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NOTE

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Subject: EU Policy Cycle - Implementation monitoring
Progress Report OAP 2016 - Facilitation of illegal immigration

Delegations will find attached the Progress Report 2016 of the Operational Action Plan - Facilitation of illegal immigration.

The report was discussed during the National EMPACT Coordinators (NEC) meeting held at Europol on 22-23 November 2016.

| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
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| OA 1.1 | <p>Provision of the situational picture of the current trends within the irregular migratory pressure.</p> <p>Europol FP Checkpoint Early Warning Notifications / Frontex risk analysis updates and other strategic intelligence products</p> | <p>Leader: EUROPOL FRONTEX</p> <p>Co-Leader: n/a</p> | <p>Preparation and dissemination of FP Checkpoint Early Warning Notifications and Intelligence Notifications to ENUs and specifically to participants to the priority. Preparing and sharing Europol strategic analysis products on facilitation of illegal immigration on a regular basis to participants of the priority (e.g. threat assessments, risk assessments, gap analysis, stakeholder analysis, tactical analysis, Europol Monitoring Centre Intelligence Notifications).</p> <p>Preparing and sharing Frontex analytical products on regular basis to participants of the priority (e.g. monthly analysis, Annual Risk Analysis report, FRAN Quarterly, thematic analysis such as European Union Document-Fraud annual risk analysis, Eastern European Borders (EB-RAN) products, Western Balkans (WB-RAN) products, Turkey-Frontex (TU-RAN) products).</p> <p>Preparing a joint analytical product if justified by operational needs and requested by MS.</p> <p>Regular updates on migratory pressure at the external borders and within the secondary movements at FII review meetings delivered together by Europol and Frontex.</p> | | | Ongoing during 2016 or upon request according to specific needs | <p>Goal:</p> <p>Deliver timely early warning notifications,</p> <p>Deliver intelligence and strategic reports in due time,</p> <p>Provide the constant update on the current situation of the migratory pressure in order to tailor the guidance for the on-going OAs and investigations,</p> <p>Seek for synergy with the analytical findings.</p> <p>KPIs:</p> <p>Number of Early Warning and Intelligence Notifications and other strategic intelligence products issued,</p> <p>Number of risk analysis reports delivered,</p> <p>Number of the updates provided during the FII EMPACT meetings.</p> |

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| | | | Developing Frontex and Europol products on the basis of MS feedback, and mutual consultations in order to achieve the synergy with the analytical findings. | | | | |
| <p>OAP 2015/2016 (continuous action)</p> <p>The European Migrant Smuggling Center (EMSC) has reinforced Europol capacity to provide updated and accurate strategic information to EU MS and operational stakeholders. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the EUROPOL Monitoring Team (EPMT) has been created in September 2015 to monitor migration flows and its impact on crime; since then, daily briefings is taking place with ELOs and daily reports are disseminated to law enforcement authorities in the MS and partner countries. To date 160 daily reports (EPMT) and regular EUROPOL weekly reports for the Integrated Situation Awareness and Analysis Situation Report (ISAA) have been delivered. <p>In addition, during the reporting period, substantial reports have been delivered within the area of Facilitation of Illegal Immigration, for instance, the “Migrant smuggling in the EU 2016” (Strategic report), the “Joint EUROPOL - Interpol report on migration flows” (to be released subject to finalizing the document and in agreement with Interpol).</p> <p>Moreover, the following product were delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Illegal immigration of Turkish citizen with forged Italian documents (EWN).Purchase of train tickets for migrant smuggling using fraudulently achieved credit card data (EWN).Re-emergence of armed individuals at sea (EWN).Possible re-emergence of the Turkey-Italy route using commercial vessels (EWN).Regular Open Sources intelligence (OSINT) bulletin.Unaccompanied minors in the EU - risks for exploitation <p>As far as Frontex is concerned, in 2016 analytical monthly product has been sent to Europol to be shared with all the key stakeholders and improve the knowledge of current trends and criminal phenomena. Regular updates in the field of irregular migration were already delivered during the FII kick-off meeting of the priority but also FRAN Quarterly, WB-RAN, EB-RAN, TU-RAN and AFIC reports for 2015 have been shared with Europol and MS as well.</p> <p>As agreed during a strategic meeting held in March, the information originating from the intelligence packages will be flowing in a more systematic way using the European Platform for Expert. All the non-restricted document will be uploaded and therefore made available and immediately accessible to the whole community registered in the EMPACT platform. The possibility to make uploadable documents by the Driver/co-Drivers/Action Leaders registered on the EPE is under examination to make the use of the Platform even more flexible and efficient.</p> | | | | | | | |

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| <i>Final Results</i> | <p>The Europol's SOCTA team and the EMSC have released a set of key documents as part of the OA 1.1, such as:</p> <p>Migrant smuggling to and in the EU, Expected changes April – May 2016 (Strategic Report -Intelligence Notification),</p> <p>Re-emergence of Turkey-Italy route using commercial vessels (Strategic Report, EWN),</p> <p>Sham marriages linked to FII (Strategic Report, EWN),</p> <p>Increased smuggling of Ukrainian nationals using Polish IDs (Strategic Report, EWN).</p> <p>During the reporting period, the EMSC – Strategic & Outreach Team continued the production and distribution of EUROPOL's Monitoring Team (EPMT) Report and the provision of weekly briefings on trends in the area of migrant smuggling to representatives of the liaison bureaus. More than 240 reports can be sent out already but also contributing to the IPCR community and the ISAA reports.</p> <p>As far as Frontex is concerned, in 2016 analytical monthly product continued to be sent to Europol to be shared with all the key stakeholders and improve the knowledge of current trends and criminal phenomena. Regular updates in the field of irregular migration were already delivered during the FII kick-off meeting of the priority but also FRAN Quarterly, WB-RAN, EB-RAN, TU-RAN and AFIC reports have been shared with Europol and MS as well.</p> <p>As agreed during a strategic meeting held in March, the information originating from the intelligence packages will be flowing in a more systematic way using the European Platform for Expert. All the non-restricted document are uploaded and therefore made available and immediately accessible to the whole community registered in the EMPACT platform (although a stronger effort must be made to timely uploads documents). The possibility to make uploadable documents by the Driver/co-Drivers/Action Leaders registered on the EPE is still under examination to make the use of the Platform even more flexible and efficient.</p> |
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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
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| OA 2.1 | Establishment of a Joint Operational Office (JOO) in Vienna (AT) for the fight against OCGs facilitating illegal immigration into the EU via the | Leader: AT Co-leader: n/a | The vast number of on-going investigations which have to be performed in parallel have shown the urgent need of a Joint Operational Office (JOO) on a temporary basis in order to provide common working space for the respective investigators from all countries effected. | | | February – December 2016 | <p>Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase of detections and identifications of human smuggling networks (number) - Enhance the cooperation and collaboration in |

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| | <p>south eastern route and the Balkan route</p> | <p>Supported by: BE, BG, DE, FI, HU, HR, RO, SE, SI, SK, UK</p> <p>EUROPOL FRONTEX</p> | <p>This joint operational office is foreseen to provide a temporary infrastructure; officers will only work together in the office on ad-hoc basis for limited days whenever operative investigations along the South East European route require face to face cooperation. The overall objective of the planned action is the creation of a regional intelligence/investigations node covering all aspects of illegal immigration which is fully embedded in the existing European Security Architecture (ESA).</p> <p>This will ensure the cooperation and collaboration with Europol, Frontex, Eurojust and EASO (European Asylum Support Office) and deliver operational results. No parallel structures will be created, much rather a seamless integration into all existing Law enforcement mechanism on EU as well as on national levels is foreseen. The strong cooperation with the planned European Migrant Smuggling Center will be an added value for all stakeholders. The JOO will serve as the operative link between the EMSC and all EU-HotSpots, destination and transit countries. The core task of the JOO is pure operational case work. Joint operational measures, sharing of information face to face, short processes, knowledge transfer and a quick implementation of operational measures will improve the fight against human smuggling and allow dismantling organized crime groups in an effective manner.</p> | | | | <p>operational investigations (operational focus)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Real Time Intelligence Exchange with Law Enforcement Bodies – speeding up processes during investigations - Support the planned EMSC by delivery of investigative findings and operative data. <p align="center">KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4-6 officers posted in JOO when needed - Minimum 5 common investigations initiated - Number of JITS (≥1) - Number of messages exchanged with Europol and partners (using SIENA) - min. 10 operational intelligence Reports |
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OAP 2016: Pending the decision on the Delegation Agreement, preliminary activities have been undertaken to prepare the Officec and the kick-off meeting will take place early May, along with the completion of JOO by Austrian Ministry of Interior. A selection of the investigation to be started inside the JOO is ongoing.

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| <i>Final Results</i> | <p>The JOO is an operational regional platform for fight against Organized Crime Groups (OCGs) facilitating illegal immigration into EU. The JOO enhances regional operational casework by providing improved infrastructure and know-how (e.g. wire-tapping facilities, specialised officers with language background). It supports the European Migrant Smuggling Center EMSC with operational data, investigative findings and strategic analysis.</p> <p>The JOO started its activities on the 1st April 2016. The Grant Agreement took effect by the 15th April 2016. AS for the operational performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 18 international investigations, together with Europol involvement, are ongoing;- JOO was used as platform on external request by Hungary (JAD Scirocco 2), Germany (2 operational meetings). All meetings involved Austria due to its geographic position.- 84 international investigators from 24 countries and international organisations: e.g. Europol, Interpol, German Bundespolizei, German Bundeskriminalamt, NNI Budapest, CH, used JOO facilities and know-how.- 5 monthly strategic analysis reports sent to EMSC.- 1 JIT concluded- 2 JADs concluded (Scirocco 2 with 39 arrested smugglers; in another intelligence led JAD in July 2016 a smuggler ring dismantled was dismantled by AT, HU and Europol)- Operational meetings held in the JOO from the budgets 2015 and 2016: 5- Around 160 SIENA messages concerning Illegal Immigration sent by AT to Europol every month. <p>JOO was also used for several strategic meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The kick-off meeting of Actions 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5 was held in the JOO on 3rd/4th May 2016- The strategic meeting of the Priority also took place in the JOO on 17th/18th May 2016.- in May as well the JOO hosted 2 members of the Polish Borderguard for 7 Days. Purpose was a mutual knowledge transfer concerning operational tactics and crime analysis.- On the 21st/22nd June the JAD Scirrocco 2 (Part of Action 2.2) was managed by the JOO together with the EMSC and Hungary (Action Leader). |
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In order to boost the difficult area of financial investigations and asset recovery a workshop was held on the 7th July 2016 at Europol. Purpose is to describe the financial models of OCGs, i.e. Hawala banking and to develop a best practice guide for financial investigations for the entire priority. In 2016 this business model will be tested in a pilot. In this initiative participate AT, Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, Western Union. In August the draft guide were produced and Europol organized a conference for that subject on 8th and 9th of September 2016. In order to get an overview about financial transactions of OCGs a dedicated questionnaire for investigators will be used to support this action. This questionnaire is a Europol and AT co-production and will be tested in AT over the summer to make it ready for use during the large scale JADs. The expected outcome is a European wide overview about trends which should fuel further financial investigations. A role for Western Union in the JADs is recommendable. However details for those JADs will be discussed in the said planning meeting.

The budget implementation rate for the Action 2.1 is satisfactory (even above 60%).

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| OA 2.2 | TranSEEt (Transiting South East Europe) Investigative action targeting organized crime groups operating on the south East/Western Balkan route | Leader: HU Co-Leader: AT Supported by: BG, DE, EL, FI, HR, PL, RO, SI, SK, UK EUROPOL EUROJUST FRONTEX CH | In 2015 an unprecedented migration wave has hit Europe along the Eastern-Mediterranean route. The immediate increase of the asylum seekers has created hubs for smugglers to facilitate their profitable illegal businesses and recruiters appear in the vicinity of hubs to offer their illegal services for 3rd country nationals. The aim of the action is to conduct investigations in all the countries, inside or outside EU, affected by the problem; to accelerate the real time information exchange and the operational response. Europol and Eurojust, as part of their general support work, will be invited to support the selected operations. Tailored operational and coordination meetings are envisaged in the framework of the investigations. It is also a primary aim to create good operational co-operation with Turkey to stop the influx of migrants in large quantities. | | | Kick off meeting: Q1 Joint investigation, Operative measures, identification of HUBs and real time Info sharing started: Q2 Joint Arrests Q3 und Q4 Reporting: Q4 | Goal: - Identification of organized crime Hub in the EU and 3rd countries concerned and dismantling of OCGs by increasing the number of arrests of key facilitators in EU operating in the identified hubs. KPIs: - Number of identified human smuggling criminal networks from Turkey to Europe along the Eastern-Mediterranean and then the Western-Balkan route - Number of dismantled OCG structure along the hubs of mass migration - Number of arrests of key facilitators |
| OAP 2015 update (OA 2.2 HU): An operation meeting was held in February with representatives of HU, D, IT, SI, EPL about an investigations against a Pakistani OCG based in Trieste. An operational meeting referring to a German led cases was held in January (D, PL, HU, EPL) about an investigations against a Syrian OCG smuggling of migrants in secondary routes; new link to PL (Op Blaszak) were discussed where there is a need for deeper analysis. Some bilateral meetings with RS and FYROM have also been hold, one in October visiting Gevgelija by AL. Two operational meetings led by D were approved by HU and were were | | | | | | | |

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organized and implemented by Germany. The need to restructure the 2015 budget emerged (the main request is to have funds for more operational meetings) and therefore a request to postpone the deadline by the end of 2016 will be forwarded by AL.

OAP 2015 update (OA 2.1 FALKO): Based on the invitation from Italian Border Police AT, D and HU participated in an operational meeting at the PCCC at Thörl-Maglern in the beginning of October 2015 where the representatives of the Italian Border Police presented a case summary of an the operation “DOUBLE TRIP” and the asked for the help of the law enforcement agencies of the participating states in order to dismantle that OCG operating in the invited countries with the aim of facilitation of migrants from Hungary toward Italy. Pieces of information were sent by Italian agencies to the participating states after the meeting but due to the change in border protection along the Hungarian Schengen border and the change in modus operandi used by the OCGs dealing with facilitation of illegal immigration parallel investigations could not be initiated in other states.

With the participation of AT, CH, DE, HU, HR, Kosovo¹, SI plus FRONTEX and Western Union a cooperation meeting took place in Budapest on 19-20/October 2015. The aim of the meeting was to discuss of the trends of the facilitated illegal immigration and plan the next coordinated steps. It was assessed that illegal immigration flow from Kosovo reduced dramatically after March 2015 but OCGs with members of Kosovo nationals residing in EU countries remained active in this field and facilitated migrants from other countries as well. Pieces of operational information were communicated by Kosovo Police about an OCG with members of Kosovo nationals facilitating illegal immigrants from Kosovo, Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan. A new investigation (Op KALIPOLI) was initiated in HU based on those pieces of information Kosovo Police shared in the coordination meeting in Budapest. Later AT also initiated investigation (Op PODUJEVO) in this case. Pieces of operation information gathered in the initiated operations were sent to EUROPOL Checkpoint for further and joint analysis.

Based on the conclusions of this coordination meeting, AL asked Europol to endorse the necessary change in mandate, the request was approved and the mandate of FALKO Action is now the operational cooperation with Kosovo Police in order to combat those OCGs with members of Kosovo nationals residing in EU MSs facilitating illegal immigrants from any countries. Information about an OCG with members of Kosovo nationals dealing with smuggling minors from Kosovo through Hungary and Austria toward Italy were sent to participants. An operational meeting took place on 9 March 2016 at EUROPOL. Participants: A, CH, D, H, HR, Kosovo, PL, SLO. The topics: Op KALIPOLI/Op PODUJEVO and the minor case. In the course of the meeting the participants exchanged information obtained during the investigations launched in MSs against those perpetrators originating from Kosovo, having residence in Austria and massively cooperate with other perpetrators in Turkey, Kosovo and Serbia. The participants also agreed to approach the competent Serbian authorities to ask them to be involved in the operational cooperation; actually, those smugglers identified as ones being engaged in human smuggling of mainly Turkish and Kosovo citizens from the direction of Serbia to Hungary and further to Austria very often travel from Austria to Serbia where they organize the criminal offences with those responsible for helping the migrants through the Serbian-Hungarian border. The responsible analyst from EUROPOL presented the outcome of the analytical work done based on those pieces of information interested MSs contributed. Turkish connections could be identified based on the presentation. The participants also agreed to take a step toward Turkey as well in order to improve the operational cooperation with the country in question as well. Kosovo expressed its willingness to initiate an investigation based on those pieces of Kosovo-related information exchanged.

¹ 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.

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In the second half of March arrests were conducted in Austria and Hungary. 6 identified perpetrators (2 Austrian with Kosovo origin, 2 Serbian and 2 Romanian) were arrested on 17 and 25/March. All of them were detained and formal criminal investigations have been initiated against them. The arrested perpetrators transported altogether 21 migrants from Turkey and Kosovo but based on intelligence obtained they are likely to be liable for much more criminal offences of human smuggling when they smuggled migrants from Serbia to the territory of EU. The operational meeting with Serbian authorities was cancelled after the arrests.

OAP 2016: The Action Leader undertook the preliminary steps and addressed all participating MSs and relevant third countries as well with a request to send us names and contact details of participants, to be addressed with concrete requests in case of need (information exchange or operational meeting). Some of the requested countries have already sent the availabilities of their contact persons. In June 2016 the AL plans to run a Joint Operation called SIROCCO-2, consisting of real time exchange of intelligence among participants, and the invitation letter has just been launched to the relevant countries. The idea, as it was in 2015, is to closely follow activities of OCGs monitoring smuggling activities and possibly detect and stop cross-border activities. The Operation is important to assess the situation on the field after the closure of the so-called "Balkan Route" and receive indication on possible new migration route and consequent activities of the facilitators.

Final Results - OAP 2015-

OA 2.2 - After the reorganization of budget based on some activities (kick-off meeting, asset purchases), which have become inadequate in the meantime, tailored operational meetings (3 meetings) and case officers meetings (10 meetings) were planned. Before modification of budget several operational took effect, meetings were organized from red envelope. The budget was restructured in March and the finish date is now 15 novembre 2016.

Tailored operational meetings: Among MSs, 3rd Countries and EU agencies such as Europol and Eurojust met 3 times in the Hague in order to discuss the operational measures against the respective OCG. This activity includes sharing real-time intelligence and the coordination of future steps, co-ordinated by Europol EMSC and MS worked to coordinate priority investigations. Cases were op. Blaszak, op. Lorry case (meetings i The Hague), and op. KAMAN (meeting in Vienna JOO).

