



EUROPOL  
INFO EXCHANGE  
WBSC 2019  
20.03.2019

# Law enforcement and judicial cooperation



European Migrant Smuggling Centre at Europol - 2016



Common Operational Partnerships and Joint Investigation Teams with third countries



Also including cooperation on:



Document fraud  
EBCGA – Centre of Excellence  
on Document Fraud



Financial investigations

Europol Unclassified Basis Connection Level

DG JUST / HOME



Online presence of smugglers  
Europol IRU / EASO

# Information collection and exchange

JHA Agencies' reporting (e.g. risk analyses, intelligence notifications etc.)

Secondary Movements in the EU (EASO, Europol, EBCGA)

Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community



European Network of Immigration Liaison Officers  
(EMLOs, EU Agency LOs, Member State LOs)

Eurostat pilot data collection

# Key capabilities / Information exchange



Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA), EUROPOL's Communication tool:

**1,100**

Competent Authorities connected

**1,005,610**

SIENA Messages exchanged

## The EMSC at a glance:



**3,650**

New Cases received



**101**

Priority Cases supported



**409**

Operational Reports



**29,500**

New Suspects contributed



**141**

Strategic Reports



**39**

Joint and Common Action Days



- Strategic analysis aims to give an insight into and better understanding of crime and criminal trends

- Early Warning Notifications
- Intelligence Notifications
- EPMT
- Threat Assessments
- Active engagement with external / Third Countries
- IPCR (ISAA, HL meetings, EU COM vtcs...)



Use of Regional Airports for intra-Schengen Migrant Smuggling activities

**Intelligence Notification**

**Migrant Smuggling activities along the Adriatic Coastal Route**

**What is happening?**

In early June 2018, the European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) released an intelligence notification focusing on the emerging of an alternative migratory "hot route" of the Western Balkan Route, the so-called, Adriatic Coastal Route. It emerged as a result of a deviation of irregular migrants' movements in the area and dynamic adjustments of facilitation services of organised crime groups, following the establishment of physical barriers and increased border controls along the Italian region between the end of 2017 and early 2018.

Five months on, this intelligence notification is intended to provide an updated picture on the debated developments along the Adriatic Coastal Route, including the impact on countries within the affected area, but also on the main hot-spots used by migrant smugglers.

**Use of rental cars for migrant smuggling purposes**

**What is happening?**

In physical barriers and border management measures have been reinforced at smuggling nodes and at major transportation hubs along the Western Balkan corridor. EUROPOL/EMSC's Operational "Hot Spots" identified increasingly sophisticated methods used by migrant smugglers to facilitate the secondary movements of migrant migrants towards the destination countries.

Smugglers strengthen their efforts to establish short-term relations (STRs) between an individual and other IT systems where their electronic footprint could be detected. Similarly an aware of the fact that their resources is registered not only an individual but also in border registry systems of EU member States, the network use also transporters' data 2017/18 on the use of forged license plates and trailers to transport smugglers' key assets leaders in order to mitigate activities.

**Relevant Data**

One of the most recent trends is the use of rental cars which allow smugglers both to flexibly react to demand and specific needs in certain areas or with specific groups and at the same time to use frequently changing vehicles and license plates to avoid detection. Indeed it currently supports ongoing investigations in Germany, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

From what is known so far it can be concluded that a branch of the Organised Crime Group (OCG) is active in the area of western Germany. The cars are rented at a local office of one of the major international car rental companies, Enterprise, whose main operating headquarters is in St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Company	Year	Value
Enterprise	2017	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2018	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2019	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2020	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2021	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2022	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2023	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2024	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2025	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2026	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2027	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2028	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2029	100 - 150,000
Enterprise	2030	100 - 150,000

**Main subsidiaries affected**

The increasing number of Moroccan migrant migrants have been directed to travel on the Western Mediterranean route towards Spain in 2018, amounting to 47% of all migrants on this route, which indicates a notable growth compared to 2017. According to Frontex, the upward increase was related to Gibraltar, Morocco, and other nationalities, whose numbers almost doubled compared to the last five months of 2017.

From mid-March 2018, an increasing share of migrant migrants was noticed by Spanish authorities in comparison to the same period in 2017, although the overall figure on the nationalities showed a stable trend throughout the three previous years.

The top five nationalities groups entering Spain illegally by sea between 1 January and 31 June 2018, by the Gibraltar-Morocco route, were: Morocco, Mali, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire nationalities.

**OCG's composition**

The main subsidiaries of OCG members, who were involved in smuggling activities, along the Western Mediterranean route, and who are currently active in Morocco, are Spanish and Moroccan, but Algerian, Egyptian, and several other nationalities have also been subjects of past and ongoing investigations by Spanish authorities.

