BORDER SECURITY REPORT

COVER STORY
MOBILE TECHNOLOGY FOR LAND BORDER CROSSINGS?
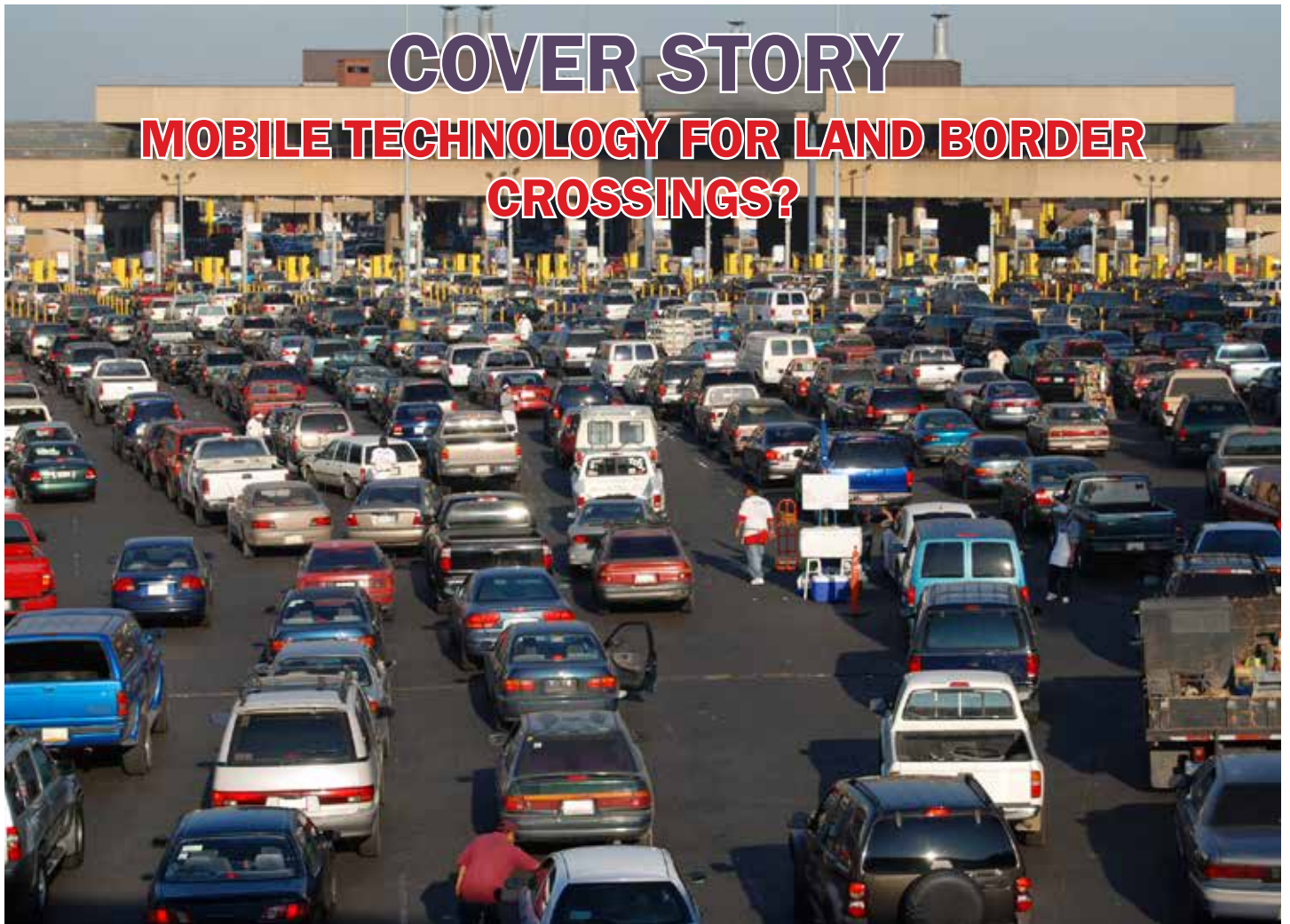
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Fences, fences everywhere!

Recently, European Interior Ministers met in Lithuania to discuss the ongoing crisis on Europe's Eastern border.

What was different about this meeting was that, under pressure from Eastern and Southern European members, the EU Commission's apparent acceptance that fences and barriers are an inevitable part of the solution. The question now seems to be more about who will pay for them, the EU or the European countries currently dealing with the crisis.

The EU Commission puts the emphasis on EU funding going to the European Border and Coastguard Agency (Frontex), whilst border states are demanding that the EU helps to pay for the fences that are currently being built.

It is easy to see arguments on both sides, the Commission wants to see EU funding being spent on EU projects that build EU institutions and capability. After all, Frontex is the EU's first uniformed service, and those with an eye on the future, see Frontex as a major stepping-stone to the future integration and federalisation project.

They don't want an already reduced borders budget being diverted to building fences out of site on the far extremities of EU territory.

If a stronger, more integrated and capable EU is your goal, then that is a perfectly reasonable mid to long term view.

The problem is that this is a current crisis, and it will take years for Frontex standing corps to be able to provide the sort of capability envisaged for it back in 2018, when EU leaders said it would provide a "reliable intervention force" fully operational with 10,000 operating staff by 2020.

Well, here we are in early 2022 and currently Frontex has just 500 operational standing corps members.

So, unless the Commission is fundamentally opposed to fences, which seems to no longer be the case, then it seems perfectly reasonable for those countries that are in the grip of this crisis to seek financial support for building the fences that will secure the EU's external borders.

Especially as the final destination countries, for most illegal migrants crossing the Eastern borders is not their point of entry, but the more prosperous countries of western Europe.

Once again, the European Commission seems to be following its own agenda and is out of step with membership.

Whilst there are some signs that Lukashenko is losing interest in playing games on Europe's borders and the crisis maybe abating, that might be more about what's going on in Ukraine than any real shift in his policy. And as the Russian/Ukrainian crisis develops, if sanctions are applied to Russia by the EU, he may well step up his aggressive actions on the border in support of his puppet master.

Whilst we all agree that tackling the traffickers through agencies like Europol, Frontex, Eurojust is vitally important, when the traffickers are nation states, a good sturdy fence might be a good idea!

Tony Kingham
Editor

Webinar of the month
WATCH NOW
Implementing API/PNR and Entry/Exit Programmes
at Maritime Borders

The use of API and PNR data is set to provide border authorities and law enforcement agencies with vital criminal intelligence, allowing them to detect suspicious travel patterns and identify associates of criminals and terrorists.

The implementation of the EU's new ETIAS Entry/ Exit system, due to start at the end of 2022, will also provide an important additional layer of security for Schengen members, as well as facilitate easier passage for those visiting member states.

However, port, cruise and ferry operators and border authorities face unique challenges when it comes to the implementation of these programmes. This webinar will look at the operational and technological challenges of implementing these important programmes within the port environment.

We discuss what's being done, what can be done, and what should be done.

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BORDER SECURITY REPORT

Implementing API/PNR and Entry/Exit programmes at maritime borders

Panelis

Kevin McAnally
Maritime Expert, CT Travel Program

David Sanchez
Assistant Director, Global Targeting Advisory Division, USCBP

Andy Smith
Global Lead, Government & Industry Relations Border Management & Government Services, SITA

World Border Security Congress

17th - 19th May 2022

LISBON, PORTUGAL

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Developing Border Strategies Through Co-operation and Technology

SAVE THE DATES

Portugal is the westernmost state of mainland Europe, being bordered to the west and south by the Atlantic Ocean and to the north and east by Spain. Its territory also includes the Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira. Portugal has a rich cultural heritage which is shared across the globe as a consequence of its colonial past.

Portugal has a highly developed economy and is a much-visited tourist destination. Portugal's geographical position makes it the gateway to the Mediterranean and a stopover for many foreign airlines at several airports within the country.

Portugal is also part of the Schengen area and has been an early adopter of biometrics and eGate technology.

With their experience of being in the frontline of the smuggling of drugs and illicit goods from the Atlantic, THB and economic migration challenges from Africa, Portugal is the perfect place re-convene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

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 look forward to welcoming you to Lisbon, Portugal on 17th-19th May 2022 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.

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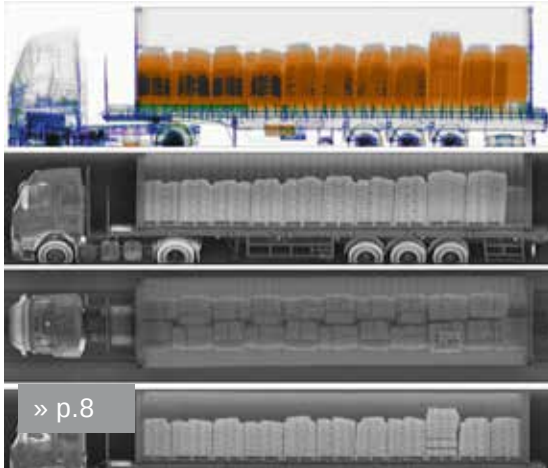# CONTENTS

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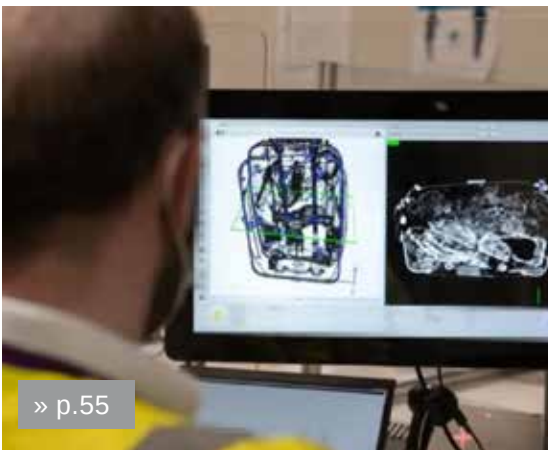
PDI Investigations behind the arms trafficking route

More than a thousand weapons were seized during 2021 by the Investigative Police of Chile. An analysis by the Metropolitan Organized Crime Investigative Brigade (Brico) identified the main criminal phenomena present in the illicit arms market in the country.

The Brico celebrates 23 years as a unit specialized in investigating events in which there are indications of the participation of organized crime, arms trafficking being one of its expressions. It is in this context that the aforementioned report makes an approach to various phenomena present in Chile, based on the cases that include the discovery of weapons among their results.

The document states that, considering the last 5 years, there is a general increase in the seizure of weapons, with its peak in 2020, the year in which the figure rose to 1,179 units. On the contrary, the year with the least amount was 2018, with 931.

According to the type of crime to which they are linked, those contemplated in the weapons and drug laws are in the first places of this ranking, a fact that can be seen in the last two annual periods.

Similarly, looking at the years 2020 and 2021, there is a predominance of pistols, revolvers, and shotguns.

Based on this latest data, Brico analysts also point out that a preference for Glock brand pistols has been detected, which would be explained by a series of factors such as quality, ease of use, price, the number of accessories available and a high valuation by what is known as "narco-culture".

The study also refers to a growing trend in the use of modified blank weapons, reflected in a considerable increase in their seizures.

Regarding this increase, analysts point to the convenience that its cost represents for criminals. Even considering that its final price, when it is modified and operational, can exceed even quadruple the original value, it is below that of a conventional weapon. To date, its use has been linked to serious crimes such as robberies, homicides or confrontations in the context of drug trafficking.

This would be just one of the mechanisms by which delinquency and organized crime supply themselves with weapons. The study also identifies the use of figureheads or "white sticks" hired to buy weapons on the legal market; the theft of weapons from the places where they are sold (for personal defense, hunting or collection, among others); craft manufacturing, or "hechizas", where clandestine workshops have been identified; the diversion of firearms and/or ammunition where duly registered persons transfer these elements to third parties, without the corresponding permits, and the internment of weapons.
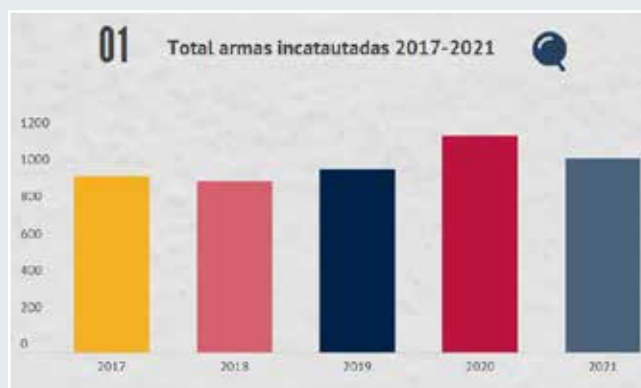
In this last case, the "Houston" operation stands out, where a criminal organization made up of Chilean citizens who brought weapons from the United States, through parcels, and hidden among electronic items, was dismantled.

UNODC Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Eastern Africa

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) within the framework of the Regional Programme for Eastern Africa (2016-2021) is implementing the Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Eastern Africa project funded by the U.S. State Department - Trafficking in Persons Office.

Every year, thousands of men, women, and children are exploited and trafficked to, from and across the Eastern Africa region. Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is a serious crime, a grave violation of human rights, and is a thread to human security and sustainable development. Eastern Africa has in recent years become a new hub for trafficking routes, and with criminal groups and illicit traffickers operating across borders, strengthening national legislation and capacity as well as enhancing regional and international cooperation is critical to prevent and counter TIP.

The UNODC Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Eastern Africa project supports 13 Member States from the region, namely Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda to enhance effective and victim-centered criminal justice responses to TIP aligned with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its supplementary Protocols (UNTOC), in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

UNODC focuses extensively on supporting Member States in the region to align their national legislation on TIP with the provisions of the Convention and Protocols; enhancing the capacity of criminal justice practitioners to effectively investigate and prosecute TIP cases with a victim-centered and human rights-based approach; and to foster enhanced regional and international cooperation between all relevant stakeholders.

The latest Member State to accede the TIP Protocol was the Union of the Comoros in 2020.

Achievements from 2021 include launching the UNODC Regional Legislative Assessment on Trafficking in Persons and in Eastern Africa (2021). The assessment analyzes national anti-TIP legislation in 13 Eastern Africa Member States, identifies gaps and issues, and provides recommendations for Member States to consider for prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of TIP cases. Regional coordination and cooperation on TIP cases was identified by Member States as a key challenge which hinders an adequate and targeted response to deter TIP. Accordingly, there was consensus on the need for the development of a Regional Plan of Action, a regional platform and mechanism whereby Member States can gather to discuss challenges, share intelligence and best practices in the detection, investigation and prosecution of TIP cases.

