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EUROPOL & Metal Theft

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What is Europol?

- European Union **law enforcement organisation**

- Handles **criminal intelligence** and provide **analysis**

- Area of **serious international crime** and **terrorism**

- **Two or more** Member States concerned

How is the set-up of Europol?

- Budget: **84,1** mio euro (2012)
- **700** Europol staff (Experts, Analysts, Seconded National Experts, Contract Agents)
- **140** Liaison officers
- **27** Member States
- **10** associated Third Parties

Europol's added value

- **Swift and secure** information exchange
- **24/7** services
- **Multi-agency** cooperation
- Access to **27** countries + third parties
- **Direct contacts** between/with liaison officers (trust)
- **Language** barriers overcome
- **Confidentiality**
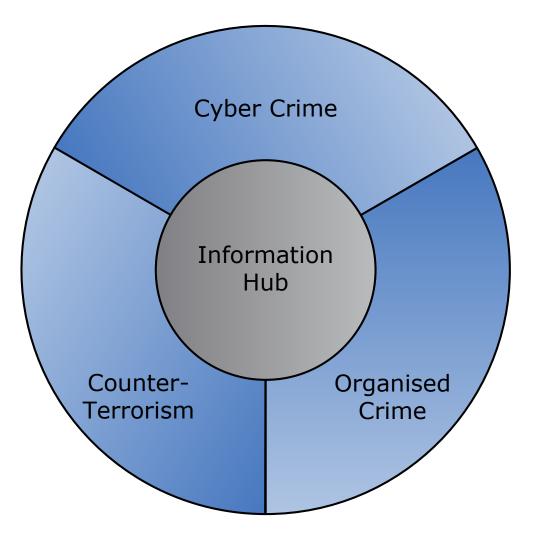- *Need-to-know* principle (handling codes)

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Europol strategic goals

- support centre for **Law Enforcement operations** (e.g. analysis, coordination meetings, on-the-spot support, etc)

- criminal **information hub** (e.g. databases, secure info exchange, Liaison Officers from 27MS + AL, AU, CA, CH, CO, HR, IS, NO, US, etc)

- centre for **Law Enforcement expertise** (e.g. European Platform for Experts, training, etc)

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Operations Department: Structure

Diagram showing the Information Hub at the centre, surrounded by Cyber Crime, Organised Crime, and Counter-Terrorism.

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Operations Department: Crime Areas

Cybercrime

Terrorism

Serious Organised Crime
- **Property Crimes**
- **Drugs** (Cannabis, Cocaine, Heroin, Synthetic Drugs)
- Trafficking in Human Beings (**THB**)
- **Illegal Immigration**
- Ethnic **Albanians** Criminal Groups
- Outlaw **Motorcycle** Gangs

- Manufacturing and trafficking of **cigarettes and tobacco** products
- **Intellectual property** theft (IPT) / intellectual property rights infringement (IPRI)
- Missing Trader Intra-Community Frauds (**MTIC**)
- Currency counterfeiting (**€**)
- **Money Laundering**

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Property Crimes:
(some) areas of interest

- **Metal theft**

- Crime Against the Elderly **(CATE)**

- **Motor Vehicle Crimes** (car/plant equipment thefts & international trafficking)

- **Cargo thefts**

- OCG exploiting minors in committing crimes (e.g. **begging**, **pick-pocketing**)

- Armed **robberies**

- Cash In Transit (**CIT**) & **ATM** attacks

- Serious **burglaries**, **home jacking** and gang-type offences against private houses and commercial premises

- High value **jewellery robberies**

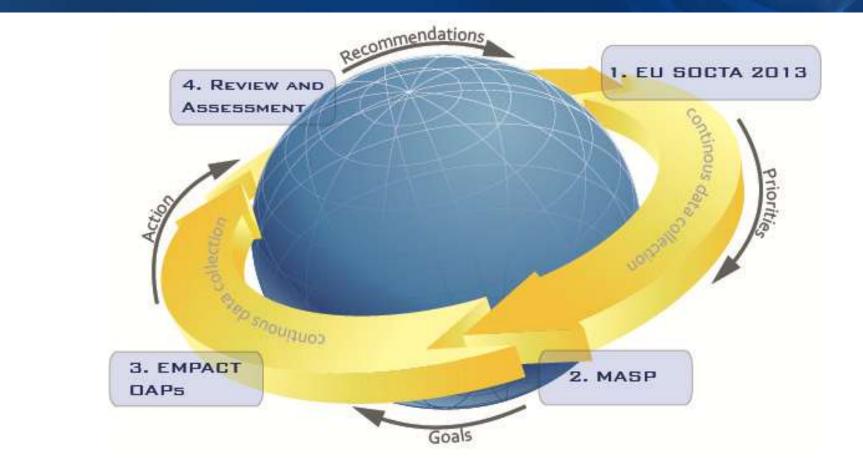## Covered by 2 Focal Points

FURTUM & EEOC

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Mobile Organised Crime Groups (MOCG)

Organised Crime Groups, mainly active in property crime or fraud with a high degree of mobility affecting two or more member states.

