

# BORDER SECURITY REPORT

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FOR THE WORLD'S BORDER PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY INDUSTRY  
POLICY-MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS



## SPECIAL REPORT



Firearms trafficking is a global phenomenon with strong variations between countries. p.30

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A global review of the latest news and challenges from border agencies and agencies at the border. p.44

## SHORT REPORT



ICMPD published guides on combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims. p.5

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Latest news, views and innovations from the industry. p.69

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Border Security Report is a bi-monthly electronic magazine and is the border management industry magazine delivering agency and industry news and developments, as well as more in-depth features and analysis to over 20,000 border agencies, agencies at the borders and industry professionals, policymakers and practitioners, worldwide.



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## No News is Good News!

With the global pandemic occupying the minds of politicians, the media and the public, it is easy to lose sight of some of the more 'normal' challenges that we face at the borders, such as; human trafficking, returning foreign terrorist fighters, drug smuggling etc.

There may even be a perception amongst the public and politicians alike, that the closing of the borders would have had a positive effect on these issues.

That may have been true initially, but it must be remembered that organised crime, human traffickers and terrorists work outside normal society. They use regular travel routes only when it suits them, but they have the resources and incentive to adapt quickly to any changing circumstances.

After an initial drop in human trafficking numbers due to closed borders, there is new evidence that the flow of trafficked people is picking up significantly, with traffickers taking increased risks with migrants lives in increasingly dangerous sea crossings, if that were even possible.

And while travel restrictions applied to legitimate travellers, trade in goods never really stopped for a significant period. Agreements were in place early to keep essentials goods such as foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals, moving across borders. Criminal gangs will have

quickly found new routes for drugs and human cargo, in the hundreds of thousands of containers crossing borders worldwide. Those criminal gangs would have calculated that overworked border officials may not have had the time or resources to spot illicit loads.

Amongst this human cargo will almost certainly be returning terrorist fighters, taking advantage of these organised crime new routes, to slip quietly back into their country of origin.

Action has been taken, by the EU for instance, through an expanded Frontex operating in the Balkans and Algeciras, Ceuta and Tarifa along side the Spanish National Police. In the US, much effort continues to be focussed on 'the wall'.

But as always, we won't know how successful these efforts have been, until illegal migrants show up somewhere in society, or when drugs become more or less available, and at some point in the future, a returning Jihadi/s commit some unspeakable atrocity.

This really is a case of no news is good news!

Tony Kingham  
Editor

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## World Border Security Congress

24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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Greece lies at the crossroads of East and West, Europe and the Middle East. It lies directly opposite Libya so along with Italy is the primary destination for migrants coming from that conflict zone and is a short boat trip from Turkey, the other principal migrant route for Syrians fleeing there conflict there.

Greece has over sixteen thousand kilometres of coastline and six thousand islands, only two hundred and twenty-seven of which are inhabited. The islands alone have 7,500 km of coastline and are spread mainly through the Aegean and the Ionian Seas, making maritime security incredibly challenging.

The sheer scale of the migrant crisis in late 2015 early 2016 had a devastating impact on Greek finances and its principle industry, tourism. All this in the aftermath of the financial crisis in 2009. Despite this, both Greece and Italy, largely left to handle the crisis on their own, managed the crisis with commendable determination and humanity.

With their experience of being in the frontline of the migration crisis, Greece is the perfect place re-convene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

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for the international border management and security industry

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- Dr Olomu Babatunde Olukayode, Deputy Comptroller of Customs, Nigeria Customs
- Sanusi Tasiu Saulawa, Deputy Superintendent of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service
- Heiko Werner, Head of Security Group, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany
- Gerald Tatzgern, Head of Joint Operational Office, Public Security Austria
- Peter Nilsson, Head of AIRPOL Washington
- Wayne Salzgaber, Director, INTERPOL
- Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, OSCE
- James Garcia, Assistant Director, Cargo & Biometrics – Global Targeting Advisory Division National Targeting Center – U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Valdecy Urquiza, Assistant Director – Vulnerable Communities – INTERPOL General Secretariat
- Hans Peter Wagner, National Expert, Senior Chief Inspector, Federal Police
- Mile Milenkoski, Senior adviser, Department for borders, passports and overflights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of North Macedonia
- Manoj Kumar, Second in Command, Indian Border Security Force
- Rear Admiral Mohammed Ashraful Haque, Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard Force

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## ICMPD published guides on combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims



The project “ATTENTION Brazil: enhancing the capacity of the Brazilian government to tackle TIP” has published two guides to prevent and combat trafficking in persons as well as to protect victims of trafficking. These guides seek to support professionals of the justice system and the assistance and protection networks in Brazil to better identify, protect and refer TIP victims as well as to investigate and prosecute this crime

The Guide on Anti-Trafficking in Persons: law enforcement and the Guide on Assistance and Referral of Victims of Trafficking in Persons: updated according to the Law no. 13,344 / 16 follow an important legislative modification in Brazil regarding TIP. The Law n. 13,344, enacted in October 2016, promotes further harmonization between national and international laws, incorporating provisions of the Palermo Protocol.

The Guide on Anti-Trafficking in Persons: law enforcement focuses, above all, on the promotion and protection of human rights. This Guide came from the clear, enormous challenges in fighting trafficking in persons, particularly those facing authorities of

the justice system. This Guide aims to bring the fundamental concepts and normative frameworks in relation to human trafficking, at both the basic and advanced levels, but it also seeks to offer possible paths and solutions to those challenges. It contains chapters addressing themes related to migration, a phenomenon with close ties with human trafficking; information and analysis on international and national legal frameworks governing TIP; particularities present during investigation, prosecution and sentencing of TIP cases; and mechanisms for international legal cooperation in criminal matters.

On the other hand, the Guide on Assistance and Referral of Victims of Trafficking in Persons: updated according to the Law no. 13,344 / 16 aims at supporting local stakeholders involved in assisting TIP victims throughout Brazil. In addition, this Guide shall be used as a query tool to facilitate the formulation and implementation of public policies on assistance and protection of victims' rights, as well as enabling members of the civil society who deal with TIP cases, fostering a victims-centered approach against trafficking. Finally, it is expected that this document will be a reference for local measures in line with the socio-economic and cultural specificities of each Brazilian state. The Guide intended to contribute to the consolidation and qualification of humanized care that ensures a dignified and quality service provision, with an approach focused on the protection of human rights.

These Guides were developed under the Project ATTENTION Brazil, funded by the US State Department / JTIP Office and implemented by ICMPD in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Federal Police, the Federal Prosecution Service and the Institute Migration and Human Rights.

# MONEY LAUNDERING AND THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

*Report by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, an inter-governmental body setting international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.*

## **The Issue**

The illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is a major transnational organised crime that fuels corruption, threatens biodiversity, and can have significant public health impacts. In particular, the spread in recent years of zoonotic diseases underlines the importance of ensuring that wildlife is traded in a legal, safe and sustainable manner, and that countries remove

the profitability of illegal markets. According to the 2016 UN World Wildlife Crime report, criminals are illegally trading products derived from over 7 000 species of wild animals and plants across the world. This includes iconic mammals, but also lesser-known species of reptiles, birds and amphibians.

To reflect the serious nature of this crime, the UN General

Assembly has adopted several resolutions to combat IWT, and in September 2019, reiterated its call for all members “to amend national legislation, as necessary and appropriate, so that offences connected to IWT are treated as predicate offences for money laundering (ML)” (UN General Assembly Resolution 73/343)7.

Criminal syndicates involved in wildlife crime continue to be highly organised, and are often involved in other forms of serious crime. For example, the large-scale ivory seizures and mixed shipments of multiple protected species suggests that transnational syndicates are continuing to grow and diversify. Wildlife traffickers also continue to rely heavily on the bribery of officials (e.g. including rangers, customs agents, prosecutors, and judges), as well as complex fraud and tax evasion, to enable their crime. Several investigations provided for this study showed convergence between IWT and transnational drug trafficking networks and/or illegal logging and associated trade (ILAT).

However, the convergence of IWT with other types of transnational organised crime appears to take place only occasionally.

Despite billions of dollars generated from IWT, most efforts taken by countries to date have rarely focused on the financial aspect of this crime. While competent authorities around the globe regularly seize illegal wildlife and products, countries are still rarely conducting financial investigations



in parallel as a tool to identify and bring to justice those involved. This is in part due to the particular challenges that IWT presents.

For example, the fact that criminals take advantage of the substantial legitimate wildlife trade to co-mingle licit and illicit proceeds presents challenges for detecting illicit activity. Laundering of proceeds from wildlife crime generally involves activity to either conceal or disguise the source, movement and ownership of those funds. Due to the low number of financial investigations to date, both the private and public sector have a less developed knowledge of the trends, methods and techniques used to launder proceeds from IWT than for other major transnational crimes. This further inhibits an effective response.

There are a number of reasons why following the financial flows,

identifying ML, and recovering the proceeds and instrumentalities of this crime are important.

Firstly, following the money allows countries to identify the wider network of syndicate leaders and financiers involved and to reduce the profitability of this crime (and thus reduce the supply of poached or trafficked wildlife) over the longer term.

Secondly, in many countries, penalties for ML offences are more severe than for wildlife crimes; therefore, by pursuing ML and confiscation charges alongside wildlife offences, countries can help shift the perception of IWT as a low-risk/high-reward crime.

Thirdly, as mentioned above, syndicates involved in wildlife crime are often involved in broader criminality; therefore, by identifying and dismantling the networks that engage in IWT, countries can help

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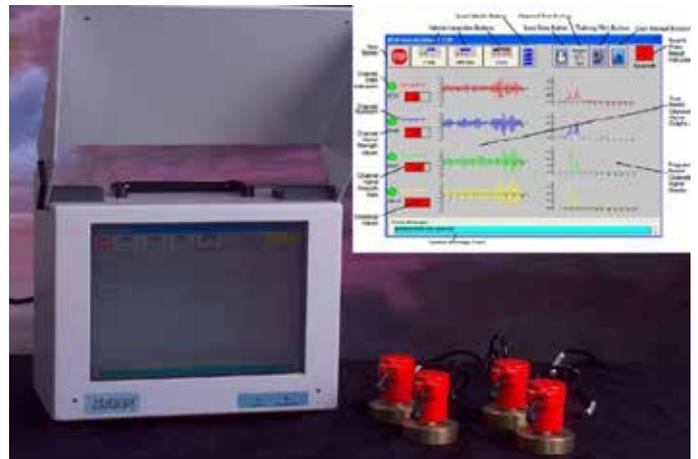
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In the early 1990s, the United States Department of Energy determined that our country's nuclear stockpiles were capable of being infiltrated by terrorist groups hiding in delivery trucks entering the facilities. In response, **the US DOE and Oak Ridge National Laboratory invented the AVIAN Heartbeat Detector™** to detect the presence of persons hidden in vehicles of all varieties by listening to the subtle movements a beating heart gives off inside of a vehicle. **In field use for over twenty-four years, it has been tested and proven 100% effective by Oak Ridge, Sandia, and Thunder Mountain National Laboratories as well as the United States Military Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth.**

The AVIAN Heartbeat Detector consists of an industrial computer loaded with specially developed software, a touch-screen monitor and special sensors. The operator uses the touch-screen to select vehicle type prior to beginning the vehicle scan. The processed data provide the operator with a PASS or SEARCH indication. The completed **process takes as little as 15 seconds** after the sensors are placed on the vehicle and the driver has exited the vehicle.

The AVIAN Heartbeat Detector is a **cost effective** method to accurately and quickly search large or small vehicles, regardless of contents, for hidden persons. The **one-screen operation** with icons makes training a simple matter that can be accomplished in less than one hour. The computer system requires little maintenance. **British Immigration, US Homeland Security, Spain's Guardia Civil and National Police, FRANCE MOJ, EDF, Hellenic Police and numerous others, are currently using the Heartbeat Detector** for their security purposes for 20 years.

The cost of the AVIAN Heartbeat Detector is approximately the cost of a single corrections officer or portal security guard. It is accurate and reliable and provides the officer with the capability to rapidly search fully loaded vehicles without moving or disturbing the vehicle contents.



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prevent and tackle associated crimes, such as corruption and complex fraud.

Finally, combatting criminal organisations through their financial flows is a significant legal and investigative tool to prevent wildlife trafficking and the potential proliferation of zoonotic diseases.

### The Study

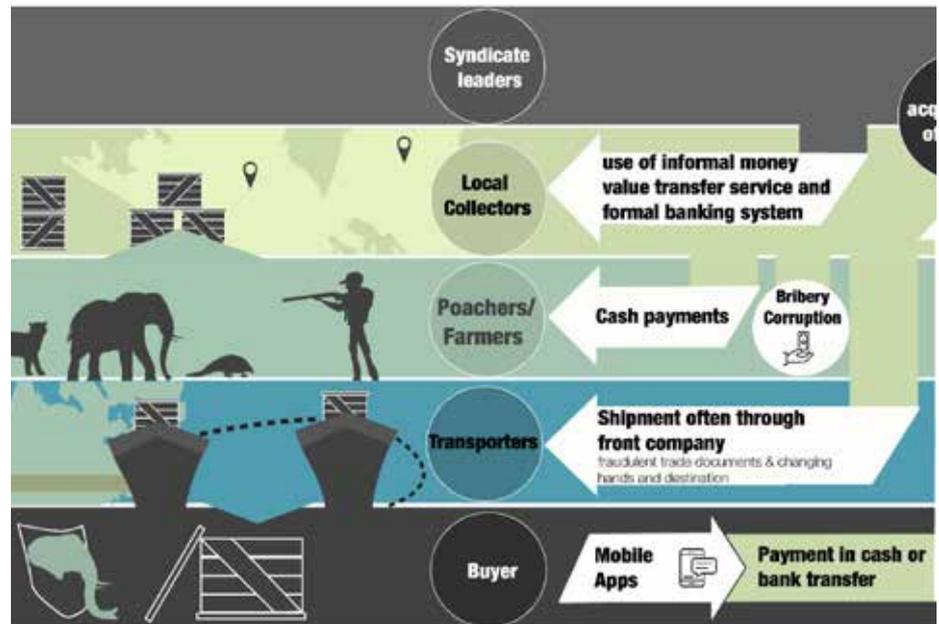
The illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is a major transnational organised crime, which generates billions of criminal proceeds each year. IWT fuels corruption, threatens biodiversity, and can have a significant negative impact on public health and the economy.

To move, hide and launder their proceeds, wildlife traffickers exploit weaknesses in the financial and non-financial sectors, enabling further wildlife crimes and damaging financial integrity.

Despite this, jurisdictions rarely investigate the financial trail left by this crime.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), as the global standard setter on antimoney laundering (AML), countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) and countering proliferation financing (CPF), is concerned about the lack of focus on the financial aspects of this crime, and has conducted this study to support jurisdictions to combat related money laundering.

The FATF Standards (i.e. 40 Recommendations) provide a useful framework for jurisdictions



Source: FATF.

to address these threats by strengthening their national laws, policies, and co-operation at the domestic and international level.

The study is the FATF's first global report on IWT. It builds on previous studies by two of the FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), work by other international bodies and recent initiatives by the private sector. The study by the FATF makes a unique contribution by assessing the money laundering (ML) aspects of wildlife crimes, and by demonstrating how jurisdictions should apply the FATF standards to combat IWT. The findings in the report are based on inputs from around 50 jurisdictions across the FATF Global Network<sup>4</sup>, as well as expertise from the private sector and civil society.

The study highlights that jurisdictions should view the

proceeds generated by IWT as a global threat, rather than as a problem only for those jurisdictions where wildlife is illegally harvested, transited, or sold.

In particular, criminals are frequently misusing the legitimate wildlife trade, as well as other import-export type businesses, as a front to move and hide illegal proceeds from wildlife crimes. They also rely regularly on corruption, complex fraud and tax evasion. Another key theme of the study is the growing role of online marketplaces and mobile and social media-based payments to facilitate movement of proceeds from wildlife crimes. These trends highlight the increasing importance of a coordinated response from public authorities, the private sector and civil society to identify and disrupt financial flows from IWT.



Source: FATF

5. As in prior studies, the FATF has found that despite IWT's global impact, public and private sectors in many jurisdictions have to date not prioritised combatting the financial flows connected to IWT in line with risk. Jurisdictions often do not have the knowledge, legislative basis, and resources required to assess and combat the threat

posed by these funds. This limited focus on the financial side of IWT has largely prevented jurisdictions from being able to identify and sanction IWT networks.

To address these challenges, jurisdictions should consider implementing the following good practices that were observed during the study:

- Prioritise combatting the financial flows associated with IWT proportionate to risk.
- Provide all relevant agencies with the necessary mandate and tools to conduct successful financial investigations into IWT.
- Improve co-ordination between

authorities responsible for combatting wildlife crimes and those responsible for conducting financial investigations to ensure authorities more regularly exchange information and follow the financial trail.

- Cooperate with other jurisdictions, relevant international organisations and the private sector to combat IWT.

A comprehensive list of proposed actions to strengthen measures to tackle the financial flows associated with IWT is included in the report. Including recommending countries should consider establishing multi-agency co-ordination mechanisms that allow for the sharing of intelligence and information between the FIU, financial investigators and agencies involved in investigating wildlife crimes (including environmental agencies with investigative responsibilities), and prosecutorial authorities.

Countries should consider how they can increase co-operation with foreign countries to strengthen

measures to identify and combat ML from IWT. This could involve more proactive engagement with foreign counterparts and appointing contact points responsible for financial and ML inquiries into IWT. It may also involve organising regular bilateral or multilateral dialogues, or participation in multilateral co-ordination mechanisms. Importantly, these initiatives should seek to connect countries used as transit points or destinations for IWT financial flows with the IWT origin countries.

The study also greatly improves the FATF Global Network's understanding of the financial flows from IWT, including through presenting IWT risk indicators relevant for public authorities and the private sector. However, there is still work to be done.

The report shows the need to further improve the FATF Global Network's collective understanding of the risk relating to IWT, including work on the role of non-financial entities in combatting IWT financial flows, greater understanding of the differing geographic supply chains, and good practices to address unique challenges in managing assets recovered during wildlife crime investigations.

It is essential that jurisdictions maintain their focus on IWT financial flows to achieve meaningful progress in addressing the challenges identified in this study.

## UNODC World Wildlife Crime Report 2020

### **The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that wildlife crime is a threat not only to the environment and biodiversity, but also to human health**

The World Wildlife Crime Report 2020 launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) emphasizes the threat that wildlife trafficking poses to nature and the biodiversity of the planet. The report highlights the trafficking of some wild species - pangolins, birds, turtles, tigers, bears and many more. When wild animals are poached from their natural habitat, butchered and sold illegally, the potential for transmission of zoonotic diseases - those caused by pathogens that spread from animals to humans - is increased.

Zoonotic diseases represent up to 75 per cent of all emerging infectious diseases and include SARS-CoV-2 that caused the COVID-19 pandemic. The products offered from the trafficked species for human consumption, by definition escape any hygiene or sanitary control: as such, they pose even greater risks of infectious diseases. The report notes that pangolins, which were identified as a potential source of coronaviruses, are the most trafficked wild mammals in the world, with seizures of pangolin scales having increased tenfold between 2014 and 2018.

The report draws heavily on UNODC's World WISE database, which contains almost 180,000 seizures from 149 countries and territories. The database shows that nearly 6,000 species have been seized between 1999-2019, including not only mammals but reptiles, corals, birds, and fish. It also shows that no single species is responsible for more than 5 per cent of the seizures, no single country was identified as the source of more than 9 per cent of the total number of seized shipments and that suspected traffickers of some 150 nationalities have been identified.

