JITs and Coordination Centres. At least 1. |
| a) Number of identified and arrested criminals active along the CMR. At least 5. | | | | | |
| b) Number of HVTs identified and arrested. At least 1. | | | | | |
| c) Number of financial operations initiated. At least 1. | | | | | |
| d) Initiation of new judicial investigations on the basis of Europol, number of JITs and Coordination Centres. At least 1. | | | | | |
| <p>Type of Operational Action</p> <p><i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange</i></p> | | | | | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|--|------------------|
| 1) Organisation of a videoconference kick-off meeting of relevant actors, to share intelligence related to ongoing investigations, good practices and knowledge on trends, modi operandi as well as criminal money flows and assets. | Q1 2024/25 |
| 2) Analysis, with the support of EMSC, Eurojust and Frontex, of the gathered intelligence on criminal organisations and irregular migration flows and dissemination to relevant or concerned participants. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Organisation of operational meetings when there are links with OCGs in other EU and third countries and/or positive cross-match reports. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) With the support of Europol, Eurojust and MS, establishment of new ad-hoc operational task forces, and continuation of existing one(s), targeting High Value Targets, carrying out common action days and arrests of facilitators, plus analysis of financial flows linked to migrant smuggling and eventual common action days and arrests of facilitators | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 5) Explore the possibility to deploy LOs and/or investigators on ad-hoc basis for short-term activities for face-to-face collaboration with Northern Africa countries Law Enforcement and Judicial Services, ensuring cooperation amongst concerned relevant partners. Common operational partnership (COPs) are instrumental to enhance cooperation with African countries Law enforcement and judicial services and may act as preliminary approaches for a more sustainable law enforcement and judicial cooperation. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority

EMPACT THB

Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)

When needed.

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Ref.: OA 2.5 | Leader: FR (Police Forces) |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action <p>JOT DIUNKETT is dedicated to fight OCGs facilitating illegal border crossings towards and through Western European countries (France, Portugal and Spain) via the EU external and internal borders and focused specifically on migrants' secondary movements after entering the EU through the Western Mediterranean and the Atlantic maritime routes.</p> <p>The geographical scope of the operational action reaches from Africa (SN & NE, departure countries) to the whole west coast of Europe, from South (ES) to North (NL): The participating MS are creating a response mechanism for the west coast of Europe.</p> | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets a) Number of OCGs dismantled (4) b) Number of JIT created (1) c) Number of arrested facilitators (15) | |
| Type of Operational Action <i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange,</i> | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing (Short description– 5 lines maximum per activity)

| Activity | Timing |
|---|--------------------------|
| <p>1) Support investigation and investigation teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather relevant information that can be used to launch investigations and identify High Priority Cases, with the support of Europol and Eurojust, - Build Joint Investigation Teams, - Carry out common arrests and common activities, - Target and disrupt the business model of OCGs involved in migrant smuggling - Provide technical and financial support when needed such as equipment and deployments | <p>Q1-Q4 2024/25</p> |
| <p>2) Strengthen the network between the MS and third countries, enhance communication and sharing of information to ensure successful operations; organisation of operational and coordination meetings to maximise the transnational impact and effectiveness of the action.</p> | <p>Q1-Q4 2024/25</p> |
| <p>3) Improve and keep building the intelligence picture about the OCGs acting in Europe.</p> | <p>Q1-Q4 2024/25</p> |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority

OA 5.1 JOT DOC FRAUD

Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| Ref.: OA 2.6 | Leader: FR (Police Forces) |
| <p>Activity summary of the Operational Action</p> <p>JOT SMALL BOATS focuses on the issue of "Small Boats", also known as the specific phenomenon of migrants crossing the Channel on inflatable boats, assisted by smugglers in their activities.</p> <p>French and Belgium coasts are only dozens of nautical miles away of the British ones, making the use of small boats more affordable for migrants.</p> <p>The phenomenon has grown steadily in recent years, and several boats are sometimes launched at the same time, making this practice a real threat to the safety and lives of migrants attempting the crossing, as well as the law enforcements agents intervening in risky conditions.</p> | |
| <p>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets</p> | |
| <p>a) Number of OCGs dismantled (2)</p> | |
| <p>b) Number of JIT created (2)</p> | |
| <p>c) Number of facilitators arrested (100)</p> | |
| <p>d) Number of boats seized (100)</p> | |
| <p>Type of Operational Action</p> | |
| <p><i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange,</i></p> | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|--|------------------|
| 1) Weekly deployment of investigators on the ground, for surveillances and prevent departures of small boats | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Once OCG has been detected, fieldwork must be carried out to identify the members and operating methods of this network. Various operations are set up on the ground to dismantle criminal networks, involving the use of special investigative techniques and sometimes specific equipment. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Given the changing trends and strategies of criminal groups, this action aims to develop the coordination of member countries and the adaptation of common strategies in the face of this threat. Strategic meetings aimed at coordinating this effort in terms of judicial response and strategies to combat the phenomenon should therefore be organised. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
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Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority

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Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)

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|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Ref.: OA 2.7 | Leader: ES (Police Forces) | | | | |
| <p>Activity summary of the Operational Action</p> <p>Stopover</p> <p>The goal of this operational action is to target the activity and the organised crime groups smuggling migrants via air routes including external and/or internal flights to the EU.</p> <p>The activities under this operational action may also lead to disclosure of OCGs which deal with counterfeiting and/or trafficking id documents.</p> <p>The OA seeks cooperation with Third Countries of origin and especially of transit of the air routes, essential for the detection and disruption of apparently unusual stopovers though different continents to reach the EU.</p> <p>This OA will encompass the development of a Joint Action Day which will target criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling (also trafficking in human beings) via EU external air borders.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets</p> | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Number of cases, at least five per year.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Number of OCGs dismantled, at least five per year.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Number of smugglers/facilitators arrested, at least fifteen per year.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) Number of seizures/ detections of false documents/impersonations/visa frauds (50) per year.</td> </tr> </table> | | a) Number of cases, at least five per year. | b) Number of OCGs dismantled, at least five per year. | c) Number of smugglers/facilitators arrested, at least fifteen per year. | d) Number of seizures/ detections of false documents/impersonations/visa frauds (50) per year. |
| a) Number of cases, at least five per year. | | | | | |
| b) Number of OCGs dismantled, at least five per year. | | | | | |
| c) Number of smugglers/facilitators arrested, at least fifteen per year. | | | | | |
| d) Number of seizures/ detections of false documents/impersonations/visa frauds (50) per year. | | | | | |
| <p>Type of Operational Action</p> <p><i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange</i></p> | | | | | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing (*Short description – 5 lines maximum per activity*)