Case officers meetings: Within this activity are planned 10 bilateral meetings between the investigators from MSs and 3rd Countries to exchange information directly in the early phase of investigation to build up an extended European investigation in order to initiate mirror investigations, and continuously monitoring the common work planning the future measures.

Activities and results in the cases are listed below:

Q-Rent case: operational meeting in The Hague in order to harmonize the investigative measures in Hungary, Germany, Italy, and Slovenia, interrogation of a Pakistani perpetrator by 3 Hungarian investigator in Slovenia based on MLA request, taking over 1 Pakistani person based on EAW by Hungarian authority. Planned measure: interrogation of a Pakistani perpetrator by 3 Hungarian investigators in Italy based on MLA request

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Lorry case (71 died migrants): preparatory meeting between Austria and Hungary to prepare for the expanded meeting, operational meeting in Budapest in order to harmonize the investigative measures in Hungary, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, supporting the investigation with special language knowledge by a Bulgarian officer in Budapest (two times), meeting in The Hague at EUROPOL in order to consult with the special analyst of EMSC

Kasmir case: JIT with the participation of Austria, Serbia and Hungary, interrogation of a Hungarian perpetrator by 3 Hungarian investigators in Austria within the JIT, interrogation of 2 witnesses by 3 Hungarian investigators in Austria within the JIT, interrogation of 2 Hungarian perpetrators by 3 Hungarian investigator in Italy within the JIT. Planned measures: The case will be concluded and prosecuted in Hungary against 22 perpetrators, and offering the criminal procedure for the Serbian authority against 1 Serbian high level organizer.

Operation Blaszak: case officers meeting in Budapest participation of Polish, German, Austrian and Hungarian authorities in order to harmonize the future steps in their intelligence and investigations.

Case 341 (Hungarian case number): interrogation of 5 Hungarian and 1 Afghan perpetrators by 3 Hungarian investigators in Austria,

Case 472 (JIT with Slovakia): JIT participation of Slovakia and Hungary, case officers meeting in Slovakia in order to preparation of actions in the territory in Slovakia, Actions between 04.04.-08.04.2016. in Slovakia participation of 6 Hungarian investigators (capturing of a main facilitator, and after taking over by EAW, house searches, interrogation of 4 Slovakian perpetrators, interrogation of 2 Slovakian witnesses), meeting in Slovakia participation of the Hungarian and Slovakian investigators and prosecutors in order to plan the further steps within the JIT in order to avoid double penalty, common press conference in Slovakia participation of the Hungarian and Slovakian investigators and prosecutors, interrogation of 1 witness by 3 Slovakian investigators in Hungary within the JIT, The case was concluded and prosecuted against 11 perpetrators in Hungary, 2 more persons in Slovakia.

Operation KAMAN: case officers meeting in Austria participation of Austria, Hungary, Germany in order to planning the common action, capturing of 3 Afghani perpatrators in Hungary together with German investigators based on MLA,

Operation Kripta (case Trip Czech Republic): case officers meeting in Czech Republic (Prague) participation of Slovakian, Hungarian and Czech investigators in order to planning the future measures, and exchange the actual information,

Operation by Austrian authority: case officers meeting in Poland participation of Austrian and Polish investigators

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OA 2.1 FALKO - An application for extension of the action with restructured budget was endorsed by EUROPOL in May/2016. Middle of July 2016, an operational meeting took place in Prishtina with the participation of the law enforcement agencies of Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Slovenia as well as specialist from EUROPOL. The operational meeting was necessary because of the pieces of information gathered during the investigation (op KAPO) initiated by Kosovo Police. During the meeting the participating countries agreed to open new investigations in Hungary and Slovenia because organizers from Kosovo transport illegally minor migrants from Kosovo to Hungary first then from Hungary to Italy where they apply for asylum. The participating Hungarian expert informed the other participants about the operational meetings in Belgrade and Ankara (financed from Action TranSEEt under OAP 2016) with Serbian and Turkish authorities because the members of the targeted group cooperate with Serbian and Turkish nationals as well and this group facilitates migrants to go to EU not only from Kosovo but from Turkey as well. Hungary initiated an investigation as agreed but no additional information could be obtained in that investigation. Slovenia finally could not initiate its own investigation because of its adherence to rogatory letter from Kosovo and the prosecutor responsible for the case in Kosovo did not fulfill this request. In the meantime the perpetrators changed the route they use for smuggling due to tightened border control along the Serbian-Hungarian border line. Transports were stopped in Croatia where investigation was initiated. Based on evidence gathered by Kosovo Police arrests have been scheduled in Kosovo for the second half of October. EUROPOL EMSC analysts and the Action Leader have been invited to support the operation.

Due to the lack of Operational Agreement between EUROPOL and Kosovo Police the Action Leader of FALKO was asked to intermediate in between because Kosovo Police finalized a case under the name of "TUTORI" with numerous pieces of data referring to international links. Based on bilateral agreement Kosovo Police required Hungary to provide technical assistance in extracting those pieces of data stored in mobile phones, computers, printers seized by Kosovo Police from perpetrators identified in case "TUTORI". Hungary forwarded this request to EUROPOL because the Hungarian Police did not have enough technical capacity. EUROPOL EMSC analysts travelled to Prishtina and extracted the seized devices. The extract was handed over to the Action leader then – as Hungarian contribution but with reference to the case handled by Kosovo Police – sent to EUROPOL EMSC. Analyzed data was sent back via the same channel.

In September/2016, the Croatian and Slovenian authorities conducted a joint action under Operation "ALBA" in the middle of September when – in a coordinated way – Albanian, Croatian and Slovenian citizens were arrested due to the suspicion of being involved in the criminal activities of an OCG dealing with smuggling of Kosovar and Albanian migrants from Croatia to Slovenia with the final destination of Italy in the period between April-August/2016. The arrested suspects collaborated with other perpetrators as well from Albania, Kosovo, Croatia and Slovenia.

Planned activities: arrests in Operation "KAPO" in Kosovo in the second half of October with the involvement of EUROPOL EMSC; final operational meeting in the first half of November and then closure of the Action.

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Final Results OAP 2016

A preparatory meeting has been scheduled for 20/May at EUROPOL where the invited parties (Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Italy) determined the main goals and the method of implementation of JAD “SIROCCO 2”. The JAD was scheduled for 21-22/June.

First “Skopje Trilateral 2015” Meeting in Budapest (beginning of June) Representatives of competent Hungarian, Serbian and Macedonian agencies met the first time in Budapest in the beginning of June in order to talk about current trends in migration flow in the Balkan route and pieces of concrete data obtained in ongoing investigation launched in this field in order to find cases appropriate for operational cooperation.

Case officers meeting in Belgrade (15/June/2016). During the investigations ran parallel in Hungary (KALIPOLI) and Austria (PODUJEVO) under Action FALKO, OAP 2015 some key organizers were identified active in the territory of Serbia. The Serbian authorities were asked in the case officers meeting to initiate an investigation against the identified organizers based on some Serbian phone numbers used by the organizers handed over in the meeting. The Serbian authorities pledged to be cooperative in the case and the attempt for the involvement of Turkish authorities also was agreed.

Implementation of Joint Operation “SIROCCO 2” (21-22/June/2016) With the participation of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia the Joint Operation “SIROCCO 2” was implemented on 21-22/June. EUROPOL supported it with analysts deployed to Germany, Hungary and the Joint Operational Centre set up at JOO in Vienna. During the joint operation 39 smugglers and altogether 580 illegal immigrants were apprehended in the participating states. The main aim (the intensified communication, the operational information exchange sped up and accelerated operational police measures amongst more states) was achieved.

Working visit to Turkey (28-29/June/2016). With the participation of the representatives of the Hungarian and Austrian law enforcement agencies a working visit was payed to Ankara where strategic and operational matters were discussed with the competent Turkish agency. The participation of the representative of Kosovo Police had to be cancelled because of the request from the Turkish Police (with the explanation of the lack of any agreement between Turkey and Kosovo). The Turkish authorities expressed their willingness to take part in Action TranSEEt (all related questions were discussed). In the operational part of the meeting Turkish authorities were asked to initiate an investigation against key organizers (active in Turkey and closely linked to other facilitators in Serbia) of facilitated immigration from Turkey toward EU based on some pieces of operational information coming up from investigation run in Hungary (KALIPOLI) under Action FALKO, OAP 2015. Many pieces of operational information were handed over. The Turkish authorities pledged to cooperate in this case (information exchange would be implemented via SELEC) and based on the indications received from them the investigation in Turkey has been ignited. Next operational meeting took place Budapest with the participation of Hungary, Serbia and Turkey, SELEC was asked to organize and finance that meeting.

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Tailored operational meeting in Vienna (27-28/July/2016). A tailored operational meeting took place in Vienna with the participation of the representatives of Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Romania, Slovakia and EUROPOL. The main topics of the operational meeting were the questions of operational cooperation in Operation KAWA (on 27/07/2016) and IMPULSE (on 28/07/2016). Both operations had been initiated by German investigative units that identified some key organizers in Hungary and Slovakia linked to the mentioned operations. Based on pieces of information disseminated by German authorities before the meeting Slovak authorities opened an investigation. During the meetings the participating states discussed how to cooperate in the mentioned operations. Hungary presented details of an ongoing investigation against that person German authority identified as the main organizer in Budapest in Operation KAWA. An investigation was initiated in Hungary after the meeting that is linked to Operation IMPULSE (against identified organizers in Budapest). EUROPOL EMSC was addressed with pieces of operational information coming from the Hungarian investigation. A follow up operational meeting is foreseen in this case. Regarding Operation KAWA, the main organizer identified in the German investigation was arrested in Hungary in September 2016.

A second “Skopje Trilateral 2015” meeting was held in Belgrade in September were representatives of competent Hungarian and Serbian agencies met in order to talk about current trends in migration flow in the Balkan route and pieces of concrete data obtained in ongoing investigation launched in this field in order to find cases appropriate for operational cooperation. Although planned, the representatives of the competent Macedonian agencies finally did not participate in the meeting due to some in-house administrative matters. Participants agreed to organize a follow-up meeting in those concrete cases where joint interests were found. The meeting was financed by OSCE.

Planned activities: operational meeting in Budapest on 6-7/October with the participation of Hungarian, Serbian and Turkish authorities in that common investigation initiated during the previous meeting in Ankara; operational meeting at EUROPOL in the second half of October with the participation of Hungarian, German, Italian and Slovak authorities in an ongoing common investigation focusing an OCG dealing with transportation of migrants illegally entered Hungary toward Germany and Italy; operational meeting at EUROPOL in the second half of October with the participation of Bulgarian, Hungarian, German and Romanian authorities in the Operation “DONAU” initiated by German authorities.

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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
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| OA 2.3 | <p>JOT COMPASS II</p> <p>Action focusing on OCGs facilitating illegal border crossings towards and through Western European countries of the EU internal borders, and consequently on the illegal immigration predominantly transiting from The Central Mediterranean area into EU</p> | <p>Leader: FR</p> <p>Co-Leader: ES, NL, UK</p> <p>Supported by: AT, CZ, DE, DK, FI, IT, PT, SE</p> <p>EUROPOL FRONTEX EUROJUST</p> <p>CH</p> | <p>The action first step is to collect information from existing network of MS, analyse intelligence and disseminate it to countries bi-laterally involved via SIENA. Second step is to create joint investigations with countries where OCGs are located and investigate priority cases. Third step is to support coordination of common days of arrests, arrest high value targets in specific countries; investigate the financial side of OCGs activities in cooperation with FP SUSTRANS (and then seizing and recovering of criminal assets).</p> | SG 5 | 5.3 | <p>Step 1 and 2, 1st half 2016</p> <p>Step 3: 2nd half 2016</p> | <p>Goal:</p> <p>Disrupting OCGs involved in facilitated illegal border crossings in Western European countries of the EU internal borders, and consequently on the illegal immigration transit through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capturing intelligence on OCGs from all MS; - enrich intelligence by dissemination among the targeted countries; - use SIENA to share the enriched intelligence between MS; - create Joint Operational Teams with countries where OCGs are located or operating; - increase the seized amount of money <p>KPIs:</p> |

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| | | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of OCGs dismantled - Number of SIENA messages exchanged - Number of arrests - Number of operational meetings |
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OAP 2015

Referring to the different steps listed before the launch of the OA 2.3 JOT COMPASS, the first two steps have already been achieved. In detail: 1. key partners were identified; 2. the collection of information via different MS is an ongoing successful process (every day information are shared by MS and the AL listed approximately 250 SIENA messages plus 1200 external communications between FR, MS and agencies); 3. a significant use of Focal Point Checkpoint was made and several crosscheck reports were issued and disseminated ; 4. the daily use of SIENA messages helps the information to be exchanged. As for the dismantling of OCGs, four cases have clearly been prioritized by the action, for two of them is close the dismantling of OCGs.

As far as the operational cases are concerned, four of them are currently followed in the framework of the action.

CAPSULERIE. It deals with an OCG involved in the smuggling of migrants from China to Europe and crossing SP, FR, BE, NL borders. After the operational meeting held in 2015 wiretaps are ongoing in FR and NL and illegal border crossings have been identified. The general overview of the OCG showed that investigators are facing different active cells which facilitate the smuggling of migrants. The order givers are based in the UK. Arrests would hopefully take place during the first quarter of 2016 (FR, GB an NL are involved in that case).

MOGADISCIO. This case concerns an OCG involved in the smuggling of migrants from Somalia to EU and crossing IT, FR, BE, NL. The inquiry was initiated by the investigation unit (BMR) of Modane (French border police). After the meeting held in Paris in September 2015, thanks to the IT Liaison Officer, BMR Modane met in Turin the investigators of the « Squadra Mobile » and Italian Central Investigative Department (SCO) dealing with THB on Wednesday November 4th. The 21th January 2016 there was a meeting between FR (Modane), NL and IT (Torino) investigators (6 in total) at Europol. The 22th January 2016 a meeting took place at Eurojust. The next meeting has already been decided and will normally take place the 24th May 2016 to decide of a common day of arrests. An ILOR has been sent by FR to IT and NL to make wiretaps. Italian investigators have opened a parallel investigation concerning the main organizer based in Italy, the same did the NL after the reception of an ILOR sent by FR.

TEACHER. It deals with an OCG using a Chinese go-between who recruits Chinese potential migrants willing to join Europe (Schengen area or UK) but also America. These migrants travel with genuine passports with Turkish visas. During the trip they are accompanied by smugglers mostly with Malaysian origin but working for a person who has a serious criminal record for migrants smuggling (and already identified in « TIJA » and « CAPSULERIE » cases). Once in Istanbul, migrants are kept in a flat close to a travel agency. They remain a few days in Istanbul and receive a counterfeited Asian passport. The OCG chooses passports from countries that do not require visas to enter the Schengen area (South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia...). Holding counterfeited passports, the migrants are accompanied by a smuggler (plane or train) via Greece or Spain (Barcelona, Madrid) to reach France, the UK or America. There are ongoing wiretaps in FR. The

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21th January 2016 an operational meeting between investigators of OCRIEST, Nantes (French border Police) for France and UCRIF Madrid for Spain. They made useful cross-checks and SP gave information about locations and persons who accommodate migrants before organizing their travel to GB. Another meeting is in preparation with Portugal as new links have been made during the investigation. Belgium has also been contacted as a surveillance made by the OCRIEST showed that migrants are taking in charge in Belgium by smugglers.

NESSOS. The Czech authorities made a request for funding an operational meeting for a new case that deals with an Albanian OCG involved in illegal migration of Albanian migrants from Belgium via France to the United Kingdom. Czech citizens are involved in this crime as smugglers and organizers. Vehicles with CZ license plates rented through CZ rental companies are used to transport the migrants. An operational meeting took place in Europol the 2nd March 2016 with FR, BE, UK and CZ investigators. Parallel informal investigations and exchange of operational information have been planned.

OAP 2016

France (AL), Netherlands and Great Britain (Co-leaders) will continue to run the action 2.3 in 2016 with the help of Spain. Jot Compass 2 will benefit from the support of 3 new countries : Finland, Portugal and Czech Republic. The 3 steps have been slightly redefined. Step 1: collect information from existing network of MS; analyze intelligence; disseminate to countries bi-laterally involved via SIENA; Step 2: Joint investigations with countries where OCGs are located; investigate priority cases.

Step 3: Support coordination of common days of arrests; arrest high value targets in specific countries; investigate the financial issues of OCG with contributions to SUSTRANS, money laundering or asset recovery activities; seize criminal assets; recover criminal assets.

AL planned to use funds to organize 12 operational meetings. The aim is having more flexibility to create a good cooperation platform between investigators of different countries involved in the same case in a way that they could meet and discuss about strategic and operational issues regarding their common investigation. The funding of several surveillance and shadowing operations have been also planned.

Final Results OAP 2015

Referring to the different steps listed before the launch of the OA 2.3 JOT COMPASS, the first two steps have already been achieved. In detail: 1. key partners were identified; 2. the collection of information via different MS is an ongoing successful process (every day information are shared by MS and the AL listed approximately 250 SIENA messages plus 1200 external communications between FR, MS and agencies); 3. a significant use of Focal Point Checkpoint was made and several crosscheck reports were issued and disseminated ; 4. the daily use of SIENA messages helps the information to be exchanged. As for the dismantling of OCGs, four cases have clearly been prioritized by the action, for two of them is close the dismantling of OCGs.

As far as the operational cases are concerned, four of them are currently followed in the framework of the action.