This data underscores the global nature of the issue. Wildlife crime affects all countries through its impacts on biodiversity, human health, security and socio-

economic development. Stopping the trafficking in wildlife species is a critical step not just to protect biodiversity and the rule of law, but to help prevent future public health emergencies.

"Transnational organized crime networks are reaping the profits of wildlife crime, but it is the poor who are paying the price," said UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly. "To protect people and planet in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, and to build back better from the COVID-19 crisis, we cannot afford to ignore wildlife crime. The 2020 World Wildlife Crime Report can help to keep this threat high on the international agenda and increase support for governments to adopt the necessary legislation, and develop the inter-agency coordination and capacities needed to tackle wildlife crime offences."

EU Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen thanked UNODC for its work and efforts in preparing the report. "It confirms the need for EU support to the rule of law and the fight against corruption. The EU continues to support actions to end the unsustainable exploitation of nature, including deforestation and illegal wildlife trade. Sustainability is at the heart of the European Green Deal: an inclusive and sustainable transition towards a greener planet and stronger economies with people at the centre. This includes ecosystems and wildlife conservation, essential parts of a thriving wildlife economy with and for local communities," said Ms Urpilainen.

Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) said that "Accurate data is the bedrock of policymaking. And few publications are as insightful as is the 2020 World Wildlife Crime Report. Rooted in the best data available, including that of CITES Parties' annual illegal trade reports, the report provides governments with a clear picture of the situation and underscores the need to act now to conserve our most valuable species and ecosystems."

# UNODC WORLD DRUG REPORT 2020: GLOBAL DRUG USE RISING, WHILE COVID-19 HAS FAR REACHING IMPACT ON GLOBAL DRUG MARKETS

*Around 269 million people used drugs worldwide in 2018, which is 30 per cent more than in 2009, while over 35 million people suffer from drug use disorders, according to the latest World Drug Report, recently released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).*

The Report also analyses the impact of COVID-19 on the drug markets, and while its effects are not yet fully known, border and other restrictions linked to the pandemic have already caused shortages of drugs on the street, leading to increased prices and reduced purity.

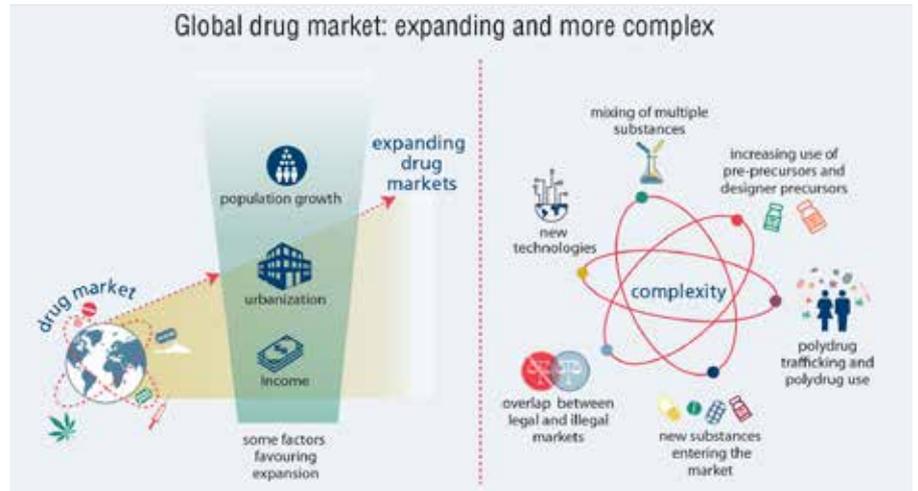
Rising unemployment and

reduced opportunities caused by the pandemic are also likely to disproportionately affect the poorest, making them more vulnerable to drug use and also to drug trafficking and cultivation in order to earn money, the Report says. "Vulnerable and marginalized groups, youth, women and the poor pay the price for the world drug problem."

The COVID-19 crisis and economic downturn threaten to compound drug dangers further still, when our health and social systems have been brought to the brink and our societies are struggling to cope,” said UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly. “We need all governments to show greater solidarity and provide support, to developing countries most of all, to tackle illicit drug trafficking and offer evidence-based services for drug use disorders and related diseases, so we can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, promote justice and leave no one behind.”

Due to COVID-19, traffickers may have to find new routes and methods, and trafficking activities via the darknet and shipments by mail may increase, despite the international postal supply chain being disrupted. The pandemic has also led to opioid shortages, which in turn may result in people seeking out more readily available substances such as alcohol, benzodiazepines or mixing with synthetic drugs.

More harmful patterns of use may emerge as some users switch to injecting, or more frequent injecting. Looking at further effects of the current pandemic, the Report says that if governments react the same way as they did to the economic crisis in 2008, when they reduced drug-related budgets, then interventions such as prevention of drug use and related risk behaviours, drug treatment



services, the provision of naloxone for management and reversal of opioid overdose could be hard hit.

Interception operations and international cooperation may also become less of a priority, making it easier for traffickers to operate.

**Trends in drug use**

Cannabis was the most used substance worldwide in 2018, with an estimated 192 million people using it worldwide.

Opioids, however, remain the most harmful, as over the past decade, the total number of deaths due to opioid use disorders went up 71 per cent, with a 92 per cent increase among women compared with 63 per cent among men.

Drug use increased far more rapidly among developing countries over the 2000-2018 period than in developed countries. Adolescents and young adults account for the largest share of those using drugs, while young people are also the most vulnerable to the effects of

drugs because they use the most and their brains are still developing.

**Cannabis trends**

While the impact of laws that have legalized cannabis in some jurisdictions is still hard to assess, it is noteworthy that frequent use of cannabis has increased in all of these jurisdictions after legalization. In some of these jurisdictions, more potent cannabis products are also more common in the market. Cannabis also remains the main drug that brings people into contact with the criminal justice system, accounting for more than half of drug law offences cases, based on data from 69 countries covering the period between 2014 and 2018.

**Availability of pharmaceutical opioids for medical consumption varies across the globe**

The Report also points out that low-income countries still suffer a critical shortage of pharmaceutical opioids for pain management and palliative care.

Cocaine trafficking routes as described in reported seizures, 2014–2018



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire, and individual drug seizure database.

**Socio-economically disadvantaged face greater risk from drug use disorders**

Poverty, limited education and social marginalization remain major factors increasing the risk of drug use disorders and vulnerable and marginalized groups may also face barriers to getting treatment services due to discrimination and stigma.

*The World Drug Report and further content is available here: <https://wdr.unodc.org/wdr2020/index.html>*

Main heroin trafficking routes as described in reported seizures, 2014–2018



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire, and individual drug seizure database.

More than 90 per cent of all pharmaceutical opioids available for medical consumption were in high-income countries in 2018 comprising around 12 per cent of the global population, while the low and middle-income countries comprising 88 per cent of the

global population are estimated to consume less than 10 percent of pharmaceutical opioids. Access to pharmaceutical opioids depend on several factors including legislation, culture, health systems and prescribing practices.



## COVID-19 impact on migrant smuggling and human trafficking

### INTERPOL assessment outlines short and long term affects around the world

COVID-19, and measures being taken by countries to control its spread, are impacting crime around the world, including migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

While some of the preventive measures have effectively hindered certain criminal opportunities in the short-term, smugglers and traffickers, as well as their victims, have sought and found ways to overcome them.

Migrant smuggling and human trafficking are particularly affected by geo-political and socio-economic factors which vary greatly by region and in the ways they drive vulnerable communities in those regions to migrate.

The COVID-19 pandemic is, and will continue, influencing these factors across the globe. The economic consequences will significantly impact peoples' desire and ability to migrate, as well as the incentive and opportunities for criminals to profit from illegal migration which is also expected to increase.

### Vulnerable victims

An INTERPOL report, which is for law enforcement only, provides a global overview of the short, medium and long term impacts on migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has not blunted the determination of organized crime groups to prey on the vulnerable and make a profit from these crimes, which all too often cost the victims their lives," said INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock.

"We see misinformation being used by human traffickers to convince desperate people to use their services, and at an even higher personal and financial cost because of increased difficulties in completing a

journey due to travel restrictions.

"It is essential that law enforcement continues to cooperate and communicate internationally to maintain our vital work in protecting desperate men, women and children from potentially becoming victims of human slavery," concluded the INTERPOL Chief.

For example at the end of March, 64 male migrants were found dead, likely from asphyxia, inside a shipping container loaded on the back of a lorry, while crossing into Mozambique from Malawi. Fourteen surviving migrants, who were also travelling in the container, were rescued and treated at a local hospital.

The near cessation of international travel in March and April meant that migrant smuggling by air, notably intercontinental smuggling, stopped entirely. Restrictions on the maritime sector also had a short-term impact on smuggling routes by sea, such as those crossing the Mediterranean from North Africa to Europe.

### Perilous conditions

Despite these immediate declines, migrant smuggling by land and sea continues around the world, and in ever more perilous conditions. Key land migration routes, for example those connecting Central America to North America and the Horn of Africa to South Africa, have remained active as smugglers monitor border management in order to evade controls.

Europe and North America, the most frequent destination countries for irregular migration and migrant smuggling, have also been amongst the most heavily impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Information strongly suggests that migrants have not been discouraged from reaching, or attempting to reach, these destinations despite the risks of contagion.



Overall, while border closures and lockdowns may have temporarily stalled or stranded migrants en route, these same restrictive measures have also opened opportunities for smugglers and traffickers willing to take on the increased risks for increased premiums.

Due to its covert nature, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on human trafficking are harder to assess with certainty. It is highly likely that the pandemic and the ensuing global economic consequences will only increase the pool of at-risk persons and the likelihood of their being deceived, exploited, and ultimately, trafficked in the mid-term.

### Americas and Caribbean

In Central America, several countries have seen a steep fall in the detection of irregular migrants. One country went from detecting an average of 150 irregular migrants per day to zero during the last week of March.

Migrants stranded in South and Central America are likely to converge on Central American countries,

such as Guatemala, where organized crime groups involved in smuggling remain responsive to the demand of migrants to move north.

Despite border closures in destination countries, the human trafficking in the region continues

Law enforcement should be ready for an expected surge when restrictions are removed

### Africa

Most African countries have implemented some travel restrictions on their borders to prevent the spread of COVID-19, however, these have not been sufficient to dissuade smugglers or migrants in certain regions. The land route from the Horn of Africa to South Africa continues to show signs of activity where the evasion of border controls has, in some cases, taken a fatal toll on the lives of migrants.

Migrants are still arriving in smuggling hubs in the Sahel region, and with deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Libya due to ongoing conflict, it is almost certain that attempts to migrate to Europe will

continue in spite of the pandemic.

With access to desired destinations being increasingly difficult, smuggling networks will be likely seeking new means of entry and charging premium prices for their so-called services.

Alternative, and potentially more dangerous, maritime routes will continue to be explored

Increased militia activity in Libya likely to see an increase in smuggling activities

Increased demand, and higher prices, for smuggling activities expected in response to greater difficulty to enter destination countries.

**Asia and the Middle East**

Migrant smuggling along one of the west-bound routes from South Asia into Africa, South America, Europe and the Middle East Gulf countries, rely primarily on air travel. For this reason, these routes have been largely interrupted.

Within the Southeast Asian region, migrant smuggling incidents involving Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Malaysia by sea increased threefold from March to April 2020. The sudden increase was likely due to the fear of COVID-19 contagion in refugee camps fostered by migrant smugglers to boost demand for their services.

Nearly all the estimated 23 million migrant workers in the Gulf Countries are employed in sectors which are very likely to be disproportionately impacted by the economic effects of COVID-19.

A new wave of irregular migration from Asia and the Middle East is likely to hit Europe in the mid-term as the post-pandemic economic crisis comes into full force.

Significant impact on migrant workers, with associated opportunities for criminal networks

Reduced opportunities in the region may see greater movements towards Europe

**Europe**

Similar to other regions of the world, travel restrictions enforced across Europe to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have impacted and largely disrupted migration flows by air, land, and sea in the short-term.

The number of detections of migrants illegally crossing all external borders into Europe fell by 85 per cent from March to April 2020.

Smugglers are now using smaller boats to cross water-borders, such as the English Channel, and migrants are being dangerously concealed in the compartments of trucks, freight vehicles, and cargo trains to cross land borders.

Migrants departing mainly from Western Sahara have continued to arrive in the Spanish Canary Islands along the highly perilous Atlantic route in unseaworthy vessels.

As long as the travel restrictions remain in place and authorities mobilized to enforce them, the number of irregular migrants arriving, particularly along Eastern and Western land and maritime routes, is likely to remain low.

Maritime routes the most active in the short term

Prepare for potential surges as restrictions begin to be lifted.

**Trafficking in Human Beings**

Human trafficking, whether for sexual or labour exploitation, is already complex to detect in 'normal' times. The novel coronavirus pandemic has only pushed human trafficking deeper into the dark and its victims further from possible detection and assistance.

Restrictions in place to combat the pandemic could impact legal markets for sexual services, including online

Ongoing economic consequences of the pandemic are likely to put more people at risk of becoming victims.

## 28 Arrested for Smuggling Migrants in Rubber Boats from Morocco to Spain

Spanish National Police (Policía Nacional), under the



supervision of the Arrecife Investigating Court number 3 and supported by Europol, dismantled an organised

criminal group smuggling migrants from Morocco to the Canary Islands.

The law enforcement operation led to the arrest of 28 individuals, 5 house searches were carried out. The arrested individuals are suspected of facilitating the transfer of 20 boats with irregular migrants to Spain, gaining over €350 000 in criminal profits.

The migrants were transported from Morocco mainly to the Canary Islands in rubber boats, lacking any safety and sanitary measures. After reaching Spain, they were placed in temporary accommodations before being routed towards their final destinations. The law enforcement operation prevented the departure of eight boats from the Moroccan coast. This is a perilous trip, which could have put the life of more than 200 migrants in danger..

## Counterfeit Currencies Worth Million Prevented from Entering EU Economy



Europol supported two separate operations, which led to the dismantling of two illegal print shops for currency counterfeiting, one for euros and one for Romanian leu. Colombian Technical Investigation Unit (Cuerpo Técnico de Investigación) and Spanish Police (Policía Nacional) targeted euro counterfeiters in Spain and the Romanian police (Poliția Română) took down one of the biggest polymer banknotes counterfeiters.

An action day in Spain led to the arrests of the two main suspects. During the house searches, law enforcement officers found a significant amount of equipment and raw material. The seizures indicate that the illegal print shop had the initial capacity to print about 300 000 counterfeit euro banknotes. Samples of €20 and €50 were found and seized. The investigation uncovered that the two suspects, Colombian nationals, known by the Colombian authorities for similar activities, have moved to Spain to set up a new

production-line of euro counterfeits. The cooperation between Colombian and Spanish authorities, supported by Europol, enabled the early monitoring of the criminal activity and the prevention of a significant amount of counterfeit euros potentially entering the EU monetary circuit. In addition to Europol's financial and analytical support throughout the investigation, a Europol expert was deployed to Spain during the action day to support the field activities.

Romanian police searched five houses and took in three suspects for interrogation. In the house of the main suspect investigators discovered an illegal print shop. The seizures they made include machinery such as UV-inkjet printer and cutting devices, different tools for counterfeiting, approximately 400 pieces of 100 Leu counterfeits for a total value of about €8 000, unfinished counterfeit banknotes and raw materials. The counterfeits were made on a polymer material and included all security features detectable by the public, making the identification of the fakes almost impossible for non-experts. The start of production dates back to 2014 when the first high quality polymer banknote appeared in circulation in Romania. Since then, 17 065 counterfeit banknotes have been detected causing a financial damage of about €352 500. A Europol expert supported the Romanian authorities during the raid and the house searches, and provided with specialised expertise in currency counterfeiting on the spot.



## Supporting INTERPOL in its digital transformation



Professor Günter Krings, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of the Interior, Building and Community, said: “With its databases and its rapid and reliable sharing of information around the globe, INTERPOL

plays a crucial role in international police cooperation.

“Information technology is one of the key challenges for the future of law enforcement. We have to fight 21st century crimes with 21st century tools. This is why the Federal Government is contributing EUR 5 million to support INTERPOL’s modernization programme, which will help to detect and fight cross-border crime more quickly and efficiently,” he added.

The funding agreement was signed by INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock and BKA Vice President Michael Kretschmer. With INTERPOL’s regular budget unable to fund the EUR 80 million required for the programme, the Organization has asked its member countries for financial support.

## INTERPOL and WCO highlight the pandemic’s multiplying effect on illicit activities



While governments around the world are taking action to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate its impacts

on citizens’ social and economic life, there is evidence that organized crime syndicates have already seized the opportunity to multiply their illicit activities.

Drug trafficking accounts for half of all transnational organized crime proceeds according to the UN, providing a constant source of funding for other criminal activities and even threats such as terrorism.

Improved knowledge of their modus operandi and concealment methods, as well as strong international cooperation, are crucial - more than ever – to enabling customs and police officials worldwide to secure borders and protect societies.

## INTERPOL hosts police chiefs meeting to combat ‘Ndrangheta

Police chiefs from around the world held their first meeting under the INTERPOL Cooperation Against ‘Ndrangheta (I-CAN) project, a joint initiative with Italy to combat the global threat of mafia-type crime.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the need for cooperation in tackling this threat a greater priority, with the ‘Ndrangheta modus operandi designed to thrive in today’s financial landscape of recession, liquidity crunch and mobilization of public funds.

The danger already existed, as mafia organizations have long invested in essential activities such as the agro-food sector, the supply of medicines and medical equipment, road transport, funeral services, cleaning services and waste disposal.

Although the features of the different ‘Ndrangheta networks are fundamentally similar, there are also differences as each group adapts to more effectively infiltrate a national economic infrastructure.



## OSCE organizes online discussion on exploitation of COVID-19 pandemic by organized crime groups



The OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD), the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and the OSCE Mission to Serbia organized a webinar on the exploitation of the COVID-19 pandemic by organized crime groups.

Chief criminal justice prosecutors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, North Macedonia and Serbia discussed new criminal trends and corrupt practices generated by the pandemic as well as future developments in the fight against organized and economic crime.

In his opening remarks, the Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Andrea Orizio, said: "The work conducted by the Network of Prosecutors against Organized Crime is of utmost importance in the region. Their co-ordination, co-operation and exchange of information are invaluable, particularly in light of the new challenges to security and developments that the global health crisis is presenting. The OSCE Mission is honoured to be a reliable partner in these crucial endeavours."

## Youth's potential in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization discussed at OSCE-supported workshop



Young people represent the most vulnerable group exposed to violent extremism and radicalization, but also have the greatest potential to combat and prevent it. This was the conclusion of a two-day workshop on youth engagement to prevent and counter violent extremism (P/

CVE) and radicalization, organized by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and the Ministry of Sports and Youth.

Around 30 young people from all over Montenegro gathered to discuss basic concepts and definitions in the field of preventing and combating violent extremism, its drivers, existing prevention programmes in Montenegro and the region, and the national prevention framework.

Nenad Koprivica, Director of the Directorate for Youth in the Ministry of Sports and Youth, said that the potential of youth in combating radicalization and preventing violent extremism lies in promoting peace-building, tolerance and intercultural learning."

## Human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal needs urgent international attention, concludes expert roundtable

Despite its high profits and catastrophic harm to victims, trafficking in human beings for the removal of organs is one of the least understood and addressed forms of human trafficking globally and needs urgent attention from the international community, an international group of experts concluded in a two-day online meeting.



Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe

## IOM to EU Council Presidency: human mobility should be part of the solution in COVID-19 recovery



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) encourages Germany to use its six-month tenure at the helm of the Council of the European Union (EU) to promote a safe, coordinated and inclusive resumption of international human mobility as a means

to economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. “The pandemic has had unprecedented impact on all areas of human life, including migration and mobility,” said Ola Henrikson, Director of IOM’s Regional Office in Brussels. “But it has also had a disproportionate impact on people on the move. This in turn has affected society and our economies. Our recommendations converge on the assessment that successful recovery from this pandemic will depend on how well we reboot human mobility and include those on the move in all planning.”