| Activity | Timing |
|---|------------------|
| 1) Organisation of operational meetings to set a common strategy/approach to tackle OCGs, sharing investigation methods, ongoing cases, etc. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) To foster operational activities, with the support of Europol, Frontex, Eurojust and Interpol. In particular JAD Stopover 2024, to tackle migrant smuggling and drug trafficking at air BCPs. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) To enhance cooperation with Third Countries. | Q2-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Select the airports based on the risk analysis and settlements with MS. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 5) Gather intelligence to improve the identification of the OCGs, which could trigger the investigations in MS, also facilitate further identification of the responsible OCGs and to support MS criminal investigations, also through Europol. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 6) Prepare and coordinate JAD in air border domain in the selected airports based on the intelligence picture/risk analysis enriched by the perusal of the cases revealed during the first quarter of the implementation of OA. | Q3-Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority

Trafficking in Human Beings; Cannabis, Cocaine, Heroin; Criminal finances and Money Laundering and Facilitate Assets Recovery; High-risk criminal networks, SYD/NPS

Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)

JAD Stopover

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|---|------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| Ref.: OA 2.8 | Leader: EUROPOL | | | | | |
| <p>JOT MARE, part of the European Migrant Smuggling Centre, collects, analyses, enhances and disseminates intelligence products supporting investigations tackling criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling by sea and associated maritime secondary movements towards destination countries.</p> <p>JOT MARE's core business is the development of intelligence products in support of MS investigations aimed at disrupting their business model with a particular focus on networks involved in sea smuggling and subsequent secondary movements towards countries of destination.</p> <p>This will be achieved through tailored analytical products focusing on criminal networks active in countries of disembarkation as well as EU MS, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Operational Analysis Reports, o Intelligence Notifications, o Intelligence Packages. <p>The intelligence analysis will focusing on criminal networks, HVTs, new modi operandi employed by smugglers, potential links to other crime areas and by making best use of debriefing reports, as well as on emerging threats, imminent developments and changes in the smugglers' business model.</p> | | | | | | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Number of intelligence products (50) per year</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Number of proposals for referral to service providers following the joint analysis by EMSC - EU IRU of the illicit online content provided by EU MS (100) per year</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Number of high priority investigations supported (10) per year</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) Number of HVTs identified (4) per year</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e) Number of OTFs supported (1) per year</td> </tr> </table> | | a) Number of intelligence products (50) per year | b) Number of proposals for referral to service providers following the joint analysis by EMSC - EU IRU of the illicit online content provided by EU MS (100) per year | c) Number of high priority investigations supported (10) per year | d) Number of HVTs identified (4) per year | e) Number of OTFs supported (1) per year |
| a) Number of intelligence products (50) per year | | | | | | |
| b) Number of proposals for referral to service providers following the joint analysis by EMSC - EU IRU of the illicit online content provided by EU MS (100) per year | | | | | | |
| c) Number of high priority investigations supported (10) per year | | | | | | |
| d) Number of HVTs identified (4) per year | | | | | | |
| e) Number of OTFs supported (1) per year | | | | | | |
| Type of Operational Action | | | | | | |
| <i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange</i> | | | | | | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|--|------------------|
| 1) Development of intelligence products in support or as a basis for EU MS investigations. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Support to on-going, sea smuggling-investigations initiated by the competent LEA. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Support in identifying HVTs. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Support the setting up of OTFs. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority

Potential links to the OAP THB

Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)

This OA is envisaged to also provide tailored support JAD(s) organised with the participation of MS, Europol, Interpol as well as Third countries.

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ref.: | Leader: PT (Police Forces) |
| OA 2.9 | |

Activity summary of the Operational Action

Operation Bride - to identify and disrupt OCGs linked to marriages of convenience abuse and associated threats, with special focus on document fraud. Due to the poly-criminality nature of this modus operandi for migrant smuggling, this OA reveals a high level of complexity and embraces several interlinked illegal activities carried out by the OCGs when facilitating and organizing marriages of convenience. This requires in many occasions a multi-disciplinary approach. Besides the marriage of convenience itself, which is already criminalized in many Member States, the other illegal activities include frequently document fraud /forgery of documents, money laundering, corruption, and others, with potential links to THB.

Description of Activities:

- Identify OCGs active in marriages of convenience and changes in MO
- Enhancing collection of information and intelligence picture in relation to the OCGs, and report based on the findings
- Organize operational/strategic meetings to exchange intelligence and discuss possible Joint Operations, EMPACT Action Days and/or JADs, namely an Operational Meeting with all the participating MSs and EU Agencies, as a way to better align operational strategies and different approaches to the phenomena, and also to prepare an operational JAD during 2024 (Q2)
- Identify best practices and lessons-learned from joint operations and compile the information collected into a "Compendium of good practices" (Q4).
- Identify relevant third countries as a way to develop operational cooperation focused on the origin of OCGs organizing marriages of convenience and exploiting migrants for this purpose, as previously identified by the participating MSs.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets

| |
|--|
| a) Number of OCGs identified or disrupted (12) |
| b) Number of cases (400) |
| c) Number of OTF's and JIT's (2) - 1 per year |
| d) Number of Joint Action Days (2) |

Type of Operational Action:

1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange

Activities under the Operational Action and timing (*Short description – 5 lines maximum per activity*)

| Activity | Timing |
|--|------------------|
| 1) Operational meeting, with the participating countries (EUMS and Third countries) and EU Agencies, in order to identify main cases for 2023 and plan operational activities. | Q2 2024/25 |
| 2) Execution of the Joint Action Day. | Q1-Q4 202/25 |
| 3) Identification and analysis of best practices in order to collect data for a "Compendium of good practices". | Q3-2025 |
| 4) Identification of new cases as basis to set up of parallel investigations in 2025. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 5) Reporting and evaluation operational meeting 2024/2025 | Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority

THB; economic and financial crimes, Fraud

Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)

JAD is intended to be set up among participating countries (EUMS and Third countries)

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|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Ref.: OA 2.10 | Leader: Cyprus (Police Forces) | | | | |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action | | | | | |
| <p>The aim of this operational action is to conduct intelligence-led operations aiming at dismantling OCGs involved in the facilitation of illegal migration from Türkiye to Cyprus and further on to European countries, focusing on illegal crossings through Türkiye to the occupied part of Cyprus and through the green line to the free areas of Cyprus, migration logistical hubs and intermediaries, as well as the production, supply and use of false documents.</p> | | | | | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Number of EMPACT Action Days. At least 1 per year.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Number of smugglers-facilitators arrested. At least 10 per year</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Number of seizures/ detections of false documents/impersonations/visa frauds. At least 30 per year.</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> </tr> </table> | | a) Number of EMPACT Action Days. At least 1 per year. | b) Number of smugglers-facilitators arrested. At least 10 per year | c) Number of seizures/ detections of false documents/impersonations/visa frauds. At least 30 per year. | |
| a) Number of EMPACT Action Days. At least 1 per year. | | | | | |
| b) Number of smugglers-facilitators arrested. At least 10 per year | | | | | |
| c) Number of seizures/ detections of false documents/impersonations/visa frauds. At least 30 per year. | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Type of Operational Action <i>(1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange)</i> | | | | | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing (Short description– 5 lines maximum per activity)

| Activity | Timing |
|--|------------------|
| 1) Collection and analysis of information by Cyprus and other participating MS, targeting organised migration crime and coordinating the actions undertaken by the Cypriot LEAs in combating migrant smuggling, with a view to improve the intelligence picture. Identification of high priority transnational migrant smuggling cases. Information and intelligence cross-checking and exchange regarding smuggling activities from Turkey to Cyprus, and further on to Europe, through SIENA with EUROPOL and relevant MS and INTERPOL, in case of Third Country involvement. Special attention will be paid to criminal intelligence operations focusing on migration logistical hubs (e.g. accommodation, transportation), the intermediaries involved, the supply and use of false documents. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Dissemination of analytical findings and reports regarding the OCGs activities among MS or 3rd countries for further development and exploitation aiming at identifying connections or other relevant links between information related to persons or OCGs who are suspected of facilitating or taken part in migrant smuggling. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Organisation of operational meetings to set a common strategy/approach to tackle OCGs, sharing investigation methods, ongoing cases, etc. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Organize and participate to operational meetings with the relevant actors. Tracing on the production and selling of false documents | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 5) Launch EMPACT action days to dismantle smuggling networks and arrests of facilitators. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority:

Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD):

JAD when deemed necessary

| | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ref.: OA 2.11 | Leader: FRONTEX | | | | | |
| <p>Activity summary of the Operational Action:</p> <p>REFLEX 2024/25: Border checks and surveillance measures focused on the EU external borders combined with the other type of operational activities set by EU MS, SACs and TCs as well as JHA Agencies if relevant. Frontex share to be implemented by means of Joint Operations, but also Rapid Border Interventions and Pilot Projects if needed. Applicable as EAD or JAD or other operational activity agreed with other stakeholders. Devised as a flexible, prompt and tailored response to emerging poly-criminal threats at, along and in the proximity of the EU external borders with the prevailing migrant smuggling factor associated by other threats. Ideally suited to react to Early Warning Notifications, other analytical products, or a specific request from a MS.</p> | | | | | | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Number of apprehensions/arrests made (1,000)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Number of suspected migrant smugglers apprehended (20)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Number of document fraud incidents detected (20)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) Number of hits generated in Europol and Interpol databases (5)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e) Number of entities sent via SIENA by MS, SACs, EU Agencies and third countries (100)</td> </tr> </table> | | a) Number of apprehensions/arrests made (1,000) | b) Number of suspected migrant smugglers apprehended (20) | c) Number of document fraud incidents detected (20) | d) Number of hits generated in Europol and Interpol databases (5) | e) Number of entities sent via SIENA by MS, SACs, EU Agencies and third countries (100) |
| a) Number of apprehensions/arrests made (1,000) | | | | | | |
| b) Number of suspected migrant smugglers apprehended (20) | | | | | | |
| c) Number of document fraud incidents detected (20) | | | | | | |
| d) Number of hits generated in Europol and Interpol databases (5) | | | | | | |
| e) Number of entities sent via SIENA by MS, SACs, EU Agencies and third countries (100) | | | | | | |
| Type of Operational Action | | | | | | |
| <i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange</i> | | | | | | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|---|------------------|
| 1) Select the BCPs and border sections based on the risk analysis and settlements with MS and third countries. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Carry out effective border control including checks and surveillance at selected EU external land borders in order to prevent, detect and combat migrant smuggling and other types of cross-border crime. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Gather intelligence to improve the identification of the OCGs, which could trigger the investigations in MS, also facilitate further identification of the responsible OCGs and to support MS criminal investigations also through Europol. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Detect the cases of migrant smuggling as well as document fraud, identify and apprehend the suspects, identify imposters and other fraud document users. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 5) Enhance operational cooperation between EU Agencies, MS, SACs and TCs. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 6) Prepare and coordinate EAD or JAD(s) if justified in relation to selected EU external border locations (air, land, sea dimension possible) based on the intelligence picture/risk analysis enriched by the perusal of the cases revealed during the first quarter of the implementation of OA. | Q2-Q4 2024/25 |
| 7) Exercise tailored Europol support with the operational tools and capabilities as well make use of Interpol's databases and capabilities within EAD or JAD(s) if organized. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority

Potentially all OAPs given the flexible nature of the OA.

Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)

Within this OA, JAD(s) will be organised with the participation of MS, Europol, Interpol as well as Third countries.

Operational Activity Reflex 2024/25 has the potential to support other JADs related to any domain coordinated either by MS or EUROPOL (e.g. Large Scale JAD) and/or JCO(s) organized under LEWP-Customs

Strategic Goal 3: Coordinated controls and operations targeting the online and offline trade in illicit goods & services

Objective: target – notably through coordinated controls and operations – criminal networks, individual criminal entrepreneurs, high impacts vendors and facilitators, their business models and other actors involved in the online and offline trade in illicit goods and services, with a special attention to those active in the markets that are related to an EU crime priority.

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Ref.: | Leader: FR (Police Forces) |
| OA 3.1 | |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action | |
| JOT B@LLTRING | |
| <p>Improve the law enforcement response against those utilising the Dark Web and other internet messenger applications to enable illegal immigration and Document Fraud through a co-ordinated and multi-disciplinary approach.</p> <p>Enhance the information regarding the use of Dark Web and internet messenger applications to facilitate migrant smuggling and document fraud.</p> <p>Build common investigations (joint action days, joint investigation team) when it's possible and relevant.</p> | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | |
| a) Number of intelligence packages provided to Member States (2) | |
| b) Number of targets, involved in illegal immigration and document fraud activities, identified through cyber patrol (5) | |
| c) Number of HVT identified (1) | |
| d) Providing or sharing tools and information (eg search terms, OCG, online behaviour, platform vulnerabilities) to enhance capacity to fight Migrant Smuggling (1) | |
| Type of Operational Action | |
| <i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange</i> | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|--|------------------|
| 1) To deliver an awareness workshop highlighting the challenges of media investigations on the internet and to share national and international experiences on tools used to conduct investigations, as well as the latest updates of the threat. (with a LE and judiciary perspective). | Q1 2024 |
| 2) Coordinate and ensure the joint law enforcement action aiming at the identification of HVT involved in the on-line trade in illicit goods and services focused on migrant smuggling and Document Fraud (e.g. via the participation to the JAD Cyber Patrolling). | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Development of a new project named B@lltring CPMO (B@lltring Collaborative Platform Mobile Office). The first step was to give the equipment to FR and SPAIN cyber teams, the second step was about training (in France) on a powerful and customizable search application. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Participate to EUROPOL Cyberpatrol to target and identify new HVT, or to the next HEG (Horizontal Expert Group) meeting | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority**Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)**

Strategic Goal 4: Criminal Finances, Money Laundering and Asset Recovery

Objective: Combat the criminal use of financial structures including money laundering, facilitate asset recovery and confiscate proceeds of crime, disrupt criminal infiltration by involving specialised financial investigators, where relevant, as part of investigations in the EU crime priorities, and develop a culture of asset recovery through training and financial intelligence sharing.

| | |
|--|---|
| Ref.: OA 4.1 | Leader: United Kingdom (Police Forces) |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action | |
| Title: HAWALADAR MAPPING | |
| <p>The use of Hawaladars is a culturally typical practice amongst many of the migrant nationalities seeking to enter Europe. Money flows within hawaladar networks tend to combine transactions made through the formal banking system along with value movements made informally, which leads to particularly complicated flows and often purposefully broken audit trails.</p> <p>The objective of the Operational Action is to build upon the existing knowledge base across EUMS in order to then disrupt this complex and challenging aspect of the illicit finances associated with migrant smuggling. This will be delivered through a phased approach to the collection, collation, enhancement and analysis of intelligence. It will seek to identify who the dominant actors are, how and where along the whole of the migratory routes they interact with other hawaladars, the financial flows and the vulnerabilities that law enforcement can exploit. Opportunities can then be identified for JITs or OTFs, leading to JADs in which the objective will be to simultaneously arrest and disrupt multiple hawaladars. Evidence collected from a network of interacting hawaladars should place investigators in a better position to determine financial audit trails for prosecution purposes.</p> | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | |
| a) Number of Hawaladars identified in EUMS and European third countries. At least 20. | |
| b) Number of Hawaladar identified in non-European third countries. At least 5. | |
| c) Number of Hawala networks identified from intelligence analysis. At least 1. | |
| d) Number of new judicial investigations initiated as a result of Europol analysis with support from Eurojust. At least 1. | |
| e) Number of Hawaladars arrested. At least 1. | |
| f) Value of cash or other assets seized. At least EUR 50,000. | |
| Type of Operational Action | |
| <i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange</i> | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|--|------------------|
| 1) Organisation of virtual/physical kick-off and progress review meetings for all participants, to maintain OA momentum and address any barriers to delivery. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Intelligence collection and enhancement phase 1 – Hawaladar intelligence already held by participants. | Q1 2024 |
| 3) Intelligence collection and enhancement phase 2 – Pro-active Hawaladar intelligence collection by participants. | Q2-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Analysis by Europol of all Hawaladar intelligence submitted by participants to identify networks and in conjunction with Eurojust to initiate JITs or OTFs. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 5) Deployment of subject matter experts to support investigators on an ad-hoc basis if necessary in EUMS or third countries. (LVG funding may be required). | Q2 Q4 2024/25 |
| 6) Organisation of operational meetings to ensure that we collectively maximise the scope and impact of judicial action in both the EU and third countries. | Q2-Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority

Trafficking in Human Beings

Criminal Finances - Money Laundering/Asset Recovery

Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)

Strategic Goal 5: Document Fraud

Objective: target criminal networks or criminal individual entrepreneurs active in the production and provision of fraudulent and false documents or identification marks by involving specialised investigators, where relevant, as part of investigations in the EU crime priorities.