CAPSULERIE. It deals with an OCG involved in the smuggling of migrants from China to Europe and crossing SP, FR, BE, NL borders. The 9th may 2016 : the French border police (OCRIEST and Border police of Roissy) dismantled the Chinese OCG in the framework of CAPSULERIE case. This network managed by road and by plane several Chinese migrants from France and Netherland to UK. These migrants travelled with a Chinese passport with a forged Schengen visa. The network provided accommodation and forged Asian passports to reach UK without visa (Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Republic of Macao...). The migrants had to pay 27000 euros per person to reach the Schengen area and they had to pay 12 or 13000 euros to reach UK. 12 people involved in the illegal network were arrested. 29 forged passports and 10 false IDs were found with 5 Chinese genuine

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| | <p>passports and 5 genuine Chinese IDs. Around 8000 euros were also seized during the operation (but also FCF, US\$, yuans...). 5 individuals were put in custody before trial and the others were indicted by the judge. Netherlands arrested also two suspects in April 2016. The 25th August 2016 : UK executed an European arrest warrant issued by France to the British Authorities and arrested one of the main organisers of the OCG.</p> <p>MOGADISCIO. This case concerns an OCG involved in the smuggling of migrants from Somalia to EU and crossing IT, FR, BE, NL. - The 12th April 2016 : a surveillance operation by FR investigators funded by the O.A 2.3. The 24th May 2016 a meeting at Torino (ITALY) took place between FR and IT investigators. The 11 October 2016 a meeting at Eurojust will take place with all the MS involved in that inquiry. A common day of arrests will be decided at this occasion. A meeting at Europol the previous day between investigators will be funded by the O.A 2.3. This case has a very high potential. The conclusion of this inquiry in 2016 should be a great success for the OA 2.3.</p> <p>TEACHER.It deals with an OCG using a Chinese go-between who recruits Chinese potential migrants willing to join Europe (Schengen area or UK) but also America. The 20th April 2016: operational meeting at Lisboa (PORTUGAL) between France, Spain and Portugal as new links have been made during the investigation with that country (funded by O.A 2.3).</p> <p>NESSOS.The Czech authorities made a request for funding an operational meeting for a new case that deals with an Albanian OCG involved in illegal migration of Albanian migrants from Belgium via France to the United Kingdom. An operational meeting took place at Europol the 2nd March 2016 with FR, BE, UK and CZ investigators (funded by O.A 2.3). Parallel informal investigations and exchange of operational information have been planned. CZ has stopped its own investigations. No more cases have been identified in FR.</p> |
| <p><i>Final Results OAP 2016</i></p> | <p>France (AL), Netherlands and Great Britain (Co-leaders) continue to run the action 2.3 in 2016 with the help of Spain. Jot Compass 2 benefits of the support of 3 new countries: Finland, Portugal and Czech Republic. The 3 steps have been slightly redefined. Step 1: collect information from existing network of MS; analyze intelligence; disseminate to countries bi-laterally involved via SIENA; Step 2: Joint investigations with countries where OCGs are located; investigate priority cases.</p> <p>Step 3: Support coordination of common days of arrests; arrest high value targets in specific countries; investigate the financial issues of OCG with contributions to SUSTRANS, money laundering or asset recovery activities; seize criminal assets; recover criminal assets.</p> <p>AL planned to use funds to organize 12 operational meetings. The aim is having more flexibility to create a good cooperation platform between investigators of different countries involved in the same case in a way that they could meet and discuss about strategic and operational issues regarding their common investigation. The funding of several surveillance and shadowing operations have been also planned.</p> <p>The 14th September 2016 the kick of meeting of Jot Compass 2 took place in Paris. Several presentations were developed and displayed (presentation on Operational action 2.3 - reminder of the origins of the O.A, activities supported by the O.A; presentation of CIVIPOL -role, advance fees, contacts -; assessment of the action until September 2016; presentation of the latest</p> |

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illegal immigration trends by FRONTEX; kind of intelligence to be shared -SIENA messages, identification of operational units- presentation of operational cases followed by the action - Mogadiscio and Teacher - .A new case has been presented (DO YOU DO). It is a Filipino OCG of illegal employment of aliens has been brought to light in the Saint Tropez and Paris areas (France). An operation in July 2016 in luxury houses of Saint Tropez confirmed the existence of that criminal network. Several protagonists have been identified such as organisers and contractors. The interviews of the arrested persons allowed the gathering of information under which this network has international ramifications and about the routes used to bring migrants to work in France. They arrived in France after a transit in the North of Europe (Denmark, Sweden) with Schengen visas fraudulently obtained thanks to members of the OCG living in Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The investigation unit of Marseille (French Border Police) is dealing with this case and a SIENA has been sent to interested countries to initiate a Jot Compass. DK and SE are interested to attend a meeting with FR for this case.

SP presented a new case, ABACO case, that could fit into the action. FR and PT could be interested to attend an operational meeting with ES to collaborate. One request for an operational meeting between FR and UK has been mentioned for the Teacher case.

During the meeting the head of the French OCRIEST/UCOLTEM made a short intervention in the morning and he asked to the representatives of the countries involved in the action to try to make a cartography of the strategic identified points where the migrants are smuggled in their national territory (highway station, train stations, ports...).

According to the data provided by Europol, from 1.1.2016 there are:

274 new Siena messages received linked to the field covered by this action (226 in siena + 48 in CMT);

25 Siena cases flagged JOT Compass 2.3 by MS in Siena (subject field);

4 cases effectively supported by OA 2.3 delegation agreement.

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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
|-----------|---|--|---|-------------|-------------|--|---|
| OA 2.4 | Integrate money laundering and asset recovery techniques on all operational actions where substantial criminal proceeds are suspected | <p>Leader: EUROPOL</p> <p>Co-Leaders: FP Sustrans FP Asset Recovery FP Checkpoint</p> <p>Supported by: AT, BE, BG, CY, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, UK</p> <p>EUROJUST</p> <p>CH, NO</p> | <p>Part 1: FP Sustrans and FP Asset Recovery will provide support to the Action Leaders and participants to: Initiate, at the earliest possible opportunity, parallel financial investigations dedicated to detect the origin, movements and final destination of criminal proceeds and to provide the basis for seizure/confiscation opportunities</p> <p>Part 2: Relevant Action Leaders of Operational Actions of this OAP will further promote the implementation of this horizontal matrix at national level which results will be reported to the DRIVER.</p> | | | <p>1st evaluation /review For Driver Reporting May 2016</p> <p>2nd evaluation /review For Driver Reporting Oct. 2016</p> | <p>Goal: To ensure Action Leaders and participants are fully supported in Financial investigations, ML and AR activities following OAs against OCGs and individuals accumulating wealth from illicit activities.</p> <p>KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of Siena contributions to FP Sustrans & FP Asset Recovery - No. of reports delivered by FP Sustrans & FP Asset Recovery - No. of operations supported by FP Sustrans & FP Asset Recovery - No. of action days supported by FP Sustrans & FP Asset Recovery |

OAP 2015/OAP 2016:

Only one Siena was received by FP Sustrans relating to EMPACT illegal migration. In addition to that:

- representatives of FP attended the financial investigations workshop for two-day NL presidency meeting on promoting a multidisciplinary approach to migrant smuggling
- Presentation to FIUs in support of NL-led project on financial flows related to migration crimes in the framework of Dutch EU Presidency 2016;
- Organisation and facilitation of workshop on finances and presentation of conclusions at 2nd Europol/Interpol Conference on Illegal Migration;
- Bilateral meeting with NL FIU representatives to arrange data collection/ information exchange for project on financial flows related to migration crimes;
 - Attendance at and contribution to Op BIRDS meeting
 - Presentation to EU Commission on financial investigations.

FP Asset Recovery is fully supporting the A4 case (71 dead people in the truck, SIENA 1155151-117-2)

Final Results

The Financial Intelligence Group, namely FP Sustrans and FP Asset Recovery, are providing continued and focused support to enhance financial investigations as foreseen under OA 2.4 – of the FII OAP. As the number of specific operational contributions by the Member States to both Focal Points are still very low, it is clear that there is a need to focus on extracting better value from financial intelligence in general. A number of activities have been initiated during the last months, in close co-operation with the EMSC and the Driver/Co-Driver, to achieve this goal (such as attendance and presence to several conference, seminar, initiatives aimed at better raising awareness of the financial side of the investigation). No money laundering investigation in relation to migrant smuggling has been conducted in Europe (FP Sustrans, Eurojust) in the past couple of years. Money is difficult to be detected in transit phase, transfers mostly happen between source and destination countries, and usually not along the same routing and time as the smuggling is done. Although migrant smugglers try to elude legal banking systems the bank transactions still could show the smugglers' movement while perpetrating crime. The swift information exchange with bank system is an utmost importance both at national and international level.

EMSC run and hosted a relevant project Expert Meeting on Migrant Smuggling and Financial Investigations last 8/9 September, 2016, Europol, The Hague. Austria is leading an activity aimed at better informing investigators on the field and standardize the gathering of information on the financial side of human smuggling.

According to the data provided by Europol, in Focal Point ARO there are only 13 SIENA messages concerning migrant smuggling have been forwarded since 2014.

MS LEAs should increase the information exchange with Europol's dedicated Focal Point. No significant asset recovery activities have been reported in migrant smuggling cases. Therefore there is a need to increase the number of asset recovery measures at national level, better domestic co-operation shall be established between national FIUs/AROs and law enforcement agencies regardless to their position in the governmental structure.

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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
|-----------|---|---|--|-------------|--|---|---|
| OA 2.5 | Dismantling criminal networks facilitating illegal immigrants from Turkey to Greece in order to get to South East and Central Europe. | <p>Leader: EL</p> <p>Co-Leader: n/a</p> <p>Supported by: AT, BG, DE, FI, HU, HR, UK</p> <p>EUROPOL FRONTEX</p> | Thorough investigations will be held by the competent authorities aiming at dismantling the criminal networks involved in the facilitation of illegal immigrants from Turkey to Greece in order to get to South East and Central Europe. | SG 2 | 2.2 2.3 3.1 5.2 5.3 5.4 | <p>Q1: Intelligence gathering at local and central level and information exchange with the participating MSs</p> <p>Q2: Dissemination of analytical findings regarding the targets of the criminal network among MSs</p> <p>Q3: Operational meetings in order to coordinate a Joint</p> | <p>Goal: To identify the criminal networks involved in the facilitation of illegal Immigrants from Turkey to Greece in order to get to South East and Central Europe.</p> <p>KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information exchanged - Number of analytical findings disseminated - Number of operational meetings. - Number of cases revealed. - Number of facilitators arrested. - Joint Action Day. |

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| | | | | | | <p>Action Day.</p> <p>Q4:</p> <p>Implementa tion of a Joint Action Day.</p> | |
| <p>OAP 2015 (Action 2.5) update: Due to the continue delay in the issuing of the foreseen EAW, the action moved slower than expected. However, in the framework of the Action, Greek Police (Thessaloniki Aliens Division) eventually ran an operation in 2015 in the case called “MAHMOUD-JAMAL”, following a wide investigation about an organized criminal group facilitating irregular migration (mainly Syrians) from Turkey to Greece and then to other EU MS via the Balkan route (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary, Austria, Germany and further northwards). More specifically, on 3 november an operational meeting took place in the Hague after a request by the Thessaloniki Aliens Division. Representatives from Hellenic, Austrian, Hungarian, Swedish and UK police attended this operational meeting. Hellenic police (Thessaloniki Aliens Division) presented the analytical findings of its investigation –twenty four (24) persons were accused of which one (1) was at UK, five (5) at Austria, two (2) at Sweden and one (1) at Hungary- and also it was agreed to organize a Joint Action Day in order to apprehend the members of the OCG simultaneously. The Joint Action Day was carried out on 02-12-2015 with twenty three (23) arrests of suspects – seven (7) in Austria, thirteen (13) in Greece, two (2) in Sweden and one (1) in UK. There was also a relative press release by EUROPOL (see at: https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/huge-pan-european-operation-dismantles-migrant-smuggling-network)</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>OAP 2016: Due to a change both of the Action leader and the co-Driver, the hand-over is more slow and fragmented. However, taking also in consideration that the funds from Delegation Agreement are not available yet, some preliminary activites have already been carried out. So far, two different meetings are planned, one took place on 11 April 2016 with 11 participants, where several strategic topics were discussed (national overview of the immigration phenomenon per country, identification of new trends, links between immigration and other serious crimes, immigration and economical issues, analysis of on-going cases, on-going measures and co-operation with third-countries) and a second operational meeting planned early June of 2016 at Europol. In addition to that, another operational meeting will be held on the 21st of April 2016 at Europol relating to operational information exchange on the on-going operation “HERMES”, launched by Attica Aliens Division. This operation is linked with the also on-going operation “GRINGO” which is investigated by the authorities of Czech Republic and with an on-going case of the French authorities. The modus operandi of the OCG, which involves suspects from Czech Republic, France, Austria, Spain, Germany, Denmark, United Kingdom and Turkey, includes the use of courier companies sending parcels abroad, containing travel documents stolen or lost counterfeited or not, with counterfeited residence permits on them.</p> | | | | | | | |

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| <p>Final Results OAP 2015</p> | <p>Due to a change both of the Action leader and the co-Driver, the hand-over was fragmented. Two different meetings were organized, one took place on 11 April 2016 with 11 participants, where several strategic topics were discussed (national overview of the immigration phenomenon per country, identification of new trends, links between immigration and other serious crimes, immigration and economic issues, analysis of on-going cases, on-going measures and co-operation with third-countries) and a second operational meeting early June of 2016 at Europol Headquarters. In addition to that, another operational meeting was held on the 21st of April 2016 at Europol Headquarters relating to operational information exchange on the on-going operation “HERMES”, launched by Attica Aliens Division (de facto part of the OAP 2016). This operation is linked with the also on-going operation “GRINGO” which is investigated by the authorities of Czech Republic and with an on-going case of the French authorities. The modus operandi of the OCG, which involves suspects from Czech Republic, France, Austria, Spain, Germany, Denmark, United Kingdom and Turkey, includes the use of courier companies sending parcels abroad, containing travel documents stolen or lost counterfeited or not, with counterfeited residence permits stacked on them.</p> |
| <p>Final Results OAP 2016</p> | <p>A Kick-of Meeting has been organized by AT, HU and GR and took place on 3/4 May 2016 in the Joint Operational Office in Vienna, Austria. Experts from 17 Countries were invited and attended. The Action Day of Operation “Ermis” was conducted on May 25th 2016, Europol deployed its mobile office for on-the-spot intelligence analysis. Two Organized Crime Groups operating in parallel in facilitation of illegal immigration have been dismantled, 16 foreign nationals have been arrested, 38 more were not located or arrested and 51 suspects are currently living in other EU countries. The case is directly connected with 11 MS Involved, almost 300 sienna messages exchanged since December, 219 of them since March 2016. Both OCGs sent and received at least 557 parcels containing travel documents since November 2015, 52 of them containing 111 documents were seized.</p> <p>Since February 2016 within the framework of Operation Ermis, during house and shop searches, 92 passports, 70 ID cards, 10 driving licenses, 10 residence permits, 7 health cards, 3 asylum cards, 2 police issued certificates, 5 birth certificates, 6 blank certificates and degrees, large number of blank plastic cards [ID type] and more than 7.000 digital files (approximately 80GB), were found and seized in total. An informal database is used to register forged and falsified documents in a digital form. About 2.000 documents have been inserted so far and are being shared and cross-checked by Europol. Up to now there have been several hits, involving cases in different MS regarding illegal immigration. On 14 June 2016 training was provided to Police Officers working in Aliens Departments, regarding the distribution of falsified or forged documents (passports, ID cards, visas) to third country nationals.</p> <p>Ongoing events: an operational meeting has already been organized on 12 September 2016, and the 2nd and last operational meeting will be held later this year. A meeting with the managers of several courier companies will be organized in October, to inform them in order to address phenomena like these in a better way. Operation Ermis is ongoing, as more and more Sienna messages containing intelligence are being shared and new cases arise in different MS. Furthermore, Eurojust is forwarding our requests for judicial assistance to MS (for house searches, etc.). European Arrest warrants by the Greek Judicial Authorities pending.</p> <p><u>According to the data provided by Europol, from 1.1.2016 there are:</u></p> |

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| | <p>30 new Siena messages received linked to the field covered by this action (17 in Siena + 13 in CMT); 1 Siena cases flagged Eastern Mediterranean Route 2.5 by MS in Siena (subject field); 1 case effectively supported by OA 2.5 delegation agreement.</p> |
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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
|-----------|--|---|---|-------------|-------------|--------|---|
| OA 2.6 | Operational Action PEGASUS focused on tackling the facilitated irregular migration within air border domain. | Leader: FRONTEX Co-leader: n/a Supported by: EUROPOL INTERPOL MS will be involved on the basis of the separate procedure applicable to Frontex JOs. | <p>This OA comprises the Joint Operation “Pegasus” performed at the EU airports/external air border and specially tailored Joint Action Day (JAD “Bellerophon”) concerning both EU airports and selected airports in Third Countries.</p> <p>PEGASUS focuses upon concrete threats/emerging phenomena identified upon risk analysis based on data from MS. Deployments of officers in the troubled locations in MS take place accordingly. They have to present the skills adequate to the risk identified (language skills, forged docs specialization, 2nd line interview expertise, etc.).</p> <p>Moreover, this OA also embraces the JAD to be organized by Frontex, which is supposed to concentrate on facilitated irregular migration by air, identifying OC associated with the arrival of flights on budget airlines from Middle Eastern, Turkish and Western Balkan airports associated with irregular migration that fly into Scandinavia, Central European EU MS and the Western Balkans (non EU) airports. In case of the budgetary and HR sufficiency, interest of MS and subject to positive outputs of the first edition, the second edition of JAD could be considered to be organized still in 2016.</p> <p>By means of JO “Pegasus”, Frontex is ready to</p> | SG2 | | Q2-Q4 | <p align="center">Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance operational cooperation and exchange of information at air borders (Frontex, MS/SAC, Europol). - Gather intelligence which could also facilitate further identification of the responsible OCGs and to support MS criminal investigations also through Europol; - Improve intelligence/knowledge picture; - Reduce migratory pressure at EU external air frontiers <p align="center">KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of weekly updates (WAU) delivered and shared with MS/SAC and Europol. - Number of reports submitted by Seconded |

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| | | | support other JADs organized in the air border domain by EMPACT Action Leaders or EUROPOL (e.g. Airline Joint Action Days/GAD). | | | | <p>Guest Officers following interview of selected target passengers based on risk analysis indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of apprehensions made - Number of violations detected in the air border domain - Number of criminal proceedings launched by MS - Number of entities sent via SIENA by MS |
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OAP 2015

Joint Operation Pegasus 2015 took place at EU and SAC airports between 20 May and 15 December 2015. It was focusing upon threats or emerging phenomena identified upon a sound risk analysis using data from MS. Officers were deployed to airports facing a disproportionate level of migratory pressure. In total 16 MS were involved in the JO with 13 EU airports being activated during the whole operation including the operational response which took place in the last month of the operation. The deployed officers had the appropriate skills relating to the risks identified within OA (language skills, forged docs specialization, 2nd line interview officers, etc.). For example Arabic speaking officers were deployed to Paris Orly and Brussels airports during the operational response. In addition, officers were deployed to Bucharest Otopeni, Budapest, and Milan Malpensa which had not been involved in the initial phase of the JO. The deployed officers were three Seconded Guest Officers and 8 Guest Officers/Special Advisors (MS Law Enforcement Officers representing Frontex) as well as an Operational Manager and Coordinating Officer based at Frontex HQ. There were a total of **168** incidents involving **296** persons and **229 abused documents** detected and reported. The highest number of incidents were reported from Amsterdam Airport (51), followed by Brussels (48), Riga (15), Marseille (14), Paris Orly (9), Prague (8), Munich (5), Vienna (5), Budapest (4), Warsaw (3), and finally Bucharest Otopeni, Milan Malpensa and Sofia Airports with 2 each falling under JO Pegasus targets. During the Joint Operation 139 persons applied for asylum, 74 were refused entry. There were also 6 facilitations of illegal migration reported.