In recommendations released, IOM urges the German Presidency to seize the opening for the EU’s next funding programmes to advance inclusive, holistic and balanced migration priorities.

## 124 Cameroonians Come Home Safely from Niger; Over 6,000 Assisted during Pandemic through European Union Support

Despite borders closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, 124 Cameroonians stranded in Niger safely returned home last week on a flight chartered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This adds to the total of over 6,000 stranded migrants who safely returned to their communities of origin through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration’s COVID-19 Emergency Fund launched specifically to increase migrant

protection and assistance operations in West Africa. The 124 returnees had been stranded in Niger over several months due to border closures in place to limit the spread of the disease across West and Central Africa.

“We are happy to welcome these young Cameroonians home, and hope that the assistance we will offer them will help them rebuild their lives in dignity,” said Boubacar Seybou, IOM Chief of Mission in Cameroon.

## IOM Indonesia Assists Rohingya Rescued After Four Months at Sea



The IOM has joined coordinated efforts to help 99 Rohingya, mostly women and children, rescued by local fishermen on Wednesday after being stranded at sea for more than 120 days.

The group comprised of 23 families (73 persons), 11 single adult females, nine female unaccompanied children, four single adult males and two male unaccompanied children

were allowed to disembark yesterday with the agreement of the local community who were concerned about the welfare of the children.

IOM Indonesia’s advance team is providing medical and operational support with registration and the initial assessment of the group, as well as much-needed food, water and hygiene packages.



## Thailand and UNODC brief on the regional drug situation and the importance of preventive strategies



Commemorating World Drug Day 2020, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand (ONCB) invited UNODC to jointly brief the press, Government and international partners on the illicit drug situation and efforts to prevent continued growth of the regional market. Secretary General of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand, Niyom Termsrisuk, noted at the outset, “Thailand and UNODC share the same interests, including helping the Mekong and Southeast Asia, and our longstanding partnership remains integral to our strategy to prevent and address organized crime and related illicit drug production, trafficking and use in the region.”

The regional drug market has expanded and become increasingly complex in recent years, with UNODC’s latest synthetic drug report highlighting the fact seizures of methamphetamine in East and Southeast Asia have increased year-on-year over the last decade. This intensified supply has been accompanied by lower street prices while purities and potency have increased. Concerningly, East and Southeast Asia have also experienced a rapid rise in a wide range of new synthetic drugs as organized crime continue to push the limits of the trade.

As the situation has evolved and deteriorated, the ability of governments to understand which drugs are produced, available and being used has become increasingly important. “The regional drug market is not what it used to be – it has changed significantly in just a

few years,” remarked Jeremy Douglas, UNODC’s Regional Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. “Beyond crystal and yaba methamphetamine we are receiving and seeing reports of ketamine, potent new synthetic opioids, and ecstasy in the region, and many governments do not grasp the significance of this diversity, while users often fail to understand that these drugs can have unknown ingredients and can be very harmful.” He added that prevention messages emphasizing the significance of the changes that have occurred in the regional market are important, and he commended the Royal Thai Government and the ONCB for the new ‘Safe Zone, No New Face’ campaign.

The expansion and diversification of the drug trade has been accompanied by reports of different precursor and pre-precursor chemicals being trafficked and detected by law enforcement authorities in the Mekong and surrounding region. But at the same time, most countries do not have the capacity to analyse and accurately confirm many new substances and chemicals. “As synthetics have overtaken East and Southeast Asia the need for testing and profiling has become more important – something many governments have yet to fully appreciate,” commented Regional Representative Douglas. “Reliable forensic information is essential to ensure fair investigations and criminal justice processes, and to save lives. Reinforcing related capacities and preventing precursor chemical diversion and trafficking are clearly top priorities.”

Solutions also require collaboration, and the partnership with Thailand and other countries in the region through frameworks like the Mekong MOU are a natural starting point. Secretary General Termsrisuk emphasized, “the challenge we face together is significant, and we will only be able to be successful by working together and by strengthening regional and international cooperation, particularly with our Mekong partners and UNODC with whom we share an action plan. We are pleased we will be expanding our joint efforts in coming months.”

## Operation Qanoon seizes illicit medical products worth more than USD 14 million across MENA



Nearly 20 million illicit pharmaceutical items were taken off the market in a regional operation coordinated by INTERPOL across the Middle East and North Africa.

### COVID-19: a new trend in pharmaceutical crime

Running from 1 February to 1 April 2020, the operation coincided with the coronavirus pandemic, and saw a trend in the trafficking of items related to COVID-19. Among the seizures were:

- 61,000 respiratory masks and one artificial respirator in Morocco;
- 63,418 face masks and 360 sanitizing products in Jordan;
- 85,000 medical products (facemasks, gloves, thermometers, medical glasses, etc.) in Qatar.

These results confirm the trend observed under the global Operation Pangea, also run by INTERPOL, in March. The outbreak of the coronavirus disease has offered an opportunity for fast cash, as criminals take advantage of the high market demand for personal protection and hygiene products.

### Removing potentially dangerous items from circulation

The participating countries – Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar and Saudi Arabia – carried out inspections and seizures at ports, airports, land borders, free trade zones (entries and exits), postal hubs, warehouses, pharmacies and other points of sales.

They reported seizures of a wide variety of medicines including anaesthetics, analgesics, antimalarial medicines, benzodiazepines (tranquilizers) and corticosteroids, as well as supplements, sexual stimulants and growth hormones. Examples of medical products seized are syringes, suture threads, surgical adhesive tapes and electronic glycaemia readers.

Pharmaceutical crime poses a serious danger to public health. Falsified and counterfeit medicines threaten the lives of the most vulnerable members of society.

“INTERPOL is committed to tackling all forms of pharmaceutical crime and disrupting the activities of the organized criminal groups that profit from it. The volume of illicit medicines and counterfeit medical products seized during this operation is a reminder of the extent of this global problem and the very real risk to public safety,” said Paul Stanfield, INTERPOL Director for Organized and Emerging Crime.

### Major cases

Authorities in Iraq reported two major cases. In the first, officials seized around 761,000 boxes of illicit medicines in seven shipping containers, with an estimated value of nearly USD 2 million. In the second case, authorities seized around 400 boxes and 9 million illicit pills.

“The extent of these seizures demonstrates the need for operations such as Qanoon, and shows the success that can be achieved when countries coordinate their law enforcement efforts among police, customs and regulatory authorities,” commented the Ministry of Interior, General Directorate for Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Iraq.

In Kuwait, 16 seizures were reported totalling almost 10 million medical pills, mainly Tramadol (an opioid painkiller). The illicit trade in Tramadol trade affects a number of countries in the region and is driven by terrorist groups as a means of financing their activities.

Building on the foundations of the first phase of Operation Qanoon in 2018, seizures in this second phase were significantly higher: with around 20 million items seized in 2020 compared with 1.5 million in 2018.

### Side seizures of Captagon

Law enforcement officials in the region made notable side seizures of methamphetamine and Captagon amounting to nearly 5 million pills and tablets. While these narcotics were not in the specific remit of Operation Qanoon and are not included in the official results, they clearly indicate the proliferation of this type of high stimulant street drugs in the region. Captagon, an amphetamine, is widely associated with ISIL/Da'esh, both in terms of financing its terrorist activities and by use by its fighters in combat.

# UN CTED TRENDS ALERT UPDATE | EXTREME RIGHT-WING TERRORISM

In this Update to the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) 'Trends Alert' Member States concerned by the growing and increasingly transnational threat of extreme right-wing terrorism (April 2020), CTED examines how extreme right-wing groups have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Experts have identified extreme right-wing terrorism - also referred to as far-right or racially and ethnically motivated terrorism - as a unique form of political violence with often fluid boundaries between hate crime and organized terrorism. It is not a coherent or easily defined movement, but rather a shifting, complex and overlapping milieu of

individuals, groups and movements (online and offline) espousing different but related ideologies, often linked by hatred and racism toward minorities, xenophobia, islamophobia or anti-Semitism.

Although extreme right-wing terrorism is not a new phenomenon, there has been a recent increase in its frequency and lethality, with



some individuals, groups and movements pursuing transnational aims in a national context, drawing on international networks, ideas and personalities and seeking to mobilize others, often using the Internet.

This has led to multiple large-scale terrorist attacks targeting minorities, including in Christchurch, New Zealand (March 2019), El Paso, United States (August 2019), and Halle (October 2019) and Hanau (February 2020) in Germany. Member States have also foiled several attack plots and face numerous challenges in addressing the surge in this form of terrorist violence.

Research indicates that there has been a 320 per cent rise in attacks conducted by individuals affiliated with such movements and ideologies over the past five years. Most such attacks have been carried out in Western States. According to the European Union

(EU) Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2019, the number of arrests made in relation to extreme right-wing terrorism more than doubled between 2017 and 2018. There were 22 convictions for extreme-right wing terrorist offences in 2018, compared with 4 convictions in 2017

Although official data indicates that the number of extreme right-wing terrorist incidents is relatively low, research suggests that such incidents have increased in number and severity over the past three years. For example, in the United States, between 2010 and 2017, this form of terrorism - referred to by the United States Government as “Racially and Ethnically Motivated Terrorism”(REMT) surpassed the number of attacks perpetrated by terrorist groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da’esh) or Al-Qaida. Between 2016 and 2017, the number of extreme right-wing

terrorist attacks doubled in the United States and increased by 43 per cent in Europe.

As the threat has increased, extreme right-wing terrorist groups and individuals are becoming more transnational. Research has long recognized the potential for extreme right-wing groups to forge strong transnational links and build networks. Recent evidence suggests that there has been a greater exchange of views between like-minded individuals, both online and offline. These connections allow extreme right-wing groups to improve their tactics, develop better counter-intelligence techniques, solidify their violent extremist views and broaden their global networks. Extreme right-wing terrorist movements also continue to employ a number of tactics to magnify and amplify their messaging, outreach and recruitment.

**Information and communications technologies (ICT)**

Extreme right-wing groups have become increasingly sophisticated in their use of the Internet to recruit and radicalize. They use mainstream social media platforms to target new audiences outside the movement, exploiting the appeal of counterculture pushback, and use non-mainstream platforms (e.g., Gab and Voat13) for in-group communication and radicalization.

Extreme right-wing terrorists have consistently adapted to new spaces and new tools and have often been “early adopters” of those tools. The

perpetrators of some recent terrorist attacks—including in Christchurch, El Paso, Halle and Bærum—announced their plans on 8chan or other, similar online forums and, in some cases, sought to live-stream their attacks on major platforms to maximize publicity and impact.

The Christchurch attacks demonstrated that the exploitation of tech platforms by terrorist actors impacts the entire tech ecosystem. Smaller and large platforms were used in combination to guide users to outbound URLs, and “supporter networks” then re-shared and re-uploaded material across “an increasingly broad and fragmented range of smaller platforms.”

Although the current online scene is “perhaps the most difficult the extreme-right has navigated to-date,” [its] online presence persists, with longstanding websites and forums used alongside new platforms that appear and disappear on a regular basis.

### Financing

Although there is limited information regarding fundraising by extreme right-wing terrorist actors, research suggests that extreme right-wing groups and individuals actively collaborate online and that financial and operational support for their collaboration is provided across national boundaries. Studies indicate that similarly-minded groups and individuals engage across national boundaries, moving funds to show their support. This financial support plays an important



role in supporting and promoting violent extremist literature. Money is often raised to fund a milieu - which may be accessed by those aspiring to carry out more violent acts - via event fees, merchandizing and donations.

### Gender

Gender influences the ideology and discourse of extreme right-wing groups and impacts how they operate. Extreme right-wing discourse has traditionally focused on the gendering of spaces and hierarchical boundaries based on assumptions about masculinity and femininity. These assumptions are reflected in narratives that emphasize “the survival of the nation,” the subjugation of women, and promotion of their roles as mothers and housewives,

particularly in low birth-rate countries. These are blended with anti-immigrant conspiracy theories such as “the great replacement.”

This rhetoric is frequently accompanied by violence against women (including incitement of rape) and marked by synergies between misogyny, violent right-wing extremism and terrorism. These synergies allow more obscure misogynist groups - such as incels (involuntary celibates) - to act as a bridge to violent extreme-right wing groups and individuals. Notions of violent masculinity are also significant, including for targeted propaganda and recruitment strategies towards certain men. Violence is seen as a response to fears that white men are losing power in an ever-changing, multicultural landscape,

and those fears are exploited in gendered propaganda and recruitment strategies.

Recent research also suggests that, despite the deeply misogynistic ideology of the extreme right, women play an increasingly active role in these movements, including in promoting rhetoric and as active supporters and proponents of their agenda.

### Human rights

Migrants, refugees and members of religious and ethnic minorities are often the targets of extreme right-wing terrorism and face serious human rights violations as a result. Despite being the targets of discrimination and violent attacks, politicians have also linked immigrants and refugees to increased crime. This sometimes results in security policies that negatively impact those communities while also failing to adequately address the threat of extreme right-wing terrorism.

### CURRENT APPROACHES

Extreme right-wing terrorism predominantly affects Australasia, Europe and North America. The responses of Member States of these regions have continued to evolve as the threat has increased. Some States have integrated their response to this specific threat into their overall counter-terrorism response, while others have yet to indicate how it will be addressed.

In comparison to other terrorist

groups - including ISIL and Al-Qaida - extreme right-wing terrorist groups present relatively distinct organizational structures and patterns of violence, which include significant roles for lone actors, who often discover their ideological justifications, tactical inspiration, and social support in online communities. This reinforces the need for tailored responses that address these characteristics, including ideological justifications such as “accelerationism” (the desire to hasten the collapse of governments and societal structures by sowing chaos and creating political tension).

Although many acts of extreme right-wing terrorism are carried out by individuals, some Member States have designated extreme right-wing groups as terrorist groups. The United Kingdom has listed National Action, Scottish Dawn, Sonnenkrieg Division (SKD) and NS131, and Canada recently proscribed Blood & Honour and Combat 18. At the end of 2019, the German Government reported that it had identified over 32,000 “right-wing extremists,” including members of “The Wing” and its youth wing, “Young Alternative,” both affiliated with the Alternative for Germany political party (AfD).

Following the Christchurch terrorist attacks, a number of States began targeting the use of the Internet by extreme right-wing terrorist actors. New Zealand publicly criminalized the distribution and possession of

the perpetrator’s manifesto and his live-streamed video, and Australia adopted legislation to compel tech companies to remove violent material.

Cross-sector initiatives and protocols have also been developed to prevent terrorist content from going viral on the Internet. These include the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism’s (GIFCT) Content Incident Protocol and hash-sharing consortium, as well as initiatives by Tech Against Terrorism and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol). Two months after the Christchurch attacks, world leaders and tech companies pledged to eliminate online terrorist and violent extremist material, through the Christchurch Call to Action.

Although this initiative has been commended by many States, some Governments, researchers and human rights institutions have raised concerns about its commitment to remove “terrorist and violent extremist content”, which may be defined in such a way as to unduly restrict human rights -including the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, privacy, and freedom of religion—and limit the freedoms of human rights defenders, journalists and civil society organizations.

Civil society institutions have also been working to address issues relating to the use of the Internet for terrorist and violent-extremist purposes. For example,

in 2018, Moonshot CVE and the AntiDefamation League (ADL) partnered with the Gen Next Foundation in using the “Redirect Method” to redirect users searching for extremist material toward curated information debunking terrorist messaging.

### CHALLENGES

Because different States classify the same act differently (varying from terrorist acts, including incitement, to hate crimes or racism, or ordinary crimes), it is difficult to gain a comprehensive sense of the scale of the threat. Classifying and identifying this form of terrorism is complex, as not all perpetrators share the same ideology and there is no homogenous understanding of what it means to be an “extreme-right-wing terrorist.”

Member States, civil society, and private-sector actors, including ICT companies, face significant challenges arising from terrorist use of the Internet for terrorism purposes (including to post terrorist manifestos or livestream terrorist acts.) Although large tech companies have taken steps to remove extreme right-wing terrorist content from their platforms, both they and researchers have highlighted the contrast between those efforts and those employed to counter the activities of ISIL and Al-Qaida.

Law enforcement also faces challenges in preventing extreme right-wing terrorist attacks,



particular as many have been carried out by lone actors, who are more difficult to detect. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance has argued that lone actor terrorism is particularly impacted by classification issues, raising the risk that the race and religion of the attacker may influence the investigation and prosecution of suspected terrorists, with extreme right-wing violence often underestimated or not considered to be terrorism.

Member States have also faced challenges in the criminal prosecution of terrorist offences. Many individuals who carry out extreme right-wing violence do not claim responsibility. Their violent acts are considered to be isolated or spontaneous incidents and are frequently investigated and prosecuted as hate crimes rather than as terrorist offences.

The investigation tools available for hate crimes are often narrower than those available for terrorism investigations, thus impacting how the cases are treated and prioritized.

Some Member States’ legislation requires acts of terrorism to be of an international nature. However, although online and offline international linkages do exist within extreme right-wing terrorist movements, they are often less visible.

There is a need for further research into attacks perpetrated by such groups and the responses of Member States’ judicial systems, aimed at identifying areas for improvement and good practices in managing and prosecuting perpetrators of extreme right-wing terrorism.

Through its Member State assessments, and dialogue with relevant United Nations entities,

international, regional and sub-regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and the research community, CTED will continue to monitor the growth of extreme right-wing terrorism with a view to identifying ways to strengthen Member States' responses.

*The present Trends Alert was prepared by CTED in accordance with Security Council resolution 2395 (2017). This reaffirms the essential role of CTED within the United Nations to identify and assess issues, trends and developments relating to the implementation of Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624*



*(2005) and 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017) and other relevant resolutions.*

The report in full [https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CTED\\_Trends\\_Alert\\_Extreme\\_Right-Wing\\_Terrorism.pdf](https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CTED_Trends_Alert_Extreme_Right-Wing_Terrorism.pdf)

## **SEF detains three nationals for suspicions of trafficking in human beings and assisting unlawful immigration**

The Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) has carried out, today, three arrest warrants for suspicion of the crimes of trafficking in human beings and assisting unlawful immigration, in the area of Santarém. In addition to the detentions, 40 search and seizure warrants have been executed.

In operation "Lezíria", about 140 Hindustani workers have been identified, of which about 20 have already been flagged as victims of trafficking in human beings, to which every necessary support has been given. Most these citizens were subject to degrading labour, accommodation and healthiness conditions.

This SEF operation had the main purpose the dismantling of a trafficking in human beings' network, and crimes thereto, with the introduction of foreign workers, some illegally staying, in farming in Ribatejo. During the searches

several computing materials has been apprehended, several documentary evidence of the committing of the crimes identified and a huge money amount.

It is an investigation delegated within SEF by the Public Prosecution of Santarém and which has been held over one year.

The detainees will be brought before the competent court for the corresponding cautionary measures.

This operation has been carried out with the presence of elements from the Multidisciplinary Teams Specialised in Assisting Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, to ensure the proper treatment of the situations detected and had the support of several partners in logistics.

The operation had the participation of a total of 120 SEF operational.

# UN GLOBAL STUDY ON FIREARMS TRAFFICKING: A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

Firearms trafficking is a global phenomenon with strong variations between countries UNODC has carried out its most comprehensive collection of data on firearms trafficking to date, gathering details from survey responses and other sources in 81 countries for 2016-17.

These data give a unique insight into the patterns of trafficking globally, regionally and nationally, providing a vital resource for law enforcement, policymakers and public bodies seeking to reduce the damage caused by the illicit circulation of firearms.