UNODC also supported the implementation of Kenya's obligations under UNTOC and its Supplementary TIP Protocol, leading to the Counter Trafficking in Persons Secretariat and the Advisory Committee officially launching the process of amending the national anti-TIP legislation, the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act (2010). UNODC, in cooperation with the Counter Trafficking in Persons Secretariat, facilitated a legislative drafting workshop for members of the Technical Working Group, tasked to amend the national anti-TIP legislation, and provided legal advice to strengthen the legislative framework. A zero draft is available, and the legislation is expected to pass in 2022.

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY FOR LAND BORDER CROSSINGS?

Tony Kingham, Editor of Border Security Report looks into the latest mobile technologies available for land border crossings.

The ability for border agencies to rapidly increase the level of security screening at a particular border crossing in response to changing circumstances and threat levels, has once again been demonstrated over the six months with the EU Belorussian border migrant crisis. It began May 2021 when Belorussian authorities forced the landing on a Ryanair flight in its airspace and removed a passenger, the dissident, Roman Protasevich.

The EU applied sanctions in July 2021, and that led Belarusian president Alexander Lukashenko's threat to "flood" the EU with human traffickers, drug smugglers, and armed migrants.

Since then, tens of thousands of immigrants, primarily from Iraqi Kurdistan, but with smaller groups from Africa and Asia, have been making their way via Belorussia to Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland in an attempt gain access to the EU.

The situation on the EU's Eastern border, once again shows how quickly, what seemed like a perfectly normal stable situation six months ago, can deteriorate rapidly into a full blown crisis.

But mass migration and human trafficking might not be the only threat that a geopolitical crisis like this can produce.

As we have seen so many times before, a migrant crisis can be exploited by bad actors as a cover for other cross border criminal activity, such as infiltrating foreign terrorist fighters. It can also be used as effective cover for smuggling explosives, weapons, drugs or perhaps even more worryingly in the case of ex-Soviet countries like Belarus, chemical weapons and nuclear materials. Because, whilst the EU authorities are concentrating their attention, resources and energy on migrants and human trafficking, they may not be looking quite so hard at some of the other loads crossing the EU's borders.

After all, what could be simpler for experienced criminal organisations than to bride a truck driver to carry paying migrants, whilst the following truck carries their other high value contraband.

Bad actors always have the benefit of surprise. They can observe border agencies in action and can switch modus operandi and points entry at will. And exploiting paying migrants and truck drivers is a win win as far as they are concerned. They get paid by the migrants regardless and they can use the authorities stretched resources and focus on human trafficking as a cover for other criminality.

It is therefore important the agencies at the border keep criminals guessing by switching tactics and stretched resources.

Ideally, you would have the latest high tech screening equipment permanently installed at every border crossing point. But most of the world's borders are not fenced and contain multiple crossing points. Much of the EU's Eastern borders have been open for decades and it would take years to properly secure these borders, if indeed that was seen as desirable.

So, having access to high tech mobile security screening equipment is therefore vitally important. Because if you can't be strong everywhere at once, concentrate your strength at different points, at different times and keep switching locations to keep the criminals off balance.

So, what sort of equipment is available for this sort of strategy.

At the high end of the market you have the large truck and trailer based non-intrusive screening systems like the Smiths Detection HCVM range and the Rapiscan Eagle M60 range of vehicles.

The Smiths HCVM X-ray screening system is designed for ease of operation and can be driven from location to location and be ready for use in less than 30 minutes. The HCVM requires a minimal footprint and external infrastructure. This system uses a range of accelerators from 4MeV to 6MeV and a variety of scanning modes.

When equipped with the optional iCmore™ radioactive-material detection system, the HCVM can carry out simultaneous X-ray inspections and an analysis to detect radioactive gamma and or neutron materials.

The Rapiscan Eagle® M60 is a high-energy x-ray mobile inspection system for scanning cargo and vehicles at seaports, border crossings, and roadside checkpoints. The system offers high-quality transmission imaging with material discrimination, and multiple operational modes.

The Eagle® G60 ZBx cargo and vehicle inspection systems offers high-energy transmission imaging with material discrimination for penetration of dense cargo, which is complemented by Z Backscatter imaging technology that highlights organic threats such as explosives and drugs.
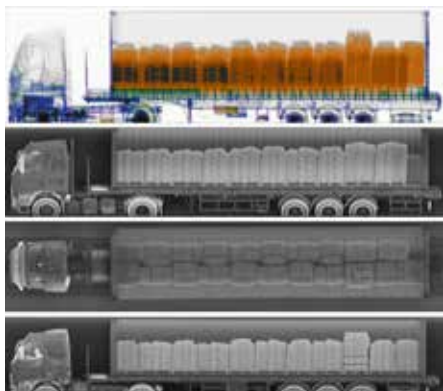

Image courtesy of Rapiscan

The Rapiscan ZBV® is based on a standard van and so can be quickly driven to the required location and can be used either in a static or drive by mode for cargo and vehicle screening system. It's Z Backscatter® image quickly and clearly reveals threats like explosives, drugs, currency, and trade-fraud items such as alcohol and cigarettes and is designed for high-throughput environments

like border crossings and security checkpoints.

*Images courtesy of Rapiscan: Scan from a Rapiscan ZBV®*

Chinese company NUCTECH produce the MT0200BX Cargo and Vehicle Inspection System which is a mobile X-ray inspection system built on a van chassis. It uses backscatter imaging technology and can be used in both a static and mobile mode.

Nuctech MT0200BX

Another van-based technology is the Sequestim scanner, which has successfully demonstrated the ability to find people and animals hidden inside freight trucks. The scanner images the heat of people and animals behind truck curtains moving at any speed. It uses ground-breaking terahertz technology and is completely safe as it emits no radiation of any kind. Sequestim say that in live demonstrations to the UK Border

Force and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, they
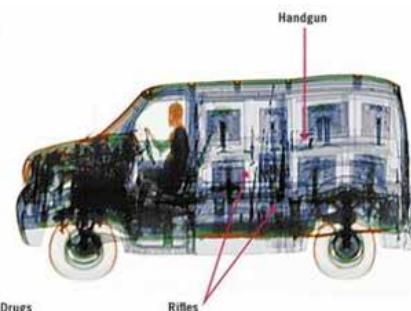
showed that their scanner can detect people hidden inside packing crates, even if they have only been inside the crate for a very short time. This means Border authorities can, for the first time, start screening vehicles without necessarily bringing them to a halt, enabling vehicles approaching border control to be directed to lanes for further security checks or to fast lanes, speeding up the screening process. It would be especially useful if vehicles were part of a trusted carrier scheme like those proposed for the UK/EU border. Whilst it only works on curtain-sided freight vehicles, it offers an important new tool if we are to really make trusted carrier schemes a reality.

ClanTect's Motion Detection Technology systems (MBT) are used to detect the hidden presence of people inside vehicles. MBT systems are based on sound and vibration technology (these systems are sometimes referred to as 'Heartbeat' or 'Human Prescence' Detection systems). Its ultra-sensitive sensors can detect even

Image courtesy of Sequestim

the faintest of movements, from anywhere within a vehicle and have been in use by UK Border Force and Polish border guards for some years.

The most recent operational version of the MBT is fully portable. It consists of a battery-operated compact device (enabling 24x7 operations without mains power), four sensors and a wind frame, which can be easily transported in the boot of a standard saloon car.

The system is extremely fast and accurate (approx. 60 seconds for a vehicle search), and is very easy to use, the search process is fully automated, and, unlike X-Ray and some other technologies, it is completely safe for both the operator and for the stowaway. It utilizes a unique 'blocking' capability, which eliminates any nearby surrounding vibration such as wind or other vehicle movement.

Image courtesy of SecureOne International BV

The Wind-Frame is a unique and crucial component, for executing the vehicle searches in an open environment. The system can be set-up and deployed in ad-hoc outdoor roadside locations, even in windy weather conditions, within a few minutes. The MBT portable system is already in service in Europe with Frontex and other Border Agencies.

Chemical weapons, nuclear materials and explosives

When it comes to the detection of chemical weapons, nuclear materials and explosives there are numerous established portable products on the market.

New to the market is the UVIScan Gamma, a patent pending technology to detect radioactive objects, both inside and under the vehicle. The technology combines the regular UVIScan Under Vehicle Inspection scanning system with a Radiation Scan.

When a car is passing the scanner, carrying radioactive material, the system will generate an alarm. The detection of the radioactive material will be clearly displayed on the user interface.

UVIScan Gamma is available

integrated with UVIScan Rapid Deployment. It fits into the back of your car, can be installed within 15 minutes.

In late 2020, Kromek launched the D5 RIID, a high performance radioisotope identification device ("RIID"). The ruggedised device, detects a wide range of sources, including special nuclear material and mixed, shielded and/or heavily masked configurations. It provides high accuracy dose measurement and has an ultra-low false alarm rate of less than 1 in 24 hours. The D5 RIID combines this advanced performance with being small, lightweight and easy-to-use – capable of being operated in one hand. It offers multiple modes of configuration, including being able to provide app-based training, and can be easily integrated into standard and custom networks.

Swedish technology company Serstech produces the 100 Indicator, a hand-held, small, and light Raman spectrometer that can identify more than 14,000 substances. The Serstech 100 Indicator is small and light and comfortably fits in your hand or uniform pocket.

Image courtesy of Serstech

It is robustness and high performance provides near lab-quality analysis in the field even under toughest conditions. The same instrument can be customised to identify any combination of explosives, narcotics, toxic industrial chemicals (TICs), pharmaceuticals and chemical warfare agents. 3DX-Ray, which is the global distributor for the Serstech range also manufacture the ThreatScan range of flat panel portable X-ray scanners.

These systems are becoming increasingly popular with law enforcement and border agencies, as they offer incredible portability, flexibility and military grade capability, in a roadside situation when larger more expensive x-ray systems are not available.

Image courtesy of 3DX-Ray

The whole system can be packed into the boot of a regular vehicle and deployed on remote border crossings or vehicle checkpoints, with no logistical infrastructure required at all.

Portable Biometrics

Finally, that brings us to processing people.

A number of companies produce mobile biometric devices including BioRugged with their Ruggbo

handhelds and BioWolf tablets and German company Dermalog produce the 4000 range of handheld readers.

Most of these devices work on Android operating systems, include high resolution cameras for facial photos, fingerprint scanners, and OCR for document readers and work on WIFI.

Images courtesy of Biorugged, Dermalog, Jenetric

The LIVETOUCH QUATTRO Compact from Jenetric, converts your mobile phone into a multifunctional control centre for identity verification. Controlling the fingerprint scanner, recording or verifying demographic data, capturing facial images and documents, reading chip data to sending and receiving data.

Regula have developed the mobile workstation 8003M, which is

Image courtesy of Regula

specifically for express authenticity verification and advanced examination of passports, ID cards and other travel documents, visa stamps in the field. The 8003M comes in a protective case and is powered by a battery pack.

These are just a few of the products that are currently available on the market, but technology is moving so fast, especially around the area of mobile tech, that this is no doubt a subject we will return to time and again.

Guardia Civil Dismantled an international organization dedicated to drug trafficking from Spain to Belgium

Civil Guard agents, in a joint operation with the National Police, have dismantled an international organization dedicated to drug trafficking from Spain to Belgium. The group of Belgian and Moroccan origin settled mainly in the province of Seville and was supplied with the drug through local suppliers. They used the go fast method - transporting the drug in a vehicle at a high speed and without refueling - in addition to a transport company to get the illicit merchandise to Belgium. During the operation, 23 people have been arrested and 13 house searches have been carried out - 11 in Seville and two in Malaga - in which 475 marijuana plants, 725 kilograms

of hashish, more than 8,300 euros in cash, three vehicles, various weapons and ammunition.

The beginning of the investigation took place at the beginning of the year 2020 when the Belgian authorities informed the Spanish agents of the activities of this network in our country. Once the investigations began, the investigators verified that the members of this drug trafficking group were established in the provinces of Jaén and Málaga and that they also used the go fast method, which consists of crossing the peninsula quickly to their destination to deliver the marijuana and hashish. to Belgium. For this they had a car rental company, whose sole purpose was to provide the necessary vehicles to transport the drug.

After several police interventions carried out in the transport that the organization used, it changed the means to hide the drug. In this way, drug traffickers in our country began to rent trucks in which the narcotic was later loaded and sent to Belgium hidden in the legal cargo. Using this new method, the researchers were able to accredit two shipments..

Fiji launches new Air Cargo Control Unit in the framework of the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP)

The Fiji Revenue and Customs Service officially opened its Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) at Nadi International Airport.

The ACCU in Nadi complements the already established Port Control Unit (PCU) in Suva. Fiji has thus implemented the full spectrum of professional technical and training assistance provided by the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP) in establishing dedicated risk profiling and control teams in ports and airports.

In close cooperation with the Australian Border Force (ABF), these specialized units were installed in a very short period of time; this demonstrates the dedication

and commitment of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) in tackling illicit cross-border trade in all its forms. In addition, FRCS also benefits from the installation of the WCO Cargo Targeting System (CTS) to improve and speed up risk profiling in the port of Suva and the airport in Nadi. Both locations are the first units in the Pacific Islands region to benefit from the CCP and the CTS.

The CEO of FRCS referred in his opening speech on the occasion of the International Customs Day and the opening of the ACCU to the importance of the use of data in a modern Customs administration both for facilitation and enforcement purposes.

BORDER MANAGEMENT IN TRANSFORMATION

An extract from a new book 'Border Management in Transformation - Transnational Threats anmd Security Policies of European States' by Johann Wagner

In the 21st century, along with the process of globalization, an evolving security environment creates new dimensions of threats and challenges to security and stability of trans-national nature. This seeks for comprehensive, multidimensional, collective and well-coordinated responses. Precisely for that reason, the United Nations, the European Union (EU), Commonwealth of Independent States, and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe as well as other international organisations are able to really contribute in developing cooperative and coordinated responses to these threats by relying on its broad membership and profound expertise and experience.

Transnational threats such as cross-border organised crime, irregular migration including trafficking in human beings and people smuggling, as well as terrorism require comprehensive, multidimensional, collective and well-coordinated responses that are well integrated. The EU's Integrated Border Management model provides an opportunity and extraordinary responsibility for each member state and also non-EU countries to choose among functioning practices and the most modern standards to control, survey and secure their external borders, taking into account political, security, socio-economic, environmental and cultural considerations.

The consistent application of the principle of legality and the implementation of effective control mechanisms enables each jurisdiction to enforce access for persons, goods and services through effective control and regulation. These activities have an immediate bearing on territory, personnel, communication, technology, equipment, training, collaboration at the intra-agency, inter-agency and international levels. The EU's Integrated Border Management model represents a mature system of increased cooperation and coordination in the form of a comprehensive, multidimensional and collective response among a highly diverse set of countries with differing norms, interests and priorities.