**OCG Members' nationalities**

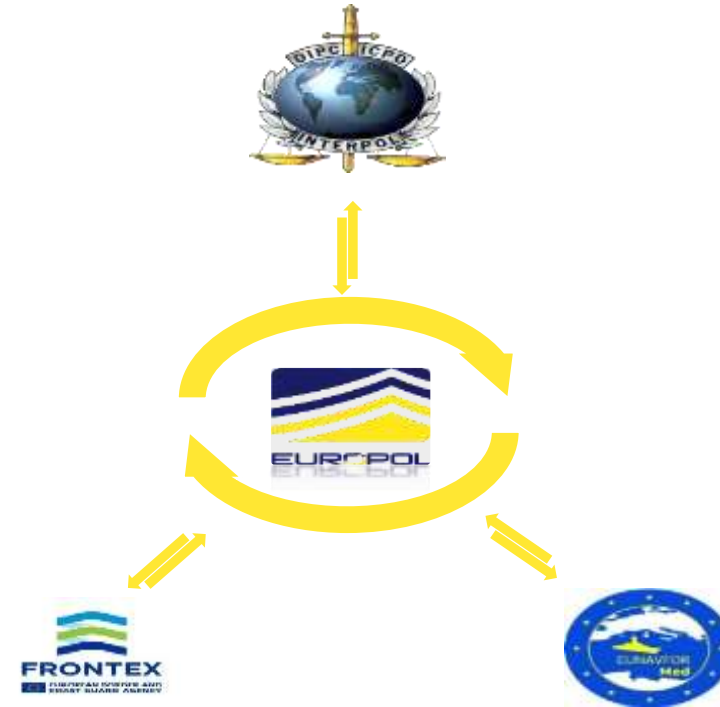
# INFORMATION CLEARING HOUSE (ICH)

## AIM:

Improve the intelligence picture on migrant smuggling focusing **on source and transit countries for migration.**

## OBJECTIVES:

**Enhance information exchange** between military and law enforcement authorities, EU civilian/military missions, EU Delegations, Liaison Officers , law enforcement and military authorities deployed in the third countries;



# Information collection and exchange



- EMSC supporting EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia's **Crime Information Cell** pilot project;
- The EMSC's **Rotating Visiting Experts** support EU civilian missions beyond the EU's external borders.
- JITs and future **COPs**
- On-the-spot support (**EMST**)





# Intelligence Notification

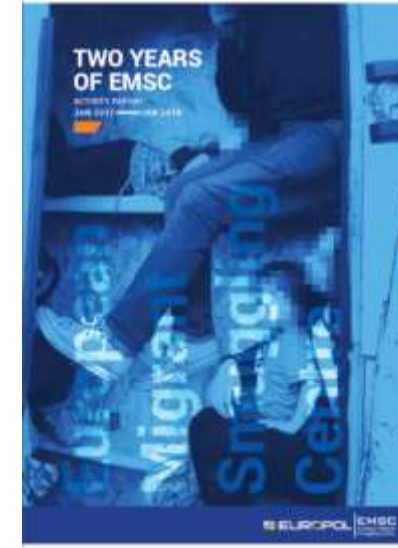


- Joint Europol-EBCGA product;
- Increase detections in the use of small regional airports;
- Most of the cases imply the use of forged/counterfeit documents or look-a-like modus operandi;
- In 2018 there were 90 people smugglers apprehended;
- Main destinations airports in AT, BE, DK, FI, FR, CZ, DE, NL, SE, CH, NO, PL, UK

# Strategic impact/JOT MARE



- Strategic analysis aims to give an insight into and better understanding of crime and criminal trends
- Early Warning Notifications
- Intelligence Notifications
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# Operational successes



## MASTERMIND SMUGGLER INVOLVED IN 2015 MIGRANT CRISIS ARRESTED IN GREECE

18 June 2018

Press Release



One of most prolific migrant smugglers along the Western Balkan route was arrested in Athens on 12 June 2018 after very close cooperation between the Hellenic Police (Aliens Division of Attica), the Hungarian National Police (National Bureau of Investigation Illegal Immigration Unit) and Europol. The suspect, a Syrian national, was apprehended in Athens together with an accomplice who is involved in document fraud.

The main suspect, based in Hungary, was involved in the transport of migrants in 2015 and 2016. At that time, he was under investigation in different EU Member States for facilitating several smuggling incidents between Hungary and Germany. The investigation showed that he moved to Greece after the closure of the Western Balkan route to continue his criminal activities. Based on this information, a European Arrest Warrant was issued by Hungary. After an excellent exchange of information via Europol, both the Hellenic and Hungarian authorities met for a final operational meeting with the European Union Task Force (EURTF) in Greece to discuss future steps in the investigation.



THIS NEWS/PRESS RELEASE IS ABOUT  
FACILITATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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# Operational successes



## FROM VIETNAM TO SPAIN: AN ILLEGAL JOURNEY COSTING EUR 18 000

06 December 2018

Press Release



The Spanish Policía Nacional, with Europol's active support, arrested 37 members of an international gang charging 730 Vietnamese migrants EUR 18 000 each to be smuggled to Spain.

The irregular migrants were smuggled from Vietnam via South America and finally into the EU in groups of 6 to 12 individuals. Each group was led by an English-speaking smuggler who travelled with them from the beginning and facilitated the communication during the journey. The network received EUR 18 000 from each migrant, which could be paid using several payment methods: either they paid the amount in their home country, gave up their land and property, or they paid in kind once in Europe through unpaid work. It is estimated that the criminal network gained over EUR 13 million.

## TEN HOUSE SEARCHES AND OVER 100 BEAUTY SALONS INSPECTED

After an eleven-month investigation, the Spanish Policía Nacional discovered that the migrant smuggling group was primarily based in Barcelona. The officers then searched ten houses and inspected over 100 beauty salons across the country. Law enforcement seized four vehicles, several devices and more than EUR 60 000 from the searches.

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**CYBERCRIME**  
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Thank you!