The EU Policy Cycle

Step 1: **SOCTA**
Step 3: **EMPACT OAPs**

Step 2: **MASP**
Step 4: **Review and assessment**

What does it really mean?

Threat (SOCTA)

- Crime hurts society

Political aspiration / priority (COUNCIL)

- To have a safe society (from crime)

Strategic goals (COSI)

- Less crime, jailed criminals, stronger society

Operational activities (OAP, EMPACT)

- Improved cooperation, focussed targeting, intensified coordinated actions

Evaluation (Commission)

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MOCG: Background

- **Abolition of border controls** in the European Union
- Itinerant criminal groups entered the picture at the **end of the 90ies – early 2000s**
- **Multi-criminals** and **opportunistic**
- Mainly interested in **cash** and **goods**

- **Financial-economic crisis**
- Increased **feeling of insecurity** of the population

- Identified as Threat within the Organised Crime Threat Assessment (**OCTA**) issued by Europol
- EU Law Enforcement **priority 2011-2013**
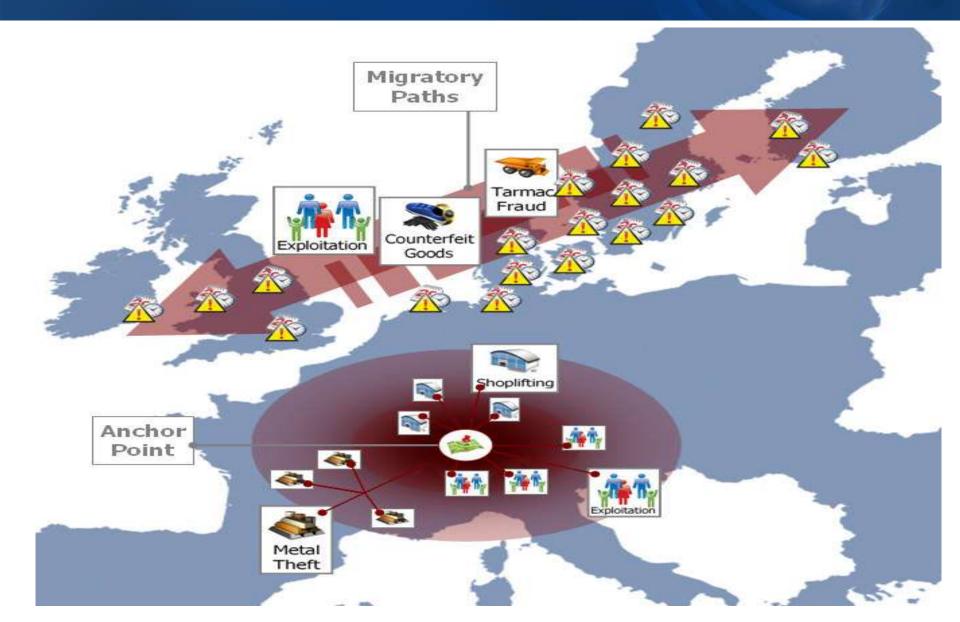- EU Law Enforcement **priority 2014-2017**

MOCG Features & LEAs Problems

- **Below the "radar"** of Law Enforcement Agencies ('petty crimes')
- Very **mobile** (at, from, to the crime scene)
- **Flexible** regarding crime fields and modus operandi
- Acting **from home countries** or **anchor points abroad**
- **High damage**
- Influence of the **feeling of safety** of the population
- **Re-investment** of the illegal benefits in other crimes
- **Hard to detect**

- Lack of **resources**
- Lack of **analysis**
- Lack of **information exchange**
- Lack of **coordination**

Metal Theft ...

EUROPOL & Metal Theft: EU Policy Cicle

MOCG: EU Law Enforcement priority 2011-2013

Operational Action Plan (**OAP**) 2013
→ focus on **metal theft** (and **burglaries**)

Gaps:

- Hotspot
- Routes
- National *vs* International
- Organised crime *vs* opportunistic/loose networks
- Nationalities
- Real figures
- State of play reg exportation of stolen metal and detection opportunities at ports
- Influence of metal price
- MS approach (e.g. legislation, cash less)?

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EUROPOL & Metal Theft: MOCG

TYPE A (organised crime groups)
- International
- Specialised
- Hierarchically structured
- Limited
- High volume and/or high value and/or specific metal

TYPE B (opportunist thieves)
- International and/or national
- Non specialised
- Loose networks
- Numerous
- Limited quantities and/or limited value and/or mainly copper

EUROPOL & Metal Theft: MOCG

Constraints (TYPE B)

- **LEAs databases** do not allow ad-hoc searches on metal theft to retrieve and analyse e.g. nationality, hotspot, routes etc

- Considered as '**petty crimes**'
- Not implemented as specific '**type of offence**'
- Not taken into account the '**major impact**' in terms of e.g. disruption and economical damage (for citizens, services etc)
- Not acknowledged the '**organised crime**' component

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EUROPOL & Metal Theft: activities.