This book looks into the processes of comprehensive changes and renewals of control mechanisms in the area of border security and management during the past 25 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, and the immense challenges in nation-building in South-Eastern Europe after the collapse of former Yugoslavia in relation to strategic security management. The abolition of border controls within the EU's Schengen area and simultaneous introduction of necessary compensatory measures was an additional topic.

In this work it has been possible to create a comprehensive synopsis of the extent to which the EU and international organisations were able to use their influence in the modernization and/or creation of state law enforcement agencies for ensuring effective border control and border security in line with the EU acquis communautaire and functioning practices developed.

During the last two decades various international conventions and concepts, national legislation, guidelines and documents were developed dealing with border security and management and to some extent with strategic security management. Therefore, this book focused on an all-encompassing approach and character related to border security and management and strategic security management.

The work aimed at an in-depth update to what extent these standards as well as the installation of new 'filters' have increased the quality of border checks of cross-border traffic. Furthermore, common methods of cross-border cooperation in the fields of researching and combating of offenses related to transnational threats as above are explored and analysed and corresponding conclusions developed to improve

the fight against cross-border crime.

A modern, cost-benefit-oriented and effective border management system should ensure both open borders as well as a maximum of security and peace and thereby facilitating free travel and free trade, and services to ensure most important prerequisites for economic growth and a simultaneous fight against poverty.

In parallel, potential hazards related to transnational threats and cross-border organized crime must be clearly identified and fought consistently through trustful partnership and transparent information exchange. This level of cooperation in cross-border context is a very important cornerstone of the concept of Integrated Border Management, which ensures enhanced coordination and cooperation between all relevant authorities and organizations in the fields of border surveillance, border control, cross-border cooperation and information exchange in achieving the jointly defined objectives in terms of open but secure borders.

As one of the main goals of the EU's Integrated Border Management model to open, yet secure borders is therefore a significant increase of cooperation between all the actors involved, both at national and international level. This applies within the respective border law enforcement authorities (i.e. intra-agency cooperation), as well as between

other involved government departments and agencies of a country (i.e. inter-agency cooperation) and also across borders in bilateral and multi-lateral context (i.e. international cooperation).

Consequently, two crucial questions were addressed:

- Which transnational threats and cross-border crime forms applies it with the system of Integrated Border Management to ward off and fight?

- Which instruments and mechanisms should be improved, or to be developed new ones in order to ensure effective and efficient Integrated Border Management?

The process to develop a new awareness of the dimensions of the major challenges is to clarify, which standards and processes the international community needs to develop in order to combat the complexity of these potential threats effectively.

The EU's political decision makers and opinion leaders are convinced that the Integrated Border Management model is, therefore, without an alternative to more effectively prevent transnational threats in general and, in particular, to combat terrorism, transnational organized crime and its operating criminal syndicates and their criminal activities. For many years now, the safeguarding, control, and surveillance of the EU's member state borders is not restricted to its national territory itself anymore and

other states follow suit. The EU's Integrated Border Management model is suitable for replication in other countries and regions based on functioning practices developed.

Far from a contradiction, the EU's IBM shows that open yet secure borders are indeed possible.
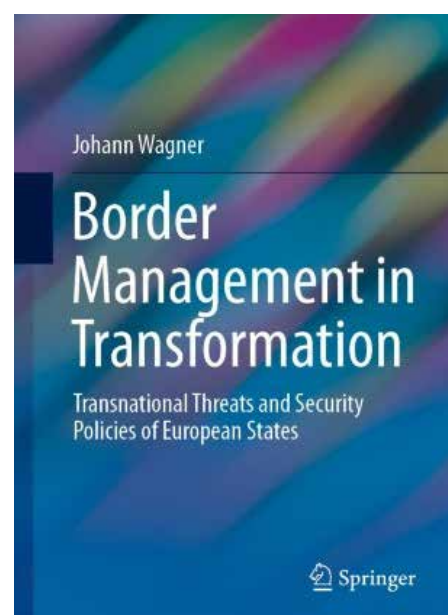
Border Management in Transformation is available from www.springerprofessional. de/en/border-management-in-transformation/18630122

Coast Guard nabs 2 smugglers, seizes $7.5 million in cocaine following interdiction in Caribbean Sea

The Coast Guard Cutter Reef Shark transferred custody of two smugglers and offloaded approximately 250 kilograms cocaine at Coast Guard Base San Juan, following Coast Guard Cutter Kathleen Moore's interdiction of a go-fast smuggling vessel in the Caribbean Sea.

The apprehended smugglers are Dominican Republic nationals, who were charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine aboard a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. The cocaine seized has an estimated wholesale value of approximately $7.5 million dollars. U.S. Coast Guard Special Assistant United States Attorney Jordan H. Martin is in charge of the prosecution of this case.

The interdiction resulted from multi-agency efforts in support of U.S. Southern Command's enhanced counter-narcotics operations in the Western Hemisphere and coordination with the Caribbean Corridor Strike Force (CCSF).

During a routine patrol, a U.S. Maritime Enforcement Aircraft (MEA) detected a suspect go-fast vessel, approximately 145 nautical miles south of the Dominican Republic. Coast Guard watchstanders in Sector San Juan diverted the cutter Kathleen Moore to carry out the interdiction. With the assistance of the cutter's small boat, the crew of the Kathleen Moore interdicted the 25-foot vessel that was carrying two men and 10 bales of suspected contraband onboard, which tested positive for cocaine.

29 arrested in Albania, Greece and Italy for smuggling more than 1 100 migrants in yachts

Authorities believe that the suspects, mainly of Iraqi and Syrian origin, are part of a criminal network of about 80 members that is allegedly responsible for at least 30 sea smuggling operations. The criminal group operated migrant smuggling activities from Turkey to the Salento coast of Italy via Albania and Greece, then to other EU countries. The investigation started with the detection of an ongoing smuggling operation, which saw the successful rescue of the transported migrants and the arrest of eight low-level smugglers.

The criminal networks primarily used sea routes for the transfer of migrants from Turkey, via the Eastern Mediterranean road, to their final EU destinations. The sea transfers were performed with the use of leisure vessels, mainly yachts, acquired or rented by the criminal network and skippered by novice seamen purposely recruited by the network. The suspects used informal money transfer services such as the hawala system to receive payments from migrants, with their illegal profits estimated at several hundred million euros.

Three arrested on drug trafficking charges in Greece

in collaboration with authorities from Greece's Financial Police Directorate (Diéfthynsi Oikonomikís Astynomías/ Διεύθυνση Οικονομικής Αστυνομίας), Europol supported the dismantling of a transnational organised crime group trafficking and distributing anabolic steroids and counterfeit pharmaceuticals.

The long-running investigation has culminated a series of searches conducted in the early hours of 18 January in Greece. Law enforcement made three arrests and seized more than 135 000 doses of anabolic substances and other illicit substances, worth an estimated total of EUR 200 000.

Law enforcement believes that the criminal operation began in 2017, offering for-profit storage, marketing, distribution and supply of banned anabolic steroids and counterfeit medicines, such as anti-erectile dysfunction drugs. The criminals, who were based in Greece, sourced their illicit substances mainly via China and Eastern Europe. The criminals also sourced packaging for the illicit substances in these countries, even securing counterfeit authenticity tapes of Greece's National Medicines Agency.

Over 1 530 firearms taken off the streets in Europol-coordinated operation

A total of 1 534 firearms have been seized in an international law enforcement operation targeting the illegal trade of converted alarm and gas weapons. These blank firing pistols have become a weapon of choice for criminals as they can easily be converted to discharge live ammunition. Such a firearm is believed to have been used to kill the Dutch crime reporter shot in Amsterdam in July of last year.

This operation, known as Conversus, was led by the

Romanian National Police (Poliția Română) in the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT). It focused around an action week coordinated by Europol and involved law enforcement from 24 countries, alongside Eurojust and the European Commission..

Ivory, rhino horns, pangolin and tiger parts seized in transit from Africa to Asia

An eight-week INTERPOL operation against wildlife crime and trafficking resulted in arrests and seizures across Asia and Africa.

Codenamed Golden Strike, the operation - which ended late last year - targeted the criminals and networks smuggling wildlife protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) from Africa to Asia.

During the preoperational phase, countries worked together to identify INTERPOL-wanted fugitives known to travel frequently between Africa, Asia, the US and France, and who were wanted for their involvement in trafficking ivory, rhino horn, pangolin and tiger parts between the two continents.

Intelligence shared between the 23 participating countries ahead of operations enabled investigators to target emerging wildlife trafficking routes, with officers conducting inspections at roadblocks and land, sea and airport border points throughout the August-September tactical phase.

Operation Flycatcher: disrupting Sri Lanka's terrorist networks

Boosting the ability of frontline border officers to detect travelers as potential terrorists was the focus

of a counter- terrorism (CT) and border management operation led by INTERPOL across Sri Lanka.

Codenamed Operation Flycatcher II, the five-day operation saw the arrest of six suspects linked to terrorism, with further arrests and prosecutions foreseen globally as investigations continue to unfold.

The operation saw Sri Lanka's police, border and immigration agencies undertake specialized INTERPOL training on forensic identification techniques, CT investigative skills and INTERPOL's data sharing mechanisms before carrying out tactical operations in the field.

People smuggling sting operation: Kenya-Netherlands cooperation lands renowned fugitive in jail

Kenyan Police have arrested a man wanted by INTERPOL for allegedly smuggling dozens of men, women and children to Europe.

Wanted by The Netherlands since 2017, 53-year-old John Habeta was taken into custody at Schiphol International airport in Amsterdam after his arrest in Kenya.

Kenyan Police arrested John Habeta in Nairobi as part of a sting operation coordinated between authorities

in the Netherlands and Kenya with the support of INTERPOL's General Secretariat headquarters.

OSCE supports Kyrgyzstan in tackling trafficking in illicit drugs

Fifteen representatives from the Service on Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic developed techniques in identifying internet websites with malicious content and improved their understanding of the dark web. Participants also enhanced their knowledge about the role of cryptocurrencies in drug-related crimes and explored anti-money laundering methods.

"The Siberian Law Institute has a long-standing history of hosting anti-drug training courses for Kyrgyz officials and deploying instructors directly to the country," said Dmitry Kim, Police Major-General and Head of the Institute. "Our joint actions and exchange of best practices, including in on-line meetings and seminars, will contribute to the promotion of counter-narcotics activities," he concluded.

"Focusing on countering trafficking in illicit drugs on the internet is very important given that illegal sales of drugs on the internet are increasing in Kyrgyzstan. We should learn best international practices in addressing this threat and apply skills and knowledge within our country and region," said Aidar Shigaev, Police Lieutenant-Colonel and Head of the Organizational and Analytical Department of the Service on Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Extended confiscation of proceeds of crime focus of OSCE

In co-operation with the Federal Agency for the Management of Seized Property and the Centre for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE organized a training course on asset recovery for 30 judges from cantonal and municipal courts, for departments for fighting organized crime. Representatives of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina also participated in the training course.

Participants improved their knowledge and skills on theoretical and practical aspects of extended confiscation of proceeds of crime. The training course aims to support the judges in making more intensive use of such provisions when applicable.

The training course was developed as a part of the OSCE project "Strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe through improved regional co-operation in asset seizure, confiscation, management and re-use", which provides support and strengthens the expertise of criminal justice practitioners in South-Eastern Europe in the area of asset recovery.

OSCE trains law enforcement and criminal justice officials in Armenia on combatting and preventing cybercrime

The training focused on two main fields of cybercrime investigations: open-source intelligence and digital forensics. Three international cybercrime experts equipped the participants with skills, tools and knowledge to successfully investigate different types of cybercrimes aiming at improving their capacities to plan search and seizure digital evidence by using live data forensics tools.

"As a result of this training, the investigators, the police and prosecutors had the opportunity to develop an understanding of the peculiarities of the use of open source intelligence in investigations. The trainers presented different tools, which will be very useful for the daily work of the competent officials." Robert Adilkhanyan, Head of the Department of Investigation of Cybercrime and High Technology Crime at the Investigative Committee of Armenia said.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Migrants' Role in Global Labour Force and Development Increasingly Vital

The number of migrants in the labour force worldwide has tripled in the past decade, and the remittances they send home to lower- and middle-income countries outpaces foreign aid, a new report from the IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) shows.

The Global Migration Indicators (GMI) 2021 report provides snapshots of the latest data available on the Global Migration Data Portal, an access point to migration statistics and information on migration data featuring more than 115 indicators.

The report shows that migrant workers play an increasingly important key role in development in many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Money migrants send home from their host countries has exceeded foreign direct investment and overseas development assistance to LMICs since 2018, according to World Bank estimates. In some countries – including El Salvador, Lebanon, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Tonga – these remittances made up more than 25 per cent of total GDP in 2020.

"The availability of timely and reliable data can help us maximize the potential of migration for development," said Ugochi Daniels, IOM Deputy Director General for Operations.

Returning Female Migrants Face More Reintegration Challenges than Men

Female migrants returning to their countries of origin had more difficulty than men reintegrating long-term into the community, an IOM study shows.

Women reported more challenges in accessing employment and training opportunities, as well as health-care services, often following abuses and exploitation during their migration journey, according to research on factors affecting the sustainable reintegration of returnees.

Coordinated by the EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub (KMH) with the financial support of the European Union and conducted by the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance of Maastricht University, the study presents key findings of two combined research projects aimed at highlighting the differences in reintegration outcomes among returnees.

The first study examines the impact of whether or not the return was voluntary, by analyzing the economic, social and psychosocial dimensions. A similar approach was adopted in the second study aimed at examining sex-based differences in reintegration outcomes and at better understanding gender-sensitive reintegration programming.

"The study identifies programmatic and policy recommendations that will be crucial to inform the design and implementation of reintegration programmes that address the diverse needs of different categories of returnees," said Monica Goracci, IOM Migration Management Department Director.

International Migration Needs More Than Just Collective Attention; It Needs

Collective Action

On the occasion of International Migrants Day, the United Nations Network on Migration calls on the international community to strengthen collective action to protect migrants' lives, reduce their vulnerabilities and maximize the benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration.

As the international community prepares for the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) at the United Nations General Assembly, the Network recalls the spirit of solidarity and international cooperation underpinning the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly

and Regular Migration (GCM) recognizing that no state can address migration alone. The Network encourages all states and stakeholders to make concrete commitments ahead of the Forum, in pursuit of the GCM objectives and grounded in its guiding principles.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
IOM·OIM
THE UNITED NATIONS MIGRATION AGENCY

Frontex renews cooperation plan with Moldova

Frontex has renewed its cooperation plan with the Moldovan Border Police for the period 2022-2024. The aim is to strengthen security at the borders between EU Member States and Moldova and specify how the agency and Moldovan authorities will continue working together in areas ranging from combatting cross-border crime, exchanging information to training activities.