The participating airports also reported a total of 34 nationalities involved, all indicators included (asylum seekers, smugglers of human beings, irregular migrants, irregular migrants facilitated, over stayers, victims of trafficking, others). The top 5 nationalities detected during the deployment were Syrians (58), Iraqis (31), Dominicans (26), Iranians (16), and Albanians (13). Iraqis were the top nationality reported using forged, counterfeit or other abused or miss-used documentation,

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followed by Syrians, Dominicans and Iranians. JO Pegasus Action Leader attended the EMPACT ALs meeting in June 2015 and shared some specific results with MS at Europol.

Besides, in line with an extensive integration into the EMPACT Platform, Frontex supported the **Global Airline Action Day (GAAD)** by means of its JO Pegasus and JO Alexis. **GAAD 2** took place in November 2015 across 200 airports worldwide. Frontex was requested to take part and to deploy an officer for the duration at the Coordination Centre in The Hague. The intelligence regarding the suspicious transaction was handed over to the representatives of various credit card companies (mainly VISA, Master Card, American Express etc.), who were present at the Europol coordination center. They verified the transactions and when the suspicion was confirmed, the LEA on the ground was informed and took action. The organization of both airline JADs was well-structured and comprehensive. Very good cooperation with Europol noted.

OAP 2016

JO Pegasus 2016 commenced on 16 February 2016 and will continue until 15 December 2016. Initially there are five airports involved but it is expected that there will be further airports planned for later in the year as new threats are identified and the operational area shall be expanded significantly. It is also planned an operational response towards the end of the JO which shall allow airports not previously involved in the activity to participate and the profiles of the Guest Officers will be determined based upon the operational needs at the selected airports. The targets of the activity will be a wide range of threats identified as posing a challenge at the EU external borders. Current moves towards strengthening land and sea borders are expected to lead to a significant displacement to air borders meaning that there should be more and better quality document forgery undertaken by criminal networks and more abuse of the transit without visa concession. Pegasus will be a vital tool in identifying these threats as they arise and then deploying resources according to operational requirements.

Within the framework of the operational activity, Frontex shall support two phases of the aforementioned Airline Credit Card Fraud Action Days during 2016 as well as a French coordinated multilateral initiative in combating Identity Fraud which is scheduled for November.

OA 2.6 is closely linked to JAD Bellerophon to be organized in June-July 2016. Europol and Interpol will be invited to join this JAD. Preparatory meeting to be organized in April-May. Frontex is also ready to support other JADs organized in the air border domain by EMPACT Action Leaders or EUROPOL (e.g. Airline Joint Action Days/GAAD or within OA ID Fraud II).

Final Results

JO Pegasus 2016 commenced on 16 February 2016 and will continue until 15 December 2016. Initially, data collection and risk analysis focused on a limited number of airports. As new threats have been identified, the operational area will be expanded significantly. In this frame, Frontex planned an operational response by the end of the JO, allowing airports not previously involved in the activity to participate and host Guest Officers with profiles determined upon the operational needs. The targets of the activity will be threats identified as posing a challenge at the EU external borders. Persistent activities undertaken to strengthening land and sea borders are expected to lead to a significant displacement to air borders, meaning that there should be more and better quality document forgery undertaken by criminal networks and more abuse of airport transits without visa concession. Pegasus will be a vital tool in identifying these threats as they arise and then deploying resources according to operational requirements.

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Within the framework of the operational activity, as stipulated in OAP 2016, Frontex also supported the Global Airline Day targeting the Credit Card Fraud. This OA will also contribute to the JAD ELSTER coordinated by FRA as the multilateral initiative in combating Identity Fraud that is scheduled for November. Moreover, Frontex will provide further support to the second edition of AAD (Airline Action Day) within the framework of Large-Scale JAD under *Ciconia Alba* operational concept.

It is worth mentioning, that Frontex planned to organize 2 JADs by itself as stipulated in the OAPs approved by COSI in December 2015. JAD Danube in land (WB) co-organized with HUN and JAD Bellerophon in air domain (budget airlines flight to certain destination in Central-East Europe). According to the new concept of COSI from April 2016, both JAD Danube and Bellerophon are no longer JADs as they focus only on one criminal area/EMPACT Priority which is the facilitated illegal immigration. This has been introduced in the course of the already taken preparations.

OA 2.6 is closely linked to **JAD (non-JAD) Bellerophon** that was held on 13-20 September 2016 and organized by Frontex. The pre-JAD briefing meeting was held with all stakeholders on the 12th of September 2016 while the draft OPLAN has been distributed in August. The event was supported both by Interpol and Europol. Main aim: to identify organized criminal involvement in arranging irregular migration on specific airlines and routes, mainly budget airlines (*not for public/press*: WizzAir, FlyDubai, Pegasus Airlines). Airports activated mainly in Central/East/South Europe + ITA. Reporting embraced targeted flights and the flights additionally reported by some airports. Outputs: 19 incidents with 23 persons involved (irregular migrants). 8 hits in SIS and Interpol databases, c. 40 cases of various documents fraud/fraudulently obtained docs or misused docs (including imposters). 2 cases of persons linked to Islamic extremism. Conclusion: some airlines and routes are as suspected being specifically and repeatedly targeted by human smuggling organized groups who use the same modus operandi, route and carrier. Some carriers on certain routes are being targeted in TC airports by a large proportion of their passengers possessing forged/counterfeit and/or otherwise improperly obtained documents which they detect. They then proceed to deny boarding to the holders of such documents. Debriefing activity will be held.

By means of OA 2.6, Frontex is also ready to support other JADs organized in the air border domain by EMPACT Action Leaders or EUROPOL (e.g. Airline Joint Action Days/GAAD or within OA ID Fraud II) upon reasonable notice.

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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
|-----------|--|--|--|-------------|-------------|---|---|
| OA 2.7 | Tackling human smuggling in the Western Mediterranean. | <p>Leader: ES</p> <p>Co-Leader: n/a</p> <p>Supported by: DE, FR, PT, UK</p> <p>FRONTEX EUROPOL INTERPOL</p> | <p>STEP 1: To identify of 3rd countries of North Africa and Sahel with the purpose to create a Joint Operational Team with them. Then, to make preliminary contacts with these countries and to identify law enforcement agencies, bodies or institutions already working on the field in this area that are gathering intelligence and researching human smuggling.</p> <p>STEP 2: To create a Joint Operational Team with these countries, with the purpose to identify and to tackle the location of human smuggling OCGs structures of criminal networks and way of illegally use secondary movements, focused in the south of EU (for example Spain, Italy etc.).</p> <p>A Joint Analysis Team can be set up to support the Joint Operational Team and to reinforce the exchange of information between units in charge of control, detection and interception of illegal immigrants, with the purpose of gathering, analysis and process of intelligence to facilitate the investigation of criminal networks.</p> <p>STEP 3: To execute a Joint Action in order to dismantle the identified human smuggling OCGs structures of criminal networks, regarding with the information obtained by the Joint Operational Team.</p> | | 5.4 | <p>1st half: STEP 1 + STEP 2</p> <p>2nd half: If there is success with the identification of OCG related to human smuggling</p> | <p>Goal:</p> <p>To establish a unified investigative action in order to tackle human smuggling from the Western Mediterranean and land route. Based on the creation of a Joint Operational Team, with the purpose to carry out investigations as well as the exchange of knowledge among investigative and intelligence units. JAD can be foreseen taking into account the operational outcomes</p> <p>KPIs:</p> <p>Step 1: Number of meetings Number of third countries involved</p> <p>Step 2: Number of teams set up Number of investigations</p> <p>Step 3:</p> |

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| | | | <p>JAD will be organised in order to dismantle the OCGs identified by the Joint Operational Team.</p> <p>All Member States, agencies or other bodies involved in the investigation could participate in the JAD, and will take place in the second half of the year, in the area where the OCG is operating.</p> | | | | Number facilitators arrested |
| <p>The basic methodology relies on establishing two main country targets (Morocco and Mauritania), as the more suitable to work and cooperate with, based on the current western land route to reach Europe. Then, make contact with authorities in those countries and exchange intelligence and start investigations. The intelligence exchanged should provide opportunities to identify criminal groups involved in illegal immigration or human smuggling in the western Mediterranean area.</p> <p>With this aim, there are already five ongoing cases to support the initial phases of this OA, ABACO case (to be sent to Europol, investigating a criminal group of people from Pakistan and Bangladesh currently established in Portugal, facilitating migrants probably originating from Morocco from Portugal to France through Spain by cars or train; this case could have link with OA 2.3), ARRIACAS case (already sent to Europol, Siena nr. 1158943, investigating a criminal group based on the surroundings of Barcelona (Spain) composed of Pakistan citizens who travel to East Europe to pick up migrants from the Balkan route, to carry them to Austria, Germany, Italy, France and Spain; this case has link with OA 2.2 –OAP 2015 and several EU countries), HIDRA case (to be sent to Europol, investigating a network of facilitators composed by Spanish and Moroccans settled both in the city of Ceuta and Morocco), CARONTE case (to be sent to Europol, investigating a network of facilitators composed by Spanish and Moroccan citizens settled both in Melilla and Morocco), TRIPOLI case (to be sent to Europol, investigating a OGC involved in human smuggling activities settled in Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Italy and Spain)</p> <p>At the present moment, reports of this cases are being built, containing modus operandi, and intelligence items for each country (individuals, addresses, vehicles, phone numbers, electronic mails accounts, social networks profiles etc...) to be sent to Europol and to the countries involved in this OA. These documents should be the starting point for this meetings with Morocco and Mauritania. The aim is to attend the first meeting with operative and specific data about investigations and cases to allow all the participating countries (3rd countries and members states involved in the OA) start since the very first stage of development, to work with the information provided, and contribute to start a fluent exchange of information. Up to now, the greater part of the intelligence obtained is related to Morocco, this is the reason why the first meeting should be organized with this country, and start as soon as possible the information exchange regarding the cases briefly described in this report. Regarding to Mauritania, there are available data, but much more fragmentary. This is why the meeting with Mauritania is foreseen into the second tranche. Also, some research is under way regarding to counterfeited or fake documents since many OCG involved in human smuggling are usually linked to criminal groups or individuals who obtain those documents. Finally, several contacts with liaison officer of Morocco in Spain have already been carried out. Also, it is planned to maintain a meeting with DGST members in Rabat on the first week of April 2016, where the OA execution will be discussed among other issues.</p> | | | | | | | |

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| Final Results | <p>There are already five ongoing cases to support the initial phases of this OA. Two of them are showing real progress. Other needs some feedback and support from Morocco authorities.</p> <p>ABACO case: Abaco case is investigating a group of people from Pakistan and Bangladesh (with Portuguese documents), right now established in Portugal and France. The preliminary findings have shown that this criminal group is moving migrants to Portugal from France (Paris) through Spain by cars or train. The goal of this movement is to travel to Portugal to obtain fraudulent documentation, and once obtained, return to France. The organization is composed mainly by citizens from Pakistan and Bangladesh, but some of the migrants could come from Morocco. The most recent investigations shows that Portugal, France and Spain shares several objectives in this investigation. We are in contact with investigators from SEF (Portugal) and PAF Hendaye (France). It is expected to organize a meeting between Portugal, France and Spain in the coming weeks. This case was presented during the latest OA 2.3 meeting carried out in Paris.</p> <p>ARRIACAS case: The investigations have shown that there is a criminal group based on the surroundings of Barcelona (Spain) composed of Pakistan citizens who travel to East Europe to pick up migrants from the Balkan route, to carry them to Austria, Germany, Italy, France and Spain.</p> <p>Two important and events involves this investigation: one suspect (a Pakistani citizen) was arrested in Barcelona due to an European Arrest warrant issued by Austria. The suspect was supposed to be the driver of a van with 34 Iraqi and Afghanistan migrants inside, having an accident in Austria on 21st august 2015. The driver left the area without helping the migrants. The arrest was the final step of the bilateral cooperation between Spain and Austria. Spain sent information regarding the suspect, so Austria, with their own investigations and the information sent by Spain was able to issue an International Letter of Request to Spain, asking to take DNA samples from Imtiaz and also conduct an interview with the suspect. The DNA samples were sent to Austria late July, and three positive matches appeared with three samples taken from the van. This was enough evidence for Austria to issue an EAW for extradition, so Spanish Guardia Civil arrested the suspect on 14th September.</p> <p>The suspect belongs to an organized criminal group, so the other members continues their activities involving human smuggling. It is known they are trying to introduce several groups of migrants from Pakistan through Turkey and Bulgaria to Spain, right now. Some of the relatives of this migrants in Spain are being threatened by this OCG to pay more money for the trip. We are in close contact with their relatives, but for the moment they do not want to put a complain until they arrive to Spain safely, but it is very likely some of the put a complain in the near future. They will provide us information about bank accounts, names, vehicle plates, phone number and pictures. So in the end, we expect to arrest almost all the organization.</p> <p>The other cases do not have noticeable changes for the moment.</p> <p>During the last meeting, the Action leader representative described the difficulties facing while dealing with third countries, such as Morocco. It seems that the platform and the framework of EMPACT project is perceived as too complex and too visible to establish an investigative relationship based on trust and confidence.</p> <p><u>According to the data provided by Europol, from 1.1.2016 there are:</u></p> <p>8 new Siena messages received linked to the field covered by this action (2 in Siena + 6 in CMT)</p> |
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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
|-----------|---|--|--|-------------|-------------|--|--|
| OA 3.1 | ID FRAUD II (Identity Fraud) To identify and disrupt OCGs using document fraud and specifically ID fraud for the purpose of facilitating illegal immigration. | Leader: FR Co-Leaders: ES, UK Supported by: BE, CY, CZ, DE, EL, FI, NL, PL, PT, RO EUROPOL FRONTEX CH | The project is organized on three different phases: strategic, operational and technical support. At strategic level, the first step is to identify with the help of Frontex, the most important trends and focus on the most used modi operandi on identity fraud to properly and adequately support operational activities against organized crime groups (OCGs). Second step is to develop the manual dedicated to officers in charge of control and investigators initiated in 2015. Third step is to deliver a report dedicated to the COSI, EU Council or EU Commission on ID Fraud, including presentation of the state of play, identification of the weak points and most suitable ways to fight them. At operational level, first step is to strengthen information sharing, work on cases that require international cooperation; to organize a Joint Operation (with a wider scope) on Border Crossing points; to intensify the exchange of operational information in order to disrupt OCGs involved in the facilitation of illegal immigration using document and identity fraud (including but not limited to FOG, organized impostor rings, forgery factories). Second step is to run an operation involving the participating MS and if possible ILO posted outside the EU. Third step is to monitor the “Fast parcel” work stream, i.e. to coordinate intelligence within the MS of identity | | | 1 st half 2016: phases 1 and 2 2 nd half 2016: phases 2 and 3 | Goal: - To identify and disrupt OCGs using the ID fraud for the purpose of facilitating illegal immigration. - To improve the intelligence picture through joint analysis and gain a view on the phenomenon. KPIs: - Number of holders intercepted and number of document seized - Number of SIENA entities provided/ number of Investigation initiate |

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| | | | <p>document abuse using couriers and fast parcels services.</p> <p>At technical level, first step is to procure and provide specialist technical equipment to European liaison officers posted outside the EU with a focus on illegal immigration. This equipment will improve the gathering of technical information by facilitating the data collection, supporting work of the ILO posted in some specific posts (i.e. Istanbul or Lagos) in detecting document fraud (scan of documents , info related to the circumstances of seizure of docs etc..). Following step is to develop effective links within Empact platform by organizing a specific workshop with the other action leaders to figure out the most suitable ways to implement this activity, for example with the network of specialized liaison officers in Turkey.</p> | | | | |
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OAP 2015/OAP 2016 (continuous action):

As for the activities ongoing from the previous OAP, the following development needs to be highlighted:

The manual denamed « Handbook on ID and breeder documents » compiled the notices coming from 16 European countries. It was presented during the false document working group in Bruxelles (10 February 2016). The integration of this manual in the i-fado was requested. Besides, this manual was sent to Impact support Unit for integration in the EPE and transmission to all liaison bureaux.

Regarding the operational aspects, the common actions in airports/ports with a specific focus on impostors document abuse took place on 4/5 November 2015 as part of the « blue amber » action days. The operational data collected during these operations were shared with Europol (Checkpoint) via SIENA for analysis. An offender debriefing template was created for use across the days of action to ensure as much relevant information on routes, documents, facilitators, addresses and telephone numbers. The data contained in mobile phones of offenders were extracted and sent to Europol for cross checking where possible and permitted by MS legislation. Even if the focus was put on impostors, the participating MS shared information on ID and document abuses. All ID Fraud MS participated + Greece, more than 47 000 persons were checked on about 20 BCPs; 154 migrants were intercepted; 1 (possibly 2) facilitators were intercepted; 73 fraudulent documents were seized; 8 cross-checked were processed by Europol and one cross match report was generated; 5 cases were initiated with one particularly interesting case: the number in a mobile phone detained by a migrant intercepted in Germany provided a hit with a Greek facilitator identified in a previous Europol operation. This case is on going (results unknown at the moment).

The sharing of operational information and the implementation of common investigations continued. Some interesting data have been sent via SIENA and potential joint actions have been identified and for instance: KOKS/POLEMIEK case (Belgium/Poland/UK/France), related to an OCG which is smuggling people from Ukraine to UK via Poland Belgium and probably France (this network provides false documents to the migrants, falsified or fraudulently use documents, and the main protagonists are Polish and Ukrainian). An operational meeting was organised at Europol HQ (10 February 2016). Eurojust should be involved as well; BIRDS Case (France) is related to an OCG which smuggle Iranian nationals from Iran to the UK. This network has many ramifications in Europe. It uses false European documents (falsified passport from Scandinavian countries mainly). An operational meeting was organised on the 22nd March 2016 at Europol premises. Approximately 500 messages were exchanged via SIENA within the scope of the action ID Fraud.

