

Introducing PoI-PRIMETT

PoI-PRIMETT is a transnational public - private sector partnership, which aims to stimulate, promote and develop prevention and deterrence techniques as well as share information and good practice in the fight against metal theft.



As the price of metal has risen, metal theft has increased across Europe

PoI-PRIMETT is an EU co-funded project tackling metal theft via a transnational public - private sector partnership.

PoI-PRIMETT began in September 2010 and will operate for three years

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 @PoI-PRIMETT

Metal theft is a transnational problem caused by opportunist thieves and Organised Crime Group's (OCGs). Metal is stolen across the EU, disrupting lives and damaging economies.

Cross border law enforcement and public-private collaboration are key to tackling metal theft.

PoI-PRIMETT provides a transnational perspective on the problem of metal theft. PoI-PRIMETT identifies and develops prevention and deterrence techniques, good practice and information sharing opportunities which can benefit all EU Member States.

PoI-PRIMETT aims to:

- Improve collaboration between public and private sector organisations on a transnational basis to reduce the movement of stolen metal across borders
- Create Expert User Groups (EUGs) to improve levels of international liaison, exchanging knowledge, skills, intelligence, enforcement and prevention techniques amongst law enforcement agencies (LEA's) and the private sector
- Provide a legacy of collaboration and good practice for the future and disseminate PoI-PRIMETT's results and findings to all EU Member States

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PoI-PRIMETT partnership

Tackling metal theft together

PoI-PRIMETT provides an opportunity to improve collaboration between public and private sectors across the EU and to share knowledge and information in the fight against metal theft.



People United
Against Crime

People United Against Crime (PUAC) is a registered charity and a not for profit company established by South Yorkshire Police in 1996 to reduce crime and create safer and more harmonious communities.

PUAC has a unique relationship with the four police forces in the Yorkshire and Humber region of the UK.



British Transport Police (BTP) is the UK national police force for the railways providing a policing service to rail operators, staff and passengers throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

BTP's mission is to provide policing excellence on UK railways and work in partnership to build a safer environment on railways free from disruption and crime.



The **Agenfor Group** was founded in 1996. Agenfor works within the Italian regions of Lombardia, Veneto, Lazio, Puglia and Sicily on design and management of vocational training courses financed by regional, national and European funding.

Recently, Agenfor Lombardia has followed a more significant international strategy, particularly in the Middle East, achieving good results and visibility.

Valencia Local Police employs over 1700 police officers to maintain citizen security and safety.



Valencia Local Police work in partnership with other national and regional departments and is one of the most active local police forces in Spain.

Valencia Local Police has also managed and participated in a number of successful EU projects.



The **European Institute (EI)** is a leading independent policy centre established in 1999 in Bulgaria.

EI has developed a network of experts in key areas including European regional and social policies, justice and home affairs, security, migration, integration, social policy and disadvantaged groups.



The **European Regional Framework for Co-operation (ERFC)** began in Western Greece and has expanded across Greece and the EU.

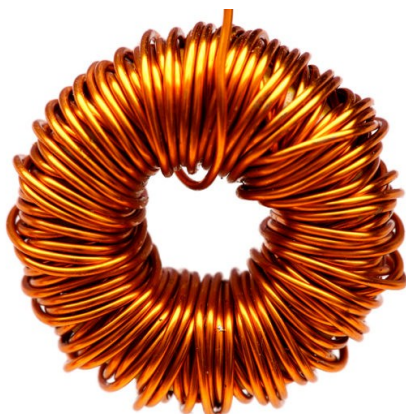
ERFC's ultimate goal is to mainstream EU project recommendations into national and regional policies.

ERFC's members and associates are key EU integration representatives including: public bodies, academic institutions and civil societies, from EU and the rest of the world, thus ensuring the creation of economies of scale.



The four police forces of the Yorkshire and Humber region includes **South Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Police** and **Humberside Police**.

The mission statement for Yorkshire and Humber policing is for the four police forces of Yorkshire and Humber to work together to build capacity and capability in specialist and strategic areas of policing and improving confidence within the region.



