



*"With the support of the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme  
European Commission – Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security"*

## International Specialist Law Enforcement



### Project Partners

The Serious Organised Crime Agency (**SOCA**) in the United Kingdom (UK);  
General Commissioner's Office Directorate Special Units (**CGSU**) in Belgium (BE); &  
Bundeskriminalamt (**BKA**) in Germany (DE).

### **Europol assistance providing a secure data base and product branding**

#### Introduction

SOCA, CGSU and BKA have been awarded funds through the European Commission (EC) Specific Programme 'Prevention of, and Fight against Crime'. The award is for the establishment of a project called 'International Specialist Law Enforcement' (ISLE).

The purpose of Project ISLE is to build a network of European Member State (MS) Organisations that will develop co-ordination, co-operation and mutual understanding amongst law enforcement agencies using 'Specialist Techniques'.

'Specialist Techniques' are skills employed to facilitate the lawful gathering of information in an intrusive but covert manner. These skills are strictly controlled in the European Union (EU) by legislation relating to the protection of human rights. They include methods of covert entry into premises or vehicles; covert searches of property; use of covert forensic capabilities; and the facilitation of covertly installed technical devices.

The EU ensures that MS legislation is consistent with individual human rights, but all MS Organisations do not share common law enforcement powers to practice 'Specialist Techniques'.

Project ISLE is currently maximising established partnerships to build a workgroup (WG) of practitioners throughout the EU.

The primary aim of the WG is to achieve long-term communication between 'Specialist Technique' practitioners.

Objectives are –

- Expand on existing partnerships and create new ones, including developing MS, to promote and develop co-ordination, co-operation and mutual understanding of 'Specialist Techniques' used by law enforcement agencies and other related bodies in the EU;
- Broaden the range of 'Specialist Techniques' used by MS by sharing knowledge on capability, identifying common standards and jointly developing new technologies to gather information; and
- Implement an agreed control strategy with shared responsibility and engagement in achieving a long-term program of activity toward the development of 'Specialist Techniques'.



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### Outline work requiring Europol support

It is essential that detailed information is shared openly between WG participants. This information will include some of the most sensitive techniques used in covert law enforcement and will require controlled access.

Communication methods should include:

- Discussion forum;
- Private web-mailing;
- User profiles;
- Contacts;
- Calendar; and
- Document library.

The WG comprises of a growing number of practitioners from MS law enforcement organisations.

The requirements to participate are:

- Confidentiality  
*The organisation is able to provide written evidence, in English, of compliance with European-wide rules on the handling of confidential information;*
- Legislation  
*The organisation is able to provide written evidence, in English, showing relevant legislation that is both compatible with Human Rights and which enables covert gathering of information as evidence in criminal proceedings;*
- National Positioning  
*The organisation is positioned with National responsibilities and is able to exchange 'specialist technique' information with other WG participants;*
- Capability  
*The organisation regularly engages in covert collection of information, employing full-time practitioners for this purpose. Practitioners are trained specifically in 'specialist techniques'; and*
- Commitment  
*The organisation is able to sign agreed Terms of Reference and willing to commit to continued participation in the project for a period of at least two years.*

Europol is well placed to assist in establishing a European-wide secure data network and branding. Existing or developing technologies based on a secure communication network for law enforcement may be adopted.