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Ref.: OA 5.1 | Leader: France (Police Forces) |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action | |
| <p>Document fraud is a poly criminal activity that enables OCGs members to operate migrant smuggling business on a large scale. The OA aims at tackling OCGs involved in production/distribution of forged or falsified administrative documents to facilitate illegal immigration and other criminal activities linked to migrant smuggling.</p> <p>The OA aims at strengthening the cooperation between MSs and third countries. In this regards, the OA provides intelligence pictures to investigation teams, operational support to lead common action days and supports operational meetings.</p> <p>The OA aims at detecting new counterfeit/falsified identity documents. Besides the dismantling of print shops, the OA also aims at feeding the ProFID system (Profiling of fraudulent identity and travel documents), the dedicated tool for the analysis and the crosschecking of series, enabling forensic to be linked with investigation. (Creation of ProFID series per each investigation case to make link between false documents seized in different countries)</p> <p>The OA ensures a close cooperation with EMSC of EUROPOL for the monitoring of intelligence on document fraud investigation cases and between Member States in the framework of the dedicated group the "Document Fraud Investigation Group" (DFIG) led by France and co-led by the centre of Excellence for Combating Document Fraud of FRONTEX which gathers document experts, investigators and EU agencies twice a year to discuss on international cooperation for tackling document forgery in all type of crime areas.</p> | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | |
| a) Number of investigations to be covered: at least 2 | |
| b) Number of documents registered into ProFID: at least 50 per year | |
| c) Number of OCGs dismantled (print shop): at least 01 | |
| d) Number of seized documents: 300 | |
| Type of Operational Action | |
| <i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange</i> | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing (*Short description – 5 lines maximum per activity*)

| Activity | Timing |
|---|------------------|
| 1) One strategic online meeting: Gathering the participating countries for a state of play on document fraud investigation cases. Identifying required financial support. | Q1-Q2 2024/25 |
| 2) Follow-up on investigation cases conducted by Member states and the outcomes (number of arrest, number of document seized, document registered into ProFID) during the Document Fraud Investigation Group meeting. (2 per years) | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Support operational actions via low value grant: organising deployment on the field and operational meetings when needed. | Q1-Q4 2024-25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority

OA MS 5.3 2.6

Priority THB-OPC-FIA

Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)

Willing to participate to JAD MOBILE 5

| Ref.: OA 5.2 | Leader: FRONTEX | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|---|---|----------------|--|----------------|
| Activity summary of the Operational Action <p>Frontex is focusing on the detection and the reporting of document and identity fraud cases. The establishment of a helpdesk operated by CED will provide functional support during the implementation periods of the Mizar Operational Modules within CED. Several Frontex Document Fraud Teams will be set up to support the participants in the field by organizing awareness sessions regarding latest trends in document and identity fraud and/or assisting the Advanced Level Document Officers (ALDO)s during second line checks in the Operational Area of competence</p> | | | | | | | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) <i>Number of mission days of Frontex Document Fraud Teams members deployed in the Operational Areas during the implementation periods of the Mizar Operational Modules 20</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) <i>Number of awareness sessions organised and number of participants 8</i></td> </tr> </table> | | a) <i>Number of mission days of Frontex Document Fraud Teams members deployed in the Operational Areas during the implementation periods of the Mizar Operational Modules 20</i> | b) <i>Number of awareness sessions organised and number of participants 8</i> | | | | |
| a) <i>Number of mission days of Frontex Document Fraud Teams members deployed in the Operational Areas during the implementation periods of the Mizar Operational Modules 20</i> | | | | | | | |
| b) <i>Number of awareness sessions organised and number of participants 8</i> | | | | | | | |
| Type of Operational Action <i>Operational and Prevention</i> | | | | | | | |
| Activities under the Operational Action and timing <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>Timing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1) In the framework of Mizar Operational Modules under Joint Operations, focus on the detection and the reporting of document and identity fraud cases through the activation of an helpdesk at the CED in the Frontex HQ</td> <td>Q2, Q4 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2) In the framework of Mizar Operational Modules under Joint Operations, deployment of Frontex Document Fraud Teams which will be set up to support the participants in the field, through the creation of sessions raising awareness or assisting the ALDOs during second line checks in the Operational Area of competence</td> <td>Q2, Q4 2024</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Activity | Timing | 1) In the framework of Mizar Operational Modules under Joint Operations, focus on the detection and the reporting of document and identity fraud cases through the activation of an helpdesk at the CED in the Frontex HQ | Q2, Q4 2024 | 2) In the framework of Mizar Operational Modules under Joint Operations, deployment of Frontex Document Fraud Teams which will be set up to support the participants in the field, through the creation of sessions raising awareness or assisting the ALDOs during second line checks in the Operational Area of competence | Q2, Q4 2024 |
| Activity | Timing | | | | | | |
| 1) In the framework of Mizar Operational Modules under Joint Operations, focus on the detection and the reporting of document and identity fraud cases through the activation of an helpdesk at the CED in the Frontex HQ | Q2, Q4 2024 | | | | | | |
| 2) In the framework of Mizar Operational Modules under Joint Operations, deployment of Frontex Document Fraud Teams which will be set up to support the participants in the field, through the creation of sessions raising awareness or assisting the ALDOs during second line checks in the Operational Area of competence | Q2, Q4 2024 | | | | | | |
| Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority Traffic in Human Beings - THB | | | | | | | |
| Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD) Document Fraud Investigation Group (DFIG) | | | | | | | |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Ref.: OA 5.3 | Leader: DE (Police Forces) |
| <p>JOINT (Document and Facial Comparison) EXPERT TEAMS "JETs"</p> <p>The operational action aims at tackling facilitated illegal immigration by increasing the ability of police and border authorities to detect forged and falsified documents as well as the misuse of documents (look-a-like). The action focusses on the internal EU / internal Schengen (secondary movements) as well as on external borders. A special focus shall be on the borders of the Western Balkan states. Nevertheless, also police forces inland should be supported with the aim of detecting and investigating illegal migration.</p> <p>Therefore the following steps/actions will be carried out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of temporary online "Helpdesk" and the support of setting up or operate permanent online "Helpdesk" of document and facial recognition experts (Joint Expert Teams - JETs) by Member or Third States during "Joint Action Weeks" or during special occasions like Olympic Games or European / World championships, in order to provide a 24/7 service to police and border authorities regarding the verification of documents and the carrying out of identity checks by facial image comparisons. 2. Training sessions regarding facial recognition, especially in preparation of the Action Weeks for JET members (experts serving at the online "Helpdesk") 3. Support of police and border authorities, especially during "Joint Action Weeks" by using smartphones equipped with "police applications". 4. Improve and intensify the cooperation between existing Helpdesks in Europe 5. Explore the possibility of Helpdesks to serve as well as "Airline Information Desk" to support and answer requests of Airlines about <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulfilling their obligations based on Art. 26 No 1 (b) Schengen Implementing Treaty to take all the necessary measures to ensure that an alien carried by air or sea is in possession of the travel document required for entry into the territories of the Schengen States. • fulfilling their respective obligations based on annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (ICAO) from 7th December 1944 | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | |
| a) Number of JET action weeks or supports/establishments of permanent helpdesks (one permanent Helpdesk, 4 Action-Weeks) | |
| b) Number of checked documents and facial comparisons. (1200) | |
| c) Number of deployed document experts in JET action weeks. (24) | |
| d) Number of trained officers for facial comparisons to serve at the JET Help Desks. (20) | |
| e) Workshop about police apps and functionality of online Helpdesks (1) | |
| f) Conference about document verification and facial comparisons and options for Airlines to improve document verifications and the fulfillment of related further obligations by Helpdesks (1) | |
| Type of Operational Action | |
| <i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange</i> | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|---|--------------------|
| 1) Kick off meeting / planning meeting | Q1 2024 |
| 2) JET action weeks and/or permanent help desk | Q1 - Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Workshops of experts for help desk and mobile police applications | Q1 - Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Conference about document verification and facial comparisons and options for Airlines to support document verifications and the fulfillment of further obligations by Helpdesks | Q4 2024 |
| 5) JET trainings / expert pool | Q1 - Q4 2024/25 |
| 6) Evaluation meeting | Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority**Cooperation with ES (EMPACT THB OA 5.1),****Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)**