- Operational and analytical **support to existing investigations**

- Consistent **data collection** for operational and strategic purposes
    - Awaited final submission of MS/TP strategic data

- Ad-hoc and on-the-spot support to **H**igh **I**mpact **O**peration (HIO) and 'action days'.

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22/23 April 2013, 1st EU Conference at Europol

- **23 MS + Eurojust & Interpol**
- **14 private/public sector company/association**
- **approx 70 participants**

Aim:

- bring together **LE from different Units/Depts**
- bring together **LEAs and public-private sector**
- **raise awareness** amongst LEAs
- build **EU LEAs network**
- share **best practices**
- build a **EU picture** of the phenomenon
- understand the **role of (M)OCG**
- look for a **way forward** together.

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Dissemination of Pol-PRIMETT **questionnaire**:

1. **Review of legislation** relating to metal theft since 2009?

2. **Key elements** of the current legislation relating to metal theft.

3. **Cashless** model within the scrap metal industry (including voluntary schemes)?

1) **Review of legislation** relating to metal theft since 2009?

22 answers → **12 YES**

9 NO

1 in progress

1.	Austria	🟩
2.	Belgium	🟩
3.	Bulgaria	🟩
4.	Cyprus	🟩
5.	Czech Rep.	🟥
6.	Denmark	🟥
7.	Estonia	🟥
8.	France	🟩
9.	Greece	🟩
10.	Hungary	🟩
11.	Iceland	🟥
12.	Ireland	🟨
13.	Italy	🟥
14.	Lithuania	🟩
15.	Malta	🟥
16.	Norway	🟥
17.	Portugal	🟩
18.	Romania	🟥
19.	Slovak Rep.	🟥
20.	Spain	🟩
21.	Sweden	🟩
22.	United Kingdom	🟩

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3) **Cashless** model within the scrap metal industry
(including voluntary schemes)?

22 answers → 10 YES
10 NO
2 n/a

1. Austria	🟥
2. Belgium	🟥
3. Bulgaria	🟩
4. Cyprus	🟥
5. Czech Rep.	🟩
6. Denmark	⬜
7. Estonia	🟩
8. France	🟩
9. Greece	⬜
10. Hungary	🟥
11. Iceland	🟩
12. Ireland	🟥
13. Italy	🟩
14. Lithuania	🟥
15. Malta	🟥
16. Norway	🟥
17. Portugal	🟩
18. Romania	🟥
19. Slovak Rep.	🟥
20. Spain	🟩
21. Sweden	🟩
22. United Kingdom	🟩

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27-28 May 2013
EU Action Day on metal theft & scrap dealres

Why?

- an important number of **metal thefts** is committed by **MOCGs**
- making use of **boarder crossings** to avoid detection or selling stolen metal
- dangerous for **public security,** causing **loss of key services** as well as **serious economic damage**
- **use of violence** to avoid arrest when caught in the act is increasing

Objectives?

- catching **thieves** in the act of stealing
- detecting **transports** of stolen metal
- locating the **fencing** of the stolen goods
- fining perpetrators for **other offences** (e.g. taxes, licenses, non registered cash transport, etc)

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- **17** countries: AT, BE, BG, FI, RO, SE, NL, HU, AT, DE, LT, EE, PT, IT, FR, IE, CY

- Establishment of **SPOC** in each MS

- Europol, Interpol and SIRENE support

- **Real-time** 48h info exchange

27-28 May 2013
EU Action Day on metal theft & scrap dealers

COUNTRY	checked people	arrested people	theft cases	checked scrap dealers	Amount/type stolen metal found
AT	912	3	1	24	**80 kg** scrap metal
BE	629	12	21	28	railroad copper cables, messing, old metal scrap
BG	4265	37	73	865	Electric power wires, telecommunication cables, steel, iron - pipes, scrap items, Steel - railroad pieces, Steel, iron from graveyards, aluminium, iron
DE	256	2	4		
FI	13				
FR	10000	10	40	120	100 kg copper
IE		25		72	
IT	12669	61	72	227	**186,000 kg** copper
LT					**281,715 kg**
NL			4	32	Rest Aluminium, Cut tin scrap
PT	515	9	9	244	**4,242 kg** scrap metal
RO	6839	4	4	2619	**395,348 kg** iron **2,191 kg** copper **4,156 kg** aluminium, 635 kg stainless steel 1,187 used accumulators
SE	6	7	3	36	**975 kg** (Copper roof 200 kilo, Copper 400 kilo, Copper cable 375 kilo)
ES		31			**47,385 kg** (25,213 kg copper, 17,973 kg iron, 1,763 kg aluminium)

The <u>only</u> way forward

- **multi-agency** approach (several stakeholders)

- **cooperation** LEAs, Judicial Authorities, public/private sector

- establishment of **national coordination** centre

- **sharing** of existing initiatives, best practices etc and their results/failures ('no need to re-invent the wheel').