Based on these sources, a total

of 550,000 firearms were seized during each of 2016 and 2017. The data showed wide variations among countries in terms of quantities seized, which ranged from less than 10 to more than 300,000. The nature of seizures reported also varied dramatically. The real global figure for seizures is much higher than 550,000, as some of



the countries covered by this study underreported their seizures for administrative reasons, and the quality of data varied significantly between countries. Also, many countries have not provided any information, including some of the world's most populous nations.

Nonetheless, the coverage for this attempt at global data collection is good and likely to improve in the coming years, as data collection is streamlined and embedded in national institutions. Pistols emerge as most seized firearms globally. Pistols are the world's most seized type of firearm. However, this pattern is driven to a large extent by the Americas, the region that reported the most seized firearms overall. Pistols constituted more than 50 per cent of the total firearms seized in the region during the reporting period. In Africa and Asia, shotguns were the most prominent type. Rifles were the main type of firearm seized in Oceania, and in Europe the distribution was more equal between pistols, rifles and shotguns.

However, many countries in Africa and Asia appear to have a lower capacity to intercept and report trafficked firearms, which may lead to underreporting of some types of firearms. Moreover, the total figures reported by countries include seizures which are not directly connected to trafficking. Based on customs seizures at borders, rifles emerge at par with pistols. This suggests that firearms such as rifles may play a bigger role in global trafficking patterns than what is reflected in the currently available data.

Looking more closely, links emerge between trafficking patterns and broader regional contexts. For example, countries with higher levels of violent deaths and homicide, particularly in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, tend to seize a higher percentage of firearms connected to violent crime. Similarly, in countries with higher levels of drug trafficking, more arms are seized linked to that activity.

**Transnational trafficking exists alongside domestic diversion and illicit manufacture**

Most firearms seizures are made within national territories; seizures at borders on average account for less than 10 per cent of all interceptions. Seized weapons are overwhelmingly manufactured outside the country of seizure, but it is likely that the sourcing of firearms found in illicit markets has an important domestic component, such as firearms diverted from licit channels in the country of seizure. There is often little connection to the country of manufacture – a significant proportion of arms seized on incoming shipments have not been transported directly from where they were produced. This suggests that vulnerability to firearms trafficking is mostly to be found in countries where firearms are diverted from legal holdings rather than where they are manufactured. Northern America is the principal subregion of departure for seized firearms, according to the available data. On a smaller scale, Europe and Western Asia are also major departure points for illicit flows. However, illicit flows within subregions often account for

significant proportions of firearms entering the market, notably in South America, Northern and Western Europe and Western Asia.

### Transnational trafficking is concentrated within continents

Based on the routes of seized firearms, transnational trafficking flows seem to be mostly concentrated within continents. Northern America plays a significant role as departing subregion for other subregions, particularly South and Central America, as well as Western Asia. Northern America, Europe and Western Asia together accounted for almost all departure points of trafficking in 2016-17. In contrast with other parts of the world, outgoing flows from countries in Europe were predominantly intended for trafficking across continents.

Central and South America together with Western Asia accounted for more than 80 per cent of trafficking destinations. These main destination areas are known for high levels of criminal violence or conflict and show the links between firearms trafficking and violent deaths.

### Manufacturing country often unconnected to illicit flow

Illicit firearms flows are complex and do not necessarily follow licit flows. The country of manufacture of firearms and the country where diversions (when firearms leave



the licit circuit and enter the illicit one) and seizures take place often do not overlap. This is clearly seen in the contrast between countries that are identified either as manufacturing countries or as the point where the illicit flow starts. While Europe emerges as the main manufacturing region in seizures made across the world, the most prominent subregion of illicit origin is Northern America. Firearms are durable goods and their circulation before and after diversion to the black market often involves several transfers.

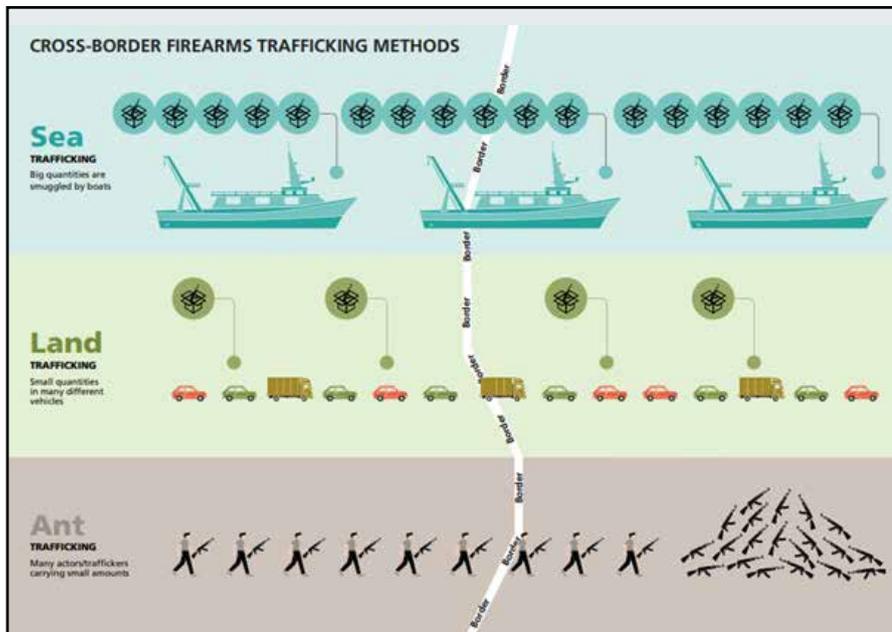
### Cross-border seizures are most common at land crossings, but sea shipments are bigger

Traffickers tend to use sea transport for large shipments. Cases of seizures from vessels involved more than five times the number of firearms typically intercepted from other types of transportation. This

suggests that law enforcement could get a better return on their investment if they focused on transportation by sea. However, trafficking by land remains the most common type of cross-border case, accounting for roughly two thirds of the total. Interceptions from vessels accounted for only around 6 per cent of all customs cases, but 33 per cent of the total number of firearms seized by customs.

### Size of seizure case can reflect the intended use of the firearm

It appears that the vast majority of seizure cases entail law enforcement officers intercepting a single firearm or a very small number, according to available data. However, in terms of quantities of firearms seized, the big cases may account for a significant share. For example, among customs seizures carried out at national borders, roughly three quarters of cases involved one firearm, but



**Illicit sellers can compete with licit markets on price**

The cost of buying firearms in the illicit market is usually significantly higher than in the licit sphere, reflecting the extra risks and profiteering involved in the black market. However, there are exceptions. In Latin America and the Caribbean, for example, illicit prices were lower than the licit price for handguns. This suggests ample availability of handguns in the illicit market. Price data from Europe point to the Western Balkans as a potential illicit source of firearms, notably assault rifles. Such weapons were far less expensive in the Western Balkans than in the rest of Europe.

**Traffickers supply those seeking to assemble or convert weapons**

Seizures of parts and components are relatively rare compared with seizures of firearms: on average, only 5 per cent of the number of firearms. However, a different picture emerges in countries where firearms in non-factory condition were seized in relatively high numbers (including artisanal or craft production), particularly in Africa and parts of Asia. Countries in these areas tend to report relatively high levels of seizures of parts and components. Illicit manufacturing, conversion, reactivation and assembly of firearms is also present in some European countries, possibly reflecting national control mechanisms that make firearms

around one half of firearms were seized in instances that involved 18 or more firearms. Seizures of small consignments of one or two firearms may be linked to individual use, where the firearm is taken from the end user. These cases most commonly involved handguns. For example, more than 80 per cent of revolvers were captured in cases involving just a single firearm.

This type of case often entails a violation of possession regulations, but can also involve strategic “ant trafficking”, whereby many people transport weapons in small consignments to meet large-scale demand and reduce the risk of disruption by law enforcement. This type of trafficking does not fully explain global arms trafficking, but there is evidence<sup>1</sup> that it is utilized to transport firearms from the United States to Mexico. At

the other end of this continuum, countries reported large seizures that seemed to respond to big instances of demand, for example conflict. Seizures of rifles, shotguns and pistols suggest that firearms of these types can be trafficked in consignments of hundreds and thousands. High powered firearms such as machine guns and submachine guns are not often captured, but these rare seizure events generally involve larger quantities. Around one fifth of all customs seizure cases that included machine guns and submachine guns involved such firearms in batches of four or more; on the other hand, such hauls of revolvers, for example, were exceptional. These big seizure cases were far more likely than smaller consignments to be linked to firearms trafficking offences.

hard to access legally. Modification of weapons may also serve the needs of the criminals to use smaller or more powerful weapons.

### **Firearms tracing remains insufficient and countries risk missing SDG target**

Countries are committed to “significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows” under SDG Target 16.4. One of the indicators for this target is that the proportion of firearms traced to their illicit origins must be measured. Data from 14 countries in 2016-2017 suggest that, on average, this illicit origin or illicit context was established for just 28 per cent of the relevant category of firearms. The countries that registered very high success rates in tracing firearms reported relatively low seizure levels, perhaps because tracing requires a lot of resources. On the other hand, some countries with high levels of seizures registered a low success rate, which may also be linked to firearms seized in connection with less serious offences and perhaps not prioritised in tracing.

### **Criminal justice responses tend to underplay the significance of firearms trafficking**

Countries on average seized around two-thirds of firearms on the grounds of illicit possession, according to the legal justifications given by national authorities. Trafficking was, on average,



named as the legal justification in only around 9 per cent of cases. However, it is likely that the offence of illicit possession provides an easier and quicker way for law enforcement to justify stopping shipments and seizing firearms, and trafficking emerges as the actual offence only after further investigations – this is known as the “criminal context” of the seizure. When the criminal context is factored in, the proportion of seized weapons that could be connected to trafficking more than doubles to roughly 19 per cent. The real proportion is likely to be even higher, once potential underreporting of firearms trafficking is considered. The evidence suggests that the criminal justice system focuses on firearms trafficking only in a relatively small percentage of the cases where it would be warranted – meaning firearms trafficking is a largely

hidden phenomenon, only part of which comes to the surface.

### **Violent crime and drug trafficking are frequently linked with seizures**

Other than arms offences, the criminal conduct most commonly linked with firearms seizures was violent crime, particularly in Latin America and Africa. In Europe, drug trafficking was the biggest category. On average, a larger share of firearms is seized in the context of violent crime in countries with high homicide rates. The same link is shown with drug seizures. In addition, drugs emerge as the most common commodity intercepted in the same seizures as firearms, followed by counterfeit goods, cultural property and natural resources. Unpicking the link between firearms trafficking and the broader criminal context in which seizures occur

is difficult. Some exceptionally large individual seizure cases appear to be connected to areas with recent or ongoing conflicts, or countries with high levels of violence linked to organized crime. But several large hauls were reported that were apparently unconnected to conflict areas or organized crime. Some countries may face specific problems related to conflict. Weapons feed conflict while it is going on, then stockpiles can proliferate in the aftermath, causing multiple difficulties for the authorities.

**More than 50 per cent of homicides globally are carried out using firearms**

Overall, more than 50 per cent of homicides globally each year are carried out with a firearm. The availability of firearms is linked to the homicide rate: a rise in the rate of firearms possession in a country often goes together with an increase in the homicide rate. However, the significance of firearms varies depending on the context of the homicide. For example, firearms are by far the most significant method in homicides related to gangs or organized crime, but far less prominent when the homicide involves intimate partners and family members.

There is also a gender factor involved in the use of firearms in homicide. Most homicide victims



and perpetrators globally are men, and this tends to be even more pronounced among firearms homicides.

When considering homicides of intimate partners and family members, in which most victims are women, men were more likely than women to use a firearm when killing their female partners, while women were more likely than men to resort to a sharp object.

Overall, seizure data tended to suggest a relationship between the level of interception and the rate of homicide. Countries with higher levels of firearms seizures relative to firearms homicides tend to have lower levels of homicide, which might reflect an established and strong rule of law situation.

*Source: UNODC*

# BIG DATA, MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY

IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and the European Commission Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) launched the Big Data for Migration Alliance (BD4M).

The term “big data” includes anonymized data that are generated by users of mobile devices, internet-based platforms, or by digital sensors and meters, for example, satellite imagery. With about 5.16 billion unique mobile users, and around 4.57 billion active internet users around the world (We Are Social - Hootsuite, 2020), such “digital traces” present an enormous opportunity to complement traditional sources of migration data and improve knowledge of various aspects of migration. This is all the more relevant in light of the current

data gaps and the need to monitor progress towards the migration-related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The potential of these innovative sources, however, comes with significant challenges.

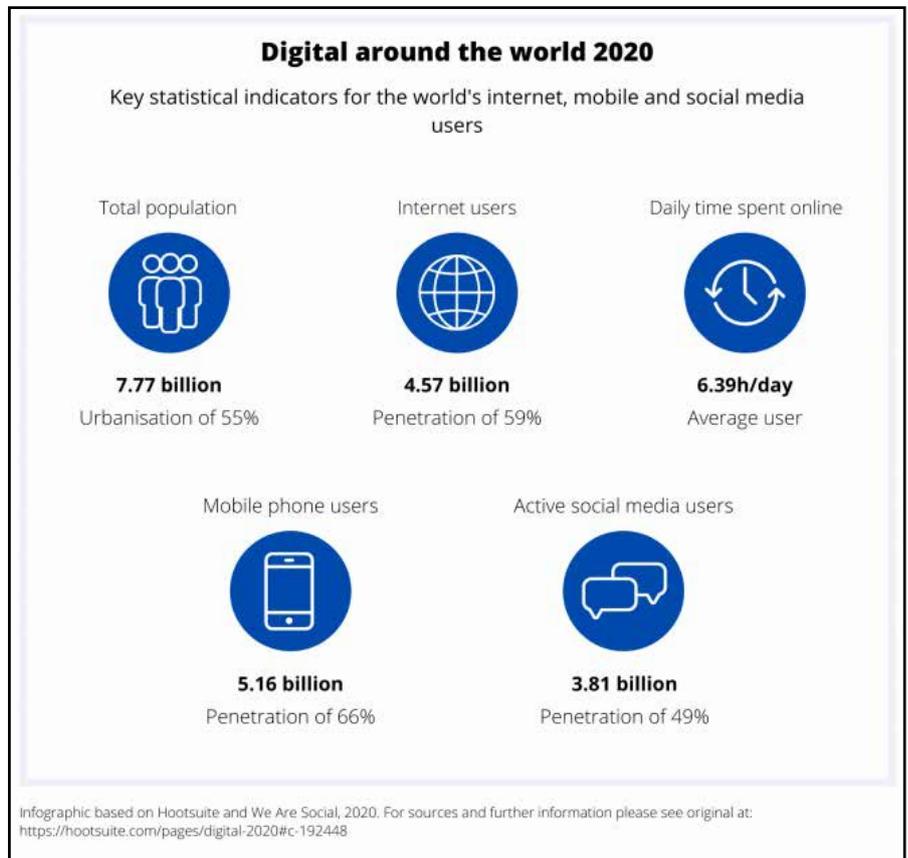
Big data are usually understood as data generated automatically by users of mobile phones, social media, internet platforms and applications, as well as via digital sensors and meters. Such data are stored in real time in large databases, usually owned by private companies – be it mobile

phone operators, providers of social media platforms or other internet-based services. However, big data are not only “big” because of their volume; the speed (“velocity”) at which they are generated and the complexity (“variety”) of the information are also considered as distinguishing features of this kind of data (Hilbert, 2013).

Big data are different from data based on traditional household surveys as they do not refer to a random sample of individuals but to the totality of the population using, for instance, mobile phones or internet-based platforms, and these data are accessible in real time (Hilbert, 2014). Big data also differ from traditional data because of the specific technical and analytical methods required to extract meaningful insights from them and transform these data into “value” (de Mauro, Greco and Grimaldi, 2016). Letouzé (2015) distinguishes between big data as data, or “digital” translation of human actions, interactions and transactions picked up by digital devices and services,” and big data as “an ecosystem of data, human and technical capacities and communities” producing and using such information for decision-making.

**Recent developments**

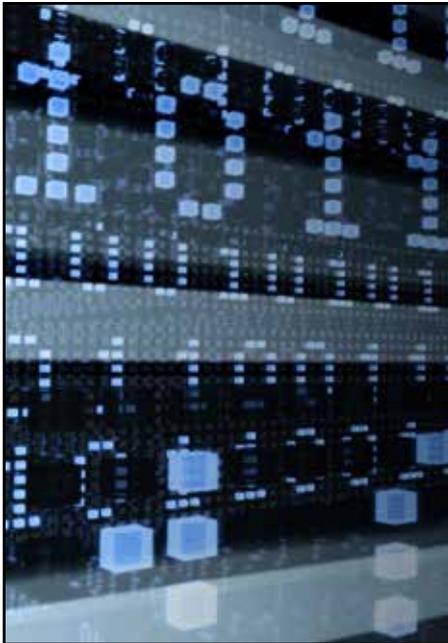
Over the past years, a fast-growing number of projects and applications have demonstrated the potential of using various types of big data sources – such as mobile phone, social media, or satellite data



– to improve the understanding of phenomena related to global migration and human mobility. An initial scepticism – not least within the statistical community (UN Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics, 2016) – has given way to the realization of the value of these innovative data sources to complement traditional data sources and methodologies of migration statistics. Data innovation, including big data, is now subject of various task forces and working groups (Ibid., 2020; Eurostat Big Data Task Force, 2020; UN Global Pulse, 2020), and mentioned in key global migration policy frameworks, such as the Global Compact for

Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

The Big Data for Migration Alliance (BD4M) – a joint initiative of IOM’s GMDAC with the EU Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) – is compiling many of the pioneering projects in this field in a Data Innovation Directory (DID). In cooperation with a number of international partners, the DID offers up-to-date insights about projects, initiatives and applications of new data sources and innovative methodologies in migration and human mobility, so as to facilitate access to existing knowledge in this rapidly evolving field. Noteworthy



examples include the following:

- Mobile phone Call Detail Records (CDRs) have been used to track internal displacement following natural disasters, such as the Nepal earthquake, or the spread of diseases, such as COVID-19 (Wilson et al., 2016; Flowminder & Ghana Statistical Services, 2020, Pepe et al., 2020). While CDR data are usually more helpful to identify internal migration patterns, they could also be used to measure international migration at the sub-regional level, particularly when combined with other sources. For instance, the combination of CDR with satellite data can help to map movements between cross-border communities (Sorichetta, 2017); CDRs coupled with census statistics can contribute to understanding patterns of refugee integration (Boy et al., 2019); and CDRs combined with geolocated

social media data and official labour force statistics can help to assess the social integration of migrants in destination countries.

- Geo-located social media activity, such as on Twitter and Facebook, have been used to infer international migration flows and stocks, also disaggregated by age, sex as well as skill levels or sector of occupation, based on user self-reported information (Zagheni, Kiran and State, 2014; Patel, 2017; Gendronneau, 2019). For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Facebook's Disease Prevention Maps provided data on population distribution and movement on a daily basis, available for further analysis of the disease outbreak (Maas et al., 2020). Overall, the number of active social media users globally in April 2020 reached 3.8 billion (We Are Social and Hootsuite, 2020), of which 2.6 million were Facebook users alone (Statista, 2020). The popularity of these platforms, together with the geotagged information that can be extracted from them, can be leveraged to study mobility patterns.
- Social media data can also be used for providing information as in a "real-time census" at the national or global level at a certain point in time (Zagheni, Weber and Gummadi, 2017; Spyrtatos et al., 2019). Data from the Facebook advertising platform, for instance, can yield information on a number of characteristics of users, such as their (self-reported) age, sex, their "home country" and current country of residence, educational

background, sector of occupation and personal interests. In early 2018, Spyrtatos et al. were able to accurately identify the increase in the number of Venezuelan migrants (the number of active monthly users classified by Facebook as 'expats') in Spain, a trend confirmed in the Spanish official statistics. Additionally, social media content can also be used to analyse public sentiments toward migrants and refugees, and how opinions on social media can become polarized (Natale, 2017; UN Global Pulse and UNHCR, 2017).

