

4 NETWORKS DAY

Online conference

21 May 2021



EU FORUM OF JUDGES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
UE FORUM DES JUGES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

EU GREEN WEEK 2021 PARTNER EVENT



EU multi-annual Policy Cycle
to tackle Organised and
Serious International Crime:
current situation and options
for next Cycle (2022-2025)

ZERO #EUGreenWeek
POLLUTION
for healthier people and planet

Hosted by :



4 NETWORKS DAY



EU FORUM OF JUDGES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
UE FORUM DES JUGES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Together in the fight against environmental crime

Date: 21 May 2021

Time: 09:00 - 12:30 | 13:30 - 16:15 CET

Location: online, hosted by LIFE+ SATEC



WHAT IS THE EU POLICY CYCLE



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WHAT IS THE EU POLICY CYCLE

SOCTA

- Analysis of the present and future threats posed by serious and organised crime
- Delivered by Europol
- Set of recommended crime priorities

MASP

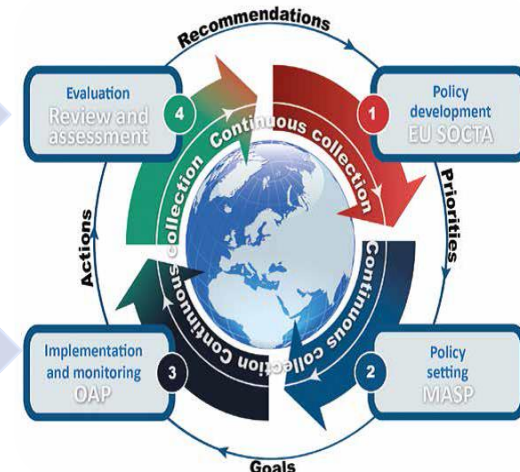
- List of 'strategic goals' that should be achieved during the cycle
- Approved by the Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security (COSI)

OAP

- MASPs are implemented by Operational Action Plans
- Joint member states/agencies action carried out as EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats) projects
- COSI approves the OAPs and monitors their implementation

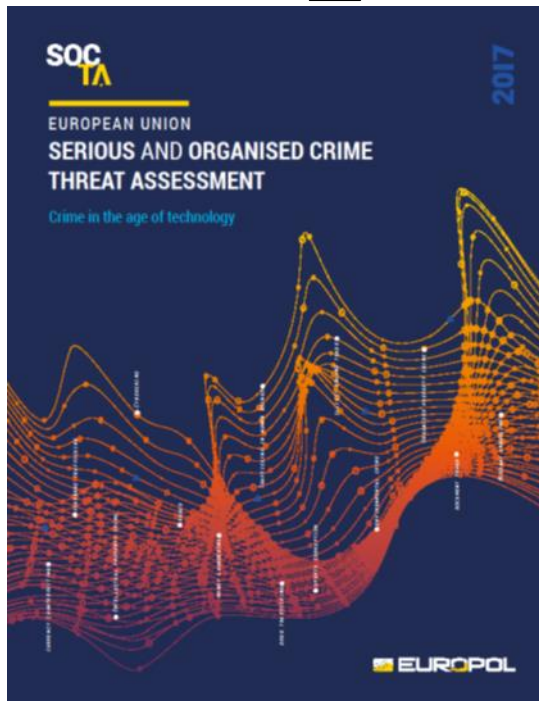
Review and Assessment

- Annual reporting (Drivers and Europol) provides opportunities to adapt/modify the MASPs
- Mid-term and final assessment of the results of the actions by COSI
- The Commission conducts independent evaluation at the end of the Policy Cycle



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EU POLICY CYCLE 2018-2021



2018-2021 EU CRIME PRIORITIES (adopted in May 2017)

DISRUPTING

- Cybercrime in particular attacks against information systems, child sexual exploitation, and non-cash payment fraud.
- Production, trafficking and distribution of cannabis, cocaine, heroin.
- Production, trafficking and distribution of new psychoactive substances and synthetic drugs.
- Facilitation of illegal immigration by providing facilitation services to irregular migrants along the main migratory routes crossing the external border of the EU and within the EU, particularly focussing on those whose methods endanger people's lives, those offering their services online and making use of document fraud as part of their business model.
- Organised property crime committed by highly mobile organised crime groups carrying out organised thefts and burglaries across the EU.
- Trafficking in human beings in the EU for all forms of exploitation, including sexual and labour exploitation as well as all forms of child trafficking.