Metal theft across the EU

Pol-PRIMETT enables the exchange of information and good practice between EU Member States in the fight against metal theft.

EU facts and figures

The Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) has calculated the volume of stolen metal is less than 1% of the total metal recycled in Europe. As the percentage of stolen metal is so small, BIR states that stolen metal is only commercially attractive to metal thieves and not scrap metal dealers.

Copper currently sells for 8.6 \$/kg (www.metalprices.com) and as metal prices have steadily risen since 2009, metal theft across Europe has also escalated.

It is believed the cost of protecting businesses with CCTV cameras, fencing, night-watchmen and insurance premiums, outweigh, in most cases, the value of the metal stolen.

However the true value of metal theft lies in the impact on daily lives and on the critical infrastructure industries including telecommunications, transportation, water, electricity suppliers. This 'ripple' effect has a considerable financial and social impact which far outweighs the amount of metal stolen.



United Kingdom

Metal theft is a huge problem in the UK and costs the economy hundreds of millions of pounds each year.

British Transport Police (BTP) is the lead UK police force on metal theft and understands the impact metal theft has on businesses and communities.

BTP has developed a Fusion Intelligence Unit (FIU) which combines representatives from the police, telecommunications and the railway in order to share intelligence to tackle metal theft.

BTP ensures that every report of metal theft is visited by BTP trained personnel. BTP reports are analysed and shared with all relevant police forces across the UK.

This approach resulted in 446 arrests between April 2010 to March 2011, which was an 103% increase on the previous year.



Spain

In Spain, stolen metal is quickly recycled making it very difficult to identify the owner of the metal. Therefore a quick response from the national defence and security bodies is crucial in the fight against metal theft.

Awareness campaigns are being conducted to identify and close illegal facilities which participate in trafficking stolen metal via legalised exports.

Valencia Local Police believes the focus should be on metal theft prevention and implementing new legislation to tackle metal theft in Spain.

In April 2011, as a consequence of the rise of the price of copper, the Spanish Ministry for Home Affairs delivered instructions to increase surveillance in copper theft hotspots.

Valencia Local Police is keen to utilise the good practice identified in Pol-PRIMETT to improve the way Spanish police respond to the problem of metal theft.

France

According to the French Central Office Against Itinerant Delinquency, France recorded 4,081 thefts in 2010, doubling the amount recorded in 2009. Recycling companies and building sites represented 49% of the victims.

FEDEREC, the French federation of recycling companies, has signed an agreement with the French Home Office which details ways to tackle metal theft including:

- Strict buying policy focusing on the quality of the metal
- Signed declaration to prove the legal origin of metal
- Police alerts to be sent to scrap metal dealers about stolen metal
- Complaint, investigation and control procedures outlined
- Local versions of the agreement to be signed by stakeholders, such as local authorities

France has also implemented a cashless system for metal transactions, impacting on national and EU trade.

Metal theft across the EU

Bulgaria

Unofficial research in Bulgaria states that approximately 10% of recycled metal is stolen during transportation.

The percentage has been reduced over recent years following an increase in surveillance and the use of CCTV.

A Bulgarian electric supply company reported the following in 2010:

- Financial loss as a result of metal theft escalated by 228% compared to 2009
- Approximately 150,000 customers were affected by interrupted electric power supply
- 120 incidents were caused by metal theft, which equates to 226 hours of disrupted service for customers

This information demonstrates that the impact of metal theft has significantly increased in 2010.

There are a number of reasons for this rise including:

- An increase in metal prices
- The financial crisis in Europe
- Ease of cross-border communication amongst criminals
- Very slow and ineffective communication between the official authorities within the EU

Greece

In Greece there are daily incidents of metal theft including drain covers, cabling and small bridges.

The most significant impact is on the National Railway Organisation (OSE) and the Public Electricity Company (DEH), as the long, unsecured network are ideal targets for metal thieves.

In the last three years, OSE has suffered over €12 million of damages and DEH over €2 million.



500 Bulgarian scrap metal dealers protested in Sofia at the proposed changes to scrap metal legislation

Efforts to reduce metal theft in Greece have focused on tackling the trading of stolen metal by increasing control and improving regulation of the scrap metal industry.