- Repeated logins to the same website and IP addresses from e-mail sending activity have been used to estimate international mobility patterns and users' likelihood to move to another country (Zagheni and Weber, 2012; State et al., 2013). Self-reported information on sex and age of users also allowed to estimate migration rates by sex and age group. Online search data may also be helpful to forecast (forced) migration, as shown in projects that compare Google Trends data with numbers of arrivals of asylum-seekers and migrants in Europe and in Australia (Connor, 2017; UN Global Pulse, 2014). Similarly, the Google Trends Index (GTI) – derived from the Google search engine, used by over a billion people worldwide – for migration-related search terms can be exploited to measure migration intentions from a certain country and predict subsequent emigration flows (Böhme, Gröger and Stöhr, 2018). The European Asylum Support Office's Early

Flight Departures  
Gates G, H

# Delivering Augmented Identity at borders

Helping you protect your borders while easing the legitimate movement of travelers



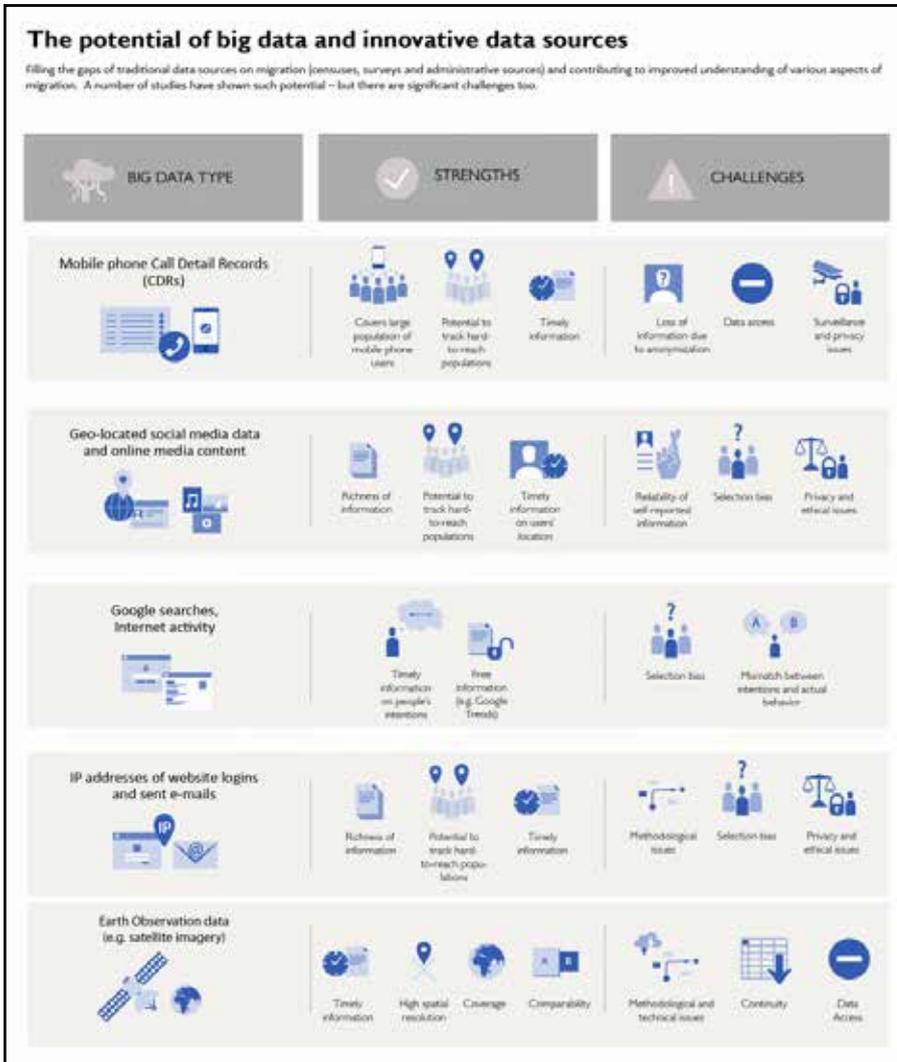
Secure and automated physical borders with multi-biometric technology



Manage the movement of travelers at all entry and exit points



Anticipate threats and assess risks using smart data analytics



radio content was collected and analysed with machine learning to understand public attitudes toward refugees in the country (Quinn & Hidalgo-Sanchez, 2017).

**Data sources**

Big data sources that have so far been used in migration-related studies can be grouped under three broad categories (Global Migration Group, 2017):

- Mobile-phone-based - e.g. call records or mobile money transfers.
- Internet-based - e.g. social media or use of search engines.
- Sensor-based - e.g. Earth Observation Data (satellite imagery).

The infographic below shows the specific types of sources.

**Data strengths & limitations**

The advantages of using new data sources for the analysis of migration-related aspects are linked to their potential to fill some of the gaps in traditional data sources and methods. While acknowledging the progress made by national governments and the international community on migration statistics, traditional data sources have inherent limitations: national population censuses are costly and infrequent, migrants may be hard to sample in household surveys, and they may be undercounted in administrative records if they are not able to access services in the host country. The increased availability of digital records presents an opportunity to address some of knowledge gaps around

Warning and Preparedness System (EPS) is using a combination of Google Trends data and traditional data sources to detect changes in country of origin contexts and forecast asylum applications in the EU.

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning can support projects and applications that seek to better understand migration-related phenomena in numerous ways. For instance, UNHCR's

Project Jetson computes an index with AI that allows to make short-term predictions of expected migration flows in Somalia based on key variables, such as commodity market prices, rainfall and violent conflicts. Further, AI can complement and enhance human expertise in interpreting satellite imagery to identify internal displacement or infrastructural damages after natural disasters (Quinn et.al., 2018). In Uganda,





representative of the population at large. Specifically, differences in internet access or use of mobile devices and social media platforms by level of economic development, sex, age and urban/rural areas are still significant. Research is ongoing to address the methodological challenges associated with such (“self-selection”) bias and results obtained so far look promising (Spyratos et al., 2018; Zagheni, Weber, and Gummedi, 2017; Hughes et al., 2016). Understanding the measurement error inherent in big data sources is helpful to increase the predictive capacity of models based on such sources, and facilitate sensible use of big data for decision-making.

Technical, analytical and legal challenges: Some of the challenges are due to difficulties in accessing data – held by private or state actors – or using data for

research purposes; inappropriate infrastructure and data management and security systems; and methodological difficulties in extracting meaning from huge, complex and “noisy” volumes of data. There are also issues of continuity of data, considering the rapid pace of technological change and innovation, and difficulties in gaining an overall picture of which big data sources or innovative methods can yield useful insights for policy, due to the proliferation of pilot applications and the absence of systematic services in this area. In this sense, the development of innovative “public-private partnerships” for data exchange and collaborations, such as “Data Collaboratives” (Verhulst, 2015) should be incentivized to make progress in this area.

As a way to concretely explore how to harness new data sources for migration analysis and policymaking, IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and the European Commission Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) launched the Big Data for Migration Alliance (BD4M). While a series of initiatives exist at the UN- and EU-level focused on data innovation for sustainable development, such as the UN Global Pulse, the UN Data Innovation Lab, and the UN Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for Official Statistics, there was still no unit specifically tasked with leveraging new data sources in the field of migration and human mobility – hence the idea to create

a dedicated Alliance.

*The BD4M is a network of individuals and organizations across sectors that aims to a) explore the potential of new data sources and the combination of traditional and innovative methodologies for the analysis of migration and its relevance for policymaking; b) ensuring the ethical use of data and the protection of individuals’ privacy; c) promoting and facilitating new forms or partnerships across the business, policy and scientific communities; and d) supporting peer-to-peer learning, including by facilitating the sharing of good practices and by building capacities on migration data innovation. Plans to create the Alliance were announced in the follow-up to the expert workshop Big Data and alternative data sources on migration: From case-studies to policy support, jointly organized by the KCMD and GMDAC in Ispra. More information about the BD4M is available on the BD4M platform ([www.data4migration.org](http://www.data4migration.org)), hosted by The Governance Lab (GovLab) at New York University Tandon School of Engineering.*

## Astrophysics awarded major contract with Philippines Bureau of Customs



Astrophysics has been awarded a long-term multi-million dollar (USD) contract with the Republic of the Philippines Bureau of Customs (BOC). The contract includes XIS 100XDV, XIS-6545DV, XIS-Trailers™, and HXP-FreightScan™ cargo screeners for deployment at airports and seaports across the country.

“The x-ray scanners are expected to further enhance the capability of BOC in detecting smuggled and anti-social goods like undeclared items, undervalued goods, non-declared goods, as well as the entry of narcotics in various ports nationwide,” said BOC Commissioner Ray

Leonardo Guerrero.

The partnership was spearheaded by Astrophysics Asia, the Astrophysics local office in Manila. The Astrophysics program management team worked closely with the Filipino government to coordinate logistics, design checkpoint layouts, manage site surveys, and supervise construction and installation, which began in September, 2019. “This project is a reflection of Astrophysics’ excellence in the industry,” said Mark Zayek, COO of Astrophysics. “We’ve combined the most innovative screening technology, American design and quality manufacturing, complete site and system integration, and world-class service to provide the most comprehensive security solution for the BOC.”

The Astrophysics systems installed in the Philippines significantly strengthen its borders and enable the BOC to perform non-intrusive inspections of container shipments and baggage of any size as it enters the country. Astrophysics imaging tools enable custom agents to analyze shipments with greater speed and accuracy to identify contraband, ensuring maximum threat detection at borders, seaports, and other points of entry.

## Guardia Civil arrests and investigates 23 members of a criminal network dedicated to the illegal trade in protected species

The Guardia Civil has dismantled a criminal group that was dedicated to the illicit trafficking of protected species which they exported to countries like Morocco. In addition, up to 20 fraud crimes have been clarified for individuals who acquired this type of animal online.

Under Operation Oratrix, carried out in three phases, 23 people related to the illegal trafficking of species have been arrested and investigated. The origin of the commercialization of these species has been located in the southern part of Spain.

The Civil Guard has seized more than 280 protected species among which there are macaws, parrots and cockatoos, in addition to abundant documentation and cash.

The documentation of these species was falsified and, in some cases, there was no record. The breeding of pairs was carried out in large aviaries. The agents also found an indoor plantation with more than 400 marijuana plants in one of the plots.

The collaboration of the Royal Moroccan Gendarmerie has been essential to locate a transport route, which used the interior of the buses to hide and transport the birds. The main detainee used his job at a travel agency for these exports.

This illegal trade reported to detainees a turnover of more than 100,000 euros per year. In addition, the valuation of the seized birds reaches up to 550,000 euros.

# AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

## Illegal Migrants Apprehended by Hungarian Police



Police arrested five illegal migrants in the Szajk area. The captured men declared themselves to be Afghan, Syrian, Bangladeshi, and Ivorian citizens.

Later the same day, police arrested seven more illegal migrants in the Nagyharsány area. The captured men declared themselves Syrian citizens.

Migrants could not credibly prove their identity or the legality of their stay in Hungary.

## CTED publishes updated Trends Alert on response of extreme

## right-wing terrorist groups to COVID-19

CTED Trends Alert | July 2020



The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) has published a Trends Alert entitled, “Member States concerned by the growing and increasingly transnational threat of extreme right-wing terrorism.” Based on information collected during CTED’s engagement with Member States and insights from CTED’s Global Research Network, the Trends Alert provided an overview of key trends relating to extreme right-wing terrorism, Member States’ responses, and guidance that might support those responses.

The Update to the April 2020 Trends Alert examines how extreme right-wing terrorists are responding to the

COVID-19 pandemic. It provides an analysis of data from Member States, researchers and civil society organizations which indicates that extreme right-wing terrorists are using COVID-19-related conspiracy theories and disinformation to radicalize, recruit and fundraise, and seeking to inspire plots and attacks. It also analyses the potential related challenges, and how Member States, international and regional organizations, and the private sector are responding.

## Evasive Chinese national sentenced for role in large-scale birth tourism and immigration fraud ring



ICE HSI led massive probe into multi-million-dollar criminal enterprise leading to changes in the official rules for issuing visas for travel to the US for

the purpose of giving birth.

A Chinese national was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison for participating in a large-scale birth tourism scheme that engaged in visa fraud that allowed foreign nationals to come to the United States and give birth so their children would receive U.S. birthright citizenship.

### **Louisiana task force seizes \$7 million in drugs, weapons, arrests**

Louisiana State Police task force that includes personnel from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New Orleans seized more than \$7 million in marijuana, illegal firearms, and arrested four suspects on state drug trafficking charges.

After a month-long investigation into members of a drug-trafficking organization, task force agents executed six search warrants in St. Tammany and Orleans Parishes. In addition to seizing more than 5,300 high-grade marijuana plants, the task force seized a small amount of cocaine, suboxone, two vehicles, two illegal firearms, and approximately \$75,000 in U.S. currency.

### **360 kilogram meth seizure worth \$180 million in Melbourne**

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has charged three men, including one Australian and two Malaysian nationals, following the seizure of approximately 360 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine; enough to supply



Melbourne with 3.6 million drug hits.

The operation began when Australian Border Force (ABF) officers examined a shipping container of furniture, after it arrived into Melbourne via sea from Malaysia.

The container was filled with various types of furniture, but the shipment concealed 18 unidentified cardboard boxes, not listed in the consignment.

Closer inspection showed the boxes were filled with small packages wrapped in aluminum foil. One of the packets was opened and a white crystalline substance was tested, returning a presumptive positive result for methamphetamine.

This quantity of crystal methamphetamine has an estimated potential street value of up to \$180 million..

### **Hungary Opens Humanitarian Corridor for Transit Travellers**



Hungary has opened a humanitarian corridor, through which will be able to

transit all travellers who are subject of current restrictions imposed by a large share of countries due to Coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19), the national police of Hungary has announced.

Travellers passing through Hungary are required to use border crossing points that have been chosen by Hungarian authorities. Border crossing points include: Ártánd, Battonya, Beregsurány, Csengersima, Csanádpalota, Gyula, Hegyeshalom, Hont-Parassapuszta, Letenye, Nyírábrány, Nagylak, Rajka, Rösztke, Tompa, Tornyiszentmiklós, Tornyosnémeti, Udvar, Záhony and Vállaj.

On June 9, Hungary's government abolished frontier checks at their part of internal Schengen borders, as according to the government, they no longer contributed to the containment of the Coronavirus pandemic.

### **CMPD Host Virtual Expert Meeting on European Border Management**



State Secretariat for Migration of Switzerland and International Centre for Migration Policy Development, organised an expert meeting for Member States in the framework of its Annual Policy Initiative 2020 (API). This expert meeting was part of a series of events under the API that delves into different aspects of the increasingly

complex relationship between migration and security - including border management, protection, security along migration routes and integration.

The event was focused on the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic for mobility to and within Europe and for European border management, stimulating an exchange of experiences and views among senior experts and practitioners involved in border management and cross-border mobility issues.

During the meeting, participants reflected on the impacts of the current crisis on Schengen states and border communities as well as the role of technology in supporting border management and public health functions. They highlighted the main challenges they have faced during the crisis and how national and EU border management systems have reacted.

## **B**OMCA shares EU's best practices in providing coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the area of border management



INL project, and aimed to support key border agencies of Central Asia in advancing border management responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The series includes webinars broadcasted in Uzbekistan (29/06), Turkmenistan (09/07), and Kazakhstan (10/07).

International traffic bans, lockdown restrictions and preventive border controls have been one of the most visible policy responses to the COVID-19 outbreak around the world. The webinars addressed their impacts on border management strategies from various perspectives, as well as important lessons about border control measures in times of public health emergency. The CA representatives of the Border Guard, Customs, Migration, Veterinary, Phytosanitary, and Sanitary Epidemiology services raised awareness of practical border management solutions for ensuring the uninterrupted supply of critical goods and expedited border clearances during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Central Asian partners together with their European counterparts exchanged insights on how to best adapt the border control system to the COVID crises and discussed recommendations on what could and should be done as a response measure to tackle pandemic's impact, particularly in the field of interagency cooperation and coordinated action at all levels.

## **M**exican Army seize drugs worth 85 million Pesos and more than 45,500 US dollars

The Mexican Army in support of the civil authorities, seized drugs and money at two events, in the state of Baja California in two operations.

Military personnel established at a Military Security Post, when carrying out a review of a vehicle, with the support of an X-ray team and a canophilic pair, found inconsistencies in the doors of the vehicle, so a thorough exploration was carried out, discovering 7,690

Kilograms approximately of a white powder with characteristics typical of cocaine, in seven rectangular packages, wrapped in blue plastic and approximately 9,190 Kilograms of fentanyl-like tablets, distributed in seven rectangular packages, wrapped in blue plastic.

Secondly, in coordination with elements of the Tax Administration Service, established in the Garita Internacional "Otay", when carrying out an inspection of a vehicle from the United States of America bound for Tijuana, BC, detected inconsistencies in the trunk of the car, so a meticulous exploration was carried out, seizing 45,607 American dollars contained in a backpack.

The seizure would be equivalent and would have an estimated market price of \$85'694,077.00 (EIGHTY-FIVE MILLION SIX HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR THOUSAND SEVENTY-SEVEN PESOS 00/100 MN), thus affecting the activities of criminal organizations.

## **1** 0 kilos of cocaine inside an air compressor



After two months of investigative tasks, the Argentine National Gendarmerie, a force that depends on the Ministry of National Security, detained three people, members of a criminal organization dedicated to the transport, collection and distribution of narcotic drugs. Procedures, searches and arrests were carried out in the

provinces of Entre Ríos, Chaco and Misiones, with the support of different Force Units.

Members of the Operational Group of Investigation and Procedures of Squadron 6 “Concepción del Uruguay”, last June, controlled on National Route No. 14, near the town of San José, from Entre Ríos, a shipment of parcel loads from the province of Misiones that circulated towards the province of Chaco.

The officials detected with the support of the binomial cinotécnico a new air compressor. There, they were packaged in 10 rectangular packages containing cocaine, yielding a total weight of 10 kilos 400 grams.

**UK and France agree action on Channel crossings**



UK and France have signed an agreement to create a joint intelligence cell which will crack down on the gangs behind this vile people-smuggling operation and impressed on my French counterpart the need to stop these illegal crossings for the benefit of both our countries. This is the start of a new operational approach with the newly appointed French Interior Minister.

The new unit will collate, centralise and analyse operational intelligence to prevent crossings from taking place and to dismantle the gangs behind

them.

It will be staffed by French and UK officers and will feed into the already established teams working tirelessly to end the illegally-facilitated crossings.

**ABF man charged after weapons import attempt**



A Sunshine Coast man is facing state and federal charges relating to weapons importation and drug possession, following his arrest in joint warrant activity between the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and the Australian Border Force (ABF).

The investigation began in May this year, when ABF officers working in international mail processing in Sydney and Brisbane intercepted a series of packages addressed to the man. The packages contained firearm suppressors and an automatic knife.

Officers attended a residential property in Pelican Waters on the Sunshine Coast where QPS arrested the man and ABF seized 31 firearm suppressors and one mobile phone.

**BSF troops foil attempt to smuggle guns, drugs across Indo-Bangladesh Border**

Border Security Force (BSF) personnel



foiled an attempt to smuggle improvised pistols, ammunition and Yaba tablets from India to Bangladesh through the Indo-Bangladesh border in North 24-Parganas on Tuesday. A smuggler has been nabbed.

