



**Tackling Metal Theft**

**Police – Private Partnership  
to Tackle Metal Theft**

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With the financial support from the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union,  
European Commission - Directorate-General Home Affairs



# Agenda

- PoI-PRIMETT overview
- Key note speakers
- Morning workshops
- Lunch
- Afternoon workshops
- Summary of workshops
- Open forum
- Summary and close





# Partnership



Three year project: September 2010 – August 2013  
€1.25 million investment



# Aims

- ⦿ Develop a police-private sector partnership to reduce metal theft across Europe
- ⦿ Improve collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the private sector to provide a better understanding of metal theft
- ⦿ Create an Expert User Group from law enforcement agencies and the private sector to improve communication and to share good practice
- ⦿ Provide a legacy of collaboration and a reduction in metal theft



# Objectives

- ✓ Reduce risks and improve security for organisations using metal in their daily operations
- ✓ Improve liaison and co-operation between the private sector and law enforcement agencies
- ✓ Develop technological and operational solutions to tackle metal theft
- ✓ Identify and prioritise the type of information to be disseminated to stakeholders
- ✓ Influence national and European policy and legislation





# Promoting transnational collaborative working

Avoiding duplication, working in isolation or 'reinventing the wheel'



Expert key note speakers

Action focused workshops

Future actions and activities agreed

# Activities to date



Rome Italy  
March 2011

London, UK  
March 2012



**Next EUG meeting:**  
**Valencia, Spain in March 2013**



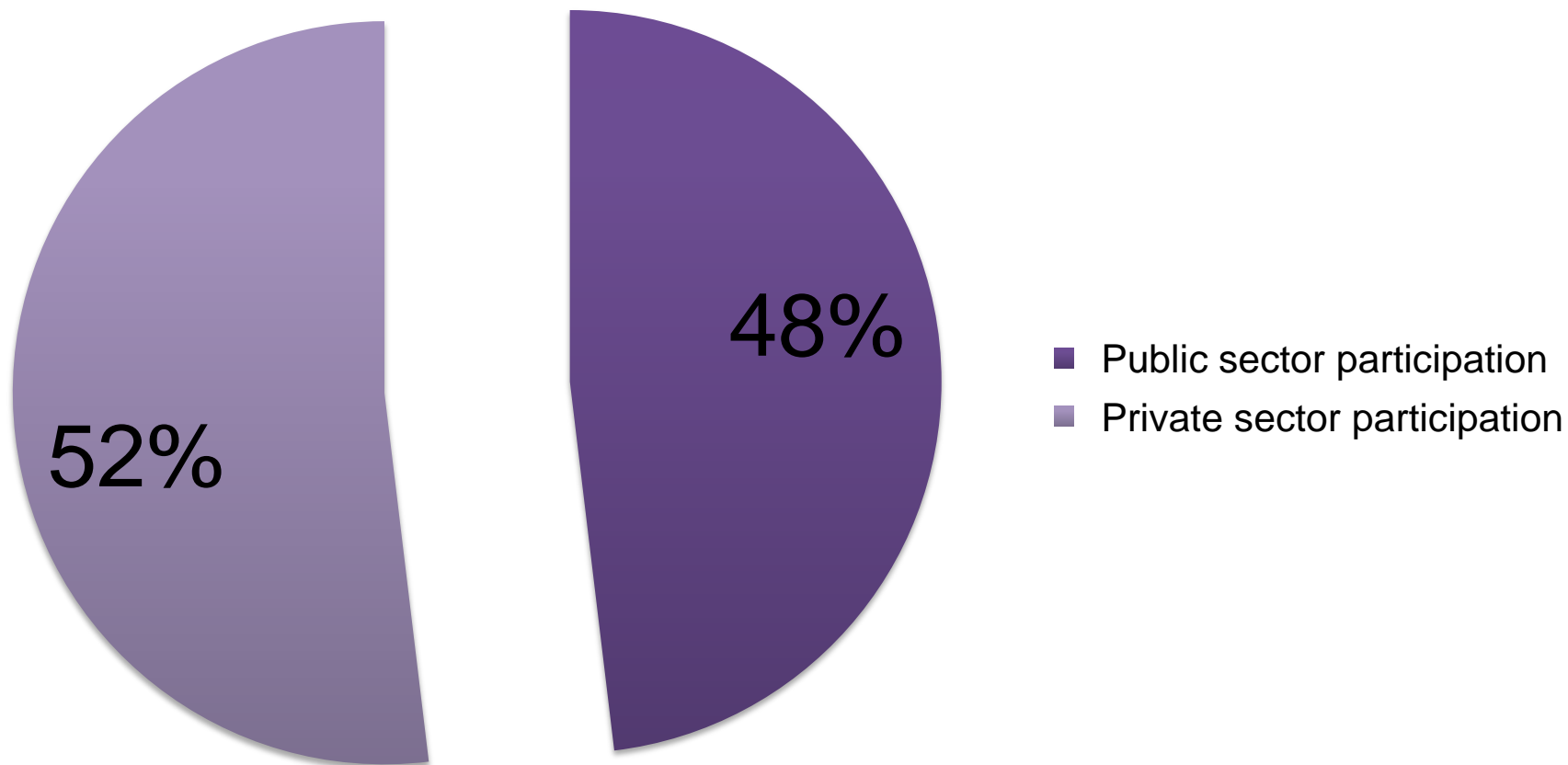


# Breakdown of attendees at EUG meetings

Location	Date	Number of attendees	Number of organisations	Number of countries represented
Sheffield, UK	November 2010	36	16	5
Rome, Italy	March 2011	48	28	8
Wakefield, UK	June 2011	36	23	5
Sofia, Bulgaria	December 2011	65	31	5
London, UK	March 2012	77	51	9
Athens, Greece	July 2012	78	44	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>340</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>10</b>