OAP 2016

As far as the new OAP 2016 is concerned, while waiting for the funds to be allocated, some preliminary steps have been undertaken, such as establishing contacts with the new partners, preparing the concept note for the new JADs, organizing a conference in Paris in May on fraud documents.

Final Results OAP 2015/ 2016 (continuous action)

A workshop designed to reinforce the operational coordination among Member States and the two European agencies (Europol and Frontex) was organized in Paris in May 2016. Indeed, Frontex and Europol need far closer cooperation and sharing of information to improve their fight against document and identity fraud at European level. Consequently, the ID Fraud WG agreed upon a template that will be filled in by the MS in the frame of an operational case related to document fraud. This template will include technical information on fake documents. The idea is for instance to identify printers (via *Bit maps*) to dismantle more forgery factories. Moreover, EMSC/ checkpoint will provide “*early warning notifications on document fraud*”. Besides, Frontex will support the operation planned in October on BCPs by providing experts where needed.

During the second meeting organized in The Hague mid-June, the delegates decided concretely how to conduct the activity in

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2016. The survey carried out to identify the current leading trends in Europe showed that: Imposters remain an important trend as well as Fraudulently obtained genuine documents (FOG). Forged/counterfeit documents and stolen blank are also relevant and specific attention will be given to these four topics during the operation “*ELSTER*” planed from 10 to 16 October 2016. These operation conducted in 14 MS on more than 50 BCPs (air, land and sea borders) will benefit from the operational support of Frontex and Europol (some French ILO posted in African countries should also participate to “Elster operation”). The operation will be part of the Large Scale JAD “Ciconia alba”. A specific attention will be given to some routes and modi operandi currently used by the OCGs. The preparatory meeting for Elster operation was held at Europol HQ on 6 & 7 September 2016. Regarding the improvement of technical data collection (linked with an investigation) by Europol, a specific template has been created and will be used by EMSC/Checkpoint and MS.

Concerning the implementation of common investigation, some interesting data have been sent via SIENA and potential joint actions have been identified as « high priority cases », and for instance : KOKS/POLEMIEK case (Poland) related to an OCG which smuggles people from Ukraine to UK via Poland Belgium and probably France. This network provides false documents to the migrants (falsified or fraudulently use documents). An operational meeting was organised at Europol HQ (10 February 2016). The Polish Border Guards still conducted arrangements in parallel with the procedural activities carried out under the supervision of the District Prosecutor's Office in Rzeszów in order to gather all the material evidence obtained. The main suspects hasn't been arrested yet. BIRDS Case (France) is related to an OCG that smuggles Iranian nationals from Iran to the UK. This network has many ramifications in Europe. It uses false European documents (falsified passport from scandinavian countries mainly). An operational meeting was held at Europol premises. (22nd March 2016). A meeting at Eurojust HQ took place in September including France, UK, Norway and Germany. The arrest phase is planned for September/October 2016.

Approximately 350 messages have been exchanged via SIENA within the scope of the action ID Fraud since the beginning of this year. Furthermore, the working group tries to find ways to improve the knowledge of experts in document fraud. To this aim, the work begun in 2015 in order to create a handbook on European ID and breeder documents is going to be continued. Indeed, short notices has been sent to MS which didn't contribute in 2015, in order to complete this manual. This tool will be disseminated among False document working group (initiated in 2015) and the principe of the integration of the handbook into the iFADO platform has been validated during the last meeting of WG Frontier / False documents in Brussels (13 September).

According to the data provided by Europol, from 1.1.2016 there are:

329 new Siena messages received linked to the field covered by this action (156 in Siena + 173 in CMT);

24 Number of Siena cases flagged ID Fraud 3.1 by MS in Siena (subject field);

2 cases effectively supported by OA 3. delegation agreement.

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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
|-----------|--|--|---|-------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| OA 4.1 | Marriages of convenience Share data with Europol of cases where there is suspicion of marriage of convenience with OC involvement | Leader: UK Co-Leader: PT Supported by: BG, CY, HU, IT, PL, RO, SI, SK EUROPOL EUROJUST | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow up on activity in 2015 with national experts of the participating countries to develop the common strategy on sham marriages and discuss the indicators mentioned before; identifying any changes in MO by crime groups - Develop cooperation between MS and third countries where OCG's which organise the sham marriages and exploit migrants for this purpose come from - Examine the possible cross-links between EMPACT illegal migration and EMPACT THB; - Involve Embassies by training and education to raise the awareness on the phenomenon and the indicators of sham marriages - To identify any secondary movements by migrants using sham marriages to avoid removal from MS - Informing discussions around the free movement directive, enabling EU Com and MS to understand where legislation creates opportunities for organised crime groups. | | Possible link to EMPACT THB | <p>1st evaluation /review For Driver Reporting May 2016</p> <p>2nd evaluation /review For Driver Reporting Oct. 2016</p> | <p>Goal:</p> <p>Gain practice from Operational action days with input of all the different organisations.</p> <p>Raise awareness among policy makers about differences in national legal framework;</p> <p>KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of information exchange - Operational investigations (number of arrests) - List of risk indicators for sham marriages which will be shared with the participating MS |

OAP 2016

Neither the Action leader nor the co-Leader have provided updated information on the activities undertaken in 2016 under the new framework of Action 4.1.

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| Final Results | <p>Neither the Action leader nor the co-Leader have provided updated information on the activities undertaken in 2016 under the new framework of Action 4.1.</p> <p>During the Action Leaders meeting several ideas were explored and the focus was mainly put on the multidisciplinary character of the action, and not only on the pure investigative side. Concerns were expressed again on the lack of contribution from participants and EU MS, despite several elements suggest that the issue is still present at EU level, and especially in some specific EU countries (UK, Ireland, Portugal, Cyprus, etc.), and that OCGs are very often involved.</p> <p>No specific or measurable results were achieved during the implementation period.</p> <p><u>According to the data provided by Europol, from 1.1.2016 there are:</u></p> <p>50 new Siena messages linked to the field covered by this action (45 in Siena + 15 in CMT)</p> <p>13 Siena cases flagged Sham Marriages by MS in Siena (subject field);</p> <p>1 case effectively supported by delegation agreement</p> |
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Strategic Goal 5

OAP 2015 – extension of action 2.5

| <i>Ref.</i> | <i>Activity summary</i> | <i>Leader / Participants</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Links Strat. Goals</i> | <i>Links Ops Actions</i> | <i>Timing</i> | <i>Target/KPI</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| OA 5.1 | Network of liaison officers in Libya | Leader IT Participants ES, FR, UK Europol, Frontex | Continue to support the setting up a network of liaison officers deployed or seconded to embassies in Libya solely dedicated to gaining intelligence on illegal immigration with the aim to improve the intelligence picture and information on OCGs active in the region and involved in the mass facilitation of irregular migrants to the EU. This network will be extended to Libyan Authorities as much as possible. Logistically the Action will supported by the EU Delegation in Libya or Italian Embassy. | SGI | | 1s/2nd Quarter: meetings (as soon as the security situation allows) 3rd/4th Quarter: Exchange of information/ | Goal: To continue developing Network of Liaison Officers KPI: -Numbers of meetings -Numbers of information/intelligence exchanged both at operational and strategic level |
| <i>Intermediate Results</i> | | The action leader has asked for an extension of the financial implementation period and a modification of the Action leader in charge (the new Action leader is the International Police Cooperation Service). Although the activity continues to be suspended due to the extremely difficult situation in Libya and the absence of a stable and plausible counterpart in Libyan police, recent changes in the whole environment and the birth of a new government will probably allowed the Action leader to plan a first preliminary meeting in May at Europol and a second more structured meeting with the new Lybian counterpart in the following months (a Conference could take place in September in Rome with the participation of DE, FR, UK, ES, Lybian counterpart, Europol, Frontex, Interpol and experts from EC). | | | | | |
| <i>Final Result OAP 2015</i> | | The new Action leader, despite the fact that the activity continues to be suspended due to the extremely difficult situation in Libya and the absence of a stable and plausible counterpart in Libyan police, decided to organize a first preliminary meeting at Europol in May and planned the foreseen Conference the 3rd November in Rome with the participation of EU and MS institutions as well as with representative of the new Lybian counterpart. Joint invitations Europol/Italy have been sent in October to all the concerned MS and EU Agencies/Institutions' representatives.. | | | | | |

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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
|-----------|--|---|---|-------------|-------------|---|--|
| OA 5.1 | Turkey Organised Immigration Crime Working Group (TOICWG). Development in capability and capacity of Turkey Organised Immigration Crime Working Group | Leader: UK Co-Leader: FR Supported by: DE, EL, ES, RO, SE EUROPOL FRONTEX | Build on last year's successful establishment of TOICWG by UK agencies by establishing this meeting as a priority in busy OIC meeting schedule in country (4 x meetings per year including one strategic meeting); Increase membership, participation and input across EU Member States; Build on existing intelligence sharing by developing tactical products – e.g. financial profile of people smuggling networks; Enhance intelligence of individual member states by sharing widely and adding value where possible e.g. recently identified UK intelligence regarding high quality counterfeit UK visas; Link operational activity to other Empact actions, such as 3.1 (use the network to support other actions) | | | 1 st evaluation /review For Driver Reporting May 2016 2 nd evaluation /review For Driver Reporting Oct. 2016 | Goal: - agree on a more permanent schedule of meetings including strategic presence once a year; - Circulate details of meetings across Foreign Law Enforcement Community in Turkey to encourage greater participation; - Gather financial intelligence from current participants to produce tactical report; - Details of UK visas to be shared locally as an emerging trend and to request any supporting intelligence. KPIs: - Number of strategic/operational meetings - Number of intelligence products shared between partners - Increase in participation |

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| | | | | | | | of liaison officers involved in targeting those involved in organised immigration crime |
| <p>OAP 2015/ OAP 2016 (continuous action)</p> <p>Representatives of UK, France (CC), EU Delegation, FRONTEX, EUROPOL, Greece, Germany, Nordic Countries, Austria, Poland, Romania, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Italy, UK meet on 1st of March in Istanbul. Late outcomes of EU plans and COSI decision were discussed, with specific reference to the request for more operational activity, especially in Turkey. A proposal for a Joint Action Day (JAD) in early June 2016 at Ataturk Airport was discussed, with the TOICWG members to coordinate it. The sensitivities in conducting a JAD with the Turkish Authorities was carefully considered and so the way to best engage with the Turks on this proposal. A focus on intelligence purposes and a link with the action 3.1 (led by France), targeting document fraud to MS was also explored. FRONTEX and EUROPOL both confirmed their full support for the JAD, with EUROPOL offering an Operations Room when the exercise is conducted. Frontex presentation fitted with the OIC Working Group operational proposal to conduct a ‘global operation’ involving key entry/destination airports in EU MS plus other main departing/transiting airports in Turkey and other third-countries. RAU products, such as the EDF-RAN ARA 2015, can provide useful risk analysis in order to identify which airports, nationalities, type of documents to target etc. for the JAD. The topic of “facilitation by Turkish HGV drivers” was then discussed. There are ongoing investigation into Turkish HGV drivers who are encountered with clandestine entrants concealed in their vehicles upon entry to the UK. A number of individuals have now been identified and consideration is currently being given to revoking their UK visas if they are still valid and to look into the companies that employ them. It is anticipated that this will act as a deterrent for future individuals or at least encourage drivers to be more diligent.</p> <p>The group acknowledged that it continues to be a challenge to engage with the Turkish Authorities or receiving replies from them in response to requests/investigations and whilst engagement with individual officers can prove beneficial, the overall environment remains difficult. A number of ILOs have now met with the newly appointed head of TNP at Ataturk Airport and it was felt that he may be more open to cooperation than his predecessors. The TNP have stated that they will be establishing an International Contact Centre at the airport, that will act as a single point of contact for Liaison Officer enquiries. However, this is yet to be established. An update on current Greece-Turkey cooperation on irregular migration was provided as well as some additional intelligence for the group relating to facilitators and organised crime groups. He also provided an update on returns protocols with the Turks. Participants in the meeting committed themselves to exchange information and give feedback on the topics discussed during the session. Next Meeting will be probably held late April/early May 2016.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <i>Final Results</i> | | <p>No further information were provided by the Action Leaders.</p> <p>During the meeting in September it was highlighted the difficulty in dealing with the Turkish Authorities taking in account the events that took place mid 2016 (among other things, the attempted coup brought to a radical change in police structures). The possibility to use the network to build up an operational cooperation for the purpose of a JAD (OA 3.1, during which the AL tried to establish a cooperation with Turkish police in Ataturk Airport) was not successful, presumably due to the events above mentioned.</p> | | | | | |

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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
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| OA 5.2 | Joint Operational Team MARE JOT, as part of the European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), to tackle OCGs active organising ship facilitations in the Mediterranean toward the EU and subsequent secondary movements inside the EU. | Leader: EUROPOL Co-Leader: IT Supported by: BE, CY, DE, DK, EL, ES, FI, FR, IT, MT, NL, PT, SE, UK FRONTEX INTERPOL CH, US ICE | Consolidating Joint Operational Team MARE (as part of Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre), focussing on enhancing the availability of data relating to ship facilitations within the Mediterranean Sea and subsequent secondary movements (transit and destination EU MS), and on supporting the disruption of involved organized crime networks through: - Providing tailored analytical products and expertise from the EMSC, particularly focussing on links between OCGs in sources and embarkation countries and OCGs operating in EU MS such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Investigation Initiation Documents (IIDs), o Intelligence Notifications (INs – p.e. identification of potential links to other crime fields such as terrorism, THB and smuggling of illicit goods and financial crimes) o Early Warning Notifications (EWNs) - Supporting hot spots in front line MS via the EU Regional Tasks Force (EURTF) - Providing investigative support via the Europol Mobile Investigative Teams (EMIST). - In cooperation with the EU Internet | SG 1 SG 2 SG 5 | 2.3 2.4 2.7 5.4 5.5 | 1 st evaluation /review For Driver Reporting May 2016 2 nd evaluation /review For Driver Reporting Oct. 2016 | Goal: To identify and disrupt OCGs: - facilitating irregular migration via Med Sea towards the EU - facilitating subsequent secondary movement KPIs: - Number of IIDs - Number of INs - Number of EWs |

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| | | | Referral Unit (EU IRU), supporting national authorities to detect and, when appropriate, requesting the removal of internet content used by OCGs. | | | | |
| <p>OAP 2015/2016</p> <p>From the organizational point of view, the JOT MARE project remained without functional or structural changes until the past month of February, when it left the FP Checkpoint's umbrella and became one of the teams within the newly formed European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC). The EMSC will still maintain the legal basis of Focal Point Checkpoint's opening order. This institutional reorganization affects neither the JOT MARE's approach nor its goals, but implies its fitting into a the comprehensive response given by EUROPOL to the current migratory crisis. JOT MARE remains as the operational action plan 5.2 of the EMPACT Illegal Immigration, and it is supported by Frontex and Interpol.</p> <p>Since the last operational meeting held in October, one of the SNEs (France) switched to a specialist position within the EMSC.</p> <p>Finland, Switzerland and US ICE were accepted as new JOT MARE members, the membership of Austria and Norway is being discussed.</p> <p>From the operational point of view, 194 SIENA strings have been marked as JOT MARE since the issuing of the last report, not all of them linked to operational data. It must be highlighted that a significant amount of those messages are not labelled as JOT MARE by the sender MS, but were evaluated and marked as such by the JOT MARE Team. Since 1 October 2015 almost 1,190 messages were provided to JOT MARE with a total of 31574 entities submitted. While the contributions are steady, most of the strings are requests of information for cross check or short inputs containing a few entities, with limited contributions regarding investigations.</p> <p>As for the products, JOT MARE has been very active in collecting information from various sources. In cooperation with the Liaison Bureaus and the National Contact Points, the SNEs have made a positive difference in contributions to Europol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• List containing vessels of interest: currently the list contains 50 vessels that were reported to EP through SIENA and JOT MARE is gathering and enhancing the available information about these ships;• Debriefing reports: Italy has been consistently contributing debriefing interviews of migrants, lists of arrested skippers and landing reports from its joint operation Triton. Greece has been submitting debriefing interviews as well from its operation Poseidon, and Spain sent to Europol analogous documents until the closure of its Indalo operation (31 October 2015). <p>These debriefings were the source of the weekly update reports that were submitted to the Member States until December 2015. Due to the lack of feedback and limited resources available, the drafting of the reports was temporarily suspended. A new version of the reports will be sent out again in a different format to make it less resource-intensive and more user-friendly.</p> | | | | | | | |

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- Investigation Initiation Documents (IID): JOT MARE has so far compiled 7 IIDs for MS containing information packages that can be used by MS to initiate new investigations. Some of the addressed topics are Dominican smuggling networks operating in Turkey, the use of social media for FII, or satellite phones in the current migratory crisis. No relevant feedback has been received so far from Member States.
- Social media/Facebook: Cooperation with the EU IRU is continuing. Large numbers of accounts are currently being analysed. Several hits have been identified with recent facilitations. The analytical outcomes will be shared on short notice. The analysis of social media has already resulted in an Early Warning Notification concerning an impending smuggling event.
- Cross matches and operational analysis: JOT MARE has produced 22 cross match reports and 2 operational analysis (operations Turkeba and Invigor) reports so far.
- Early Warning Notifications: 1 (about the Falkvag vessel).
- Intelligence Notifications: 1 (The use of Facebook in relation to Facilitated Illegal Immigration into Europe across the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas).
- Meetings: over the course of the assessed period, JOT MARE staff has taken part in 49 strategic meeting with stakeholders like the Commission, DG Home, Frontex, and national Authorities. Likewise, 6 operational events linked to on-going cases have been attended by experts from JOT MARE.

As for the deployment, Europol's role within the established EURTF remains as previously informed, focussing on providing a quick response to migratory crisis by facilitating the exchange and analysis of the information gathered on the spot. In direct cooperation with the local/national authorities, Europol means to facilitate the opening of investigations and the optimization of that data collected at the arrival of the migrants. JOT MARE is currently supporting and deploying JOT MARE officers to the EURTFs in Catania, Italy and Piraeus, Greece. In parallel with this cooperation, JOT MARE/EMSC is holding regular meetings with the Servizio Centrale Operativo (SCO) which is Europol's main counterpart in the field of facilitated illegal immigration in Italy. The goals of these meetings rest on the monitoring of the information flows, the detection of gaps, and the enhancement of coordinated support. Upon the request of the COM, Europol supports the Hellenic law enforcement authorities in performing secondary security checks (checking or Europol databases as well as other additional support). So far JOT MARE has provided 250 man/days for deployments to Greece and Italy, generating relevant contributions for JOT MARE.