Frontex will continue to cooperate with the Moldovan authorities also by including Moldovan observers in Frontex operational activities.

The document was signed by Fabrice Leggeri, the Executive Director of Frontex, and Rosian Vasiloi, the Head of the Moldovan Border Police. The of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, H.E. Jānis Mažeiks, was also present during the virtual event.

Cooperation plans are a tool that Frontex has at its disposal to translate bilateral commitments expressed in Working Arrangements into concrete actions. Such plans are concluded with the closest non-EU partners to provide practical roadmaps for operational collaboration for the time period of three years.

51 kg of cocaine seized in Frontex-led operation

Frontex led an EU-wide action against synthetic drug smuggling and illegal migration at the EU external air borders. The operation, co-led by Spain and the Netherlands, took place between November and December 2021.

The action, known as JAD Stopover, resulted in the seizure of 51 kg of cocaine, detection of 76 fraudulent documents and 60 refusals of entry.

In total, national authorities involved arrested 13 persons in connection with drug importation and one people smuggler.

The European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) tackles the most important threats posed by organised and serious international crime affecting the EU.

109 new standing corps cadets graduate

A group of 109 officers from 16 European Member States graduated from their basic border and coast guard training after a six-month course in the Policia Nacional academy in Avila, Spain.

The newly graduated officers are now fully-fledged members of the European standing corps and will soon join their colleagues already working all along EU's external borders and in non-EU countries. They will wear blue uniforms that represent the entire European Union and protect the European area of freedom, security and justice.

"Today shows that the European Union and Member States are working together to build an even stronger protection for our external borders. I am grateful to

Spanish authorities for hosting this training," said Frontex Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri in his speech during the graduation ceremony.

The six-month course, led by experienced trainers from Frontex and Member States and delivered despite challenged posed by the covid-19 pandemic was designed to provide the officers with the necessary theoretical and practical competences to work together in an operational area, fully complying with the applicable EU law and ethical standards.

NAPTIP, DSS operatives rescue trafficked Burudians from Imo village

A combined operatives of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and the Department of State Services (DSS), Imo State Command, have rescued a middle-aged Burundian woman and her three children suspected to be victims of trafficking.

They are said to be exploited in a village in Imo State by their trafficker.

The victims, Ms Siniremera Snadrine Bizimana and her three children namely Murwaneza Zertha Maecy, Akimana Ken Bethel and Umwiza Goodluck Collins, were set free through an early morning sting operation carried out on their holding mud house located in Umunoha village in Mbaitol Local Government Area of Imo State.

In a statement by Adekoye Vincent, Press and Public Relations Unit, NAPTIP, Wednesday, said investigation revealed that the victims were rescued based on a complaint from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees lodged at the Headquarters of NAPTIP and further directive from the Director General of the Agency, Dr Fatima Waziri–Azi.

It was gathered that the victims who have refugee status in Kenya, were trafficked to Lagos, Nigeria by yet to be identified human trafficker in September 2021 and thereafter moved to Umunoha, Imo State, where their movement were restricted and forced into menial labour of all sorts on daily basis in order to feed.

Their travelling document and other valuable personal belongings were also confiscated by the unknown trafficker in the process.

In his explanation, the Commander, Imo State Command of NAPTIP, Mr. Earnest Ogbu, stated that account from the victims indicated that they may have been deceived by the trafficker into coming to Nigeria and a remote village in Imo State without any resistance.

Poland starts construction of €350 million border fence with Belarus

Poland on Tuesday started the construction of a fence along its border with Belarus to block the entry of illegal migrants.

The 5.5-metre-high wall will run along 186km (115 miles) of the border – almost half the total length – and is to be completed in June at a cost of €350 million to build, the Polish Border Guard agency has announced. Poland and Belarus share a 418 km border.

A border guard spokeswoman, Captain Krystyna Jakimik-Jarosz, declined to specify the location of the construction sites, arguing that "the Belarusian services are just waiting for this to send groups of migrants there, so for security reasons we don't indicate the precise locations."

The new fence will be equipped with cameras and motion detectors, among other things, to help border guards prevent smuggling, Jakimik-Jarosz said.

"The temporary fence (made of barbed wire) has already helped us a lot because it gave us time to prepare while a group of migrants was about to attack, to open a passage, time to mobilise enough means and personnel to prevent it," she explained.

The construction has raised human rights concerns over how refugees will be able to seek asylum as well as environmental worries about the effect on wildlife along the mostly forested border.

"Our intention is for the damage to be as small as possible," border guard spokeswoman Anna Michalska said in a press statement.

"Tree felling will be limited to the minimum required. The wall itself will be built along the border road," she said, adding that contractors will only make use of existing roads.

2022 WORLD MIGRATION REPORT HIGHLIGHTS COMPLEX ISSUES DRIVING MIGRATION

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has published its 2022 World Migration Report. This new edition presents key data and information on migration as well as thematic chapters on highly topical migration issues

A great deal has happened in migration in the last two years since the release of the last World Migration Report in late 2019. The COVID-19 global pandemic arrived at a time of heightened uncertainty brought about by fundamental changes in technology, adding tremendous complexity and anxiety to a world that was already experiencing significant transformations.

COVID-19 has radically altered mobility around the world, and while there were initial expectations and hope that the pandemic would be limited to 2020, virus strains, waves of infection and vaccination programming issues have seen the pandemic continue through 2021. COVID-19 has become a truly seismic global event,

testing the resilience of countries, communities, systems and sectors. By the end of the first year of the pandemic, 116.2 million cases of COVID-19 had been recorded globally, while 2.58 million people had died.

In mobility terms, 108,000 international COVID-19-related travel restrictions had been imposed globally. Air passenger numbers dropped by 60 per cent in 2020 (1.8 billion) compared with 2019 (4.5 billion), evidence of the massive decline in mobility globally. The report provides analysis of COVID-19 impacts on migration, mobility and migrants during the first year of the pandemic.

The last two years also saw major migration and displacement events; events that have caused great hardship and trauma, as well as loss of life. Foremost have been the displacements of millions of people due to conflict (such as within and from the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan), or severe economic and political instability (such as that faced by millions of Venezuelans and Afghans). There have also been large-scale displacements triggered by climate- and weather-related disasters in many parts of the world in 2020 and 2021, including in China, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, the United States of America and Haiti.

We have also seen the scale of international migration increase,

although at a reduced rate due to COVID-19. The number of international migrants was estimated to be almost 281 million globally in 2020, with nearly two thirds being labour migrants. This figure remains a very small percentage of the world's population (at 3.6%), meaning that the vast majority of people globally (96.4%) were estimated to be residing in the country in which they were born. However, the estimated number and proportion of international migrants for 2020 was lower, by around 2 million, than they otherwise would have been, due to COVID-19. It is likely that the longer international mobility restrictions remain in place in many parts of the world, the weaker the growth will be in the number of international migrants in future years.

Long-term data on international migration have taught us that migration is not uniform across the world, but is shaped by economic, geographic, demographic and other factors, resulting in distinct migration patterns, such as migration "corridors" being developed over many years. The largest corridors tend to be from developing countries to larger economies, such as those of the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Germany; large corridors can also reflect protracted conflict and related displacement, such as from the Syrian Arab Republic to Turkey (the second largest corridor in the world). While many long-term corridors are likely to continue to feature in the immediate future, COVID-19 has shed light on the intensification of digitalization and the potential for greater automation of work around the world that is likely to affect key labour migration corridors.

Technological, geopolitical and

environmental transformations shaping migration and mobility The unprecedented pace of change during recent years in geopolitical, environmental and technological spheres has led some analysts and commentators to coin or use phrases such as the "age of accelerations", the "fourth industrial revolution" and the "age of change". More recently, COVID-19 has amplified the sense of uncertainty brought about during momentous change, while also physically grounding much of the world for extended periods of time. The pandemic has required resilience, while also offering the opportunity to reflect on our collective futures.

Similar to other international phenomena, migration has historically been affected by seismic geopolitical events, such as the two world wars, the Cold War, and large terrorist attacks (such as 9/11), which can mark "turning points" in migration governance, as well as in broader discourse and sentiment. The COVID-19 pandemic is the

latest seismic geopolitical event, stemming from a global health emergency and, while by no means over, it has already had profound impacts on migration and mobility globally. Existing knowledge, evidence and analyses allow us to place new information on COVID-19 within a frame of reference as new data come to light. Rather than looking only at the here and now, we need to be understanding change in terms of longer-term migration patterns and processes. The significance and implications of COVID-19 can only be sufficiently understood and articulated when contextualized and rooted in current knowledge of migration.

It is also important to place migration and mobility within broader systemic change processes that act to determine, shape and impede responses by governments (at different levels) and non-State actors (e.g. civil society, industry, citizens). Key technological, geopolitical and environmental transformations are particularly

relevant and help us to understand better the strategic issues shaping the context in which people migrate, States formulate and implement policy, and a wide range of State and non-State actors collaborate and cooperate on migration and mobility research, policy and practice.

Technological transformations

Technological advances since 2005 resulting in the so-called "fourth industrial revolution" are profoundly changing how social, political and economic systems operate globally. We have been witnessing the rising power of "big tech", the increasing production capability for self-publishing of misinformation and disinformation, the race by businesses to "digitalize or perish", the massive increase in data being produced (mainly through user-generated interactions) resulting in increasing "datafication" of human interactions, and the rapid development and roll-out of artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities within business and governments sectors.

Digital technology is becoming increasingly crucial throughout migration. People are able to gather information and advice in real time during migration journeys, an issue that has raised interest and, at times, concern. The use of apps to share information and connect geographically dispersed groups has raised valid questions concerning the extent to which digital technology has been used to support irregular migration, as well as to enable migrants to avoid

abusive and exploitative migrant smugglers and human traffickers. Migrants have also developed applications to support better integration in receiving countries, while maintaining social links and financial support to their families and societies back home, including through the increasing prevalence of "mobile money" apps. More recently, we have seen migrants develop online chatbots using machine-learning technologies to provide psychological support, as well as to help navigate complex migration policy and visa processing requirements, although digital capture in various migration systems of an increasing amount of personal information is raising concerns about privacy and other human rights issues.

Other connections between migration and technology are also emerging in migration debates. As artificial intelligence technologies are progressively taken up in key sectors, their broader consequences for migrant worker demand and domestic labour markets are areas of intense focus for policymakers and businesses in both origin and receiving countries. Recent discussions have also turned to blockchain technology and its consequences for migration, especially for international remittances, but also for digital identities and global mobility. Social media technology is also increasingly impacting the politics of migration, with a surge of far-right activism on social media platforms

seeking to influence public debates and ultimately political decisions.

Profound technological change was deepening before COVID-19, but has significantly intensified during the pandemic, meaning that deep digitalization of an already digitalizing world will be one of the most significant long-term effects of COVID-19. Shaping migration and mobility systems to reduce the impacts of inequality in a world that is suffering multiple "digital divides" will be particularly important in ensuring implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other multilateral agreements.

Geopolitical transformations

Increased competition between States is resulting in heightened geopolitical tension and risking the erosion of multilateral cooperation. Economic, political and military power has radically shifted in the last two decades, with power now more evenly distributed in the international system. As a result, there is rising geopolitical competition, especially among global powers, often played out via proxies. The environment of intensifying competition between key States – and involving a larger number of States – is undermining international cooperation through multilateral mechanisms, such as those of the United Nations. We are living in a period in which the core values underpinning global governance are being challenged. The values of equity, accountability, impartiality, fairness, justice and probity are being actively undermined, as some political leaders disregard common interest in preference for personal interest – even if it corrodes laws, processes and institutions that have, overall, sought to advance whole nations and peoples, without excluding or expelling some because of their inherent characteristics or beliefs.

Ongoing and systematic corrosion, as we have witnessed throughout history, can extend to attacks on human rights and ultimately on groups of people within societies.

In rebalancing the geopolitical debate and arguing for the profound benefits of the multilateral system, many States and the United Nations have actively progressed a number of key initiatives to deliver improved conditions for communities globally, most especially for those most in need. Despite the challenges of a geopolitically charged competition, some progress has been made towards achieving the SDGs, as well as on the specific issues of migration and displacement via the two Global Compacts for migration and on refugees. On the eve of the 2022 International Migration Review Forum – the primary intergovernmental platform on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, including as it relates to the SDGs

– preparations are well under way, with a series of regional review processes having already been finalized across 2020 and 2021. A rallying cry has also been made recently by the United Nations Secretary-General in his 2021 report on bolstering support for multilateralism in an increasingly complex, competitive and uncertain world. Our Common Agenda outlines the United Nations' actions that are designed to strengthen and accelerate multilateral agreements (including the SDGs) and make a tangible, positive difference in people's lives around the world.

Environmental transformations

The intensification of ecologically negative human activity is resulting in overconsumption and overproduction linked to unsustainable economic growth, resource depletion and biodiversity collapse, as well as ongoing climate change.

Broadly grouped under the heading of "human supremacy", there is growing recognition of the extremely negative consequences of human activities that are not preserving the planet's ecological systems. In several key areas, analysts report that the world is at or nearing "breaking point", including on climate change, biodiversity collapse and mass extinction of thousands of species, while pollution is at record levels, altering ecosystems globally. COVID-19 has dampened human activity in key spheres (e.g. transportation/ travel, construction, hospitality) enabling a mini environmental recovery, as well as a space to reflect on the ability of humans to achieve extraordinary things during times of crisis. However, there is a strong sense that this is merely a pause and that human activity will rebound once the pandemic is over, wiping out the pandemic-related benefits. The implications for migration and displacement are significant, as people increasingly turn to internal and international migration as a means of adaptation to environmental impacts, or face displacement from their homes and communities due to slow-onset impacts of climate change or experience displacement as a result of acute disaster events.

The full 2022 World Migration Report is available via the IOM.

BOC Seizes P150M Worth of Fake COVID Test Kits, Medicines

The Bureau of Customs seized an estimated P150 million worth of fake COVID-19 antigen test kits, LianHua Chinese medicines, counterfeit face masks, and copyright-infringed branded goods in a Manila warehouse, leading also to the arrest of a Chinese national who was the owner of the said warehouse.

The team—composed of members of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service-Manila International Container Port (CIIS-MICP), National Bureau of Investigation-Special Action Unit (NBI-SAU), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

CIIS-MICP chief Alvin Enciso said they had proper coordination with the local barangay and Philippine National Police (PNP) before the implementation of the LOA.