“Troops of the 112 Battalion, posted at the Bithari and Tarali Border Out Posts acted on specific inputs and raided a house in Swarupdha with assistance from the local police. During the search, two country-made pistols, a magazine with five live rounds and 515 Yaba tablets were recovered from the house.” a senior official of the BSF, South Bengal Frontier, said.

**Bosnian Border Police prevented Smuggling of 6,950 Boxes of Cigarettes without Excise Stamps**

As part of the operational action “DSC 2”, members of the Trebinje Border Police Unit prevented the smuggling of 6,950 boxes of various types of cigarettes without excise stamps.

The cigarettes were discovered during the border control of a vehicle of Volkswagen brand, of Bosnian registration plates, operated by M.S. (1981), while another Lada vehicle, also of BiH registration plates, driven by B.D. (1980) was a precursor, ie it had the role of a “cleaner”, the BiH Border Police stated in a press release.

# IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE ECOWAS FREE MOVEMENT PROTOCOL AND THE REGIONAL INTEGRATION AGENDA

*The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) recently organized a webinar to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on one of ECOWAS's main instruments for regional integration, the Free Movement Protocol.*

While the coronavirus represents a global emergency, countries around the world immediately closed their borders to protect their citizens and prevent the spread of the virus. This raises the issue of regional cooperation and possible roadmap for future response to similar emergencies.

Two distinguished personalities,

H.E. Dr. Michael Spindelegger, Director General, ICMPD and H.E. Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, Nigerian Minister of Interior took turns to set the context for presentations and discussions.

This was followed by presentations by four expert speakers and what follows is a summary of their presentations:



whose livelihoods depend on the daily movement of trade across the borders. The same applies to member states whose economies are dependent on the movement of goods and services within the region. With the gradual easing of restrictions, measures or guidelines to ensure safe travels both at the pre-departure and post arrival stages must be applied at all entry posts, including maritime borders.

**Professor Stanley OKOLO (Director General, West African Health Organization): Finding a balance between the health emergency and cross-border migration in the context of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol.**

Prof. Okolo began by providing a status update on the evolution of COVID-19 cases in the ECOWAS region. Three months into the outbreak, the rate of transmission in West Africa differs significantly from earlier predictions. As at 25 May 2020, there were a total of 29,772 confirmed cases, 17,318 active cases, 11,827 recovered and a total of 627 deaths. These figures show that the rate of transmission of the disease is relatively low, compared to other regions of the world. Although, the testing capacity in West Africa is very low, it does not fully explain the dynamics that is playing out in sub-Saharan Africa.

However, with very poor health infrastructure and weak health management systems, there are legitimate concerns that the effect of the pandemic in Africa would

**Dr. Tony Elumelu (PPO, Free Movement Directorate-ECOWAS): Towards a common immigration policy and Integrated Border Management taking into consideration migration and health.**

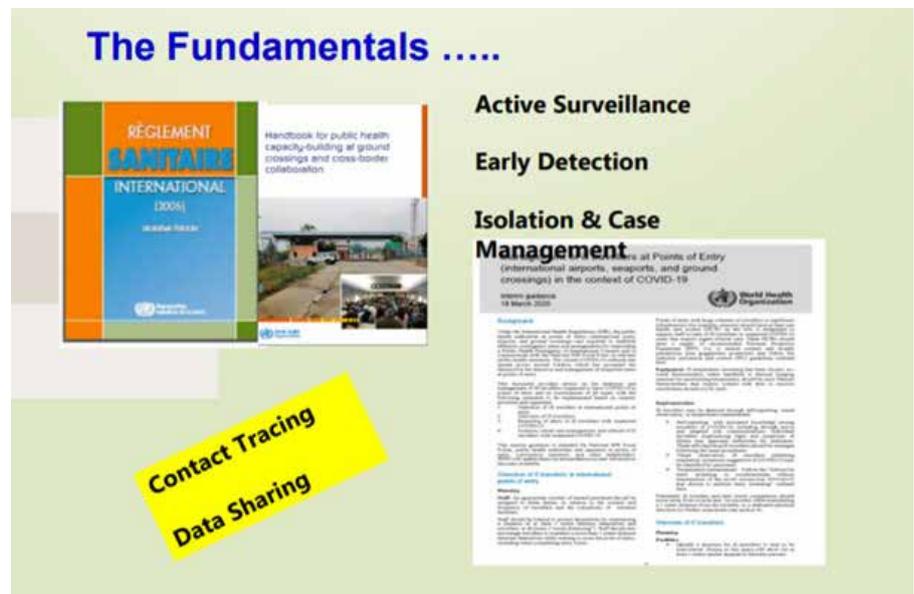
Dr. Elumelu commenced his presentation by providing a context to the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol. Over the years, the ECOWAS Commission has consistently and progressively introduced a series of initiatives that would strengthen its regional integration plan, including the principle of free movement of persons, goods and services in the region. The elaboration of the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration in 2008 has guided several actions including the introduction of a unified template for travel document application, the phased implementation of the Joint Border Post Programme, and the implementation of a common biometric identification card to facilitate intra-regional mobility.

However, like many countries across the globe, ECOWAS Member State are not insulated from the current pandemic, and one of the measures taken by individual MS was to restrict the movement of people both internally and across international borders. This was in contradiction to the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol, restricting not only the free movement of persons within the sub-region, but also restricting economic activities. Dr Elumelu argued that the COVID-19 pandemic would go down in history as a pandemic that has changed the world in many forms. The analyses of the effects of the COVID-19 disease are ongoing and may not yet reveal the full extent of the economic as well as the social impact on communities. As global economies and regional bodies begin to take stock of the effects, there is already a growing realization on the toll this is having on the general population. In the West Africa region, the challenges are real for the millions of community citizens

be devastating. People living in slums and shantytowns will not have the luxury to practice physical distancing as a non-pharmaceutical preventive measure. In addition, while the focus is on COVID-19, there are patients with other pathological illnesses who are struggling to get adequate care. As far back as 2005, the World Health Organization (WHO) had published a Handbook for Public Health Capacity Building at Ground-crossing and Cross-Border Collaboration.

Furthermore, in June 2019, WAHO published the Regional Pandemic Response Plan drawing experience from both the WHO guidelines and the Ebola case management successes. The Ebola outbreak in 2015, mainly affected three ECOWAS Member State - Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Contact tracing and isolation strategies were effectively utilized in managing the outbreak. In March 2020, the WHO released an updated guideline on the Management of Ill Travelers at Points of Entry in the context of COVID-19.

While sub-Saharan Africa may not have enough resources and testing capacity to cover a significant proportion of its population, active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management remain the best options. These measures are practical and were successfully implemented at the various entry points during the Ebola outbreak.



In the case of COVID-19, the border closure policy adopted by ECOWAS Member States may pose some challenges by inhibiting the possibility of contact tracing and data sharing. At the moment, the wave of transmission of the Coronavirus disease in sub-Saharan Africa is relatively low and if this trend continues, it will be a major opportunity for public health researchers who will need to determine the cause of this peculiar pattern.

However, there are still valid concerns that many African communities may experience a spike in the transmission rate if conscious measures are not taken to help communities prevent the spread of the disease. African countries need to strike a balance between re-opening the economy and curtailing the spread of the disease. Personal hygiene and the use of facemasks are the

Active Surveillance

Early Detection

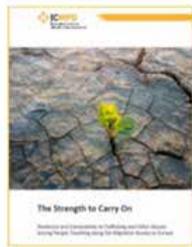
Isolation & Case Management

minimum requirements while public health authorities continue to look for an effective medical remedy. The WAHO has advised national authorities to base their decisions to ease the lockdown on scientific data as it relates to the spread of the virus.

**Ms. Lotte Kejser: Chief Technical Adviser, International Labour Organization: ILO Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Migrants and Youth employment**

Ms. Lotte shared some insights on best practices and lessons learned from similar situations. Ms. Lotte started the presentation by comparing the employment situation in West Africa before COVID-19 and the current state of employment. About 80% of the working population are in the informal sector some of whom are employed in small and medium sized enterprises which generates more than 4% of GDP. The population of the region

**Human Trafficking in Mixed Migration Contexts and Humanitarian Crises**



The COVID- 19 pandemic has clearly highlighted some of the root causes and vulnerabilities to trafficking!

is estimated at 400 million and it is projected to double by 200 Million by 2050 with a growth rate of 2.7%. Almost 50% of the population are children between age 0 and 14 and 20% are between 15-24 years implying a 50% youthful population between the age 15 and 34. The demography of the region gives it a hypothetical advantage in terms of the survival rate for COVID-19 infection assuming that the older population are more susceptible to the disease. Perhaps this reality marginally contributes to the slow rate of infection so far in the region. However, with over 50% unemployment and underemployment rates and the lack of social support for the unemployed, the productivity rate and income distribution among the youth population is low. Youths account for 60% of the unemployment rate and this is twice as high for women than for men. Given that a larger percentage of the working population earn their livelihood daily, the reality is that majority of the population will

not earn any income to sustain themselves during the lockdown. At the same time, the drastic reduction in diaspora remittances has complicated the means of livelihood of many families.

**Ms. Melita Gruevska-Graham, Head Anti-Trafficking Programme - ICMPD: Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Protection of Vulnerable groups**

Ms. Melita started the conversation by providing an overview of the different initiatives and programmes ICMPD is currently committed to in region. She took time to share her very deep insight about the peculiar vulnerabilities for the different categories of the migrant population.

West Africa has always been a region of high human mobility and about 80% of the migratory flow is intra-regional. Interestingly over the past 10 years, the migrants' profiles are changing and becoming more diversified to include more women and Youths in a context of mixed

migration flow. A major concern is the high irregular migration incidence 8 specific to certain communities and driven by the need to escape the real existential threat of poverty, to find a better life for their families.

This is what has fueled the enterprise of migrant smuggling and human trafficking and the very horrors of modern day slavery. Many others are victims of conflict displaced within their own communities and with no hope in sight for a durable solution.

*The ICMPD led Rabat Process is currently finalizing an assessment of anti-trafficking gaps, needs, and good practices in the 15 Member States of ECOWAS and Mauritania. The assessment is envisaged to provide a toolbox of transferable practices, so that Rabat Process partners can build upon successes and avoid pitfalls in existing country trafficking responses.*

## Security Council bodies issue joint report on measures taken by States to disrupt terrorism financing

In June 2020, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, issued a joint report providing insight into measures taken by States to disrupt terrorism financing, including through the effective implementation of measures required by the relevant Council resolutions.

Based on responses from 112 Member States, the report highlights the commitment of Member States to denying terrorist groups access to funds and financial services, and stresses the important role played by United Nations sanctions measures (in particular, asset-freezing measures) in that regard.

Most States report having revised their counter-financing of terrorism (CFT) laws and having conducted terrorism-financing risk assessments, working collaboratively with law enforcement, the judiciary, financial intelligence units, the private sector and the non-profit sector.

The responses suggest that States continue to face challenges with respect to, inter alia, the institutionalization of public/private partnerships,

the integration of human rights obligations into CFT measures, and cooperation with civil society actors in developing policies to ensure risk-based supervision of the non-profit sector.

The report notes that only a handful of States have developed an institutional and operational response to paragraph 24 of Security Council resolution 2462 (2019), which notes that the implementation of CFT measures should take into account the potential effect of those measures on exclusively humanitarian activities, including medical activities, that are carried out by impartial humanitarian actors.

The joint report was prepared pursuant to paragraph 37 of resolution 2462 (2019), which is the first Council resolution devoted to preventing and suppressing terrorism financing.

The resolution's adoption reflects the Council's continued determination to assist States to deprive terrorists of funds, financial assets and economic resources, as well as to deny them access to the financial system and to other economic sectors vulnerable to terrorism financing.

CTED will continue to update and inform Member States and the public about the implementation of international CFT standards.

## United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre Launches Virtual Event in Midst of Covid-19



The UNCTC has launched a virtual event to take you on an interactive journey to explore the important

work of the UN's Centre of Excellence in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism across the globe.

UNCTC was established in September 2011 to promote international counter-terrorism cooperation and support Member States in the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy operating globally through a range of projects and programmes across 12 key thematic areas under the 4 pillars of the global counter terrorism strategy. UNCTC is currently implementing a total of 45 programmes and projects around the world. In 2019, the Centre organized 95 workshops and expert level meetings, engaging over 5,000 individuals.

View the virtual expo at [www.un.org/counter-terrorism-expo](http://www.un.org/counter-terrorism-expo)

## The future of the AU-EU partnership on migration and mobility in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

The ICMPD hosted a high-level public webinar on “the future of the AU-EU partnership on migration and mobility in light of the COVID-19 pandemic”. Distinguished panellists discussed the key issues related to the effects of COVID-19 on migration, mobility and displacement in Africa as well as its implications for the AU-EU Migration Partnership.

The ICMPD Director Migration Dialogues and Cooperation, Martijn Plum moderated the discussion with H.E. Amira Elfadil, Commissioner for Social Affairs, AUC, H.E. Cessouma Minata Samate, Commissioner for Political Affairs, AUC, H.E. Ylva Johansson, Commissioner for Home Affairs, EC.

ICMPD Director General Michael Spindelegger gave a scene-setting opening speech in which he spoke about the current plans of EU-AU partnership: “The vision of bringing this [AU-EU] partnership to new heights was set by the European Commission in its March Communication ‘Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa’” With the newly emerged situation “[...] the EU’s Global Response to the COVID-19 from April 2020, is to focus on the most vulnerable people in Africa, including migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and their host communities. This is certainly the right step into the right direction.” The high-level event was concluded by Ambassador Birgitte Markussen, Deputy Managing Director, EEAS.



# WorldBorderSecurity.net

World Border Security Network (**WorldBorderSecurity.net**), a global network for agency officials at the borders.

The purpose of the network is to encourage and facilitate inter-agency co-operation and communication. Members of the network will be able to:

- communicate securely
- share information
- share documents
- share best practise
- view past presentations
- keep up-to-date with the latest technology developments
- share training opportunities
- and more...

**WorldBorderSecurity.net** is open to all World Border Security Congress government agency delegates past and present.

Access is restricted to government and intergovernmental personnel; border, customs, immigration agency officials and specialist law enforcement officers.

Non-delegate agency officials will also be welcome but by member invitation only.



# ILLEGAL SMALL-ARMS TRADE, ARMED VIOLENCE, AND HUMAN SECURITY AT THE LAND BORDER IN PAPUA, INDONESIA

*By Melyana R Pugu - Border Researcher and senior Lecturer from International Relations Department of Cenderawasih University Papua Indonesia*

The globalization has transformed national territory into borderless environment and increased cross-border connectivity, free flow of goods and peoples mobilization. At the same time, it equally offers similar opportunities for cross-border crime and others illegal activity that could endanger national and international peace and stability. The illegal small arms

trade has attracted increased global attention from international organization, national government, policy analysts, and researchers. This attention mainly due to the misuse of small arms to cause death and injury, particularly from armed conflict. Definitely no single country is safe from this transnational threats and the possible effect. Small arms misuse increased from 171,000 peoples in

2004 to 210,000 peoples in 2016, in which 15% individual deaths are direct casualties from armed conflict.

Illegal small arms proliferations is commonly recognized as worldwide risks and occurred in numerous parts of the world. This type of weapons is most often used in conflict and this weapons are tremendously damaging to people. Studies in illegal small arms trade has been conducted in wide region, from Africa, Central Asia, South Asia, to Southeast Asia and pacific.

Just as other parts of the world, the illegal small arms trade in Southeast Asia has contributed to violent crime in Malaysia, insurgency in Indonesia, communal conflict in Maluku, Mindanao conflict, insurgency in southern Thailand, and hamper development in Cambodia. The risks of illegal small arms trade in the Indonesian case have been studied extensively and focused on insurgency in Aceh and communal conflict in Maluku and Ambon. However, little study has been conducted on Papua.

In the study we focussed on illegal small arms trafficking in Papua and its contribution on armed violence in Papua, and implications of the threat to human security.

Consequently, we begin this study with the description of small arms trade in both regions and its relations to illegal small arms trade in Papua and the proliferation of armed violence and human security in Papua. Human security is employed in the study as alternative conception for addressing this issue and the basis in conducting bilateral cooperation. As such, we tried obtaining information from



news reports and international organization's databases. We also spoke to government officials and academics for better understanding relating to Indonesia's policy to tackle this issue.

Illegal small arms trade and armed violence in Papua

Papua is located in the eastern part of Indonesia and strategically between Southeast Asia and the Melanesian states of the Pacific. These regions include several developing countries with the history of armed conflicts and small-arms related issue such as Philippines, Malaysia, and Vietnam in Southeast Asia and the Papua New Guinea in the western Pacific. Following the armed rebellions and insurgencies in Papua, Indonesia, much of weapons was smuggled through the border that Indonesia shares with Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. These illegal small arms are being used by separatist and criminal armed group in Papua in recent conflict. This fact illustrates the ease of small arms

entering into Indonesia through its border and serious misuse of illegal small arms in Papua.

The correlation between illegal small arms trade and armed violence in Papua is also facilitated by the economic condition at the border and the continuation of cross-border ethnic relations. As several studies of cross-border illegal small arms trade in Africa, particularly the Uganda-Rwanda border, have found that economic hardships and cross-border ethnic relations facilitates cross-border smuggling, including small arms and munitions. Similar to the arms smuggling along the Uganda-Rwanda border, the smuggling usually uses rat routes across the dense forest in Indonesia-Papua New Guinea border, which is used by indigenous people to go about their daily live and rarely monitored by border officials.

The small arms used in Papua conflict may be originating from Papua New Guinea, but it actually in small numbers. Several



Furthermore, in February 2020, 10 weapons lost from the MI-17 accident in Mandala Mountain, Pegunungan Bintang regency which lost contact in June 2019. The missing of the weapons are suspected to have been taken by the Free Papua Organization. There is also a domestic supply of firearms. In January 2020, Papua Police found firearms that used by armed criminal group originated from East Java province.

The ease with which non-state actors to acquire weapons is made possible by limited development and limited law enforcement efforts in remote areas and land border regions. Furthermore, this situation strengthen by exploitation and undermining of traditional authority that stimulated communal identity and heightened conflict. The combination of proliferation of illegal small arms, unjust development, and misuse of small arms has significant implications for violence, spread fear in Papuan community, hamper development efforts, intensify social turmoil, and increase mortality rates in Papua.

As can be seen, between 2010 and 2014, armed violence in Papua has kill 122 people, which 75% of deaths were police and military casualties and government staff and 20% were civilians. The majority of separatist-related killings occurred in Puncak Jaya, Jayapura city, Jayapura city, and Paniai. In September 2019, proliferation of small arms stimulated the deadly riots in Wamena Papua, which killed at least 33 people. In this riot, armed criminal group burned down people's houses and spread fear among Wamena residents. The riots forced thousands of Wamena

sources argued that the armed criminal group in Papua in 2018 used firearms originating from Papua New Guinea. The firearm originating from Papua New Guinea was illegally transported through the dense forest in land border between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. The same group also bought weapons from the southern Philippines which was smuggled in by the sea.

In addition, Free Papua Organization is also smuggled weapon from Papua New Guinea border through Wembi, in Arso, Keerom district, and the border area of Skouw-Wutung. They were helped by the raskol gangs in Vanimo to smuggle weapons which originated from Thailand or the Philippines. Recently, in January 2020, armed criminal group smuggled in rifles with the munitions in Nifasi village, Makimi district, Nabire. Although the smuggling mainly used land border region in Papua, the long sea border around Papuan is difficult to monitor and is therefore another potential route to

illegally transport small arms into Papua.