Supporting other crime priorities through the establishment of online "Helpdesks" for document and facial recognition verifications, especially during "Joint Action Weeks".

Intensify the close cooperation with EU/ISF projects AFRIPOL (within ISF "COP SMUGG") and SCOPE.

Participation in JADs

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Ref.: OA 5.4 | Leader: FRONTEX | | | | |
| <p>Activity summary of the Operational Action</p> <p>Training activities on document and identity fraud counteraction for law enforcers and visa section/consular staff:</p> <p>A) Advanced Level Document officer (ALDO) course, open for EU MS/SAC countries as well as for Frontex staff</p> <p>B) Training for Visa Section Staff of MS/SACs Embassies and Consulates in Third Countries.</p> <p>C) Course on facial features for impostors detection (multipliers concept) open for open for EU MS/SAC countries as well as for Frontex staff</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Training attendance target; values 80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Assessment Results; target values 70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Learner Satisfaction; target values 80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) Achievement of course job competencies and learning outcomes; target values 80 %</td> </tr> </table> | | a) Training attendance target; values 80% | b) Assessment Results; target values 70% | c) Learner Satisfaction; target values 80% | d) Achievement of course job competencies and learning outcomes; target values 80 % |
| a) Training attendance target; values 80% | | | | | |
| b) Assessment Results; target values 70% | | | | | |
| c) Learner Satisfaction; target values 80% | | | | | |
| d) Achievement of course job competencies and learning outcomes; target values 80 % | | | | | |
| <p>Type of Operational Action</p> <p><i>4-Knowledge/training, 5-Prevention</i></p> | | | | | |

| Activities under the Operational Action and timing | |
|--|--------------------|
| Activity | Timing |
| 1) Advanced level document officer course (ALDO) | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Training for Visa section staff of EU MS/SAC deployed in TC | Q1 & Q3 2024/25 |
| 3) Course on facial features for impostors detection (multipliers concept) | Q1-Q3 2024/25 |
| Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority N/A | |
| Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD) N/A | |

Strategic Goal 6: Capacity building through training, networking and innovation

Objective: build the law enforcement and judicial authorities' capacities and capabilities to tackle serious and organised crime by improving knowledge, skills and expertise based on training, networking, the sharing of good practices, and the development of innovative approaches.

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Ref.: OA 6.1 | Leader: CEPOL |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action LE cooperation and capacity building through learning and training Develop, design and implement multidisciplinary training activities related to trafficking in human beings. | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | |
| a) Number of training activities delivered. (Target: 9 in 2024 and 9 in 2025) | |
| b) Number of Member States/Third Parties participated. (Target: 26) | |
| c) Number of participants trained/exchanged. (Target: 500 in 2024 and 500 in 2025) | |
| d) Satisfaction rate. (Target: 90%) | |
| Type of Operational Action <i>4-Knowledge/training</i> | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|---|------------------|
| 1) 2024: 4 international onsite training courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Migrant Smuggling - Digital Investigations" ▪ "Interviewing Techniques in Migrant Smuggling Cases" ▪ "Behaviour Analysis in the context of Migrant Smuggling" ▪ "Document Fraud Investigations in Practice" 2025: 4 international onsite training courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Migrant Smuggling - Digital Investigations" ▪ "Interviewing Techniques in Migrant Smuggling Cases" ▪ "Behaviour Analysis in the context of Migrant Smuggling" ▪ "Document Fraud Investigations in Practice" | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) 2024-2025: 1 online module "Facilitated Illegal Immigration" | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) 2024-2025: 1 eLesson "Behaviour Analysis in Migrant Smuggling" | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) 2024: 2 webinars related to migrant smuggling, with priority to the outcomes of JADs 2025: 2 webinars related to migrant smuggling, with priority to the outcomes of JADs | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 5) 2024-2025: Participation in CEPOL Exchange Program (CEP) dedicated to migrant smuggling. | Q2-Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority

All training activities are designed to transfer the knowledge gained during the operational activities.

Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Ref.: | Leader: EU-LISA |
| OA 6.2 | |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action | |
| Training activity on the use of SIS and Eurodac databases for the prevention and investigation of migrant smuggling crimes. Legal and technical aspects, as well as MS cases studies are going to be presented. | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | |
| a) Participant satisfaction rate, target 4.5/6 | |
| Type of Operational Action | |
| 4-Knowledge/training | |
| Activities under the Operational Action and timing (<i>Short description – 5 lines maximum per activity</i>) | |
| Activity | Timing |
| 1) Training activity "Eurodac and SIS: The role of large-scale IT systems in combatting migrant smuggling" | Q2-Q3 2024/25 |
| | |
| Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority n/a | |
| Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD) n/a | |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Ref.: OA 6.3 | Leader: DE (Police Forces) |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action | |
| <p>The Police and Customs Cooperation Centres Network (informal PCCC – Network) is coordinating and supporting the participation of PCCC in EMPACT activities, serves as a platform for exchange of best practice between PCCCs and national PCCC coordinators and support joint trainings activities of PCCC staff. The PCCC guidelines (EU 9105/11) as well as EU Codex for Police Cooperation (915/2022) serve as guiding line.</p> <p>PCCC support the fast exchange of information at internal and external borders, provide legal assistance for requesting investigation units, provide advice for investigations, contribute to set up regional crime analysis and risk assessments, support fast verification of documents and facial comparisons and serve as multilateral platform. They can also be used as a platform for operational meetings in internationally coordinated investigations, including OTF and JIT. Thereby the support off PCCC in the fight against illegal migration, especially secondary movements is one of the corner stones of their activities. Here they coordinate joint patrols and hot pursuit and urgent measures against smuggling of persons in concealments. Fast exchange of information via PCCC in cases of custody of facilitators is of utmost importance.</p> <p>PCCC are therefore an indispensable European horizontal mechanism in the fight against migrant smuggling by support of cross border investigations, including assistant services for implemented OTF and JIT, to enrich respective analysis and additionally serve as a platform for Frontex JO Focal Points Land and JO TERRA.</p> <p>SIENA cases initiated by Member States and Third Parties in PCCC account for 55% of all new cases in SIENA. Out of 59 PCCCs in Europe, 16 are using SIENA for their information exchange. Since the implementation of the SIENA web-service and the SIENA web-application in combination with the implementation of SIENA basic protection level, in 2024 an extensive roll-out and start of use of SIENA in PCCC should take place. Approximately one half of all SIENA cases initiated by PCCC within the mandate of Europol concern the crime areas illegal immigration and document fraud.</p> | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | |
| a) Number of PCCCs having newly implemented SIENA (8/year) | |
| b) Number of cases exchanged within SIENA by PCCC in the area of illegal immigration and document fraud (10.000/year) | |
| c) Number of support of EMPACT Action Days and JADs (3/year) | |
| d) Annual PCCC Conference implemented (1/year) | |
| e) Trainings and workshops on the use of SIENA (5 year) | |
| Type of Operational Action <i>2-Data collection/data exchange, 4-Knowledge/training</i> | |

| Activities under the Operational Action and timing | |
|---|------------------|
| Activity | Timing |
| 1) Implementation of the regular Annual PCCC Conference | Q2-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Training sessions regarding: SIENA implementation and best practice, joint blended English courses for information exchange via SIENA by CEPOL (based on LEEd), cross border crime, best practice exchange between PCCC and requesting police inspectorates, legal assistance by PCCC, PCCC support of investigations, use of Europol's EPE, document verification and facial recognition by PCCC. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Operational support of police and border authorities, especially during "Joint Action Weeks" by other OA (i.a. JET, ProFID) as well as during JADs and persistently regarding investigations, | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Implementation of SIENA in further PCCCs | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| | |
| Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority | |
| Close Cooperation with OA 1.8 of OAP HRCN. | |
| Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD) | |
| It is intended to participate in and support Joint Action Days throughout the years. | |

Strategic Goal 7: Prevention, awareness raising and harm reduction, early identification of and assistance to victims

Objective: carry out ethically acceptable and evidence-based activities aimed at raising awareness and reducing the risk of crime occurring and its harmful consequences with the ultimate goal of working towards the improvement of the quality of life and safety of individuals, groups and communities.

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Ref.: OA 7.1 | Leader: FRONTEX |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action EUROSUR Fusion services (EFS) appliance and awareness raising for the sake of detecting, preventing and combating migrant smuggling and cross-border crime. | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | |
| a) Number of EFS service request received under reference to "Migrant Smuggling" (target:80) | |
| b) Number of EFS awareness sessions/training organized (target: minimum 1 general EFS awareness session) | |
| Type of Operational Action <i>1-Operational, 4-Knowledge/training</i> | |
| Activities under the Operational Action and timing (<i>Short description– 5 lines maximum per activity</i>) | |
| Activity | Timing |
| 1) To make available and use of EUROSUR Fusion Services, including the Multipurpose Aerial Surveillance aircraft service, for MS and stakeholders to support more effective detecting, preventing, and combating illegal immigration and migrant smuggling. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) EFS awareness sessions, on-request and specific trainings for MS and stakeholders | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Support to EMPACT CADs or JADs organised within the domain of tackling of illegal immigration / migrant smuggling. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority Excise Fraud, Firearms, and Environmental Crime, specifically the OAs on the surveillance tools and EFS appliance embedded in specific OAs. Further support to others OAP is always available. | |
| Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD) EFS are available to support EMPACT CADs and JADs organized within the domain of the EMPACT Migrant Smuggling priority or the activities focusing on other EMPACT Priorities in conjunction to it. FRONTEX IFC Service Managers in charge of EUROSUR Fusion Services delivery and support are available to be deployed on the spot in case of need. | |

Strategic Goal 8: External dimension: cooperation with non EU partners (non-EU countries, international organisations and partners)

Objective: expand the external dimension of EMPACT and the cooperation both with third countries and at global level to address common challenges. Enhance cooperation with relevant non-EU partners such as international organisations, regional fora, non-EU source, transit and destination countries, priority countries such as enlargement and neighbouring countries, and key crime markets for each EU crime priority.