As for the operations, the first operational success of the JOT MARE project came in October 2015 with the action day of the Turkeba-Safat-Blef operation between Spain and Poland targeting a network of Pakistani citizens that smuggled fellow nationals through land and maritime routes in the Mediterranean Sea. The victims were transported in such dangerous conditions that one of them died while confined in the hold of a smuggling ship that was rescued by the Italian Navy. Once in their destination country, the victims were exploited in kebab restaurants; which led to the inspection of 66 of them during the action day and the arrest of 29 suspected smugglers, and 51 home searches.

JOT MARE is supporting a number of cases that involve a variety of its members and modus operandi. Poland reported the activity of a large-scale human smuggling network impacting Europe (including Sweden, Germany, Poland, Greece) and the United States by using stolen passports and other fraudulent documents. This network is believed to be responsible for the vast majority of the Iraqi nationals attempting to enter the United States over the past several years. Italy contributed a case which targets the OCGs that arranged maritime journeys from Libya to its Southern coast. Central Operative Service provided Europol with a copy of the Palermo Antimafia Prosecution office which ordered the arrest of 24 subjects for conspiracy, abetting illegal immigration and the illegal stay, aggravated by the transnational nature of the OCG. 14 subjects were arrested and a new phase of the investigation on-going targeting others. This case is an example of optimal cooperation with Italy in the exchange of valuable information leading to the launch of investigations in other MS. Likewise, Finland contributed a case that targeted

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a criminal organization that has smuggled over 100 illegal Iraq national from Vienna via Sweden to Finland. Over the course of the investigation, 3 targets have been taken into custody. This investigation highlights relevance of the alternative routes heading to the Nordic countries, as well as how the JOT MARE project can support the tackling of not only the entry in the EU, but also the secondary movements.

As for the cooperation with Frontex, under OAP 2015, JOT MARE has been the subject of intensive arrangements between Frontex and Europol, including senior management and other regular meetings/contacts to facilitate the implementation and find synergy between JOT MARE and Frontex led Joint Operations in maritime domain (mostly JO Triton but also JO Pegasus and other). Frontex contribution to JOT MARE embraces several activities such as daily media monitoring review on events within JOT MARE operational remiy, analytical products and debriefing results sharing, opportunity to tailor the debriefings according to the hints / requests from Europol, availability of satellite surveillance services under Eurosur on the objects of interest (e.g. vessels of interest that could be used by the facilitators), collaboration on the spot, including EURTF daily performance, etc. . Cooperation with Frontex increased with the launch of the PeDRA pilot project for the processing and storage of information, as well as its exchange with Europol. In the framework of the pilot, data from the debriefing interviews collected in the framework of JO TRITON is shared with Europol via the Frontex channel.

The JOT MARE project remains as one of the top priorities of EUROPOL in general, and in the field of illegal immigration in particular. Very recently, its daily dynamic is paying a toll due to the support of its staff to the deployments in Italy (EURTF) and Greece (hot spots), although the full implementation of the EMSC should bring the environment back to normality.

JOT MARE faces its new phase under the umbrella of the EMSC with the goals of reinvigorating the operational analysis of the FRONTEx debriefings/landing reports, and consequently instigating the MARE's weekly reports. In view of the knowledge obtained from the past year of experience, JOT MARE is focusing its attention on the maritime aspects of the phenomenon and suspicious vessels, the connections between the facilitated illegal immigration in the Med Sea and poly-criminality, and more specifically with ID fraud, the use of social media for the recruitment of migrants, and the arrangement of the smuggling, and the existence of alternative routes. After the last operational meeting on 5 April 2016 with the JOT MARE members, the potential arrangement of an event on the smuggling of Eritrean nationals will be sounded out. The next JOT MARE meeting is planned at the beginning of June 2016.

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| <i>Final Results</i> | <p>The staffing of JOT MARE has changed over summer, one JOT MARE SNE has already left (FR) in the beginning of this year by taking up a new post as Europol officer in the EMSC. Also a second SNE (NL) left for a Europol post. Currently 5 SNE are in JOT MARE (2 UK, IT, DE, ES, GR). JOT MARE remains focussed on its key partners in the Mediterranean, and in analysing new sources of information. In that respect JOT MARE has set up closer cooperation with EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia and EUBAM Libya. A temporary EUNAVFOR MED special advisor has placed in the JOT MARE team to facilitate information exchange between Europol, the EU MS and EUNAVFOR MED. Also meetings have taken place with EUBAM Libya, in particular to discuss the state of play in Libya and possibilities for future cooperation.</p> <p>JOT MARE is currently still monitoring the debriefing interviews, which are now partially shared with Europol via Frontex, in the framework of the PeDRA project. Debrief reports are sent out summarizing the key entities of interest as well as containing an overview of all data in relation to smuggling.</p> <p>JOT MARE is also increasing active in identifying OCGs that are offering smuggling services via Facebook. As this is still a relatively new field in law enforcement, a lot of effort is going into developing expertise and raising awareness. Eight IIDs have been generated on social media. Also Facebook accounts are referred for cancellation by FB. Around 30 have been referred, more are pending feedback from relevant MS. JOT MARE continues to work on other IID, such as on particular smugglers or safe houses, as well as Intelligence Notifications on various topics.</p> <p>Based on one IID a MS took action and based on intelligence provided found migrants on a cargo vessel. While this is a good example the feedback in general from IIDs is still very limited.</p> <p>JOT MARE is also heavily involved in deployments to Greece and Italy, to support the front line EU MS, in safeguarding the collection of information, providing direct cross match facilitates, forensic support as well as training and awareness rising. This year 22 deployments involving JOT MARE SNEs took place with a total of 46 weeks of work time to Italy and Greece.</p> <p>Two JOT MARE meetings took place in April and July, where it was agreed that work would continue on topics such as satellite telephone usage, boat and engine supply (Interpol). JOT MARE also participated in/chairing of various other meetings and trainings, including operational meetings in relation to JOT MARE related cases (such as operation ERMIS) and international conferences.</p> <p>JOT MARE continued to lend its support to operational activities. In the framework of the operational agreement with Frontex, JOT MARE advanced the work on improving the exchange of information between EUROPOL and Frontex. In August 2016, the PeDRA Project, initiated in the framework of Joint Operation TRITON, facilitated the successful transmission of 80 information packages containing data on facilitators, criminal hubs, routes, bank accounts as well as modi operandi in the area of migrant smuggling. The information was accepted as a contribution, processed by EMSC analysts and included in EUROPOL databases. The project is expected to include in the near future other operational areas in order to comprehensively cover the countries of first entry by migrants. Processes are currently under way to incorporate the activities currently undertaken by the Spanish authorities under Joint Operation INDALO.</p> |
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As an example, Crime related data received as part of the PeDRA project generated, in August, 7 hits with information previously contributed and stored in EUROPOL's databases. As a consequence cross-match reports were produced and send for the attention of the relevant authorities.

In relation to the cooperation with EUNAVFORMED, JOT MARE advanced the work with regards to temporary hosting a representative of the naval force on the EMSC premises, for the purpose of strengthening and consolidating the information flow with the military partners. A military liaison officer is expected to be temporarily deployed to the EMSC from September 1st onwards.

Cooperation between EMSC and the EU Internet Referral Unit (EU IRU) continued with the identification and in-depth analysis of online accounts used by smuggling organisations or high value targets to market their services to transport migrants across the Mediterranean Sea. One Investigation Initiation Document and one Intelligence Notification were disseminated to Member States to further assist the inquiries into suspected organized criminal groups and/or modi operandi identified.

The EMSC is supporting the European Counterterrorism Centre (ECTC) and the Task Force 'Fraternité'. Dedicated officers are in charge of the daily monitoring and supervision of relevant information and investigations linking facilitating illegal immigration and terrorism. The dedicated cross-platform working group set-up between the EMSC and ECTC met on a regular basis with a view to consolidating the cooperation in managing cases with interconnecting illegal immigration and terrorism links.

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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
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| OA 5.3 | WB 2016 OA focused on Western Balkans Operational Area to be implemented by means by means of selected and fine-tuned Frontex Joint Operations and additionally prepared Joint Action Day. | Leader: FRONTEX Co-Leader: HU Supported by: EUROPOL AL, BA, FYROM, MD, UA MS will be involved on the basis of the separate procedure applicable to Frontex Jos. | The aim of this OA, focused on Western Balkans Operational Area, is : - to ensure appropriate operational response in tackling the situation of irregular migration at the most effective EU external land borders (JO FOA); - to facilitate the implementation of the integrated border management concept at the EU external land borders by establishing a permanent Focal Points system at the Border Crossing points (JO FPs); - establish a system for the exchange of information relating to early detection of illegal migration trends towards the EU through the territory of the Third Country with the aim for the immediate operational response. Under this OA the Border Crossing Points between partner Third Countries will be covered (JO CPs). MS co-leadership (HU) aims at more efficient use of intelligence gathered within this OA for the purpose to support the investigations. Within this OA, the JAD “Danube” will be organized by Frontex with the support of the selected MS and Europol. JAD will concentrate on the predefined locations within land border domain in WB region. Due to the specifics of WB, besides the prioritization of facilitated irregular migration, it should be | | 2.2 | 1 st evaluation /review For Driver Reporting May 2016 2 nd evaluation /review For Driver Reporting Oct. 2016 | Goal: - Gather intelligence to improve the identification of the OCGs - Trigger the investigations in MS - Detect crime, arrest the criminals, enhance the border security during JAD - Supporting the MSs national authorities in disclosing cases of smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings and other cross-border crime; - Carrying out effective border control at external borders in order to: - detect all suspicious means of transportation enabling to intercept persons, - preventing unauthorized border crossings, - countering and preventing cross-border |

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| | | | <p>multi-purpose due to the poly-criminal activity of OCGs and criminal acts that could be associated with irregular migration (e.g.: THB, false docs,).</p> | | | | <p>criminality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carrying out border checks at the external borders including means of transport and objects in their possession at Border Crossing Points enabling to intercept persons and countering and preventing cross-border criminality - Enhance operational cooperation between TC and MS; - Enhance operational cooperation and exchange of information at land borders between TCs <p align="center">KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of incidents concerning illegal migration - Number of illegal migrants apprehended - Number of suspected facilitators apprehended - Number of incidents related to trafficking in human beings - Number of incidents of |
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| | | | | | | | forgery/falsification of documents - Number of locations with deployments - Number of MS officers deployed at borders - Number of individual threats/incidents identified - Number of entities sent via SIENA by MS and TC if relevant, - Number of detections and apprehensions during JAD |
| <p>OAP 2015 (OA 5.4. Frontex Coordinated Joint Operation: Coordination Points 2015 (land border) The operational aim was to establish a system for the exchange of information related to early detections of recent, actual and future illegal migration trends towards the EU through the territory of the third country. Furthermore, the establishment and exchange of common best practices aimed to improve practical cooperation between the competent authorities involved in controlling of irregular migration flows and to tackle other cross-border crime. Coordination Points were established at the Border Crossing Points between Third Countries including FYROM, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Apart from the intelligence exchanged on the early detected trends that could result in better securing of the external EU borders, additional operational results were as follows: 15 irregular migrants detected; 449 persons were refused entry; 65 cases on falsification/document fraud; 34 cases on overstaying; 15 cases on smuggling of goods; 3 cases on stolen vehicles.</p> <p>OAP 2016 (OA focused on Western Balkans Operational Area to be implemented by means by means of selected and fine-tuned Frontex Joint Operations and additionally prepared Joint Action Day Danube).</p> <p>The aim of this OA, focused on Western Balkans Operational Area is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to ensure appropriate operational response in tackling the situation of irregular migration at the most effective EU external land borders (JO FOA); - to facilitate the implementation of the integrated border management concept at the EU external land borders by establishing a permanent Focal Points system at the Border Crossing points (JO FPs); - establish a system for the exchange of information relating to early detection of illegal migration trends towards the EU through the territory of the Third Country with the aim for the immediate operational response. Under this OA the Border Crossing Points between partner Third Countries will be covered (JO CPs). | | | | | | | |

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On the 11th of March, a fruitful coordination meeting with HU Co-Action Leader took place to settle the details of the further collaboration between the AL and Co-AL. JAD Danube planning has also been discussed. HU involvement in the OA 5.3. is supposed to enhance the element of investigation support.

JAD Danube is supposed to be organized within this OA and executed by means of the involvement of JO Focal Points, JO Coordination Points and JO FOA on border surveillance. JAD is supposed to be concentrated on facilitated illegal immigration but will cover other cross-border-crime types (multipurpose character, targeting also poly-criminal OCGs operating across the border). Timeframe: September 2016.

JO Focal Points involved are: Hungarian border with Serbia; Croatian border with Serbia; Croatian border with Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatian border with Montenegro; Romanian border with Serbia; Bulgarian border with Serbia; Greek border with Albania

JO Coordination Points 2016: Bosnia and Herzegovina border with Montenegro; Serbia border with Bosnia and Herzegovina; Montenegro border with Albania; Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border with Serbia:

JO Flexible Operational Activities on Border Surveillance: The operational aim of JO FOA on border surveillance (WB) is to implement coordinated operational activities in order to control irregular migration flow towards the territory of EU MSs and to tackle cross border crime. The objective is going to be achieved by combining different type of operational activities, particularly: border surveillance and intelligence gathering activities.

Operational Areas: HUN - SRB border; HRV - SRB border; BGR - SRB border

Final Results

OAP 2016 (OA focused on Western Balkans Operational Area) to be implemented by means by means of selected and fine-tuned Frontex Joint Operations and additionally prepared Joint Action Day Danube. The aim of this OA, focused on Western Balkans Operational Area is:

- to ensure appropriate operational response in tackling the situation of irregular migration at the most effective EU external land borders (JO FOA);
- to facilitate the implementation of the integrated border management concept at the EU external land borders by establishing a permanent Focal Points system at the Border Crossing points (JO FPs);
- to establish a system for the exchange of information relating to early detection of illegal migration trends towards the EU through the territory of the Third Country with the aim for the immediate operational response.

Under this OA the Border Crossing Points between partner Third Countries are covered (JO Coordination Points).

JAD (non multi-priority JAD) Danube was held 15-22 September 2016, led by Frontex and co-led by Hungary. Several preparatory meetings were held before, including the one embracing all stakeholders. On the 11th of March, a fruitful coordination meeting with HU Co-Action Leader took place to settle the details of the further collaboration between the action leader and co-action leader. JAD Danube planning has also been discussed. HU involvement in the OA 5.3. is supposed to enhance the element of investigation support.

On the 15-16th of June, the coordination meeting has been organized at Frontex HQ with all the stakeholders including MS, Europol and Interpol. The organization of the meeting was financed by Frontex.

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The first draft of the OPLAN has been presented and discussed. Frontex, Hungary and Europol presented the current trends in migratory flows and OCGs engagement in the WB. Both Interpol and Europol described the remits of their possible support. The part-takers debated over the most recent trends, countermeasures towards the OCGs, ways of communication and reporting during the JAD and practicalities. Draft OPLAN has been distributed among stakeholders for comments between 11-13th of July. Hungary and Europol supported Frontex with their contributions to the risk analysis/threat assessment (in case of Europol: “intelligence package”) in August.

The tailored risk analysis will constitute the integral part of the Operational Plan. The update of the intel package will be provided by Europol additionally at the end of the first week of September 2016. This endeavor will fulfill the stipulation of the OA 1.1. as well (joint analytical product provision).

This is a practical example of the collaboration that could be exercised via EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT platform. It is worth adding that the invitation to Europol and Interpol has been the initiative of Frontex. As regards Interpol support, due to their financial constraints, they were supported from Frontex budget. Europol is financing its share from its own budget.

JAD Danube is supposed to be organized within this OA and executed by means of the involvement of JO Focal Points 2016 Land and JO Flexible Operational Activities on border surveillance and by using operational information/data of JO Coordination Points 2016. JAD is supposed to be concentrated on facilitated illegal immigration but will cover other cross-border-crime types (multipurpose character, targeting also poly-criminal OCGs operating across the border).

JO Focal Points 2016 Land: Hungarian border with Serbia; Croatian border with Serbia; Croatian border with Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatian border with Montenegro; Romanian border with Serbia; Bulgarian border with Serbia; Greek border with Albania.

JO Flexible Operational Activities on Border Surveillance: the operational aim of JO FOA on border surveillance (WB) is to implement coordinated operational activities in order to control irregular migration flow towards the territory of EU MSs and to tackle cross border crime. The objective is going to be achieved by combining different type of operational activities, particularly: border surveillance and intelligence gathering activities. Operational Areas: HU - RS border; HR - RS border; BG - RS border.

JO Coordination Points 2016: Bosnia and Herzegovina border with Montenegro; Serbia border with Bosnia and Herzegovina; Montenegro border with Albania; Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border with Serbia

JAD Danube concentrated in WB region as listed above, but mainly HU-RS border. Main aim is to stop the irregular migration, more efficiently gather and use the intelligence, to obtain intelligence on the migrants smuggling networks, feed the investigations, cross-check the databases on national and international level, apply investigation techniques and tools, combine the knowledge of border police with criminal police. The Coordination Center was organized in Szeged in HU in the proximity of the border. Field work and assets included: Europol deployed analysts, mobile office and UFED (extraction of the content of mobiles); Interpol deployed the analyst with the access to Interpol databases; RO and AT provided liaison officers; HU central and regional investigative units were involved; Frontex deployed SGO/GOs and the debriefing coordinator from Frontex HQs.