Public fraud and Money Laundering, Corruption, AT/FCI fraud

- Environmental crime, more particularly wildlife and illicit waste trafficking.

recovery.

- Document fraud in the EU, in particular organised crime groups involved in the production and provision of fraudulent and false documents to other criminals.



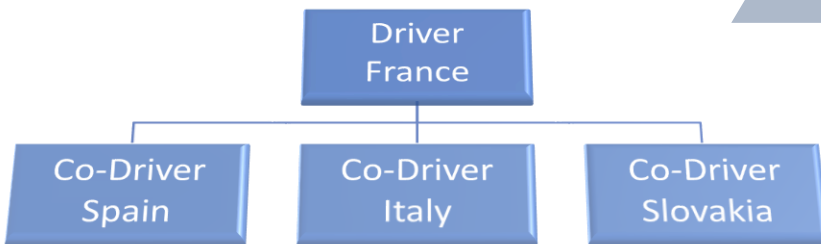
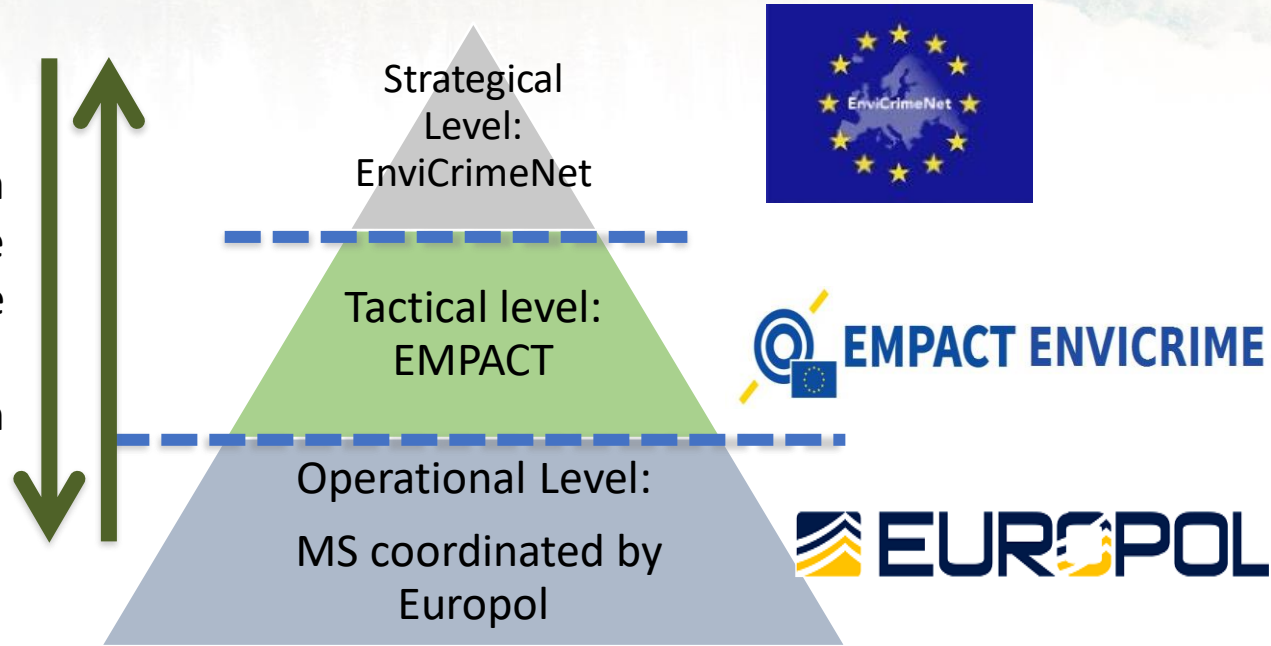
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EU POLICY CYCLE 2018-2021

EnviCrimeNet representatives:

- hold positions of high responsibility in the EMPACT – Envicrime management
- are active participants in Operational Actions



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EU POLICY CYCLE 2018-2021

STARTING POINT IN 2018

Main difficulties faced:

- new project without prior references;
- criminal investigation capabilities quite limited and not homogeneous to fight against environmental crime.