Besides small arms come from cross-border smuggling, non-state actors in Papua also acquired small arms from combatants in previous conflicts, such as conflict in Aceh, Poso, and Maluku. Even though these conflicts are now ended, the Free Papua Organization could still acquire weapons from them, because the weapons remain hidden. For example, the firearms from former Ambon riots were smuggled from Ambon to Sorong and then to Jayapura by the sea, in Jayapura the weapons was exchanged with marijuana.

In addition, Free Papua Organization and others armed group in Papua also acquired weapons from raiding munitions stockpile, attacking police and military post, and plundering Indonesia security forces. In March 2019, Free Papua Organization attacked and plundered 4 weapons from military at Windi village, Derakma district, Nduga regency.

residents to flee, not only to military headquarters, but they also fled out of Papua Province with the help of the Air Force.

In 2019, there was 23 cases security problems related to armed criminal groups in Papua, which killed 10 civilian and 10 military and Police officials. Even though, the number of victims decreased from 2018, where 22 civilian and seven military and Police officials was killed. Nineteen of 22 civilian victims in 2018 was construction workers in Nduga. In this incident, they were suddenly attacked by armed criminal group when they constructed bridge as a part of Trans Papua that connected Wamena and Mumugu.

The continuation of armed violence in Papua threatens human security in Papua and the government needs to respond this situation immediately. The greatest danger from the proliferation of illegal small arms is the erosion of state authority in guarding its border and protecting its citizens. Moreover, when separatist and armed criminal groups possess weapons that are as powerful as those used by police and military forces, it enhances separatists capability to cause more casualties and undermined central authority in Jakarta. Even though, the states is not the single actor in maintaining human security, but the state constitutes an essential precondition for human security in Papua. Consequently, in responding to illegal small arms issue, the Indonesian government should use the human security approach to secure its society, border, territorial integrity, national security, and to prevent armed violence in Papua.



The globalization has transformed national territory into borderless environment. In this circumstance, border management is a symbol of Indonesia's responsibility to protect and assure the security of its society in Papua from misuse of illegal small arms. The illegal small arms trafficking across Indonesian borders in Papua is characterized by its particular aspects.

Firstly, small arms trade is related with other transnational crime, especially marijuana trafficking.

Secondly, the existence of cross-border ethnic and economic relations is contributing to this illegal activity, usually in small quantities and difficult to detect.

Thirdly, the dense forest in land border areas and a long maritime border has created safe havens for separatists to smuggle weapons and spread violence to wider community in Papua.

The continuous flow of illegal small arms to separatist and armed criminal group in Papua has led to armed violence that threatens Papuan human security.

Additionally, armed violence has interrupted the development, with many negative effects, particularly welfare-related issues such as the displacement of civilians, the restriction of economic activity, the spreading of fear in society, and slow down the economic development.

In order to solve the proliferation of small arms and assure Papuan human security, Indonesia government have strengthen its border management as well as cooperation with local communities in Papua.

However, without effective domestic enforcement and international cooperation, this issue will certainly need long time to solve. Currently efforts to address illegal small arms trade is ineffective because limited border cooperation with neighboring countries, particularly the Philippine and Papua New Guinea.

Indonesia needs to collaborate within international mechanism and encourage authorized cross border economic activity, which will bring mutual benefit.

# BORDERS OF THE FUTURE — IS DATA SHARING THE ANSWER?

*Richard Gutsell, Client Director -  
Borders, Identity and the Digital  
Economy at Atkins*

With the impact of COVID-19 on cross border traffic, there has never been a greater need reimagine the way our borders operate, with airline and port operators needing to find efficiencies to survive, and governments needing to understand and define biosecurity measures to protect travellers and their citizens. Thanks to the legislation, including the Data Protection Act 1998

and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), there are also strict stipulations around how we store, secure and share the data collected about those embarking on journeys.

A fine balance needs to be struck between protecting personal data and using this wealth of information to transform the ways our borders operate and keep passengers safe.

So, what are the benefits we can realise from improved data sharing across our borders?

Data, including biometrics, can make our journeys seamless. For example, when a traveller checks in at home, a biometric image can be taken and associated with their boarding pass, which can then be used to verify their identity when the passport chip is scanned and verified against Government databases. As the passenger moves through the airport, biometric scanners can allow access to different areas – such as departure lounges and the correct gate – without the need for the passenger to ever show their boarding pass. The passenger can be given context specific guidance on their journey, then real time guidance as they set off.

Using automated biometric authentication across our borders would have a fundamental impact on the efficiency of the journey. Also, providing real time guidance based on a passenger's position in their journey will help remove queues and gathering points, which will increase safety.

Data protection needs to be a built-in feature for this form of biometric scanning – and has already been considered thanks to the use of encrypted image storage and splitting images into unrecognisable characteristics across a number of servers, with images deleted as soon as the passenger finishes their journey.

Improved data sharing can help the UK's border agencies make more informed decisions and improve the management of risk.

But there are obstacles. One is that different agencies' systems are not always able to share data, and this is something we must tackle. A multitude of government agencies have an interest in the operation of our borders, so shouldn't we be seeing this as an opportunity to replace legacy technology with newer innovations that can interface better and share intelligence? Data sharing would promote a move towards earlier and more effective intervention. By having a richer picture of people and goods being moved, we are better informed and can take earlier action against criminal activity.

With the heightened need to share medical data, we should take the opportunity to create a framework to share data nationally and internationally to address out key safety and security risks. National standards and international agreements will be a vital element of restoring international trust.

Given how long it takes to upgrade hard infrastructure, monitoring assets via digital twins could provide ample benefits for the build, construction and maintenance of our borders. By creating a digital copy of border infrastructure, we would be able to run scenarios and rigorously test critical systems to ensure they are robust enough to operate efficiently in light of any potential disruptions.

These digital twins could also ensure the longevity of border assets, by monitoring the condition of the site and ensuring all necessary maintenance is completed. To make this possible, a greater amount of data sharing

would be required between all involved suppliers and those who manage the borders.

### Realising the benefits

COVID-19 has caused a fundamental shift in the security controls which need to be applied at our ports. Those who are already sharing their data through the likes of digital twins and even less sophisticated digital models are best placed to model the deployment of new measures that could protect passengers and build confidence to encourage a return to travel.

To realise all the benefits of increased data across our borders, there are two main obstacles that we need to overcome. The first centres around the inability for some key agencies and operators to even facilitate data sharing through their use of legacy systems that don't support data sharing. The second is about trust in digital services and their ability to protect people's privacy. While legislation protects the way data is collected, stored, processed and managed, and therefore goes some way to assuring people that their information is safe, we need to go beyond the legal requirements to establish confidence in our data handling.

The good news is that many examples already exist of how we're effectively and safely sharing data the above in other parts of the industry. Now, we need to apply the technology – and associated processes and protections – to our borders and we can truly realise the benefits.

# BORDER MANAGEMENTS ANNUAL GATHERING

## EVENT PREVIEW



**24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
Athens, Greece**

[www.world-border-congress.com](http://www.world-border-congress.com)

The annual gathering of the international border management and protection community will take place in the historic city of Athens, Greece on 24th-26th November 2020.

The World Border Security Congress is delighted to be positioned in the heart of some of the most recent migration challenges.

Recent years has seen unprecedented crisis on a global scale, from the Middle East warring factions creating mass

refugee movements across Europe, illegal economic migrants from Africa and Asia have created increasing challenges for the international border management and security community.

2019/20 is expected to see a continuation of the migration challenges for the border management and security community, as little sign of peace and security in the Middle East is apparent.

International organised criminal gangs and human and drug trafficking groups

exploit opportunities and increasingly use the internet and technology to enhance their activities.

Controlling and managing international borders in the 21st Century continues to challenge the border control and immigration agencies around the world. It is generally agreed that in a globalised world borders should be as open as possible, but threats continue to remain in ever evolving circumstances and situations.

Advancements in technology are assisting in the battle to maintain safe and secure international travel. The border security professional still remains the front line against these threats.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

We need to continue the discussion, collaboration and intelligence sharing.

The World Border Security Congress is the premier multi-jurisdictional transnational platform where the border protection, management and security industry policy-makers and practitioners convene to discuss the international challenges faced in protecting borders.

Supported by the Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Association of Airport and Seaport Police (EAASP), the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC), National Security & Resilience Consortium, International Security Industry Organisation and International Association of CIP Professionals, the World Border Security Congress remains the premier multi-jurisdictional global platform where the international border management and protection policy makers and practitioners and community gathers to share views, thoughts and challenges.

As well as the 3 day main congress agenda, the event will also have a series of Closed Agency Only Workshops and opportunities for delegates to visit Athens International Airport of Piraeus Seaport during the Site Visits being hosted. Great opportunities to gain insights into how operational and technological aspects combine for successful border security, migration and cargo management.

Register your interest to attend the event at [www.world-border-congress.com/registration](http://www.world-border-congress.com/registration).

We look forward to welcoming you to Athens, Greece on 24th-26th November 2020.

Further details can be viewed at [www.world-border-congress.com](http://www.world-border-congress.com).

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## Closed Agency Workshops

FOR BORDER AGENCIES, AGENCIES AT THE BORDER AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ONLY

The World Border Security Congress aims to promote collaboration, inter-agency cooperation and information/intelligence sharing amongst border agencies and agencies at the border to better engage and tackle the increasing threats and cross border security challenges that pertain to today's global environment.

Border agencies and agencies at the border can benefit from the 'Closed Agency Only Workshops', hosted by the Ministry of Citizen Protection, Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) with a series of behind closed door discussion and working group opportunities.

This year's Closed Agency Only Workshop topics are:

### Challenges of Inter-Agency And International Information Sharing

*Chair: Senior Representative, Ministry of Citizen Protection*  
Legacy information systems, lack of trust, lack of sharing mechanisms, lack of a designated international agency all contribute to a lack of information sharing. Integrated Border Management (IBM) is based on the premise that agencies and the international community need to work together to achieve common aims that benefit all parties. Information sharing becomes increasingly effective as border management agencies gather, collate and share more data, but how is this to be achieved.

### Disrupting People Trafficking Routes

*Chair: International Organization for Migration (IOM)*  
Human trafficking is one of the largest criminal enterprises in the world. It is a multi-billion dollar criminal business on a global scale. This is because human trafficking is a high profit, low risk enterprise that is also a low priority for most law enforcement agencies, meaning apprehension of perpetrators is low and sentences are often minimal compared that of major crimes. What can be done to disrupt trafficking routes and gangs?

### Biometrics - next steps

*Chair: Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)*  
Biometrics are here to stay and are an increasingly valuable tool in making borders secure. But what are the next steps and developments and implementation in biometric technology and how biometrics is lawfully used to help on the border, considering aspects such as GDPR and travel document security.

Register online at [www.world-border-congress.com/agency-reg](http://www.world-border-congress.com/agency-reg)

## AFRICAN UNION ECOSOCC WORKSHOP

MIGRATION - CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN AFRICA



Tuesday 24th vember 2020 :  
9.30am - 12:30pm

The Social Affairs and Health Cluster Committee in conjunction with Committee on Political Affairs of the AU-ECOSOCC, will be hosting a Workshop on the margins of the Congress to understudy the situation and proffer necessary solutions that will address the issues of Migration in Africa.

Africa is continuously losing its young, vibrant human resources and future through irregular migration, leading through the path of death to Europe and other developed Nations. This has continued to lead to loss of thousands of lives, brain drain and depletion of Africa's human resources.

The situation has become a global topical issue with Africa at the receiving end. We believe that the time has come for us to look inwards. The Workshop therefore is expected to identify the root causes, share experience with local and international development partners and civil society organizations with a view to curbing irregular migration of African youths and even families to Europe.

The Side Event with the theme "Migration - Creating Opportunities for Young People In Africa" will be highly interactive with Keynote presentations, Panel discussions centered on a meaningful dialogue among participants and stakeholders.

Delegates of the World Border Security Congress are entitled to participate in the AU-ECOSOCC Workshop "Migration - Creating Opportunities for Young People In Africa".

Register online at [www.world-border-congress.com](http://www.world-border-congress.com)



**CONGRESS PROGRAMME**

**TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER**



**1:30pm - 2:00pm MINISTERIAL OPENING AND WELCOME**

**2:15pm - 3:30pm OPENING KEYNOTE**

Chief of Greek National Police  
Chief of Hellenic Coast Guard  
TBC

**4:00pm - 5:30pm PLENARY SESSION - THE LATEST THREATS AND CHALLENGES AT THE BORDER**

*With the final collapse of the so-called IS Caliphate, returning foreign fighters are a particular challenge for the next few years, but mass migration, transiting terrorists, cross border organised crime, human trafficking, small arms, weapons of mass destruction and drug smuggling will continue to be areas of major concern for the global border community.*

**Latest threats and challenges in the Central Asia**

Sharipov Zafar, Tajik Border Troops & Abdulloev Khairullo, Tajik Customs Service, Tajikistan

**Insider Threats at Ports**

Peter Nilsson, Head of Airpol  
Wayne Salzgeber, Director, INTERPOL Washington  
Senior Representative, Greek National Police  
David Bannister, Chief Inspector - Counter Terrorism Border Operations Centre, Counter Terrorism Policing – National Operations Centre (CTP-NOC)  
Carlos Dettleff Beros, General Director for Borders, The National Department of State Borders and Boundaries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile

**WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER**

**9:00am - 10:30am PLENARY SESSION - CONTINUING EFFORTS AGAINST FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS, IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

*How we deal with foreign terrorist fighters, irregular migration and human trafficking are inextricably linked. Because it is through clandestine trafficking networks that foreign fighters will attempt to return to their countries of origin or to other destinations. They may also attempt to return through conventional travel networks by the use of forged or lookalike documents. Or they may hide among genuine refugees as we have already seen. These experienced fighters pose a real threat to their communities. API and PNR are part of the answer but what else can we do to meet this challenge?*

**The use of API/PNR data to fight trafficking in Human Beings and people smuggling**

James Garcia, Assistant Director, Cargo & Biometrics – Global Targeting Advisory Division National Targeting Center - U.S. CBP & Valdecy Urquiza, Assistant Director - Vulnerable Communities - INTERPOL General Secretariat  
Alvaro Rodriguez-Gaya, Head of Strategy, European Migrant Smuggling Centre, EUROPOL

**Strengthening National Referral Mechanisms to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings - Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, OSCE**

Gerald Tatzgern, Head of Joint Operational Office, Public Security Austria

**The fight against illegal migrants and corruptions on border crossing points - Ph. D. Vladimir Pivovarov, National coordinator for integrated border management, Ministry of Interior, North Macedonia**

AIG Moses Ambakina Jitoboh mni, Assistant Inspector General of Police, Nigeria

**Achieving Effective Border Security in Africa through Youth Engagement - Jude Gabriel Imagwe MON, Chief Executive, Advance for World Unity**

**9.15AM - 10.30AM TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP**

*See some of the latest border tech solutions demonstrated and discussed during the Technology Workshop.*

**The Future of Automated Border Control: Making an Informed Decision - Christopher Gilliland, Director, Innovative Travel Solutions, Vancouver Airport Authority**

**The Need for Client-Owned Open Source Frameworks for Integration of Sensors - Sean Buckley, PMP, Program Director, Parsons**

TBC - Senior Representative, Smiths Detection

**Future Technologies for improving Border Security - Radu Pop, Head of Sales, Infrastructure and Frontier Security Solutions, Airbus Defence & Space & Michael Edwards, Director of Business Development & Technical Sales eGovernment, Veridos**

**How Technology and Collaboration between nations enable focus on detecting Foreign Terrorist Fighters - Kier-co Genritsen, Business Development Director, SITA**

**Beyond the Passport: Truth, Lies or Threats? - Dr. Enrique Segura, president and CEO of Securiport**

## 11:15AM - 12:30PM WORKSHOPS

**BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING IN BORDER AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT**

Enhancing capacity and migration management through by improved technical support and knowledge; administrative ability; promoting mechanisms for co-operation and the exchange of expertise between migration management personnel and the strengthening the monitoring and oversight.

Nélson Goncalves, Immigration and Border Management Training Specialist, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

**Capacity Building and Design Thinking** - Dr Katerina Poustourli, Scientific/Technical Officer, International University of Greece

**Global Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme** - Margherita Natali, Associate Programme Officer, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, Counter Terrorism Centre, Border Security and Management Unit

Olasunkanmi John Oba - Nigerian Representative, AU-ECOSOCC

**CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - CHALLENGES OF INTER-AGENCY AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION SHARING**

**Chair: Ministry of Citizen Protection, Greece**

Legacy information systems, lack of trust, lack of sharing mechanisms, lack of a designated international agency all contribute to a lack of information sharing. Integrated Border Management (IBM) is based on the premise that agencies and the international community need to work together to achieve common aims that benefit all parties. Information sharing becomes increasingly effective as border management agencies gather, collate and share more data, but how is this to be achieved. **BSRBCC - A model for long term cross-border cooperation** - Hans Peter Wagner, National Expert, Senior Chief Inspector, Federal Police

Alvaro Rodriguez-Gaya, Head of Strategy, European Migrant Smuggling Centre, EUROPOL

**Delimitation and demarcation of state boundaries as a significant element of improving border security and cooperation between neighbors with a focus on the Balkans, the current situation and challenges** - Mile Milenkoski, Senior adviser, Department for borders, passports and overflights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of North Macedonia

**Trade Facilitation and National Security: The Need for Border Coordination and Cooperation** - Sanusi Tasiu Saulawa, Deputy Superintendent, Nigeria Customs

**Big Data Strategy - migration trends and risks** - Florian Forster, Head, Immigration and Border Management (IBM), International Organization for Migration (IOM)

## 2:00pm - 3:30pm

**PLENARY SESSION - SECURING THE LITTORAL BORDER:  
UNDERSTANDING THREATS AND CHALLENGES FOR MARITIME BORDERS**

Our coastline borders present huge security challenges for the border community. With dramatically varied terrain from mountains and cliffs to beaches and swamps. Tens of thousands of kilometers of extended coastline with multiple lonely bays, inlets, estuaries and islands that can all be exploited by terrorists, illegal migrants, drug and arms smugglers, human traffickers and organised crime. How do we secure this complex and challenging environment?

Rear Admiral Mohammed Ashraf Haque, Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard Force

Cristina Gatões, National Director, Portuguese Immigration and Border Service (SEF)

Jim Nye, Assistant Chief Constable - Innovation, Contact & Demand & NPCC Maritime Lead, Devon & Cornwall Police, UK

Rear Admiral Enrico Credendino, Italian Navy EUNAVFORMED

Senior Representative, Hellenic Coast Guard

Vice Admiral Aan Kurnia, Director General, Indonesia Maritime Security Agency

## 2.15PM - 3.30PM

**TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP**

See some of the latest border tech solutions demonstrated and discussed during the Technology Workshop.