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| | <p>The collaboration between all partners was excellent, especially with Hungary and Europol, AT. Some other MS supported remotely – as BG, HR or TCs within Coordination Points Land JO.</p> <p>Outputs: c. 540 illegal migrants apprehended, 10 facilitators arrested, c. 210 refusals of entry, c. 60 illegal stayers detected, 150 litres of alcohol, 21 thousand of cigarettes, 2 stolen vehicles, small amounts of smuggled drugs and food products. Several information exchanged, analysed and cross-checked by MS, Europol and Interpol. Investigations against migrant smuggling led by HU were fed by additional data, links, database checks and analysis conducted by Europol and partially Interpol.</p> <p>Results obtained not only in migrant smuggling domain proved that while concentrating operational effort in one priority, bring results in others as well.</p> |
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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
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| OA 5.4 | Eurosur Eurosur Fusion Services (EFS) for the sake of detecting, preventing and combating illegal immigration and cross-border crime | Leader: FRONTEX Co-leader: n/a Supported by: EUROPOL MS will be involved on the basis of the separate procedure applicable to EFS. | The use of Eurosur Fusion Services (EFS) supports more effective detecting, preventing and combating illegal immigration and cross-border crime. The range of services provided under Eurosur, is constantly evolving, so far includes: coherent situational picture of current vessel traffic in the Mediterranean Sea, monitoring of vessels of interest, detection of objects using satellite based radar correlated with AIS and LRIT, atmospheric and maritime conditions, advanced visualization of different operational data, computing probable vessel positions based on sea conditions and vessel parameters, site monitoring and verification of intelligence based on optical satellite imagery. New tools and services has been added based on the gained experience in the field of surveillance (i.e. the detection of abnormal and suspicious behavior of vessels has been developed). Targets are defined by MS and the selection could also be supported by Europol or initiated by Action Leaders based on the needs of OA. The activation of EFS shall be implemented by National Coordination Centers established on basis of Eurosur Regulation in all SAC/MS countries to enhance the inter-agency cooperation on national level (especially between border police and police). | SG2 SG5 | 5.2 (JOT MARE) 2.3 | From January till December 2016, upon MS' requests prioritization and Europol's advice. 1 st evaluation /review For Driver Reporting May 2016 2 nd evaluation /review For Driver Reporting Oct. 2016 | Goal: Strengthened situational picture and increase of the MS reaction appropriateness, and support of operations. KPIs: Number of requests for satellite services submitted by MS with reference to vessel detections within Mediterranean Sea area - Number of satellite surveillance vessel detections applied - Number of incidents involving illegal activity, namely illegal migration, facilitation of illegal migration, THB, other forms of cross-border crime revealed - Number of irregular migrants involved in incidents - Number of illegal migration facilitators apprehended |

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| | | | <p>Awareness sessions and training will be organized to facilitate the launch of the services by MS and Europol.</p> <p>EFS might support each JAD organized within the domain of tackling of the facilitation of illegal immigration.</p> <p>Request for services for JOT MARE and operational actions will be given the priority.</p> <p>Financed directly from Frontex budget.</p> | | | | <p>- Number of awareness sessions/training organized + number of trained persons</p> |
| <p>OAP 2015/ OAP 2016</p> <p>In the first half of 2015, within Southern Maritime and Eastern Land Border of the EU, there were 42 requests falling subject-wise in the scope of EMPACT OA 5.5. from Italy, France, Latvia, Greece, Spain, Malta and Poland as well as based on internal analysis. In next months, as regards the Vessel Detection Service the acquisitions will be focusing on the area of Central Mediterranean, with some coverage planned for Eastern Mediterranean depending on availability Greek/JO Poseidon follow-up assets.</p> <p>The use of Eurosur Fusion Services (EFS) supports more effective detecting, preventing and combating illegal immigration and cross-border crime. The range of services provided under Eurosur, is constantly evolving, so far includes: coherent situational picture of current vessel traffic in the Mediterranean Sea, monitoring of vessels of interest, detection of objects using satellite based radar correlated with AIS and LRIT, atmospheric and maritime conditions, advanced visualization of different operational data, computing probable vessel positions based on sea conditions and vessel parameters, site monitoring and verification of intelligence based on optical satellite imagery.</p> <p>Currently Europol has access to Frontex Vessel Detection Service and Frontex is working closely with JOT MARE on particular cases. The list of the suspected vessels has been prepared, link to services used by Frontex. Further cooperation is foreseen.</p> <p>Templates for service request have been adjusted with specific EMPACT or EMPACT/JOT MARE labelling, to facilitate the process of service requests and prioritize the ones submitted within EMPACT and for the purpose of JOT MARE.</p> <p>New tools and services have been added based on the gained experience in the field of surveillance, including automated alerts for the detection of abnormal and suspicious behavior of vessels.</p> | | | | | | | |

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| <p><i>Final Results</i></p> | <p>OAP 2016</p> <p>The use of Eurosur Fusion Services (EFS) supports more effective detecting, preventing and combating illegal immigration and cross-border crime. The range of services provided under Eurosur, is constantly evolving, so far includes: coherent situational picture of current vessel traffic in the Mediterranean Sea, monitoring of vessels of interest, detection of objects using satellite based radar correlated with AIS and LRIT, atmospheric and maritime conditions, advanced visualization of different operational data, computing probable vessel positions based on sea conditions and vessel parameters, site monitoring and verification of intelligence based on optical satellite imagery.</p> <p>Between January – August, Frontex has received 17 service requests under EFS. Those that may fall under EMPACT objectives and could be associated with the migrant smuggling, are as follows (12):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S3 Tracking Vessels of Interest, 21.01, Netherlands • S9 Anomaly Detection Service, 04.02, Spain request • S11 Coastal Monitoring, 08.02, Malta request • S12 Pre-Frontier Monitoring, 14.03, Spain request • S12 Pre-Frontier Monitoring, 14.03, Spain request (second) • S3 Tracking Vessels of Interest, 04.04, France request • S8 Satellite Imagery, 27.06, Italy request • S4 Vessel Detection, 07.07, Spain request • S4 Vessel Detection, 27.07, Spain request • S3 Tracking Vessel of Interest, 01.08, Europol request • S4 Vessel Detection, 05.08, Spain request • S3 Tracking Vessel of Interest, 29.08, Europol request <p>Currently Europol has access to Frontex Vessel Detection Service and Frontex is working closely with JOT MARE on particular cases. The contribution to the list of the vessels of interest has been prepared. Templates for service request have been adjusted with specific EMPACT or EMPACT/JOT MARE labelling, to facilitate the process of service requests and prioritize the ones submitted within EMPACT and for the purpose of JOT MARE already in 2015. The updated of the templates is supposed to be launched in the 2nd half of 2016 (update of the footnote on EMPACT as well).</p> |
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During the 8th EUROSUR Expert Group Meeting held on the **23rd of May** in Serock (Narvil) in PL, the concept of the EFS appliance for the sake of EMPACT OAs has been explained to the National Coordination Centres (NCCs) representatives from MS attending the expert group meeting – in order to facilitate the access of the criminal police/investigative units to the services via NCC.

The awareness session on Eurosur Fusion Services appliance has been organized by Frontex for the current and potential EFS users between **27-28th of June**. The event was organized by Frontex with the support of Croatia as the Western Balkans Information Exchange Conference, a forum dedicated to the topic of operational use of Eurosur mandated Frontex Fusion Services in the Member States. During this conference, several presentations of tested capabilities and results of recent operational trials related to Eurosur were delivered. It has been followed by the detailed description of the delivered services, introduction of further developments and implementation plans with the collection of future requirements in the field of Information Exchange and Situation Monitoring particularly with regard to Western Balkans. The conference was also used to promote the use of Eurosur related services to fight both the facilitated irregular migration and other types of cross border crime, as envisaged in the Eurosur regulation (“Surveillance of external land and sea borders, including the monitoring, detection, identification, tracking, prevention and interception of unauthorized border crossings for the purpose of detecting, preventing and combating illegal immigration and cross-border crime and contributing to ensuring the protection and saving the lives of migrants”). The conference served also the purpose of promoting EFS among the investigators, Europol related personnel, EMPACT community users. Representatives of the EMPACT community from various EMPACT Priorities, including FII were invited.

Besides, EUROSUR Fusion Services awareness session was organized for the participants of the Facilitation of Illegal Immigration (FII), but also other EMPACT Priorities (Firearms, Excise Goods, and Cocaine) representatives of CWWP and Europol. The event was held in Warsaw between **29-30th of September**. Representatives of customs authorities, police, intelligence, border guard and coast guard community attended. Before, new tools and services have been added based on the gained experience in the field of surveillance, including automated alerts for the detection of abnormal and suspicious behavior of vessels. All services were described in detail, case studies presented, open discussion triggered with the presence of Europol JOT Mare team. The event should result in more service requests and tools appliance

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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
|-----------|--|---|--|-------------|-------------|--|---|
| OA 5.5 | <p>Africa Frontex Intelligence Community (AFIC) development</p> <p>The AFIC is a platform for joint analyses and common knowledge sharing with respect to border security, irregular trans-border movement of people, trans-border criminality.</p> | <p>Leader: FRONTEX</p> <p>Co-Leader: n/a</p> <p>Supported by: EUROPOL</p> <p>FII – EMPACT Priority Driver’s representative</p> | <p>This action focuses on the enhancement of the cooperation with and within source and transit third countries from Africa aiming at better identification of reasons, routes, modi operandi and financial flows in order to contribute to further disruption of OCGs and preventive measures. In 2016 it should focus inter alia on training for the police officers, providing technical support and setting up risk analysis units at national level, enhancing the cooperation with EU Agencies and other relevant, international stakeholders involved in border security and migration management.</p> <p>The presence of AFIC within FII EMPACT OAP 2016 shall facilitate the contacts between the MS investigative units with African partners on the bilateral basis, enhancing the information exchange between ILOs deployed in African countries (network establishment by means of AFIC), bridging the investigation/criminal police with border management authorities in MS and AFIC members, allowing Europol to play the supportive role. Further expansion of AFIC’s module linked to the intelligence collection/analysis and investigation will provide additional momentum to further develop this initiative. AFIC Platform will also allow to expand the border related management cooperation with African countries to be steered in the comprehensive, unified manner at EU level basing on the</p> | | | <p>1st evaluation /review For Driver Reporting May 2016</p> <p>2nd evaluation /review For Driver Reporting Oct. 2016</p> | <p>Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop contacts between ILOs deployed in Africa, - Develop the cooperating units in African countries, - Promote regional cooperation between African countries - Enhance exchange of intelligence - Develop common investigations - Avail the platform of the multilateral cooperation for intelligence collection/analysis and investigation purposes - Network ILOs deployed in Africa - Support the intelligence exchange/analysis and investigation <p>KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of MS/SAC |

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| | | | achievements until now. | | | | <p>ILOs engaged,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of African partners involved, - Number of meetings and workshops organized, - Number of intelligence exchanged |
| <p>The AFIC is a platform for joint analyses and common knowledge sharing with respect to border security, irregular trans-border movement of people, trans-border criminality. As agreed during OAP 2016 drafting in autumn 2015, both Driver of the FII EMPACT Priority and Europol were invited by Frontex and took an active part in the AFIC related meeting with LOs deployed in Africa n Rome already in November 2015. During the meeting Europol presented its portfolio in the field of migrant smuggling. EMPACT related presentation was delivered by Frontex as well.</p> <p>In 2016, the AFIC will have two regional workshops in Ghana (March) and Mauritania (June). Member States' Liaison Officers deployed in these countries are also invited. The final workshop of the year takes place in Warsaw in September. The AFIC joint report 2016 is released by the end of October (in English and French). Similarly to two previous years, there will be also a dedicated and a separate MS ILO meeting (the place and exact timing TBC). The use of CIRCABC platform for information sharing is boosted further among others by launching a new monthly product called AFIC Monthly (in the second half of the year).</p> | | | | | | | |
| <i>Final Results</i> | | <p>The AFIC is a platform for joint analyses and common knowledge sharing with respect to border security, irregular trans-border movement of people, trans-border criminality. As agreed during OAP 2016 drafting in autumn 2015, both Driver of the FII EMPACT Priority and Europol were invited by Frontex and took an active part in the AFIC related meeting in Rome with LOs deployed in Africa already in November 2015. During the meeting Europol presented its portfolio in the field of migrant smuggling. EMPACT related presentation was delivered by Frontex as well.</p> <p>In 2016, two regional workshops were held already in Ghana (March) and Mauritania (June). Member States' Liaison Officers deployed in these countries were invited. The final workshop of the year takes place in Warsaw in September. Europol, the FII Driver representative and Interpol are invited as well. The AFIC joint report 2016 will be released by end October (in English and French). Similarly to two previous years, there will be also a dedicated and a separate MS ILO meeting (the place and exact timing TBC). The use of CIRCABC platform for information sharing is boosted further among others by launching a new monthly product called AFIC Monthly, which has been in the production since May 2016 and is released in English and French.</p> | | | | | |

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Strategic Goal 6: To build prevention capabilities, awareness, cooperation and share best practices amongst all stakeholders with a view to identifying and implementing those measures that will deliver the greatest impact on the problem. Particular emphasis should be given to training and to enhance the use of existing mechanisms and tools at EU and national level, including by those stakeholders not belonging to the law enforcement community.

Measurement of achievement: Increased capacity; improved awareness; identified initiatives prioritised and implemented with an evaluation of their effectiveness.

| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
|-----------|--|---|--|-------------|-------------|--------------------|---|
| OA 6.1 | Develop and implement Illegal Immigration related training activities for EU law enforcement specialists in order to exchange good working practices | Leader: CEPOL Co-Leader: n/a | <p>A. Residential workshop – high level seminar with Western Balkan focus</p> <p>Four days residential workshop in Budapest dedicated to analyse the problems related to migration flows from Western Balkans, including financial aspects</p> <p>Participants: EU MS high level investigators upon invitation</p> <p>B. Residential workshop – organised crime groups behind illegal immigration</p> <p>Four days residential workshop dedicated to enhance knowledge and competences on OCG cases and explore the main transnational investigation techniques, including financial aspects</p> <p>Participants: EU MS Police officers upon invitation/ request</p> <p>C. Residential workshop on illegal immigration</p> <p>Residential workshop on illegal immigration (specific topic will be determined on the basis of emerging threats).</p> <p>Participants:</p> | SG 1 | | A: Q1 B: Q1 | <p>Goal:</p> <p>A: Deliver a residential workshop for high level investigators targeting specific emerging threats in the Western Balkans</p> <p>B: Deliver a residential workshop about organised crime groups behind illegal immigration</p> <p>C: Deliver a residential training targeting a specific emerging criminal threats in facilitation of illegal immigration</p> <p>KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of participants: - Outcome of the seminar evaluation and overall participants satisfaction 80% |

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| | | | EU MS Police officers upon invitation/ request. | | | | |
| <p>To design the programme a preparatory meeting was organised at CEPOL 09-10 December 2015. The first action was implemented from Tuesday 26.01 to Thursday 28.01.2016 in CEPOL Headquarters, Budapest, Hungary. It addressed the strategic aspects of policing with a mixt of presentations and workshops on: Public order in the context of massive migration, criminal investigations linked to migrant smuggling and THB, Policing communities in the context of massive immigration.</p> <p>The programme consisted of several presentations followed by workshops which topics covered the main challenges faced by law enforcement leaders when confronted to unprecedented migration flows. In total 42 participants attended this training activity: 36 participants from 24 MS of the EU, 3 partner countries and entity, ALBANIA with one participant, Bosnia and Herzegovina with 2 participants, Kosovo with 2 participants and one participant from SWITZERLAND. 14 experts were involved in the action, 2 videoconferencing sessions with the COM, 2 Experts from Frontex and one from Europol, 1 expert from IOM, 2 experts from PCCSEE, high level experts from 4 different MS (Slovenia, Austria, Hungary and Germany).</p> <p>The second action was implemented 01-03/03/2016 at the CEPOL HQ, Budapest/Hungary. The course gathered four participants from Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with 35 participants from 20 EU Member states. 21 participants are involved in criminal investigations, supposedly on routine basis (4 participants are doing Border control, 4 participants are appointed to port authorities, 8 participants are in Central or coordination offices, 1 participant is coming from intelligence, 1 participant is from an immigration service). The main goal was to prepare the participants to perform criminal investigations in compliance with the recommendations of the EU action plan on migrant smuggling (using the resources of EU agencies, carrying out proactive financial investigations, using the JITs instrument, using EU and international IT systems (SIS ii/SLTD). The course programme mainly consisted in a scenario on migrant smuggling involving joint investigations in the Western Balkan and EU countries. Features, modus operandi were discussed in special sessions. The workshops also facilitated the exchange of knowledge and the network building of attendants. Experts from the Commission, Europol, Frontex, Interpol, Western Union and Hungary moderated the activity. All participants were invited to contribute to an `opinion paper` on criminal investigations during a specific workshop session. The `opinion` collected will be aggregated to form a final `opinion paper` to be conveyed to the stakeholders Commission and COSI.</p> <p>The third action is planned for the end of May in Sweden, in the Swedish National Police Academy, Stockholm. The course present an opportunity to better understand the complexity of the activities carried out by OCGs and their modus operandi, EU initiatives in the area of illegal immigration, the routes used between the source and destination countries for illegal immigration, repatriation possibilities, trends related to abuse of legal channels for migration including the use of fraudulent documents and types of international cooperation that can be provided, as defined by the Organised Crime Convention.</p> | | | | | | | |

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| <i>Final Results</i> | <p>The first two activities were already completed in the first part of the year. The third action took place at the end of May in Sweden, in the Swedish National Police Academy, Stockholm, Sweden from 24-26 May 2016. This 2,5 day-long training activity gathered 29 Senior police officers and experts combating illegal immigration and related crimes from 20 Member States (BE, CY, HR, DE, EE, DE, GR, HU, IE, IT, LV, MT, NL, PT, PL, RO, SE, SK, ES, UK, NO). The course aimed to demonstrate good practices on the investigation of OSGs involved in the facilitation of illegal immigration and international cooperation in combating illegal immigration.</p> <p>Representatives from the European Commission, EASO, Frontex, Eurojust and Europol were engaged as experts on the course and covered relevant aspects regarding combating illegal immigration during their presentations. The course benefited also for the support of Police National, France, on Document and ID fraud. In the course evaluation, each learning outcome was rated by all participants to have been achieved successfully. Satisfaction rate was 92%.</p> |
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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
|-----------|---|---|---|-------------|-------------|--------|--|
| OA 6.2 | Training on advanced skills on detection of falsified documents | Leader: FRONTEX Co-Leader: n/a | Training courses aiming at providing advanced skills on detection of falsified documents to the law enforcers. The training embraces theoretical and practical part and ends with the exam and certification. | | | | <p align="center">Goal:</p> <p align="center">Training delivered</p> <p align="center">KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of participants - Number of training courses - Outcome of the training evaluation. |

OAP 2016

For 2016 Frontex received in total 86 nominations to attend the course and 28 MS/SAC replied. The 1st training on advanced skills in detection of falsified documents has been carried out already from 08 February 2016 – 19 February 2016. Participants from the following MS took part in the training: Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain and Sweden. At the end of the course all participants passed the exam and were awarded with a certificate. The 2nd training took place from 14 March 2016 – 25th March 2016. Participants from the following MS are invited: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and United Kingdom.