PoI-PRIMETT is tackling the problem in Greece by uniting stakeholders and establishing a platform for cooperation. Additionally information is being collected and research undertaken which will provide an estimation of damage caused by metal theft. This will also help to identify possible solutions.

Italy

Metal theft in Italy has soared in recent years plaguing the country. It is swiftly becoming a source of social unrest, a perceived threat to public safety and damaging the efficiency of important infrastructure.

Copper has become an attractive source of illegal income for criminal organisations operating in Italy. Selling stolen metal is deemed to be 'easy', as Italy, which is an industrial country, is renowned for being poor in raw materials and therefore imports a large amount of metal.

Initiatives to tackle metal theft have made some progress however the overall impact is minimal due to the increased price of metal and the ongoing economic crisis. Stealing metal is deemed to be easy, profitable and low risk.

It is impossible to control the fluctuation in the price of metal however it is possible to make it harder to steal metal and more difficult to sell.

The Italian Railway Police (POLFER) has a special task force to investigate metal theft on the railway and regularly visit scrap metal dealers.

Improved collaboration between the police, judicial authorities and the asset and tax agency has enabled the police to dismantle illegal scrap metal dealers which had previously continued to trade even when convictions had been secured.

PoI-PRIMETT plays a key role in encouraging collaboration between Italian public and private sectors and promoting an exchange of information and knowledge which is required to tackle metal theft.



POLFER officers recovering stolen copper cable from a scrap metal dealer in Italy

Partnership working to tackle metal theft

PoI-PRIMETT has held four Expert User Group (EUG) meetings since the start of the project in September 2010. The transnational EUG meetings enable the public and private sectors to share learning and good practice on how to tackle metal theft.



First EUG meeting, Sheffield, UK - November 2010

Representatives from the UK, Spain, Italy, Greece and Bulgaria met in Sheffield, UK to launch the PoI-PRIMETT EUG meetings.

The first PoI-PRIMETT EUG meeting established the current metal theft situation in each partner country and identified metal theft as a transnational problem.

Second EUG meeting, Rome, Italy - March 2011

The initial findings from the PoI-PRIMETT research into metal theft in Italy was presented by PoI-PRIMETT partner Agenfor Lombardia at the second EUG meeting.

The EUG meeting provided the first public-private sector forum on metal theft in Italy and provided a platform for continued information sharing.



Third EUG meeting, Wakefield, UK - July 2011

West Yorkshire Police hosted the third EUG meeting at their training facility - Bishopgarth.

The Metal Theft Toolkit (page 6) was presented to delegates as an example of sharing good practice.

PoI-PRIMETT also identified the projects emerging priorities which will guide future project activities.



Fourth EUG meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria - December 2011

A new format was piloted at the fourth EUG meeting which included six action based workshops.

The workshops tackled key issues including legislation; the development of an EU Good Practice Guide; the feasibility of a EU metal theft database; the role of organised crime in metal theft; sharing media strategies and reducing the rewards of metal theft.



Metal Theft Toolkit Transnational knowledge transfer

PoI-PRIMETT partners - British Transport Police and West Yorkshire Police have produced a **Metal Theft Toolkit**.

The Metal Theft Toolkit is a training package designed to raise the awareness of metal theft to police officers.

The toolkit covers:

- The type of metal being stolen
- Offender profiling
- Where metal is being stolen from
- The impact of metal theft on businesses and communities
- Crime prevention advice
- Partnership and cross-agency working
- Legislation
- Minimum standards for attending a crime scene

The toolkit is also accompanied by a pocket sized leaflet for police officers for ease of reference.

The Metal Theft Toolkit has been shared with partners in Italy, Spain, Greece and Bulgaria for delivery to the country's police forces. It is available in the partner area of the PoI-PRIMETT website



Future PoI-PRIMETT events



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

PoI-PRIMETT

Tackling Metal Theft
Annual Conference

Thursday 22nd March 2012

London, UK

**Save the
Date**



To register your interest in attending please email: pol-primett@people-united.org

For more information, or to keep updated with PoI-PRIMETT events and activities please visit

www.pol-primett.org

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