Upon arriving at the storage facility located at 555 Carlos Palanca, San Miguel, Manila City, the team explained the provisions and purpose of the LOA to the building administrator.

Further inspection found that the warehouse has P150 million worth of thousands of Clungene COVID-19 antigen test kits, counterfeit LianHua Chinese herbal medicines, and fake 3M N95 face masks.

The team also found intellectual property rights (IPR) infringed goods such as apparel from brands like Nike, Fila, Converse, Adidas, as well as Louis Vuitton and Gucci bags, wallets, phone accessories, and others.

Customs Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence Raniel Ramiro lauded the efforts to curb the illegal smuggling of counterfeit COVID-19 test kits and medicines at a time when Filipinos are scrambling to access such tests and medical care.

ICE HSI holiday counterfeit operation seizes $1 million in counterfeit drugs, products

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New Orleans seized 59,425 counterfeit items valued at more than $1 million during a holiday-related intellectual property rights surge operation.

The HSI-led initiative, dubbed Operation Safety Claus, was supported by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Louisiana Bureau of Investigation, with support from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations. The coordinated federal law enforcement operation focused on interrupting counterfeit efforts in the New Orleans metro area during the holiday shopping season. In total, the seized counterfeit items had a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price of $1,012,942.

Beginning in November, more than two-dozen HSI New Orleans special agents began conducting surveillance of area business locations, ultimately identifying numerous vendors engaged in the illegal sale of counterfeit goods.

"Counterfeit products such as pharmaceuticals and cosmetics pose a serious threat to the health and safety of unsuspecting consumers, impacts legitimate trade, and compromises our national security," said Jeb Bison, HSI New Orleans Deputy Special Agent in Charge. "We are committed to working closely with our federal and state partners and private sector stakeholders to keep illegal and dangerous products away from the U.S. public, while disrupting revenue streams that fund transnational criminal organization."

NAPTIP Partners with United States Counter Trafficking Centre to Pursue Human Traffickers

Hard time awaits human traffickers and other organized criminal gangs operating with the aid of cyber-technology as the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) has concluded collaboration with the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children to enhance tracing and diligent investigation of all cases relating of child abuse and human trafficking

With this development, the Agency shall have unrestricted access to millions of information around the world that would help tackle online recruitment, trafficking and exploitation of victims.

Director General of NAPTIP, Dr Fatima Waziri–Azi, disclosed this in Abuja while speaking on the 2022 counter trafficking strategic approach of the Agency aimed at ensuring protection of Nigerians from human trafficking and other forms of exploitation, online and offline.

It would be recalled that Dr Fatima Waziri–Azi, has consistently maintained that the arrest and prosecution of high profile human traffickers operating both within and outside Nigeria remain one of her strategic priority as this will serve as deterrent to others as well as reduce the level of impunity and ensure satisfactory justice delivery to victims of human trafficking.

Investigation revealed that apart from millions of vulnerable and unaccompanied children that are being trafficked across the West Africa corridors and migration routes, many victims are held and blackmailed by traffickers in various destinations with the use of technology to shield their identities and also ensure firm and effective control measure on their victims.

The National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children is the custodian of the Cybertipline, which is a centralized reporting mechanism for crimes related to the sexual exploitation of children. The Cybertipline provides an online mechanism for members of the public and electronic service providers to report incidents of suspected child sexual exploitation.

Based in the United States of America, Cybertipline serves as the National Resource Centre and clearing house on missing and sexually exploited Children. It works closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, the US Secret Service, the Military Criminal Investigative Organizations, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task forces, the US Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity and other state and local Law Enforcement Agencies across the World.

Under this new partnership, NAPTIP shall have access to real time information on child sex trafficking, sex tourism involving children, child sexual molestation by non-family members and online enticement of children for sexual acts, among others.

Speaking on the benefits of the new operational partnership, the Director General of NAPTIP, Dr Fatima Waziri–Azi, said the latest development is a product of the renewed determination by the Agency to investigate and prosecute those operating remotely with the aid of technology.

"It is a known fact that human trafficking has continued to evolve in line with globalization, especially with technology, traffickers have kept pace with technology by using the World Wide Web for their operations."

"This modus of operandi is prominent with the advent of the COVID-19 Pandemic. There is a shift from physical recruitment to virtual recruitment through virtual assessment of victim and proxy negotiation"

"This database shall enable NAPTIP to have access to vital information of perpetrators who use social media platforms to electronically distributing pornographic materials to either blackmail or exploit children. The system will also help trace missing children, rescue child victims and rescue children from abusive situation", Dr Fatima Waziri–Azi stated.

Eurojust-supported action leads to arrest of 29 people smugglers in Italy and Albania

Judicial and law enforcement authorities in Italy, Greece and Albania have taken a coordinated action against a network of people smugglers, which transferred at least 1 100 migrants irregularly to the European Union. During an action day with the support of Eurojust, Europol and Frontex, 29 suspects were arrested in the three countries involved. They allegedly made illegal gains of at least several hundreds of millions of euros. The action is the concrete result of a joint investigation team (JIT) which was set up in January 2021 with the support and funding of Eurojust.

The suspects are of Albanian, Turkish, Syrian, Iranian, Iraqi and Pakistani origin. Eight of them were arrested during a smuggling operation that was ongoing, with the migrants involved brought to safety. The suspects belong to a wider network of approximately 80 persons who were involved in at least 30 bigger irregular transfers of migrants from Turkey via Albania and Greece to the Salento coast of Italy. From Italy,

the migrants were later transferred to other EU countries. The transfers to Italy took place by vessel and or by vehicle over land via the so-called Eastern Mediterranean route.

Of the arrested persons, four are allegedly the main perpetrators, leading separate cells or groups of the network. One of them was mainly responsible for the return of the smugglers to Turkey, where they could prepare for new transfers. The gains of the irregular migration transfers are preliminarily estimated to be at least several hundreds of millions of euros, with the smugglers using the 'Hawala' financing system to hide the proceeds.

In preparation for the action day, the authorities carried out long-term surveillance of the suspects, using telephone and online interceptions of evidence and video recordings. This enabled them to document the routes used by the network and identify the perpetrators.

Eurojust not only supported the joint investigation team but also set up a coordination centre during the action day and provided cross-border judicial support via the Agency's Italian and Greek National Desks, as well as the Liaison Prosecutor for Albania at the Agency. Europol provided additional analytical support to the operation and deployed mobile offices, with Frontex assisting with surveillance via an Italian Guardia di Finanza helicopter deployed to control the EU's external borders.

Detection and seizure of large quantities of drugs on the islands of Rhodes and Megisti

During a patrol carried out, two sacks were found and collected at distance of about 100 metres between

them, by the Officers of the regional drug prosecution team of the security office of the Central Port Authority of Rhodes. The two sacks were found and collected in the coastal area of " Kato Petries" of the island of Rhodes, a total of 90 plastic packages with pills type ''CAPTAGON'', possibly drugs. Some of them have been damaged due the influx of seawater. Their total quantity is estimated at 181.000 pieces.

The same day at noon, the Central Port Authority of Rhodes was informed by the Port Station of Megisti that 40 packages of pills, possibly drugs ,were also found with an estimated total quantity of 80.000 pieces. No further drugs have been found by the Port Authorities.

ICMPD Migration Outlook 2022: Twelve migration issues to look out for in 2022

Origins, key events and priorities for Europe

ICMPD
International Centre for
Migration Policy Development

**ICMPD
Migration Outlook 2022**
Twelve migration issues to look out for in 2022
Origins, key events and priorities for Europe

2022 will be another challenging year for EU migration policy. Below is a non-exhaustive list of trends and developments that will be high on the agenda of decision-makers and analysts alike.

1. The rise in irregular migration to the EU

Almost 200,000 illegal crossings were recorded at the external borders of the EU in 2021. This corresponds to an increase of 57% in comparison to 2020 and of 38% in comparison to 2019, the year before the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Driven by growing instability in major countries of origin and aggravated by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, this trend is likely to continue in 2022.

2. Shifting pressures on the main migration routes

In reaction to increasing migration pressures, Greece closed its external borders and temporarily suspended the admission of asylum applications in early 2020. In

2021, it introduced additional measures such as closed and controlled reception structures, a wider use of administrative detention or the extension of physical border control facilities and surveillance. Apparently the strict Greek asylum policy prompted irregular migrants and asylum seekers to switch to alternate routes. This trend is likely to continue in 2022, exacerbating the pressure on reception and migration management capacities in the Western Balkans and along the Central Mediterranean Route.

3. The migration effects of the Taliban takeover

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and the rapidly growing humanitarian crisis in the country are likely to lead to additional displacement and outbound flows of refugees and migrants. According to initial assessments, another 500,000 Afghan refugees are expected to flee the country. The countries in the region have closed their borders, limited access to passport and visa holders, and cut support for newly arriving Afghans. These measures are likely to control the size of movements. In the medium to long term, it will be difficult to fully control the vast borders in the region and the activities of the well-established smuggling networks. The increasing numbers of asylum applications lodged by Afghan nationals in the second half of 2021 suggest that the EU will see arrivals increase in 2022 as well.

4. Growing tensions in Libya

The continued presence of foreign armed forces and tensions over the presidential elections endanger the fragile state of stability in the country. Ongoing disputes about fundamental rules governing elections and uncertainty about when they will be held will also impact migration from and through Libya and Libyan partners' capacity to cooperate with the EU and the international community on solving migration issues. Coupled with growing instability in sub-Saharan Africa and the political and economic challenges faced by neighbouring Tunisia, these developments in Libya make it very likely

that the scale of irregular migration along the Central Mediterranean Route will remain high or even increase in 2022.

5. The flaring up of the Syrian conflict

Violence has continued throughout 2021 and hostilities have re-intensified for the first time since the ceasefire agreement of March 2020. The humanitarian situation has significantly worsened. Along with the economic downturn in Turkey, which is the major host of Syrian refugees globally, 2022 is likely to see increased primary and secondary movements of Syrians towards the EU. Already last year, the number of asylum applications lodged by Syrian nationals in an EU Member State was 71% higher than in 2020 and 46% higher than in 2019.

6. The reorientation of migration flows from Latin America

In recent years, asylum seekers from Latin American countries, especially Colombia and Venezuela, ranked high in European Union apprehension statistics. In 2020, their number declined. At the time, this change was thought to be the result of the extensive restrictions on air travel from third countries to the EU during the first phase of the pandemic. The gradual lifting of restrictions in 2021, however, did not lead to a resurgence of Latin American asylum migration to the EU. The drop in applications is believed to be the result of fewer flight connections to Europe and increased movement towards the United States. Envisaged policy changes announced by the new US administration appear to have sparked hopes for a more liberal stance towards migrants and refugees and prompted a reorientation of related flows from European destinations to the US.

7. The continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration

The pandemic has increased economic pressures on large parts of the overall population in low-income countries but also on the migrant and refugee populations residing within their territories. The resilience of migrant remittances might cushion some of these pressures but surely not all of them. Uneven economic recovery is likely to fuel irregular migration also in 2022. This assumption is supported by developments observed in 2021, such as the increase of irregular flows from North African

countries, secondary movements of Syrian and Afghan nationals from Turkey and Iran, or the sharp increase of irregular arrivals from Latin America at the southern border of the United States. Bangladesh observed a slowing of remittances via official channels in the second half of 2021, as migration ramped up again and informal funds transfer systems gained in importance again.

8. The EU response to the instrumentalisation of irregular migrants

The instrumentalisation of migration is not a new phenomenon. Countries in the neighbourhood have pressured the EU before to make political or financial concessions in return for cooperation on migration control. The deliberate creation of a migration crisis at the EU's external borders, however, instigated and controlled by Belarussian authorities, added a dimension different from previous instances. The EU's swift, unified and robust response in cooperation with non-European partners halted this scheme. But the situation will remain volatile in 2022 and thousands of migrants are left in a state of limbo, and immediate threat to their lives and well-being.

9. The presidential elections in France and the French Presidency

of the EU 2022 is a big election year in Europe, all of them important for European migration policy making. The greatest attention will be paid to the presidential elections in France. Euroscepticism is widespread among the French electorate and the majority of candidates and is linked to a tougher stance on immigration and the wish to repatriate power from the EU to the Member States. The elections will also influence the implementation of the French Presidency programme as it pertains to migration. The programme focusses on reforming the Schengen Area and continuing the work on asylum and migration. It emphasises the need to better address the instrumentalisation of migration and to prevent irregular migratory flows within the Schengen Area.

10. New accents in Germany's migration policy

The new government's coalition agreement contains an extensive chapter on migration. It calls for a restart of Germany's migration and integration policy to reflect the stance of a modern immigration country. Amongst other

things, the coalition agreement calls for a strengthening reinforcement of functioning partnership agreements with non-EU countries following a holistic approach and including economic cooperation, visa facilitation, skills transfers, job platforms and cooperation on the reintegration of rejected asylum seekers. Moreover, the coalition agreement is committed toreforming the European asylum system and ensuring a fair sharing of responsibility and solidarity.

Thus, Germany seeks to forge a coalition of Member States that are receptive to admission.

11. Renewed attempts to address secondary movements

The issue of secondary movements of asylum seekers among Member States has been high on the European agenda for years. In Germany, one priority identified in the coalition agreement of the new government is to prevent the misuse of visa-free travel for secondary movements within the EU. The French Presidency aims at a reform of the Schengen acquis that helps to prevent irregular migratory flows within the Schengen Area. Internal border controls were a much-debated issue in the EU before,with the European Commission and several Member States insisting that such controls must remain the exception. It can be assumed that this debate will continue throughout 2022.

12. Labour shortages and the discussion on legal migration channels

The European Union has entered a period of demographic ageing. By 2050, the share of the EU population of working age will shrink by 37 million. Already now, many vacancies cannot be filled with domestic applicants and the COVID-19 pandemic has made it all the clearer how much the European economies depend on essential workers. Last year, an apparent shortage of lorry drivers in the UK and other European countries made the headlines, spurring fears of interrupted supply chains and missing deliveries of food, fuel and other essential goods. Current labour shortages might be less severe than portrayed in the media and much can be done through upskilling, higher wages and better working conditions. But European labour markets will remain tight in 2022 and beyond, intensifying the debateon ways to fill immediate shortages and to cope with long-term labour market demands. This might give renewed impetus to the further development of instruments such as the EU's Talent Partnerships and to overall cooperation with non-EU countries on labour migration issues.

The ICMPD Migration Outlook 2022 - Twelve migration issues to look out for in 2022 is available for download at the ICMPD website. www.icmpd.org.