For the rest of 2016 the following courses are planned:

- 11th April 2016 – 22nd April 2016 (course organized together with Frontex International and European Cooperation Unit related to the Eastern Partnership – Integrated Border Management-Capacity Building project, involved countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine)
- 13th June 2016 – 24th June 2016 (regular course)
- 12th September 2016 – 23rd September 2016 (regular course)
- 31st October 2016 – 11th November 2016 (course organised for 3rd countries)

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| <i>Final Results</i> | <p>For 2016 we received after the call for nomination in total 86 nominations to attend the course and 28 MS/SAC replied. Only Ireland, Cyprus, Liechtenstein and Croatia did not nominate anyone, even after sending two reminders. The 1st training on advanced skills in detection of falsified documents has been carried out already from 08 February 2016 – 19 February 2016. Participants from the following MS took part in the training: Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain and Sweden. At the end of the course all participants passed the exam and were awarded with a certificate.</p> <p>The 2nd training will take place from 14 March 2016 – 25th March 2016. Participants from the following MS are invited: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and United Kingdom. At the end of the course all participants passed the exam and were awarded with a certificate.</p> <p>From 11th April 2016 – 22nd April 2016 (a similar training course was organized together with Frontex International and European Cooperation Unit related to the Eastern Partnership – Integrated Border Management-Capacity Building project, involved countries: Armenia (2), Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia (3), Moldova (3) and Ukraine (3)). Azerbaijan and Belarus cancelled their participation in the course. At the end of the course all participants passed the exam and were awarded with a certificate.</p> <p>From 13th June 2016 – 24th June 2016 (regular course) was organised with participation from Latvia, Czech Republic, Germany, Croatia, United Kingdom, Malta, Portugal, Belgium, Hungary, Finland, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Greece, Norway and Lithuania. At the end of the course 14 participants passed the exam and were awarded with a certificate. One participant failed the exam and re-examination.</p> <p>Between 12th September 2016 – 23rd September 2016 another, regular course was also organized.</p> <p>Between 31st October 2016 – 11th November 2016 a subsequent course will take place (for 3rd countries)</p> <p>Also two trainings on advanced skills for the detection of falsified documents have been planned in the framework of IPA II project for Western Balkan States, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, FYRO Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey including Kosovo planned to be implemented until the end of this year as follows: 26 September 2016 -07 October 2016 / 28 November 2016 – 09 December 2016</p> |
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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
|-----------|---|---|--|-------------|-------------|---|---|
| OA 6.3 | Training for Visa Section Staff of EU MS / SAC embassies and consulates in third countries. | Leader: FRONTEX Co-Leader: n/a | Training courses for Embassies /Consulates of EU MS / SAC in third countries on document fraud related issues, covering inter alia documents checking, security elements, stamps, visas and supporting documents, profiling, supportive databases reference. | | | 1 st evaluation /review For Driver Reporting May 2016 2 nd evaluation /review For Driver Reporting Oct. 2016 | Goal: Training delivered KPIs: - Number of participants - Number of training courses - Outcome of the training evaluation. |

OAP 2015

The general objective of the activity was to establish a common training standard for the consular staff in order to support implement and harmonize the training of the consular staff on detection of falsified documents and profiling to prevent illegal migration and to create a network between the different MS/SAC attending the trainings. This training aims to prevent irregular migration of travelers to obtain visa by presenting forged or counterfeit documents.

The last training was held from 02 – 06 November 2015 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina with the following participating countries: Croatia (1), France (1), Germany (14), Italy (2), Netherlands (1), Norway (2), Poland (1), Slovenia (1) and Sweden (3). All these training for visa section staff were organized in closed cooperation and support from representatives of the local EU delegation.

OAP 2016

In 2016 3 trainings for visa section staff of EU MS / SAC embassies and consulates in 3rd countries are envisaged to be organized. For the 1st training the proposal for such training is send to the EU delegation in Pristina, Kosovo. Planning is to carry out his training from 02nd May 2016 – 06th May 2016. Two other trainings are planned from 24th October 2016 – 28th October 2016 and from 05th December 2016 – 09th December 2016. Locations for the last two trainings are not defined yet and any proposal to have such training will be taken into consideration and contact concerning these activities are also made with Consular Cooperation Mechanism. The CCM project, led by Belgium, is funded under Specific Actions of the ISF-Borders and currently counts 10 MS partners: BE, EE, FR, HU, IT, PL, PT, RO, CH and NL. Frontex and COM (DG HOME, Gabriela Szmidt - Unit B2 Visa Policy) attended meetings as observers. The objective of the project is to deploy Document Verification Officers (DVO) to third countries to investigate source documents submitted by visa applicants. The project also envisages Joint

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training of consular staff in assessing supporting documents emitted by third countries, in analysing trends in Schengen-visa abuse, detecting false and forged identity and travel documents; and where relevant, joint training of Third Countries' authorities to reinforce the reliability of Schengen-visa source documents. During the kick-off meeting of the FII EMPACT Priority, the MS-Agencies stakeholders were invited to submit the proposal for the location of the training course supported with the justification of the targeted venue. No proposal reached OA 6.3 AL yet.

Final Results

In 2016 3 trainings for visa section staff of EU MS / SAC embassies and consulates in 3rd countries are envisaged to be organized. For the 1st training the proposal for such a training has been send to the EU delegation in Pristina, Kosovo and the training was held from 02nd May 2016 – 06th May 2016. During the two training days at the EU delegation premises visa section staff from the embassies and consulates of AT, BE, BG, HR, CZ, FI, FR, DE, GR, HU, IT, NL, NO, SK, SE. CH took part in the training and one participant from EULEX, in total 26 participants. Two other trainings are planned from 24th October 2016 – 28th October 2016 (Skopje, FYROM) and from 05th December 2016 – 09th December 2016 (Podgorica, Montenegro). For further training locations any proposal to have such training will be taken into consideration and contact concerning these activities are also made with Consular Cooperation Mechanism. The CCM project, led by Belgium, is funded under Specific Actions of the ISF-Borders and currently counts 10 MS partners: BE, EE, FR, HU, IT, PL, PT, RO, CH and NL. Frontex and COM (DG HOME, Gabriela Szmidt - Unit B2 Visa Policy) attended meetings as observers. The objective of the project is to deploy **Document Verification Officers (DVO)** to third countries to investigate source documents submitted by visa applicants. The project also envisages **Joint training of consular staff** in assessing supporting documents emitted by third countries, in analysing trends in Schengen-visa abuse, detecting false and forged identity and travel documents; and where relevant, joint training of Third Countries' authorities to reinforce the reliability of Schengen-visa source documents. During the kick-off meeting of the FII EMPACT Priority, the MS-Agencies stakeholders were invited to submit the proposal for the location of the training course supported with the justification of the targeted venue. No proposal reached OA 6.3. Action Leader or the Driver/Frontex Co-Driver yet

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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
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| OA 6.4 | Intelligence gathering capacity building at the borders. | Leader: FRONTEX Co-Leader: n/a | <p>This OA aims to gain and improve the skills of the border police officers in order to support the effective process of identification of irregular migrants; detection of irregularities and law violations as well as intelligence gathering. This OA comprises of two main pillars:</p> <p>A) Training for intelligence gathering professionals.</p> <p>B) Working visits to debriefing sites at the border</p> <p>The first one (A) aims at the enhancement of the skills, capacity and results of the predefined groups of police/border police officers (members of European Border Guard Teams), involved in the intelligence gathering processes. It embraces the training courses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - screening experts preparing experts for assumption of nationality of undocumented persons with the perspective for registration and/or return (2 profile courses for screening experts, 1 regional course for screening experts and 1 national course on nationality assumption). - second-line interview experts, focusing on interview techniques, communication models, effective questioning and cognitive interviewing. (2 profile courses for 2nd line interview experts). | | | <p>1st evaluation /review For Driver Reporting May 2016</p> <p>2nd evaluation /review For Driver Reporting Oct. 2016</p> | <p>Goal:</p> <p>To increase the capacity of officers involved in information gathering</p> <p>To facilitate team-working among the staff of the EPN Member States in specific areas of border control at the EU external sea borders</p> <p>KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of MS involved - Number of trained persons - Number of man-days performed by deployed staff during working visits |

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| | | | <p>- debriefing experts, aimed at gaining the skills to carry out voluntary and informal dialogue with irregular migrants in order to obtain strategic and tactical information to be processed into intelligence on e.g.: routes, modus operandi, payments and criminal networks behind illegal immigration. (2 profile courses for debriefing experts, 1 regional course for debriefing experts and 1 national course for debriefers).</p> <p>B. Working visits to debriefing sites at the border</p> <p>The exchange of the team leaders/debriefing coordinators in the debriefing sites allows the mutual learning, exchange of expertise, harmonization of operational practices. It helps to improve the quality of the debriefings of irregular migrants.</p> | | | | |
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OAP 2015

Additional activity “Profile training for Debriefing experts I/2015” was held 17 – 26 November 2015 in Cesena, Italy and was aimed at EBGT members planned for deployment to Joint Operations as debriefing experts. To this activity participated 18 officers from 14 countries, with priority given to Greece and Bulgaria (2 seats per country). This course uses videos, presentations, discussions, and especially simulated interviews to allow participants who complete the profile training for debriefing experts to employ cognitive interviewing techniques in a variety debrief interviews. Training course was a successful and efficient activity. Majority of participants demonstrated the expected competence and knowledge in intelligence gathering and debrief interviews were performed on a good level.

In February 2016, the Regional Profile Training Course for Screening Experts I/2016 was held in Athens, Greece. This regional training was aimed at developing key competences and strengthening capacities of officers tasked with nationality assumption and screening of undocumented migrants or persons with doubted nationality. The course agenda was well thought to meet needs of practitioners from respective region, with emphasis on interview techniques, different sources of information and background information of countries of origin of undocumented migrants.

Regional course for Screening experts was attended by 20 participants, 13 of them from Greece (both Hellenic Police and Hellenic Coast Guards), 3 from Italy and 4 from Croatia. All participants have been performing screening activities and nationality assumption regularly, mostly as a part of their daily duties (e.g. on Greek islands on Samos, Chios, Symi, etc.) . Being a pilot activity, course proved to be a very efficient activity, highly appreciated by participants.

The regional course opened mostly for Greek officers will be re-run in the 1st half 2016, and additionally also the Regional profile course for Debriefing experts will be organized in Athens in June 2016.

The second pillar of this OA is devoted to the working visits to debriefing sites at the borders. In the reporting period, Frontex organized the visits to: Italy (June – December 2015): each month, 2-3 Team Leaders were deployed for a visit lasting 1 working week, starting with the operational briefing in Rome and then continuing the deployment in the indicated debriefing site with the Joint Debriefing Team under EPN-Triton 2015; Spain – 4 Team Leaders were deployed for one week in September - two in Algeciras and two in Almeria; Greece – 2 Team Leaders were deployed for one week in Samos and Lesbos.

All in all, thanks to this EPN activity, 16 officers from 7 MS (CZ, DK, ES, GR, IT, LT, RO) got the additional on the job experience focused on debriefing in the operational areas targeted by the unprecedented migration flows via sea border. So far, the initiative is very much appreciated by the participants. As highlighted in their reports, it enables them to get insight into process of handling migrants from disembarkation through fingerprinting, screening and debriefing in migrant reception sites. The deployed officers can observe the work of the debriefing teams on spot and they are properly guided by the local staff, either local Team Leader or Frontex Support Officer. In December, the follow-up of results will take place in the framework of the EPN meeting and assessment as a part of evaluation of EPN Staff Exchange 2015 will be held. In 2015, this OA was further developed by including all interested EU MS (not only hosting MS). The officers from 7 EU MS carried out working visits in IT, GR, ES debriefing sites. However other EU MS declared that they do not have strictly the profile of Team Leaders of debriefing teams and therefore they cannot take part in the activity. For this reason, access to debriefing officers or coordinators of debriefing teams was enabled. In this way, more EU MS can get additional on the job experience for their staff – such a flexible approach is to be continued in 2016.

OAP 2016

This OA aims to gain and improve the skills of the border police officers in order to support the effective process of identification of irregular migrants; detection of irregularities and law violations as well as intelligence gathering. This OA comprises of two main pillars:

A) Training for intelligence gathering professionals. Due to the increasing number of debriefing experts more trainers are needed. RAU follows the latest developments in terms of migratory situation in GRC and ITA, and deployment of debriefers providing updates for trainings units if required.

B) Working visits to debriefing sites at the border. In 2016, the preparations for EPN/EMPACT working visits in debriefing sites will only start as of April 2016 due to heavy organizational burden of major sea operations and the rapid intervention launched recently. In April, host MS of sea operations (GR, IT, ES) will be addressed with the request to host the visits under the platform of EPN Poseidon Sea, EPN Triton, EPN Indalo/EPN Minerva. Subject to response the call to MS to send officers for visits will be launched in May. The activity will be promoted at the EPN meeting in June 2016. As of June till December 2016 the working visits could be performed with intensity adjusted to the host MS capacity and interest of all EU MS. EMPACT stakeholders such as IT, GR, ES will be sent the invitation to host the visits. Other EU MS should be comforted by the information that the activity is not restricted to Team Leaders (TLs) of debriefing teams but can also include the coordinators of debriefing experts' deployments and debriefing experts as such.

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| <i>Final Results</i> | <p>This OA aims to gain and improve the skills of the border police officers in order to support the effective process of identification of irregular migrants; detection of irregularities and law violations as well as intelligence gathering. This OA comprises of two main pillars:</p> <p><u>A) Training for intelligence gathering professionals.</u></p> <p>The first one (A) aims at the enhancement of the skills, capacity and results of the predefined groups of police/border police officers (members of European Border Guard Teams), involved in the intelligence gathering processes. It embraces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- training courses for “Screening experts”, preparing experts for assumption of nationality of undocumented persons with the perspective for registration and/or return. 3 Regional profile courses for screening experts were carried in the period February – August 2016 (Regional Profile Training Course for Screening Experts I/2016, Athens, Greece, 22 -26 February 2016 (20 participants from Greece, Croatia and Italy; 5 trainers); Regional Profile Training Course for Screening Experts II/2016, Athens, Greece, 16 – 20 May 2016 (20 participants from Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Croatia, Spain and Latvia); Regional Profile Training Course for Screening Experts III/2016, Riga, Latvia, 22 -26 August 2016 (20 participants from Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Poland) <p>1 national course on nationality assumption will be carried out in 4th quarter 2016 (Monte Negro)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Second-line interview experts, focusing on interview techniques, communication models, effective questioning and cognitive interviewing. (2 profile courses for 2nd line interview experts foreseen for 4th quarter 2016 – 1st quarter 2017).- Debriefing experts, aimed at gaining the skills to carry out voluntary and informal dialogue with irregular migrants in order to obtain strategic and tactical information to be processed into intelligence on e.g.: routes, modus operandi, payments and criminal networks behind illegal immigration <p>Courses carried out in the period January – August 2016:</p> <p><u>1 profile course for debriefing experts:</u></p> <p>Profile Training Course for Debriefing Experts I/2016, Brdo near Kranj, Slovenia, 12 - 21 April 2016, attended by 15 participants from 15 EU MSs/SAC</p> <p><u>1 regional course for debriefing experts:</u></p> <p>Regional Profile Training Course for Debriefing Experts, 06 – 15 June 2016, Athens, Greece, attended by 18 participants from Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Romania and Spain.</p> <p>One more regional training course for debriefers took place 13 – 22 September 2016 in Prague.</p> <p>Due to the increasing number of debriefing experts more trainers are needed. RAU follows the latest developments in terms of migratory situation in GRC and ITA, and deployment of debriefers providing updates for trainings units if required.</p> |
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B) Working visits to debriefing sites at the border.

In 2016, the preparations for EPN/EMPACT working visits in debriefing sites/migrant reception sites during Frontex coordinated joint maritime operations started in spring. Host MS of sea operations (GR, IT, ES) were addressed with the request to host the visits under the platform of EPN Poseidon Sea, EPN Triton, EPN Indalo/EPN Minerva. As of August till December 2016 the working visits could be performed with intensity adjusted to the host MS capacity and interest of all EU MS. This OA is addressed to the respective national authorities, which can nominate officers performing or coordinating migration management activities such as debriefing, screening, fingerprinting and document checking. The visits to Chios, Algeciras, Almeria, Lesbos, Trapani and Taranto have been planned already.

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| Ref. | Activity summary | Leader/ Participants | Description | Links SG | Links OA | Timing | Target/KPI |
|-----------|--|---|--|----------------------|-------------|--|--|
| OA 6.5 | Regional Forum Conference for Chief of Police (if necessary, extended to, or followed by Border Police/Criminal Police high rank officers' meeting) on organized crime and migration issues with reference to the Western Balkans/South East European route and to Western/Central/Eastern Mediterranean route | Leader: IT Co-Leader: n/a Participants: EU MS and Third countries, of the concerned geographical area upon invitation | The aim of the forum is to increase awareness of cross border criminality and facilitation of illegal immigration at the level of Head of Police (if necessary, extended to, or followed by Border Police/Criminal Police high rank officers' meeting) of the countries where migration routes are mostly exploited. The gathering of high ranking officials, while developing mutual trust, will also help sharing strategic and operational approach, stepping up the Policy Cycle and EMPACT Facilitation of Illegal Immigration. Particular attention will be devoted to the two current main routes: a first high level forum will be dedicated to Western Balkans/South East Europe while a second, if feasible will deal with Western/Central/Eastern Mediterranean route. Stepping up the policy cycle, the involvement of Europol, Frontex and Regional Task-forces/Police Association, increase the use of Joint Operational Team in the fight of human smuggling is expected. | SG 1 SG 2 SG 5 | | First half 2016: first high level forum Second half 2016: second high level forum | Goal: - developing mutual closer relationship among top rank officials of the countries mostly affected by illegal immigration - sharing common strategic approach: - implement and support common operational approach at national level; KPIs: - Increase use of EMPACT Platform at national/regional level and among source or transit countries of migration flow - Joint declaration on stepping up policy cycle and Joint Operational Team |

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The Action Leader, waiting for the fund of the Delegation Agreement to be signed, planned preliminary activities. The Forum for the Head of Police of the Western Balkans is planned for December 2016 (possibly Albania) and a high level meeting for the expert in migration pertaining to the Mediterranean area could be possibly be held in September (Italy, location to be confirmed, with the participation of IT; FR, ES, EL, TUR, LYB, EGY, MAR, TUN, CY, MA, others to be confirmed).

Final Results

The Action Leader informed that the first part of the Action will be implemented by the end of the year: a Western Balkan Conference for the Head of Police is planned in December, exact date and location to be confirmed, but probably in Tirana (AL), while the second High Level Conference on Illegal/Irregular Migration on Mediterranean Sea will take place probably in March.