

Knowledge of European Union law as a means of combating transnational organized crime

The content of these slides is the sole responsibility of the authors
and it is not necessarily shared by the European Commission



This project is co-funded
by the European Commission
D.G. Justice



A project implemented by
Fondazione Italiana per il Notariato



ORGANIZED CRIME

2011 Trends and Figures

Human Trafficking (1/2)

- **250,000 victims every year are trafficked in Europe.**
 - About 120,000 women and children are trafficked every year through the Balkans alone. In Italy, about 40,000 victims are exploited for sexual exploitation. (Source: 2009 UNODC Report on Trafficking in Persons; Analysis on Europe)
 - In 2008, 37 European countries had established a specific offence of human trafficking in their legal system. There is an increasing trend in convictions in European countries. (Source: 2009 UNODC Report on Trafficking in Persons; Analysis on Europe)

Human Trafficking (2/2)

- **Victims Origin:** In 2010, identified trafficked victims came mainly from North and South East Europe hubs as well as West Africa and Asia (Source: EUROPOL Review 2010, data recorded in the Europol systems)
- **Route:** In 2010, a sharp reduction in the use of sea routes was accompanied by a substantial increase in illegal overland entries, concentrated on the Turkish-Greek border. (Source: Europol OCTA 2011)

Drug Trafficking

- **Heroin:** EU law enforcement authorities approximately seized 8 to 15 tons of heroin on the EU market each year, which approximately represents 1/10th of the estimated annual heroin supply on the EU market. (Source: EUROPOL Review 2010)
- **New trend:** Emergence of so-called designer drugs and legal highs. In some parts of the EU, consumption of ecstasy has been substituted by new synthetic psychoactive substances (mCPP, BZP, methylone, mephedrone, 4-fluoramphetamine), which are often retailed as ecstasy-style tablets. A total of 24 new synthetic psychoactive substances were reported to the European early warning system in 2009, and 41 in 2010. (Source: Europol OCTA 2011)

Counterfeiting Goods

- **8.2 billion US dollars is the estimated value of bringing counterfeit products in Europe.**
- **Seizures at EU borders consist in:**
 - clothing (57%),
 - jewelry (10%),
 - electronics 7%),
 - medicine (6%),
 - toys and games (4%),
 - cosmetics (4%),
 - computers (1%),
 - cigarettes (1%),
 - other (6%).

(Source: 'Organized Crime: The Largest Social Network' Patrick Di Justo, Adam Rogers. and Allison Davis. Wired. February 2011)

Corruption

- **Cost of bribing public officials:** The World Bank estimates about \$1 trillion is spent each year to bribe public officials, causing an array of economic distortions and damage to legitimate economic activity. (Source: The United States White House: 'Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime, Addressing Converging Threats to National Security' 25 July 2011)

Financial Crimes (1/2)

- **Payment Card Fraud:**

- In 2009 organized crime groups derived more than 1.5 billion euros from payment card fraud in the EU. (Source: Europol OCTA 2011)
- In 2010, Europol handled 838 euro counterfeiting and payment card fraud cases and seized over EUR 6 million counterfeits and 70 arrests. (Source: EUROPOL Review 2010)

Financial Crimes (2/2)

- **Action against criminal networks:**

- In May 2010, law enforcement agencies from seven EU Member States, together with Europol and Eurojust, took major action against the criminal network. The Anti-Mafia Prosecution Office of Naples coordinated the operation, leading to the arrest of nine individuals by the Guardia di Finanza, and the seizure of materials and assets exceeding EUR 16 million. This operation was the latest in a series of actions from a huge investigation which ran for two years. During previous actions, 60 arrests were made and 800 tons of counterfeit products were seized, representing a value of EUR 12 million, during the search of 143 warehouses in Belgium, France and Germany. In total, 20 EU and three non-EU countries were involved in this multi-agency investigation. (Source: EUROPOL Review 2010)

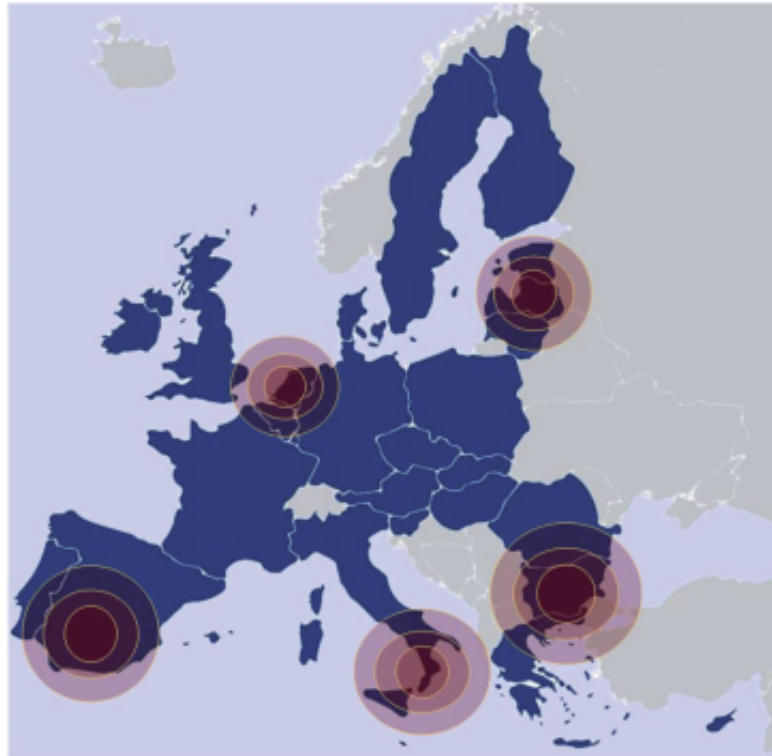
European Criminal Hubs (1/2)

- **North West** - centre of gravity: The Netherlands and Belgium
- **North East** - centre of gravity: Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia and the Kaliningrad exclave (Russian Federation)
- **South East** - centre of gravity: Bulgaria, Romania and Greece
- **Southern** - centre of gravity: Southern Italy
- **South West** - centre of gravity: Spain and Portugal

(Source: EU Organized Crime Threat Assessment, OCTA 2011)



European Criminal Hubs (2/2)



(Source: EU Organized Crime Threat Assessment, OCTA 2011)