**Mobile Biometrics: Revolutionizing Border Security and Efficiency**

David Gerulski, Senior Vice President, Global Sales & Marketing, Integrated Biometrics

**Smart Borders start with AI-powered solutions**

Senior Representative, Cellebrite

**Addressing the challenge of land and sea borders**

Nicholas Phan, Market Manager Border Control and Passenger Flow Facilitation, IDEMIA

**Now Is The Time For The Right Kind of RADAR At Borders**

Senior Representative, Blighter Surveillance Systems

**Border Security – AI and Human Machine Teaming** - Paul Hollingshead, Head of EMEA, Anduril Industries, Inc



4:15PM - 5:30PM

**WORKSHOPS**

**BREAKOUT SESSION - PRE-TRAVEL RISK ASSESSMENT AND TRUSTED TRAVELLERS**

*With a plethora of trusted traveller programs around the world, how can we make legitimate travel more seamless? Is it possible to provide better connectivity between programs? How can API/ PNR play a role on pre-travel risk assessment.*

**Europe Travel Information & Authorisation System (ETIAS)**

Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Migration & Home Affairs, European Commission

**EU's Entry-Exit System (EES) - Borders Are Fixed But Identification Must Be Mobile**

Rein Süld, Program Manager, Information Technology & Development Center, SMIT (Estonian Ministry of the Interior)

**Integrated identification process: The case of Germany**

Heiko Werner, Head of Security Group, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany

**CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - DISRUPTING PEOPLE TRAFFICKING ROUTES**

**Chair: International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

*Human trafficking is one of the largest criminal enterprises in the world. It is a multi-billion dollar criminal business on a global scale. This is because human trafficking is a high profit, low risk enterprise that is also a low priority for most law enforcement agencies, meaning apprehension of perpetrators is low and sentences are often minimal compared that of major crimes. What can be done to disrupt trafficking routes and gangs?*

**Border Development, Security and Migration Management in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects**

Asogwa Dominic Obetta, Comptroller, Nigeria Immigration Service

Uche Chukwuma Azuka-Osadebe – Executive Chairman, Oshimili South Local Government Council of Delta State

Gabor Kemeny, OSCE Skopje

**THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER**

9:00am - 10:30am

**PLENARY SESSION - THE DEVELOPING ROLE OF BIOMETRICS IN IDENTITY MANAGEMENT & DOCUMENT FRAUD**

*Formal identification is a prerequisite for effective border control. Document fraud has become an enabler of terrorism and organised crime and is linked to the trafficking of human beings and migrant smuggling. Facial recognition, fingerprinting and iris scan are now maturing technologies with increasing accuracy and performance. What is the developing and future role of biometrics in managing identity and our borders, and how are associated technologies best utilised to bridge the gap and underdocumentation, so widespread in the developing world?*

**The Malpensa e-Gates Project - A user perspective on e-Gates security and usability at the Malpensa Airport**

Guido Ferraro di Silva e Castiglione, Commander (ITA Coast Guard, Res), Transport and Border Security Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

**Biometrics on the Move and SEF Mobile**

Helio Freixial, IT Expert – Smart Borders PT Project manager, Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service

Angelisa Corbo, Border Adviser, OSCE

Dr Anna Makakala, Tanzania Immigration Service

Nosakhare Igbinere – Executive Director, The Major Resources Nigeria

9.15AM - 10.30AM

**AIRPOL WORKSHOP - INSIDER THREAT - SETTING UP AN INSIDER MITIGATION PROGRAM**

*A step-by-step discussion to setting up an insider mitigation program, including risk assessment/vulnerabilities according to the AIRPOL model and what co-operation is required when setting up the insider mitigation program.*

**Host: Peter Nilsson, Head of AIRPOL**



## 11:15AM - 12:30PM WORKSHOPS

**BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - SMUGGLING & TRADE IN ILLICIT GOODS, ANTIQUITIES AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

The global trade in endangered species, over 1.5million transactions per year, will drive some species to extinction if the trade is not stopped. The cultural damage inflicted by the global trade in antiquities, valued over \$20 billion, cannot be quantified but is all too easily understood. So, what can the border community do to stem the flow and illegal trade of illicit goods, antiquities and endangered species?

**Chair: Orfeas-Konstantinos Sotiriou**

**Antiquities Smuggling as Transnational Threat** - Orfeas-Konstantinos Sotiriou, National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government

**Trafficking of Underwater Cultural Heritage** - Peter Campbell, Assistant Director: British School at Rome

**Internet and Dark Web in Antiquities Smuggling Phenomenon** - Vassiliki Simi, MSc of Laws, International Law and Legal Studies, National School for Public Administration and Local Government student

**Borderline" Exhibitions: Ephemeral Museum Displays as Tools for Raising Awareness Against Trafficking Of Antiquities** - Katerina Koukouvaou, Archaeologist, Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities

**Education and Training Responding to Operational Needs and Practices in Law Enforcement Units : Cultural Heritage Protection** - Angeliki Aloupi, Director of the Committee of Prevention and Management of Social Exclusion - Hellenic Community for Behavior Analysis

**CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - BIOMETRICS - NEXT STEPS**

Biometrics are here to stay and are an increasingly valuable tool in making borders secure. But what are the next steps and developments and implementation in biometric technology and how biometrics is lawfully used to help on the border, considering aspects such as GDPR and travel document security.

**Chair: Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

Glen Wimbury, Technology & Innovation Lead, Future Borders, Border Force UK\*

Gunter Schumacher, Researcher, European Commission, ec - Joint Research Centre (JRC)\*

2:00pm - 4:00pm **PLENARY SESSION - THE FUTURE TRENDS AND APPROACH TO ALTERNATIVES FOR SECURING BORDERS**

Brexit, the US/Mexico Wall, Greek/Turkish borders are forcing the debate about future border developments. But could any or all of them really supply the blue print for the future of borders for land, sea and air? Has Integrated Border Management (IBM) proven successful? What's the latest thought leadership in enhancing border protection and management to counter the ever changing challenges?

Senior Representative, Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), Greece

**The Role of Gender Equality in BSM**

Inesa Nicolaescu, Associate Border Security Officer, OSCE

**Health and Humanitarian border management programs**

Judith Knöpfli, Project Manager, IOM / Immigration and Border management unit, Niger

**Use of Technology for Security and Development of South Asian Borders**

Manoj Kumar, Second in Command, Indian Border Security Force

**Strengthening Trust and Cooperation at the Eastern Border of the EU. Current and Future trends in the EU Border Management**

Rimutis Klevečka, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Border Management, Lithuania

**Achieving Effective Border Security in Nigeria: A Sustainable Social, Economic and Infrastructural Development Approach**

Captain Junaid Abdullahi, Executive Secretary, Border Communities Development Agency, Nigeria

**Non-governmental participation in integrated border management**

Iryna Sushko, Executive Director, Europe Without Barriers

**Comprehensive Border Governance** - Tony Stefan Mihaitoia, Senior Border Management and Security Adviser, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

## 4:00PM

**CONGRESS ROUND UP AND CLOSE**

**SITE VISITS TO PORT OF PIRAEUS / ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER – 8.30AM-12NOON**

**PORT OF PIRAEUS**



**ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**



The Port of Piraeus is the chief sea port of Piraeus, Greece, situated upon the Saronic Gulf on the western coasts of the Aegean Sea, the largest port in Greece and one of the largest in Europe. With about 18.6 million passengers Piraeus was the busiest passenger port in Europe in 2014. Since its privatization in 2009 the port's container handling has grown rapidly. According to Lloyd's list for top 100 container ports in 2015 Piraeus ranked 8th in Europe. Piraeus handled 4.9 million twenty-foot equivalent unit containers (TEU's) in 2018, an increase of 19,4% compared with 2017 climbing to the number two position of all Mediterranean ports.

Athens International Airport is the largest international airport in Greece, serving the city of Athens and region of Attica. It began operation on March 2001 and is the main base of Aegean Airlines, as well as other smaller Greek airlines. Athens International is currently the 27th-busiest airport in Europe. The airport currently has two terminals, the main terminal and the satellite terminal accessible by an underground link from the main terminal. It is designed to be extended in a modular approach over the ensuing years in order to accommodate increases in air travel. These extensions are planned in a six-phase framework. The first (and current) phase allows the airport to accommodate 26 million passengers per year. In 2004, it was declared European airport of the year.

**Spaces are limited so ensure you book your place on the site tour early at [www.world-border-congress.com](http://www.world-border-congress.com)**

**World Border Security Congress**  
**24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020**  
**ATHENS, GREECE**  
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## NEC-led team to provide Hawaii's airports with passenger screening technology

NEC partner, Infrared Cameras Inc., has been selected by the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) to provide thermal temperature screening and facial recognition technology at Hawaii's public airports to help protect the community and identify passengers with a potentially elevated body temperature.



NEC and Infrared Cameras were selected with a proposal of \$23.3 million for equipment and installation and a 10-year maintenance plan of \$1.42 million annually for a total contract amount of \$37.5 million. The companies were selected in part because of their innovative concept and functionality to deliver accurate and efficient thermal temperature screening for people traveling to Hawaii. The selection committee evaluated various systems and technologies and NEC and Infrared Cameras were determined to be the best fit for Hawaii's needs.

The thermal temperature screening equipment will

be installed immediately at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL), Kahului Airport (OGG), Lihue Airport (LIH), Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport at Keahole (KOA) and Hilo International Airport (ITO). Phase 1 will have the temperature scanners installed this month at the gates currently being used for arriving trans-Pacific flights.

Phase 2 will have the temperature scanners installed at the remaining gates in the coming weeks.

Phase 3 expects to have the facial recognition equipment installed by December 31, 2020.

## AeroDefense's Existing AirWarden™ Technology Now Offers Unobtrusive Drone Detection for Mobile Command Vehicles and Marine Vessels

AeroDefense, the manufacturer of the AirWarden™ drone detection system that detects and locates drones and pilots simultaneously, has announced a new mobile deployment option.



AirWarden mobile deployments operate independently, as a patrolling group, or in conjunction with permanently mounted systems.

Today's drone threats necessitate a need for increased airspace security. AirWarden's mobile drone detection technology equips law enforcement, border patrol officers, and security guards with actionable intelligence on the location of a drone and its pilot for rapid response. AirWarden's four-inch, four-ounce antenna easily mounts on an external

antenna mast and connects to detection electronics inside a customer-provided ground vehicle or marine vessel for discreet drone detection operations.

AirWarden mobile sensors create a dynamic network in two ways to enhance location accuracy. When a mobile sensor comes within range of a fixed network, it can extend a permanent installation network. Mobile sensors in separate command vehicles or marine vessels can move at patrol speed in a search grid fashion to locate both drones and pilots.

## Parsons Corporation Launches Touchless, Biometric Sensing COVID Solution

As parts of the world continue to reopen during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, society must reactivate while remaining committed to the health, safety and security of global citizens. With that in mind, Parsons Corporation has developed an integrated, touchless suite of solutions that will monitor real-time health and facilitate the safe movement of people in public areas..



The offering – known as DetectWise™ – includes contactless, mobile health screening kiosks, and modular testing and decontamination facilities to keep the public safe in high-traffic areas like border crossings, airports, shopping malls, corporate buildings and sports stadiums. Contactless, mobile health screening systems will monitor the flow of movement and identify high-risk individuals so that steps can be taken to prevent them from mingling with the general population. “The world of tomorrow looks far different than it did

several months ago, and it’s critical that companies like Parsons continue developing innovative technology that helps society return to a safe living and work environment as soon as possible,” said Carey Smith, president and chief operating officer of Parsons. “DetectWise uses sensors and cameras to measure body temperature, heart rate and respiration rate that will help our customers better understand if an individual is symptomatic for the COVID-19 virus, allowing them to take steps necessary to minimize the risk of spreading the disease.”

## Galician coast guard uses FLIR thermal cameras to fight illegal fishing

FLIR PT Series cameras were used in a surveillance project to detect and monitor illegal fishing and poaching activities along the Spanish Galician coast.

The FLIR thermal imaging cameras combined with maritime video analytics from Gradiant were ideal for spotting illegal vessels on a 24/7 basis and at a long range.

Fishing, shellfish harvesting, and marine aquaculture – mainly mussel farming in inshore waters are important economic activities in Galicia (northwest of Spain). Local public authorities strictly control these activities to prevent exploitation, fish stock depletion and

resulting economical losses. They are fighting a constant battle against this unfair and illegal competition that affects thousands of professionals who make a living from the fishing and seafood industry.

Illegal fishing and poaching of seafood resources also has an enormous impact on the environment and food safety; especially during periods of toxic algal bloom (red tides), when fishing conditions are hazardous for public health.

## HGH launches new Panoramic Fever Screening Technology to measure skin-surface temperatures in wide and crowded environments

Facing the worldwide COVID-19 sanitary crisis, HGH has launched a brand new Temperature Measurement and Fever-detection technology: mIRcury.

This panoramic fever screening solution was designed to measure skin-surface temperatures in wide and crowded

environments, in order to achieve fast and efficient preliminary fever screening in busy public areas.

The HGH Fever screening



solution mIRcury provides a unique 360° vision of the scanned area and checks the skin-surface temperature of multiple people, on the fly, wherever they are, whatever their posture, within a 1000 sq. m. area. When used in an Airport Terminal, for example, the solution minimizes queues and long wait times, and maximizes travellers' experience. The mIRcury comprehensive package includes a dual

camera with a panoramic thermal channel and an optional visible one operated by a fever-detection software. The operator can choose to receive alerts and visualize the panoramic view on a tablet thanks to a wireless link, for a better reactivity. HGH's new CN-37 Blackbody is part of the mIRcury package, and contributes to the high precision ( $\pm 0.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) of the camera in real-time.

mission to safeguard America's borders and enhance the nation's global economic competitiveness. Leidos will also provide and maintain a variety of specialized equipment to

support traveler enrollment and processing, including kiosks, workstations, biometric capture devices, document readers and telecommunications equipment.

## Leidos Awarded Traveller Processing and Vetting Software Contract

Leidos has been awarded a new Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to provide software development services and related specialized equipment.

This single award BPA has a total estimated value of \$960 million. It includes a one-year base period of performance followed by four one-year option periods. Work will primarily be performed in the

Washington D.C. capital region. Under the BPA and its subsequent task orders, Leidos will provide a full range of software development life cycle services to support CBP's

## French authorities have renewed the maintenance contract with Airbus for the French Coastal Surveillance System

Airbus develops, deploys and maintains the SPATIONAV system, under the supervision of the DGA (French General Armament Directorate) for the program direction and the SSF (Service de Soutien de la Flotte) for the sustainment, to support the French authorities gather information, direct maritime surveillance and intervention at sea.

The system provides them with a tactical picture of the maritime situation to prepare and conduct their respective operations related to maritime border protection, search and rescue missions, maritime navigation security, detection of illicit

activities and environment protection. With over 6000 kilometers of coasts monitored in real-time 24/7 by 750 operators, SPATIONAV is the cornerstone of France's maritime surveillance operations. It provides the French Navy and the main



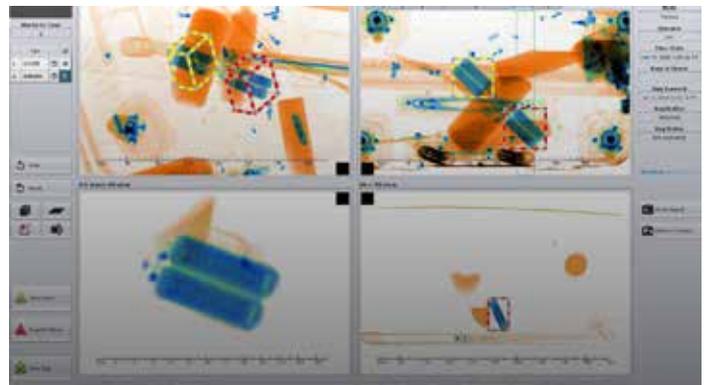
national administrations involved in state sea operations with a real-time surveillance system covering maritime approaches for mainland France and the French West Indies – Guiana zone. Thus, it constitutes a veritable multi-agency operation and command information system for the French Navy, the Coast Guards and the Customs.

SPATIONAV's coastal Recognized Maritime Picture integrates over 10,000 real-time tracks thanks to a vast network of sensors spread over the French coasts (105 sites, 88 radars, 77 AIS stations and 8 equipped Falcons). In addition, the system integrates over 50,000 extra European and International tracks through a cyber secured gateway. The consolidated situation awareness is shared with

the entire SPATIONAV community thereby optimizing missions at sea. SPATIONAV is based on STYRIS Coastal Surveillance System (CSS). The solution associates core CSS functions as a real-time coastal Recognized Maritime Picture, 24/7 monitoring of areas of interest, advanced tracking and data fusion with some key features among which improved event management and advanced simulation capabilities to support decision making. Specifically, the solution supports operator decision by providing intuitive command and control tools to accelerate decision making and stakeholder coordination, to maintain operator focus and to reduce the workload.

## Smiths Detection launches iCMORE algorithms for lithium batteries and dangerous goods for HI-SCAN 10080 XCT

Smiths Detection has launched iCMORE detection algorithms for lithium batteries and dangerous goods for use by its HI-SCAN 10080 XCT scanner, becoming its first explosive-detection system (EDS) to offer these options.



The algorithms enhance the scanner's detection capabilities by helping identify lithium batteries, flammable liquids and solids, and compressed and liquefied gasses, which can pose a risk should they ignite or explode.

With iCMORE, Smiths Detection can now reliably and accurately detect potentially dangerous lithium batteries, alongside other dangerous goods, across both its conventional X-ray and its EDS technologies. The iCMORE lithium batteries and dangerous goods algorithms are complementary adaptations

to existing screening technology.

Although the screening of dangerous goods is not yet mandatory in hold-baggage and air-cargo screening, the increased level of safety for passengers, staff and assets is a key driver for the implementation of this technology. Rechargeable and non-rechargeable lithium batteries – which power everyday devices such as smartphones, tablets, cameras, laptops and power banks – are classified as dangerous goods by the air-transportation industry because of their ability to ignite during flights. Since 2006,[1] the US Federal

Aviation Administration has recorded more than 260 incidents of smoke, heat, fire or explosion involving lithium batteries in air cargo or baggage. Furthermore, the transporting of flammable liquids and solids as well as compressed and liquefied gasses continues to pose threats to airport operators, airlines and cargo companies.

To be shipped by air,

dangerous goods require special treatment and additional declarations according to International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations. Through automatic object recognition, iCMORE supports image operators by detecting dangerous goods without increasing their workload, as it requires little training and generates very low false-alarm rates.

## The Finnish Border Guard will operate drone for maritime surveillance purposes

The Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) service is offered by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and will also extend to Estonia and Sweden.

The CAMCOPTER® S-100 will support the Finnish authorities in carrying out Coast Guard functions, such as search and rescue, monitoring and surveillance, ship

and port security, vessel traffic, environmental protection and response, ship casualty assistance, as well as accident and disaster response. The S-100 will execute these



tasks equipped with an L3 Wescam Electro-Optical / Infra-Red (EO/IR) camera gimbal, an Overwatch Imaging PT-8 Oceanwatch, a Becker Avionics BD406 Emergency Beacon Locator and an Automatic Identification System (AIS) receiver.

EMSA awarded the multi-year maritime surveillance contract for a Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) RPAS to Schiebel

in November 2018. In execution of this contract, Schiebel provides simultaneous maritime surveillance services to several EU member states and EU bodies. Currently, the CAMCOPTER® S-100 is also operational in the Republic of Croatia supporting the Maritime Safety Directorate of the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia.

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## Building Trust and Co-operation through Discussion and Dialogue

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Greece lies at the crossroads of East and West, Europe and the Middle East. It lies directly opposite Libya so along with Italy is the primary destination for migrants coming from that conflict zone and is a short boat trip from Turkey, the other principal migrant route for Syrians fleeing there conflict there.

Greece has over sixteen thousand kilometres of coastline and six thousand islands, only two hundred and twenty-seven of which are inhabited. The islands alone have 7,500 km of coastline and are spread mainly through the Aegean and the Ionian Seas, making maritime security incredibly challenging.

The sheer scale of the migrant crisis in late 2015 early 2016 had a devastating impact on Greek finances and its principle industry, tourism. All this in the aftermath of the financial crisis in 2009. Despite this, both Greece and Italy, largely left to handle the crisis on their own, managed the crisis with commendable determination and humanity.

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- Dr Olomu Babatunde Olukayode, Deputy Comptroller of Customs, Nigeria Customs
- Sanusi Tasiu Saulawa, Deputy Superintendent of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service
- Heiko Werner, Head of Security Group, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany
- Gerald Tatzgern, Head of Joint Operational Office, Public Security Austria
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