Illicit tobacco manufacturing operation uncovered

An alleged illicit tobacco manufacturing and counterfeiting operation in Sydney has been uncovered following the seizure of over 1.7 tonnes of loose leaf tobacco, more than 1.5 million cigarettes and thousands of cigars, with an estimated excise forgone value of more than $4 million. If manufactured this would equate to the equivalent of 185,000 packets of 20 cigarettes.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO), supported by the partners of the Australian Border Force (ABF)-led Illicit Tobacco Taskforce (ITTF), executed the warrants in early December 2021 at several locations in Marrickville and Brighton Le Sands, also seizing three cigarette manufacturing machines, a large amount of labels and barcodes. Approximately $116,000 in cash was also seized.

ABF Commander Special Investigations Greg Linsdell said the ITTF was committed to targeting, disrupting and dismantling serious actors and organised crime syndicates that deal in illicit tobacco.

"The ITTF combines the exceptional operational, investigative, and intelligence capabilities of the ABF, ATO, Department of Home Affairs, Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre and Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions," Commander Linsdell said.

"This is an outstanding achievement and I applaud the ATO and the ITTF's officers for their ongoing dedication to combatting criminal syndicates involved in the manufacture and distribution of illicit tobacco in Australia, which undermines the interests of legitimate businesses."

8,700 million pesos in contraband merchandise seized in Bogotá

In a joint operation, the National Police through the Fiscal and Customs Police, in an articulated work with the National Tax and Customs Directorate and the Attorney General's Office, within the framework of the "Crusade Against Contraband" plan, Colombia Safe Legal-Colombia, 02 search and raid procedures were carried out in the town of Engativá in a renowned business and industrial park, where two (2) people were captured in flagrante delicto and the seizure of more than 193 thousand units of clothing .

The investigators determined that these criminals apparently had a carefully planned and studied strategy to try to evade the authorities.

In vehicles with special and high-end armor, they were used by these criminals to transport contraband merchandise, from the collection center to shopping centers such as San Victorino and San Andresito in Bogotá.

The vehicles entered the warehouses, using a sophisticated technology system with a chip card, once the vehicles entered the warehouse, which appeared to be empty, so as not to arouse suspicion from the authorities or passers-by, they were supplied with contraband merchandise and They were taken to shopping malls.

PNP seized four tons of drugs in three weeks

In the framework of its frontal fight against drug trafficking, the National Police of Peru (PNP) seized nearly four tons of drugs in the last three weeks, as a result of various operations carried out against this scourge in various areas of the country.

The seizures of this important quantity of drugs, valued at 3.2 million dollars, were made in the regions of Piura and San Martín, as well as in different localities belonging to the Valley of the Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro Rivers (Vraem).

Among the most relevant cases of these police actions is a helicopter-borne interdiction operation in the vicinity of the Huimbayoc district, San Martín region, where four people were seized with more than 295 kilos of cocaine drugs.

Likewise, a criminal organization dedicated to illicit drug trafficking in the Vraem was intervened, where a shipment of 375 kilos of cocaine drugs was found, buried in a farm in the Gloria Sol Naciente town center, in Ayacucho.

Meanwhile, in the Ayacucho district of Huamanga, police personnel intervened a truck that was traveling along the Huanta-Huancayo highway, finding 472 brick-type packages with cocaine alkaloid inside.

In four operations carried out, the Police seized 11,371 doses of drugs

Agents from the Zone 8 Anti-Drug Investigation Unit found a motor in a post office warehouse located on Martha de Roldós that contained 870 grams of cocaine inside, destined for Australia.

The anti-narcotics agents, complying with a service order, arrived at the post office, with the purpose of profiling and registering the parcels that present some type of suspicion, such as a cardboard that contained an engine, in which the 870 grams of cocaine, which represents 8,900 doses of the alkaloid, destined for international trafficking.

AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

At the Ukrainian-Romanian border, illegal migrants

Servicemen of the Chernivtsi border guard detachment, in cooperation with Romanian counterparts, stopped the illegal intentions of four foreigners and their guide from Ukraine, who were going to enter Romania illegally.

While patrolling the border yesterday, the border patrol of the Seliatyn border guard division detained a Turkish citizen and found traces of several other people leading towards the border. Additional border patrols went in search of possible offenders, and the guards of the Ukrainian border organized cooperation with the Romanian Border Police. During a search 20 meters from a border fencing barrier in a wooded area, border guards detained another Ukranian man. Three

more offenders were detained by Romanian counterparts.

All detainees identified themselves as Turkish citizens and admitted their intention to enter Western Europe illegally.

Irregular Migrants Rescued Off The Coast Of Izmir

Turkish Coast Guard reported that there was a group of irregular migrants on a lifeboat off the coast of İzmir's Çeşme district. It was reported they were pushed back to Turkish territorial waters by Greek assets. 40 irregular migrants on the lifeboat were rescued by Coast Guard boat.

The Coast Guard have been reporting crossings each day during January,

with many risking their lives to reach Europe.

DEA St. Louis Division Breaks Fentanyl Seizure Record in 2021

The Drug Enforcement Administration St. Louis Division broke a fentanyl seizure record for 2021 with nearly 188 kilograms seized through Missouri, Kansas and southern Illinois.

In addition, agents and task force officers seized 1,848 kilograms of methamphetamine and 73 kilograms of heroin. The meth seizure amount was also the most in the division's history. Investigators also seized 347 weapons.

Topping off the St. Louis Division's statistics for 2021 were its efforts to curtail money laundering by drug

trafficking organizations, seizing and stopping $15.8 million from reaching its organization leaders.

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is used for pain in a pharmaceutical setting and 50 times more potent than heroin. However, drug cartels have been attempting to distribute fentanyl in record amounts, leading to an alarming increase in overdose deaths.

Mexican Army seized more than 130 kilograms of possible cocaine in San Luis Potosí

The Mexican Army seized a vehicle that was secretly transporting 130 packages of a substance with characteristics similar to cocaine, as well as the arrest of two individuals, in the state of San Luis Potosí.

As a result of intelligence work, the personnel of the Mexican Army established a Military Security Post in the municipality of Villa Arista, S.L.P. in order to apply the Federal Firearms and Explosives Control Law.

When reviewing a truck with a gondola, three hidden compartments were located, where 130 packages of a white paste weighing 134 kilograms were transported, which, subject to expert confirmation of type and quantity, are of cocaine.

Punjab tops in cross-border drone sightings, drug recovery

The International Border in Punjab remains the most vulnerable stretch along the entire western front with Pakistan, with the highest number

of drone sightings, apprehensions of intruders and recovery of arms and narcotics in 2021 being reported in this sector.

Of the 100-odd drone sightings reported by the Border Security Force (BSF) in 2021, as many as 67 have been in Punjab Frontier, followed by 24 in Jammu Frontier and six in Rajasthan Frontier, according to BSF sources. Gujarat Frontier and Kashmir Frontier reported two and one sighting, respectively.

A senior BSF officer revealed that last year, there were 62 incidents where enemy drones operating in the vicinity of the border were fired upon by BSF personnel. These included 43 in the area of Punjab Frontier and 17 in Jammu Frontier, followed by two in Rajasthan Frontier.

BSF data also showed there have been 58 incidents of hostile drones crossing over into the Indian territory, out of which 45 were in Punjab alone. There have also been instances of drones being recovered after being shot down by the BSF..

CBP Seizes Two Shipments of Dangerous Controlled Substances Destined to NY and Chicago

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Philadelphia seized two shipments of dangerous controlled substances – a date-rape precursor

and an LSD-like hallucinogenic – on January 20 that arrived in express delivery parcels from overseas.

The first parcel, which was destined to an address in Chicago, arrived from Germany and was manifested as "Butanediol Samples." Butanediol is a solvent used as a floor stripper and paint thinner. CBP officers examined the shipment and discovered 10 bottles of a clear liquid packaged as a cleaning solution.

Officers tested the liquid using a handheld elemental isotope analysis tool and identified the liquid as gamma butyrolactone (GBL), a DEA Schedule 1 controlled substance. The GBL collectively weighed nearly 3.5 gallons.

The second parcel arrived from the Netherlands and was manifested as "Mimosa Tenuiflora." CBP officers inspected the Dutchess County, N.Y., bound shipment and discovered 57 pounds of tree bark pieces.

2,300 Kg Ganja Seized From Truck In Assam

Ganja weighing 2,300 kg was seized from a truck in Assam's Karimganj district near the interstate border with Tripura, police said.

Two persons were arrested in this connection.

"In the one of the biggest recoveries of drugs, Churaibari WP staff has just recovered a massive consignment of 2,360 kgs of ganja in a truck coming from Tripura," Karimganj Police tweeted.

Cambodia and Thailand police crack down on cross-border scams

Thailand and Cambodia are stepping up cooperation efforts to suppress cross-border online scams.

Digital Economy and Society Minister Chaiwut Thanakamanusorn said he met Cambodia's Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Chea Vandet via video conference to strengthen a crackdown on deceptive call centres and investment scams which have caused losses in both countries.

Four measures were agreed: setting up contact points for authorities of both countries to track down suspects; information-sharing regarding voice over internet protocol (VOIP), IP addresses and contact records of suspects; establishing suppression teams within both countries; and issuing memorandums of understanding (MoUs)."

Syrian drug smuggling prompts new Jordanian border policies

Twenty-seven Syrians trying to smuggle drugs across the border into Jordan died in firefights with the Hashemite Kingdom's forces, Jordan's military spokesman announced. The soldiers were operating under modified rules of engagement announced by Maj. Gen. Yousef Huneiti, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordan Armed Forces, after an officer died in a gunfight with Syrian smugglers.

Brig. Gen. Naji al-Manasir, head of the Eastern Command, told Jordan's Al-Mamlaka public television broadcasting service that "the rules of engagement have been changed and the army will shoot anyone who dares to come close to the Jordanian borders."

Department of Homeland Security hosts Human Trafficking Awareness Training

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) recently hosted a Human Trafficking Awareness Training (HTAT).

"FLETC's work with local law enforcement across the country is essential to ensuring that law enforcement can identify and support victims and work to prevent the horrific crime of human trafficking," DHS Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas said.

"These trainings are just one part of our whole-of-DHS approach to combating human trafficking. DHS Agencies and Offices work to shine a light on these terrible crimes, investigate and help prosecute traffickers, and provide support and necessary services to victims."

During the session, state and local law enforcement personnel were provided access to case studies, videos, and student-centered activities as a means of emphasizing the importance of taking a victim-centered approach.

7kg of drugs seized in two-day operation, three men arrested

About 7kg of drugs, worth about $768,000, were seized in a two-day operation by the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB).

The CNB said that three men, aged 38, 48 and 58 were arrested, and a total of 3.862kg of Ice, 1.873kg of cannabis, 1.083kg Ecstasy tablets, 35 Erimin-5 tablets, 452 lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) stamps were seized.

The Ice seized can feed the addiction of about 2,210 abusers for a week, while the cannabis can feed about 270 abusers for a week..

The drugs were concealed in packages that also contained coffee beans.

Micro-trafficking investigation drugs seizure

Micro-trafficking investigation of the team MT0 Lampa culminated with 4 buildings raided in the Isabel Riquelme population and a balance of 4 detainees.

In this operation, 1.4 kg of drugs were also seized (cannabis sativa, ketamine, cocaine base and cocaine hydrochloride), elements for their dosage, 4 weapons (2 modified blank, 1 blank and 1 compressed air), ammunition of various calibers and cash.

Authorities in Colombia seize nearly 20,000 coconuts filled with 'liquid cocaine'

Officials in Colombia have seized nearly 20,000 coconuts filled with "liquid cocaine".

The narcotics were found on a large shipping container headed to Italy, according to law enforcement.

In a statement, the Office of the Attorney General of Colombia said the coconuts — 19,780 in total — were found in a container destined for Genoa.

Investigators say a naturally occurring fluid was found inside thousands of coconuts which were then meticulously removed and replaced with "liquid cocaine."

Investigators determined that the naturally occurring fluid inside the coconuts was meticulously removed and replaced with "liquid cocaine." Dissolved cocaine formulas have been documented in previous seizures, as traffickers attempt to avoid traditional drug detection.

Production line of counterfeit cigarettes flooding the French market dismantled in Slovenia

An illegal production line of cigarettes flooding the French market with millions of counterfeit cigarettes has been dismantled in Slovenia as a result of a complex investigation between the French and Slovenian authorities with the support of Europol.

Over a hundred officers from the Slovenian National Police Force (Policija) and Financial Administration (Finančna Uprava) simultaneously raided 11 sites, including industrial premises and private residences. They were assisted in the field by officers from the French Gendarmerie (Gendarmerie Nationale), as well as French magistrates from the Bordeaux Interregional Specialised Court (JIRS) and Europol officers.

This action made it possible to find several production sites established in warehouses located in remote areas of Slovenia. In total, over 26 tonnes of tobacco were seized in Slovenia, as well as 29 million filters, several machines intended for the cigarette manufacture and ten tonnes of printed papers for packaging. The amount of cigarettes which could have been produced with the seized merchandise would have had a value of €13 million on the French market.

Large Numbers of Migrants Encountered in Brownsville, Texas

Fort Brown Border Patrol (FTB) station agents encountered several migrant groups over one weekend that totaled over 420. Each of the groups were smuggled into the United States during the night or in the early morning hours. The smuggling attempts occurred in some of the coldest weather the Rio Grande Valley has experienced this year.

On one night, FTB agents encountered a group of 75 migrants in Brownsville, Texas. As agents were screening and preparing the group to be transported, three more groups totaling 88 migrants turned themselves in. The groups consisted of 163 migrants comprised of family members and adults from Venezuela, Nicaragua, Chili, and Honduras. The groups that turned themselves into Border Patrol over the next few days were composed of similar demographics and was at the same location.

The following night, agents encountered another group of 77 migrants at the same location. Then, later that evening, agents encountered a group of 81 migrants. Less than five hours later, a large group of nearly 100 migrants was encountered at the same location.

BORDER MANAGEMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Collection, processing and sharing of personal data and the use of new technologies in the counter-terrorism and freedom of movement context. Latest report from OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

In a globalized world, more and more people cross international borders to develop and maintain personal contacts, pursue educational and professional opportunities, to migrate or to realize the right to seek asylum when fleeing from persecution.

At the same time, new technologies, which rely on the gathering, processing, and sharing of data, are increasingly used by states to manage migration flows and to address transnational security threats, including terrorism. These technologies heighten the risk of human rights breaches in an area that is already highly opaque and discretionary, with weak safeguards, accountability and oversight, and where the private sector plays a strong role in their development and use.

The latest ODIHR policy brief provides an overview of the implications of collecting and sharing information in the context of border management and how the introduction or continued use of new technologies in the border space may affect human rights. It also provides recommendations to OSCE participating States on how to respect and protect human rights when using new technologies to manage their borders. The policy brief has been prepared as part of the ongoing work of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in the field of migration, freedom of movement, human rights and counter-terrorism.