# Public and private sector participation at EUG meetings



# Current focus areas

Legislation

Developing  
good practice  
guides

Developing  
media  
strategies

Understanding  
the involvement  
of OCGs

Identifying gaps  
in knowledge  
and intelligence

Encouraging  
public – private  
collaboration



# Impact of metal theft across the EU

- Metal theft costs the UK economy £770 million per year
- Copper theft in Italy has increased by more than 70% from 2009 to 2011
- ΟΣΕ – the Greek National Railway Company has suffered €12 million worth of damage since 2010
- 75% of metal theft in Portugal is copper – 12% iron with utilities, rail networks and agriculture being the main areas affected
- Poor collaboration between the police and private sector in Bulgaria has enabled organised crime groups to target gaps in enforcement
- In the UK, Belgium, Portugal and Italy individuals have lost their lives attempting to steal metal





# Impact of metal theft across the EU

- Industries most susceptible to metal theft throughout the EU are railway, utilities and telecommunication companies
- Insurers in the UK pay out £1 million a week to victims of metal theft
- Proposed legislative changes in Bulgaria has led to the scrap metal industry staging national protests
- Thefts of memorial copper vases from Italian cemeteries are increasing
- An organised crime group in the Czech Republic dismantled and stole a 10 tonne bridge and 650 feet of railway track
- Sections of motorway in Spain were without light after a succession of cable thefts



# Tackling metal theft across the EU

- Pol-PRIMETT has enabled the public and private sectors from ten Member States to share good practice and improve understanding of how to tackle metal theft
- British Transport Police has shared methodology enabling Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal and Bulgaria to develop a metal theft offender profile to improve enforcement
- UK representatives have raised awareness of the impact of metal theft with prosecutors and the judiciary to encourage harsher sentencing
- Italian Ministry of Interior has developed a National Monitoring Centre for Copper Theft including police, customs and private sector organisations
- Railpol has produced an e-booklet describing copper cabling used in railways across ten Member States