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Ref.: | Leader: AT (Police Forces) |
| OA 8.1 | |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action Joint Operational Office/TFWB | |
| <p>TASK FORCE WESTERN BALKANS (TFWB): The TFWB deals with migrant smuggling via the South-eastern European Route and its work is based on intelligence pictures provided by Europol and Frontex. The TFWB is available 24/7, detects emerging threats quickly and has a rapid response mechanism for early warning and emergencies. It provides Intelligence pictures on specific topics upon request. For 2024/2025 the Task Force intends to broaden its geographical focus to Türkiye and other relevant countries of origin and transit countries. The TFWB uses the JOINT OPERATIONAL OFFICE (JOO) Vienna as a multidisciplinary operational support platform. The JOO Vienna provides resources, including funding, for investigations against OCGs and High Value Targets. The JOO product catalogue includes meeting infrastructure, translation- and interpretation services and mobile phone extractions.</p> <p>Supported by IPA 2023, various actions will be financed and implemented with participating countries, especially with the 3rd countries of the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Furthermore the OA will be implemented in synergy with the ISF Projects SCOPE and SCOPE II.</p> | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets | |
| a) Number of supporting services provided by JOO (10) | |
| b) Number of EMPACT Action Days (2) and JADs (2) supported. | |
| c) Early Warning and Emergency Response Mechanism used (6) and Early Warning Notifications provided (6) | |
| d) Number of non-EU partners (WB6) participating, leading or Co-leading an operational activities (JAD, EMPACT Action Day, CAD, etc.) (4) | |
| e) Number of operational activities with the involvement of Türkiye (2) | |
| Type of Operational Action | |
| <i>1-Operational, 2-Data collection/data exchange</i> | |

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|--|------------------|
| 1) The JOO actively supports and enhances mobile phone extractions, translation services and secondment of interpreters to the region. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Enriching the European Intelligence picture in relation to poly-criminal groups, document fraud, visa- and residence permit abuse and financial investigations. Specific focus is put on the role of the Western Balkans as transit region. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) The TFWB regularly reports risks, new modi operandi and Early Warning Notifications emerging from its multidisciplinary cooperation. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) The Task Force strengthens relationships with relevant 3rd countries such as WB6 and Türkiye by using all relevant networks (e.g. EMLOS, Liaison Officer Network). Synergies towards European Initiatives are generated. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 5) Frontex has a significant portfolio of Joint Operations in the region. These operational activities undertaken by Frontex will support of the objectives of this OA including the implementation of JADs. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority**OAP THB, OAP MS OA "Reflex 2024/2025"****Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)**

JAD SEE, JAD Danube, JETs in Action, etc.

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Ref.: | Leader: EUROPOL |
| OA 8.2 | |

Activity summary of the Operational Action

The Information Clearing House(ICH), a multi-agency / multi-stakeholder platform developed within the EMSC to enhance the intelligence picture on criminal networks and HVTs operating along migrant smuggling routes with a geographical focus on 3rd source and transit countries.

As part of the EMSC, the ICH, by pooling together information from EU Agencies and partners, including EUNAVFORMED – Operation IRINI, will facilitate the collection, analysis, development and dissemination of actionable intelligence products to competent law enforcement agencies with a focus on criminal networks and HVTs active in source and transit countries for migrant smuggling.

This will be achieved, in particular, through:

- Providing a common platform for EU Agencies, military, law enforcement and other stakeholders to exchange intelligence on criminal networks operating along the migration corridors;
- Pro-actively identifying relevant counterparts, including from source and transit countries to enhance the intelligence picture on organised migrant smuggling;
- Collect information from a wide range of stakeholders and produce actionable intelligence products aimed at facilitating the setting up of OTF;
- The ICH participants will, subject to the developments in the criminal landscape, jointly draft thematic / strategic intelligence products, especially on priority third countries for migrant smuggling in support of EU and MS political decision making processes by integrating the intelligence processed by Frontex, EUROPOL, Interpol and Eunavformed – Operation IRINI (subject to Mission's mandate) as well as data received from traditional and non-traditional partners (e.g. EEAS).

To proactively support the identification and disruption of OCGs involved in migrant smuggling in 3rd source and transit countries by providing actionable intelligence packages to competent law enforcement agencies.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets

| |
|---|
| a) Number of intelligence products (24) |
| b) Number of HVTs identified (4) |
| c) Number of OTFs supported (2) |

Type of Operational Action

Operational, Data collection/data exchange.

Activities under the Operational Action and timing

| Activity | Timing |
|--|------------------|
| 1) Pool intelligence from EU Agencies, EEAS, the EUNAVFORMED and other stakeholders. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) Analyse, enhance, draft and disseminate actionable intelligence products to competent law enforcement agencies. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) Support in identifying HVTs. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 4) Support the setting up of OTFs. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |

Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority**Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD)**

This OA is envisaged to also support JAD(s) organised with the participation of MS, Europol, Interpol, Frontex and EUNAVFOR MED as well as Third countries. They shall cover both, irregular migration and document fraud but shall also address trafficking of human beings and illicit goods.

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Ref.: OA 8.3 | Leader: CEPOL |
| Activity summary of the Operational Action | |
| To enhance the external dimension and cooperation with non-EU partners through capacity building, targeting law enforcement officials, judicial authorities and other potential relevant partners from the regions of Western Balkans (WB), Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Middle East/North Africa (MENA) involved in fighting migrant smuggling. | |
| Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and target values | |
| a) Number of delivered training activities (Target = 6). | |
| b) Number of trained participants (Target = 150). | |
| c) Satisfaction rate (Target = 90%). | |
| Type of Operational Action | |
| 4-Knowledge/training | |
| Activities under the Operational Action and timing (<i>Short description– 5 lines maximum per activity</i>) | |
| Activity | Timing |
| 1) To organise onsite and online specialized training courses targeting migrant smuggling with the awareness raising and promotion of EMPACT. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 2) To implement workshops and webinars on the subjects based on WB, EaP and MENA countries initiatives. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| 3) To prioritise and incorporate Exchange, Mentoring Programme and study visits addressing migrant smuggling operations/investigations. | Q1-Q4 2024/25 |
| Links to other Operational Action Plans (OAP)/priority | |
| - OAP 'High-risk criminal networks'. | |
| Horizontal activities / Joint Action Days (JAD) | |