This policy brief references various digital technologies used in migration management and counter-terrorism, referring to passenger and biometric data collection, algorithmic decision-making, and artificial intelligence-based technologies as the innovations that are currently being developed and deployed for border and migration management, and to counter transnational organized crime and terrorism.

Border management, security and counter-terrorism

States have international obligations around border management in the context of countering terrorism.

UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2396 (2017) imposes legal obligations on states to establish systems for the collection, processing, and analysis of large amounts of personal data to detect terrorist travel and identify terrorists.

Measures include systems for biometric data, Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Records (PNR) as well as watchlists and databases of "known and suspected terrorists." The resolution also encourages states to share this information with each other and with international organizations where appropriate. OSCE Ministerial Council decisions call upon OSCE participating States to prevent the movement of terrorists, including so-called "foreign terrorist fighters," through effective border controls, and to issue machine-readable travel documents that contain biometric data and take other measures to strengthen travel document security. OSCE participating States have also committed specifically to establishing national API systems.

States have a legitimate interest in controlling their borders and managing who enters their territory.

But increased border security, including to counter terrorism, must not come at the expense of human rights and fundamental freedoms. UN Security Council resolutions and OSCE commitments consistently reaffirm that all counter-terrorism actions must comply with international law, including international human rights and refugee law. At the 2005 Ministerial Council in Ljubljana, participating States reaffirmed their commitment to promote free movement of people across borders, while also pursuing the aim of reducing the threat of terrorism.

They highlighted the need to treat individuals crossing borders with dignity in conformity with international and domestic law and human rights law. They also committed to increasing their

efforts to ensure that national legislation, policies and practices provide to all persons equal and effective protection of the law and prohibit acts of intolerance and discrimination. In line with these OSCE commitments, border management should not be linked to counter-terrorism measures based on assumptions about individuals or groups wishing to migrate.

General human rights principles: regulatory frameworks, effective remedies and oversight

International human rights standards allow restrictions of certain rights, such as the right to privacy and the right to freedom of movement, but only within strictly defined parameters. Any interference with those rights must be prescribed by law, strictly necessary to achieve a legitimate aim, proportionate towards the aim, and not discriminatory. States

may not introduce restrictions that impair the essence of the right in any circumstances. Similarly, there may never be any interference with absolute rights and principles, such as the right to be treated with dignity and without discrimination when crossing borders.

International human rights law not only requires states to refrain from violating human rights but also to protect individuals from undue interference by others, including private persons and companies. States must put in place regulatory and institutional frameworks to guarantee effective exercise of human rights in practice, including and especially in the border management and counter-terrorism contexts, given the unique and often highly discretionary decision-making context at and around the border.

Effective remedies and solid oversight and redress mechanisms

are needed to ensure accountability and prevent violations and human rights. Human rights education and training of those involved in designing and implementing border control and counter-terrorism measures and making decisions in this space are an essential part of such a framework.

The private sector plays an increasing role in the development and operation of border management systems powered by artificial intelligence and biometric technology, as key border management and security functions are being outsourced to private companies. But effective state regulation and control in this field has not caught up with the pace of development. The regulatory and legal space around the use of new technology remains deficient, marked by discretionary decision-making, privatized development and uncertain legal ramifications. States are primarily responsible for ensuring respect for human rights and must put in place clear human rights based frameworks for the use of technology. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (the Ruggie Principles) also set out human rights responsibilities of businesses. Businesses should exercise due diligence to avoid negative human rights impacts arising out of their activities.

Border management and counter-terrorism technologies and systems can impact a wide range of human rights protected under international law. But some human rights are

particularly relevant in this context:

Freedom of movement

Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) affords everyone the right to leave any country, including his/her own, and the right to enter one's own country. Freedom of movement is an indispensable condition for the free development of a person. While the entry of a non-national to the territory of a State may be subject to restrictions, any restrictions must be compliant with international human rights obligations. A non-national may also enjoy the protection of the ICCPR in relation to entry or residence, and any limitations on the right to freedom of movement must take account of other rights such as non-discrimination, prohibition of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and respect for family life.

Right to privacy and data protection

The right to privacy is a "gateway right" – without privacy, the full enjoyment of a broad range of other rights is endangered. The right to privacy is guaranteed under Article 17 of the ICCPR. The protection of personal data is an important element of the right to privacy which is particularly relevant in the context of new technologies for border management and counter-terrorism.

Key data protection principles set out in international standards include that personal data

undergoing automatic processing shall:

(a) be obtained and processed fairly and lawfully;

(b) be stored for specified and legitimate purposes,

(c) be adequate, relevant and not excessive;

(d) be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date; and

(e) be preserved for no longer than is required. Sensitive data (e.g., data revealing ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or other beliefs, health or sexual life, criminal conviction) requires a particularly high level of protection.

Data security and protection against unauthorized access must be ensured; as well as the right for the data subject to know that information is stored on him or her, to have access to such data and to have it corrected, if necessary.

Participating States have committed to protect the right to private and family life, domicile, correspondence and electronic communications, as well as the prevention of arbitrary intrusion in the realm of the individual.

Other rights

New technologies used at the border can also directly and indirectly affect a broad range of other rights; and it can directly and indirectly affect the rights of people in specific need of protection, such as refugees and asylum-seekers, children and victims of trafficking. Depending on what decisions are taken and how they are taken in border management and security, the use of such technology can impact the right to liberty, fair trial and due process standards such as the right to be heard; to a fair, impartial and independent decision-maker; to be provided

with information and reasons for a decision and the right to appeal an unfavourable decision, among others. As will be discussed below, it can expose individuals to violations of the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and lead to undue interferences with freedom of religion or belief. But it can also indirectly affect a person's rights beyond the border context, for example through a chilling effect on the exercise of freedom of expression, assembly and association and knock-on effects on many other rights.

Conclusion

While states have the right to control who enters their territory and an obligation to counter terrorism and other crime, this must be done in full compliance with international human rights standards.

The emergence and growing use of new border management technologies that gather and process large amounts of personal data to track, identify and control those crossing borders poses new challenges for the protection of human rights. Technology is far from neutral. Placing people under suspicion based on assumptions generated by algorithms, discriminatory profiling, surveillance, and privacy and other human rights infringements resulting from the collection, processing and sharing of biometrics, API/PNR and other travel-related data are just some of the human rights risks such technologies entail.

These risks are amplified by a lack of transparency and oversight of systems developed for border management; and they put people in particular situations of vulnerability, such as migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, especially at risk. Over-securitized border management, which denies people their rights and targets those who are in most acute need of protection, will lose the trust of the communities it should serve. Consequently, it will not create more security but less. Human rights protections are a vital tool to ensure effective cross-border security.

Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand Agree to the Live Electronic Exchange of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) with the Philippines

After four testing cycles in December 2021, the Philippines officially joins the live electronic exchange of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) using the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) regional platform.

Through the continued assistance from the ASW Project Management Office (ASW PMO) of the ASEAN Secretariat, three Member States namely: Cambodia, Myanmar, and Thailand have agreed to exchange the live electronic ACDD with the Philippines starting January 21, 2022. Further, Malaysia gave her approval to start the live ACDD exchange on January 25, 2022.

At the 35th ASW Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting, ASEAN Member States agreed on the electronic exchange of the ACDD which includes fifteen (15) mandatory "information parameters"

extracted from the Export Declaration. The ACDD would be used as advanced information to enhance Customs risk targeting and profiling activities. In addition, the availability of the ACDD parameters would provide better visibility to various intelligence, enforcement, and monitoring system of Customs.

In February 2022, a stakeholder consultation will be conducted to finalize the draft Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) covering data protection, regulation of access and network security, and the continuous improvement of the ACDD Portal to meet future needs. Awareness campaigns on the use of the portal, such as virtual training and audio-visual presentations, will also be provided by the Bureau of Customs in coordination with the USAID ASEAN Policy Implementation (API) Project.

The Guardia Civil uncovers a new drug introduction route from North Africa, through the Canary Islands

The Guardia Civil has completed the 'Aristarco' operation, with the dismantling of an experienced criminal group, whose six members have been arrested as alleged perpetrators of crimes against public health, for drug trafficking; and belonging to a criminal organization. As a result of this investigation, the Guardia Civil has uncovered a new drug introduction route in peninsular territory, established through the Canary archipelago.

The investigation began last August, when Murcia Guardia Civil agents found out that a known criminal, a resident of the Murcian municipality of Las Torres de Cotillas, had bought an old tank semi-trailer. His criminal history led to the suspicion that the vehicle could be used to transport drugs. The civil guards found out that he had also rented a tractor head, with the financing of a merchant from Alicante, and that the process for the transfer of the semi-trailer to the Canary Islands had begun, in principle, without any commercial interest.

The surveillance of this vehicle took the civil guards to the Granada municipality of Motril, where they detected how it was loaded with a symbolic amount of sugar cane molasses, one of those used as organic fertilizer, and then continued its route to island territory.

In view of its imminent departure, agents from the Murcia and Las Palmas Guardia Civil Commands coordinated the police devices to carry out the surveillance and investigation of the truck's movements since its arrival at the port.

Carrying out the maritime route with a stop on the island of Lanzarote, the truck reached the island of Fuerteventura, where several individuals were already waiting for it, one of whom was recognized by the agents as an experienced criminal, also a resident of Las Torres de Cotillas, specialized in the manufacture of double bottoms in all types of vehicles.

The investigations carried out on this suspect revealed that, in addition, under the guise of a fruit and vegetable products company, he had established a "front" company on the island to provide legal coverage for drug shipments.

Intercepted when trying to leave Fuerteventura

The interception and examination of the vehicle culminated in the location of 1,600 kilos of hashish, from North Africa, hidden under a sophisticated large-capacity double bottom, clandestinely enabled inside. Subsequently, searches were carried out in the municipalities of Antigua on the island of Fuerteventura (Las Palmas), Las Torres de Cotillas (Murcia) and in the Alicante municipalities of Orihuela and El Pilar de la Horadada, where abundant documentation and related material was seized. with the crimes investigated.

According to the investigation, it is a criminal organization, led by two businessmen from the Alicante transport sector, who had the collaboration of two experienced drug traffickers. Taking advantage of this geographical proximity, they established a platform with which to carry out the shipment of drugs from Morocco to the peninsula, making a stopover in the Canary Islands. It is suspected that some of the drug shipments had other countries in the community as their final destination.

The operation led to the arrest of its six members -five of them Spanish and one Albanian- as alleged perpetrators of crimes against public health and drug trafficking.

2022 WORLD BORDER SECURITY CONGRESS:

LISBON, PORTUGAL

17ᵀᴴ-19ᵀᴴ MAY 2022

The World Border Security Congress moves to Lisbon, Portugal on 17th-19th May 2022, for the next annual gathering for the border security, management and protection community.

World Border Security Congress

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As greater resources are put into stemming the flow of migrants and combatting human trafficking activity in other parts of the Mediterranean, the Portuguese Algarve coastline is increasingly being seen by illegal immigrants, especially those transiting through Morocco, as a gateway to the European continent, and this trend continues to rise.

According to a report in The Portugal News: with its geographical location and historical connections to Latin America, the

Director of the National Unit to Combat Drug Trafficking at the Polícia Judiciária warned that Portugal continues to be a gateway to Europe via it's maritime and air borders, for the transit of significant quantities of cocaine produced in Latin America.

When the first trans-Atlantic narco semi-submersible carrying approximately three tons of cocaine, was seized off the coast of Spain back in 2019, it became clear that with its 1,794 km of west facing Atlantic coastline, that Portugal as well as Spain are the prime

targets for these types of trafficking operations.

In the wider world, climate change will mean that subsistence farming communities and populations depending on grazing animals for their living, in the marginal environments of West Asia and Africa, will find it increasingly difficult simply to survive, and starvation will set large numbers of people on the move, and they will be heading for the prosperous temperate Northern hemisphere.

It is entirely possible that in the coming years we will see people on the move in unprecedented numbers, that could make the 2015 migrant crisis simply seem like a dress rehearsal for what was to come.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level three day event that will once again 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.

The Congress looks forward to welcoming you to Lisbon, Portugal on 17th-19th May 2022 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.

Further details can be viewed at www.world-border-congress.com

Registration is now open to apply for your delegate pass to attend the Congress.

2022 Outline Congress Topics include:

Latest Threats and Challenges at the Border: Serious Organised Crime – Trafficking & Smuggling

Bad actors are always seeking new ways to circumvent border security systems and outsmart immigration services or customs. In this session, we will look at some of the new challenges and the latest modus operandi that organised criminal groups are utilising for Human Trafficking or smuggling of illicit or counterfeit goods.

Latest Threats and Challenges at the Border: Serious Organised Crime – Drugs & Weapons

A major event of 2021 was the US and coalition withdrawal from Afghanistan, the world's largest producer of opium, and the Taliban are deeply involved in the trade. Therefore, in the near future, we should anticipate a significant increase in opium-based drugs finding their way onto the international market. As illicit drug use in the US and Europe shows no sign of dropping, the continents will continue to remain the primary markets for organised crime groups involved in drug trafficking and associated trafficking in weapons. Criminal actors continue to be incredibly creative in developing new methodologies, vehicles, and techniques. This session will discuss some of the evolving threats facing the enforcement community.

Health at our Borders

The global COVID pandemic remains with us and is likely to remain with us for the foreseeable future. It is now also obvious that border control is the first and best option when it comes to controlling the international spread of pathogens, which gives the medical community the time to create the vaccines necessary to protect the global population from the worst effects of the disease. Whilst the World Health Organisation (WHO) takes the lead in developing the new protocols required to contain new COVID variants and other future pandemics, this session will look at the adoption and implementation of new protocols, health certification systems and associated technologies on land, sea and airport borders.

Countering Terrorism & Cross Border Crime

The Taliban's clear inability to stamp out the terrorist groups within Afghanistan means it is probable that the country will once again become a safe haven for terrorists. The continuing conflicts in the Middle East will also continue to provide a fertile breeding ground for terrorism and cross border crime. Cross border criminal activities also continue unabated worldwide, as organised gangs handsomely

profit. The UN mandated adoption of API and PNR, in combination with the more widespread use of watchlists, will be a key factor in countering the movement of FTF's. This session will discuss detecting and countering terrorists and cross border crime through techniques and technologies.

Combating Cultural Heritage & Wildlife Trafficking

UNESCO reports that the illicit trade in cultural goods – of which antiquities trafficking is just a part – is worth $10bn a year and, according to UNODC, wildlife crime is worth between $8-10 billion annually, ranking both alongside human trafficking, and arms and drug dealing in terms of profits.