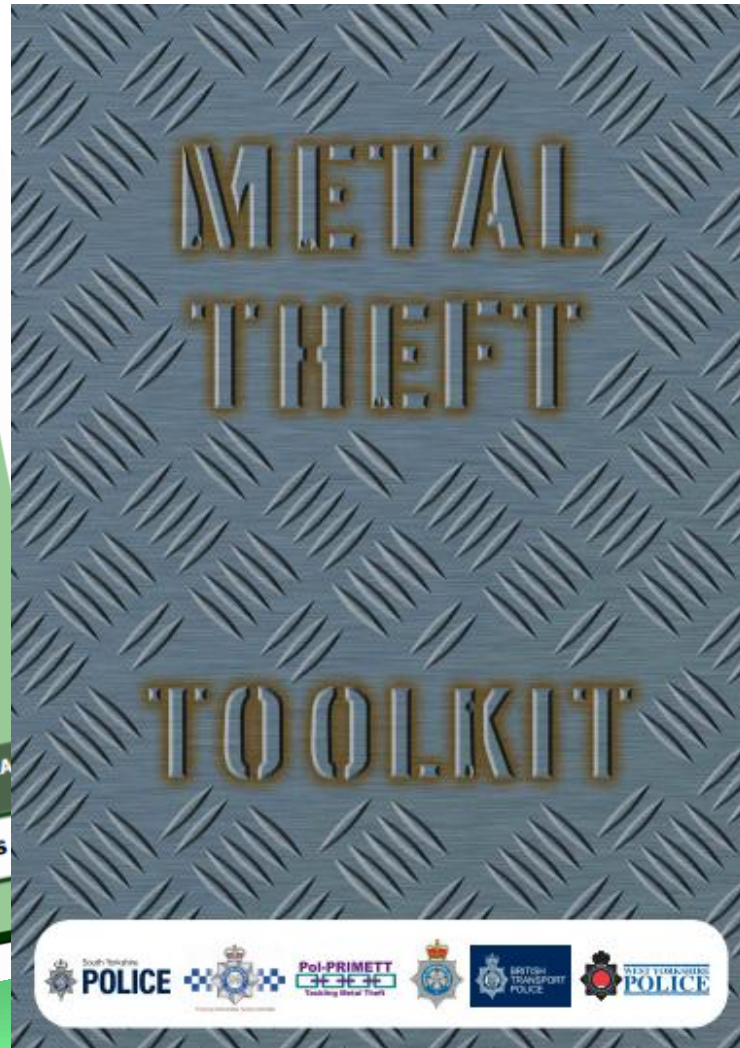
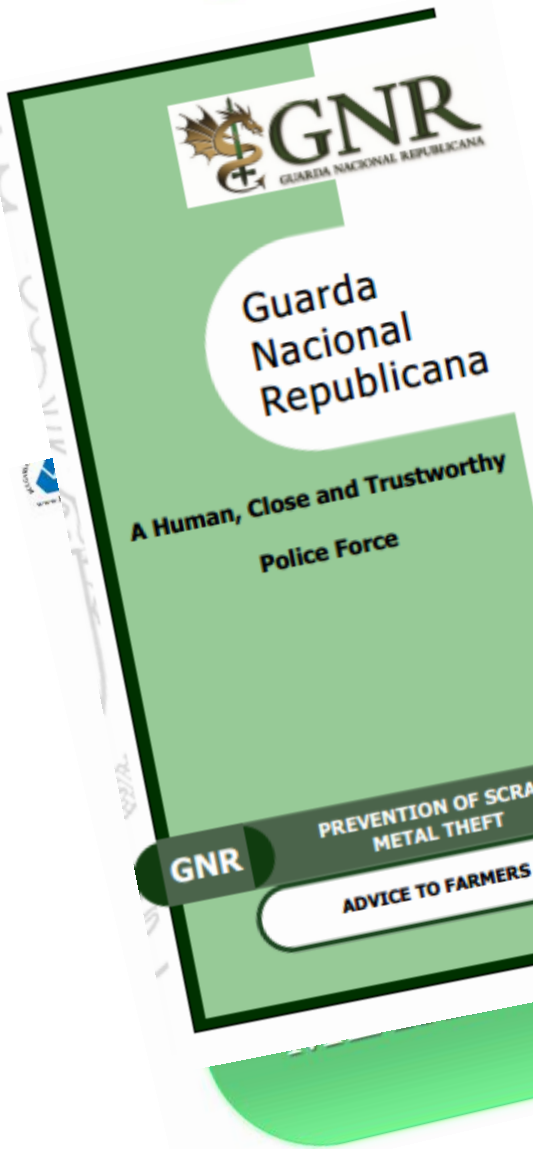


- British Transport Police coordinating
- Good practice being submitted from across the EU
- Information made available in the Stakeholder Area of the Pol-PRIMETT website – [www.pol-primett.org](http://www.pol-primett.org)





# Metal theft toolkits





## Police:

- Law enforcement
- Environmental agencies
- Border agencies
- Trading standards
- Europol
- Railpol
- Local authorities
- Government
- Judiciary



Any agency with a regulatory interest in metal recycling



## Private:

- Telecommunications
- Metal manufacturers / finishers
- Public transport
- Freight and shipping
- Recyclers

Any sectors which use or handle metal as part of their regular business activities



# Components of Police – Private Partnerships



Public-private partnerships provide opportunities to define and redefine problems – rather than accepting predefined and ready-to-use solutions



- A collaborative approach to problem solving
- More responsive services
- Joined up effort
- Swifter and more accurate communication
- ‘World view’ of a problem
- Service and efficiency improvements
- Reputational gain
- Sharing of best practice





# Achievements

- Mapped legislation in Member States
- Provided models of public-private collaboration
- Facilitated LEA to LEA interaction
- Facilitated LEA to private sector interaction
- Brought the recycling industry into the debate
- Researched the phenomenon in five Member States
- Established a picture of metal theft in ten Member States



- A 24 month project
- Lead body UK's Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)
- Expanded partnership to include 8 Member States:
  - ✓ Bulgaria
  - ✓ France
  - ✓ Greece
  - ✓ Italy
  - ✓ Poland
  - ✓ Portugal
  - ✓ Spain
  - ✓ UK



Activities will include:

- Understanding Organised Crime Groups and their role in the metal theft supply chain
- Monitoring the introduction / evolution of legislation and voluntary codes of practices
- Continuing to facilitate public – private collaboration
- Linking with other EU projects e.g. EMPACT





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