

1. Title, overall objectives and location of the action

Title: Enhancing international police cooperation against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings in North Africa

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this Action is to strengthen law enforcement’s capacity across North Africa to effectively investigate and prosecute organized crime groups engaging in migrant smuggling and, as appropriate, trafficking in human beings.

The Specific(s) Objective(s) (Outcomes) of this Action are:

1. Strengthened capacity by law enforcement, in particular through international cooperation, to manage, share, analyse, and use police information to investigate and prosecute organized crime groups engaging in migrant smuggling;
2. Strengthened capacity of law enforcement to conduct cooperative targeted police operations to disrupt organised crime groups.

2. Context

The proposed regional Action aims to strengthen law enforcement’s capacity across North Africa to effectively investigate and prosecute organized crime groups engaging in migrant smuggling. It covers also, as appropriate, trafficking in human beings, which is often intertwined with migrant smuggling. Increased efforts are needed in light of the professionalization of migrant smuggling, witnessed by law enforcement across the region, which indicates that the trade is increasingly taken over by organized crime groups, as opposed to loosely organized informal networks and facilitators driven by ad hoc opportunities.

3. What kind of measure could finance the Action?

Regional AAP 2022 under the multiannual indicative programme for a Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood. This Action will be implemented in complementarity with other relevant projects in this sector (e.g. ‘EU4BorderSecurity’, ‘Dismantling the Criminal Networks Operating in North Africa’).

Indicative budget:

This action will be part of both the Central Mediterranean migration route Team Europe Initiative and the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic migration route Team Europe Initiative

4. Key results

1. Strengthening capacity at national level to manage police information, establish solid chains of evidence and provide access to critical data to front-line officers.
2. Enhancing capacity for investigative units and frontline officers to access INTERPOL-hosted international police information, including on wanted persons and on stolen and lost travel documents (SLTD).
3. Strengthening international cooperation between law enforcement agencies combating migrant smuggling in North Africa, as well as with neighbouring Sahel and Sub-Saharan countries, EU agencies where applicable and EU Member States.
4. Disrupting and prosecuting criminal organisations through targeted police operations.
5. Identifying new migrant smuggling networks through targeted police operations.

5. Possible/envisaged Implementing partner and other stakeholders involved:

Indirect management with Interpol, with cooperation of relevant JHA agencies