But the damage to the worlds cultural and environmental heritage is far beyond any financial valuation. This session will discuss what tools and techniques are important in the suppression of this transnational crime and, how awareness and training are key in recognising trafficked goods and spotting the associated fake provenance documents and export certificates. And finally, the importance of sharing information and intelligence across borders about the traffickers and their methods.

Maritime Challenges at the Border and Beyond

Coastlines are the most difficult and dangerous borders to police. From waves of migrants in unseaworthy rubber boats to drug traffickers on jet skis, in speedboats, on yachts and even ocean-going semi-submersibles. Managing maritime borders has multiple challenges, from surveilling and securing extended coastlines, to managing busy and bustling ports. Even jurisdiction between agencies including Coastguards, Navies, Customs, Border Police, Port Police, National Police, and Immigration can be problematic. Especially when these agencies have their stand-alone Command and Control systems and

operational procedures. This session will discuss the challenges and how stakeholders can work together to achieve the best outcome.

Developing Digital Borders – Opportunities and Risks

2022 is something of a landmark year for the implementation and adoption of key digital borders, including the UN mandated adoption of Passenger Name Record (PNR) systems and Europe's ETIAS – European Travel Information and Authorisation System. This session will look at the role of border control and the influence of fighting serious crime and terrorism through API/PNR, ETIAS, Europol /Frontex Interoperability and specific case studies for the roll out of these programmes, and how they can be used for both facilitating legitimate travellers or identifying and targeting criminals.

Future Migration & Trafficking Challenges

As many as 1.75 billion people worldwide (about 38% of the rural population) live on marginal agricultural areas. A U.N. report in August 2021 warned that global warming due to greenhouse gas emissions could breach 1.5C in the next two decades. Agreements made at the COP26 conference failed to make any significant impact on those projections. Major flooding in some parts of the world, and droughts in others, as well as more intense and frequent storms will all make marginal agriculture much more difficult in some areas and untenable in others, which is likely to set millions of people on the move. As global temperatures rise it will directly lead to agricultural and economic crises and mass migration, possibly on a scale that will exceed 2015. This session will discuss how the global border community can be better prepared for mass irregular migration events.

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Closed Agency Workshops

FOR BORDER AGENCIES, AGENCIES AT THE BORDER AND GOVERNEMTN 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 years Closed Agency Only Workshop topics (TBC) are:

Challenges of Inter-Agency And International Information Sharing
Chair: United Nations Center for Counter Terrorism (UNCCT)

Disrupting People Trafficking Routes
Chair: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Biometrics - next steps

Register online at **www.world-border-congress.com/agency-reg**

Workshops also being held during the Congress will be hosted by the African Union ECOSOCC and US ICITAP/DoD - further details available on the website www.world-border-congress.com.

Register Online Today at
www.world-border-congress.com
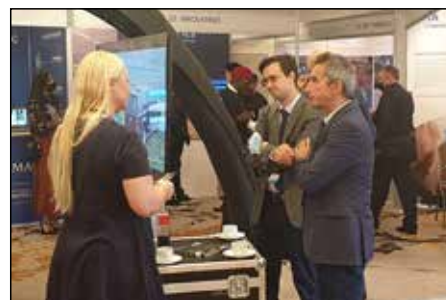
UNODC Enhancing the Criminal Investigation Capacity to Counter Serious and Organized Crime in Somalia

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) within the framework of the Regional Programme for Eastern Africa (2016-2021) is implementing the Criminal Investigation Program (CIP) for Somalia in the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Federal Member States (FMS), funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

The aim of CIP is to strengthen and structure the capacity of the Somali Police Force (SPF) and its CID/CIUs to investigate serious and organized crime in accordance with international treaty obligations and standards as well as developing and operationalizing specialist investigation units.

Achievements from 2021 include 8 Police officers from Puntland, Galmadug and Mogadishu completing modules 1-3 of the UNODC Investigation Management and Administration Training (IMAT). IMAT is part of ongoing mentorship to facilitate the creation of working investigation policies and procedures pertinent to the administration and management requirements of the CID/CIU; 25 police officers who are serving in managerial and/or administrative positions completed IMAT module 4 on Police Management Principles, including Managing a CID/U division, leadership objectives, decision making, change management, motivation, discipline and basic principles of strategic planning; 201 police officers and investigators and 14 prosecutors (Incl. 36 female participants) from across the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Federal Member States graduated the Investigation Development Pathway Course 1.

Additional UNODC support included mentoring CIU's/CIDs on the investigation of 332 criminal cases. The UNODC mentors supported the chiefs of investigations across the FMS and Mogadishu by advising on the processing of crime scenes, interviewing of witnesses and suspects, advised on how to handle the victims professionally, especially victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases, as well as UNODC supported all the FMS in terms of providing DNA kits and assisted with the process of sending requests for analysis to the forensic laboratory in Garowe.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

A SERIES OF HIGHLY RELEVANT AND INFORMATIVE DISCUSSIONS FOR THE BORDER MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY.

Webinar: The Migration Crisis in the Digital Age: How the Use of Smartphones and Technology has Impacted Migration and Trafficking
Tues 8th Feb - 9am EST / 2pm UK / 3pm CET

Webinar: Technological Race and Maritime Border (In) Security
Tues 22nd Feb - 9am EST / 2pm UK / 3pm CET

Combatting Wildlife Trafficking, Contraband and Smuggling
Weds 9th March - 9am EST / 2pm UK / 3pm CET

For more details and to register visit **www.border-security-report.com/webinars**

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Tony Kingham talks to Rahel Getachew at Securiport about the company's border management and civil aviation solutions.

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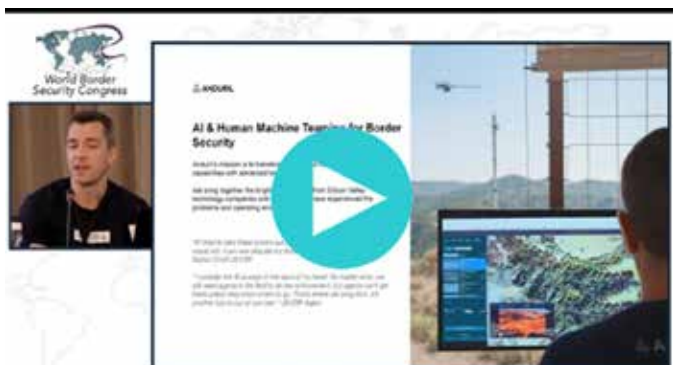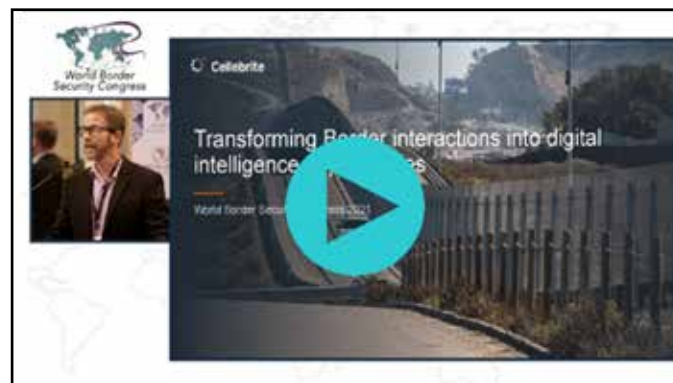### Trends, Threats and Securing Extended Land Borders

View directly at www.border-security-report.com/
land-borders-webinar

Watch more videos at **www.border-security-report.com/industry-videos**

Veridos equips Luxembourg airport with EES-compliant registration systems

Veridos has been commissioned to equip Luxembourg's international airport with registration solutions for the new European border control system EES (Entry-Exit System). The order includes self-service pre-registration kiosks, mobile pre-registration solutions and biometric acquisition units for security booths.

The European Union's new entry-exit system is scheduled to start in May 2022 and will help to make the entry and exit of third-country nationals simpler, more transparent and more secure. People from third countries will have to register with their fingerprints and a facial image when entering the Schengen area. The biometric data will be stored together with information from passports in the central EES. This will eliminate the need for time-consuming manual stamping of passports and enables an automated passport verification. Thus, the system provides reliable data on border crossings, avoids identity fraud, and detects forged travel documents as well as illegal immigration by revealing overstayed visa.

As part of the EES, Veridos, a leading global provider of identity solutions, will equip the Luxembourg Airport with registration technologies, including a self-service eKiosk system that allows travelers to pre-register themselves before proceeding to the screening booths. The eKiosks capture the fingerprints of travelers, take facial images and read passports. They also guide travelers with a menu through questions about their destination, length of stay, and additional members of their parties.

Smiths Detection collaborates with Microsoft and Heathrow to develop AI tool to uncover wildlife trafficking

Smiths Detection has collaborated with Microsoft and Heathrow in the development of a first of its kind multispecies AI model designed to uncover illegally trafficked wildlife concealed in baggage and air cargo.

Initial testing of the algorithm which took place at Heathrow has shown a success rate of over 70% in identifying trafficked animals, including ivory.

As part of Project SEEKER, an extensive library of X-ray images taken from Smiths Detection's CTX 9800 baggage scanners at Heathrow were used to train the Microsoft AI for Good model. The machines can screen up to 250,000 bags a day, generating a multitude of data for inspection.

Globally, illegal wildlife trafficking is among the five most lucrative global crimes and is often run by highly organised criminal networks. Combatting wildlife trafficking could therefore cut off revenue streams to organised crime and help stop animal poaching in its tracks. Tackling the issue could also contribute to the reduction of Zoonotic diseases (animal to human) which have been recently linked to wildlife trafficking.

"The trial has demonstrated that using AI-powered technology to automatically uncover threats and contraband significantly reduces operator burden," said Richard Thompson, Market Director, Aviation at Smiths Detection.

3DX-RAY Launches the New ThreatScan®-AS1

3DX-Ray are specialists in the field of X-ray imaging for the security and industrial inspection markets, announces the market launch of the ThreatScan®-AS1 integrated portable X-Ray system for bomb squads and security professionals worldwide

The new system is the first from 3DX-Ray to use an amorphous silicon detector panel, as opposed to the linescan technology used in other ThreatScan® systems. Additionally, the system is highly integrated, with the primary display, computer, communications and power supplies fully integrated into a single, rugged case. Quick and simple to deploy, the system produces extremely high-quality real-time x-ray images for rapid and accurate decision making.

With the addition of secondary tablet display, ThreatScan®-AS1 offers a highly flexible system for a wide variety of threat scenarios. Ideal for use by First Responders, EOD teams, Counter Surveillance, and Borders and Customs and Event Security.

The system also incorporates a new, higher energy, version of the Company's iGen portable X-ray generator.

The combination of technologies used in ThreatScan®-AS1 offers exceptional X-ray imaging performance, advanced material discrimination, and Image Scan's sophisticated image processing software.

IDEMIA launches a new generation of MorphoWave contactless fingerprint terminals

In the context of a global health crisis, implementating contactless authentication terminals is now crucial in many public and private spaces; allowing a faster, more secure, and barrier-free biometric authentication.

In 2022, two new versions will be available for worldwide deployment:

MorphoWave™ XP X-tended Performance provides a 20% increase in performance compared with the previous generation, itself recognized as one of the best in the world in the latest NIST rankings. It accomodates demanding deployments with up to 60 users per minute and up to 100,000 user records. Its large color display is ideal for brand customization and user interaction as well as time and attendance management use cases.

MorphoWave™ SP Simplified Profile, offers all the essence of MorphoWave to make IDEMIA space security solutions accessible to a larger number of players: smaller installations and companies with less demanding requirements with up to 40 users per minute and up to 10,000 user records.

Both versions leverage the "plug & play" features of Compact, including software integrations with 20 leading access control platforms as well as physical integrations with leading gates/turnstiles manufacturers to enable simpler and more cost-effective deployments.

Dione S 1280 has been announced the new high-resolution uncooled long-wave infrared (LWIR) SWaP core from Xenics

Xenics is Europe's leading developer and manufacturer of advanced infrared sensors, cameras and customized imaging solutions from the short-wave infrared (SWIR) to the LWIR realm.

Dione S 1280 is a SXGA LWIR camera core optimized to meet today's increased demand for smaller size, lower weight, higher resolution and lower power (SWaP) with the highest performance. It is the cutting-edge LWIR core for the safety and security market and industrial applications. Dione S 1280 is the last brick of the Dione family of uncooled LWIR solutions which completes the LWIR high-resolution offer from Xenics.

SWaP and High-resolution with no compromise on performances

After the release, last spring, of the high-performance Dione S 640, Xenics moves to the high-resolution version: based on the 12µm last generation SXGA (1280x1024) microbolometer detection, Dione S 1280 offers the ultimate combo of high-resolution, high-performance, SWaP camera with ultra-fast adaptation to the environment capability.

Steadicopter unveils its unique RUAV Black Eagle 50 Electric

Steadicopter, has unveiled the Black Eagle 50 Electric – the newest model in its RUAV family – powered by electric motors, and designed for a wide range of law enforcement, border, maritime, civilian and covert missions..

The Black Eagle 50 Electric is the first electrically-powered unmanned helicopter with a maximum takeoff weight of 50 kg and useful load weight of 30 kg, comprising payload and batteries, capable of up to two hours of flight time. This enables high performance and maximum operational flexibility for both security forces and civilian applications, such as search & rescue, cyber, intelligence, gas & oil rigs, and high-end naval missions.

The electrically-powered engine has significantly reduced the weight of the air vehicle, enabling additional, much required, payload capacity for a variety of missions. With an empty weight of only 20 kg as a platform, the Black Eagle 50 Electric has the capacity to carry additional batteries for longer flights, heavier payloads, and more. With a wide range of mission payloads, the system provides the highest level of mission versatility for covert operations.

World Border Security Congress

17th - 19th May 2022

LISBON, PORTUGAL

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Developing Border Strategies Through Co-operation and Technology

SAVE THE DATES

Portugal is the westernmost state of mainland Europe, being bordered to the west and south by the Atlantic Ocean and to the north and east by Spain. Its territory also includes the Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira. Portugal has a rich cultural heritage which is shared across the globe as a consequence of its colonial past.

Portugal has a highly developed economy and is a much-visited tourist destination. Portugal's geographical position makes it the gateway to the Mediterranean and a stopover for many foreign airlines at several airports within the country.

Portugal is also part of the Schengen area and has been an early adopter of biometrics and eGate technology.

With their experience of being in the frontline of the smuggling of drugs and illicit goods from the Atlantic, THB and economic migration challenges from Africa, Portugal is the perfect place re-convene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

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 look forward to welcoming you to Lisbon, Portugal on 17th-19th May 2022 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.

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