It is fair to acknowledge the work carried out mainly by France (EMPACT Driver).



Hard work supported by Europol and the Member States



- Operational actions developed
- Networking and cooperation improved
- EMPACT helped to put the preservation of the environment on the political agenda from that necessary multidisciplinary perspective.



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EU POLICY CYCLE 2018-2021

CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE FIRST IMPACT

Characteristics that make environmental crime a very different typology

Silent crime
It does not have
a level of social
awareness that
causes alarm

Criminal activity
indistinguishable
from legal
activity

Need of
competences in
the
administrative
and criminal field

Police cross
border
cooperation

Scarcity of means
available to the
Environmental
Criminal
Investigation
Units

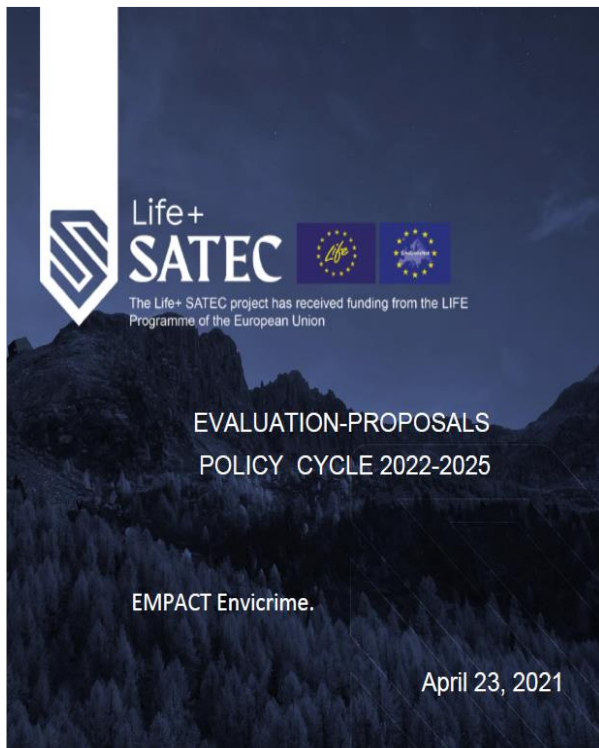


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EU POLICY CYCLE 2018-2021

IMPACT'S OUTCOMES – SOCTA CONCLUSIONS



- Linking the EMPACT results to the SOCTA findings would offer a vision that does not reflect reality.
- A four-year term is too short to achieve a change of mentality in a field as complex as this.
- The conclusions of the SOCTA must necessarily be derived from an objective methodology such as the one applied.
- Member States are making an extraordinary effort in the development of operations that have not necessarily been properly reflected in the SOCTA.



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IMPACT'S OUTCOMES – SOCTA CONCLUSIONS

- SOCTA faithfully reflects the information transmitted by the MS, once the methodology for the report has been applied;
- In some cases, the activity carried out by the MS has not been correctly transmitted to Europol (*due to the lack of personnel or to the low level of knowledge about procedures*);
- Reflection on SOCTA methodology applied to the crime against the environment should be considered;
- The impact on the EU (and the Planet) of the criminal activities against the environment needs to be evaluated from a broader perspective, in which the SOCTA offers an important but not exhaustive vision.



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EU POLICY CYCLE 2022-2025

SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

No agreed definition of environmental crime

Wide-ranging criminal activities

Growing sector
worth of 258 billion \$
(+5/7%per year)

Mainly
Wild Life Crime
Waste Trafficking

OCG's benefits from
globalization by leveraging
on easier and faster
communication, freedom of
movement for people and
goods

it is a varied area of interest
for the criminal groups
(Worried Phenomenon)



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EU POLICY CYCLE 2022-2025

...Environmental crime at EU level should address any crime associated with:

Waste and pollution related crimes

Wildlife crimes (including timber trafficking), IUU fisheries, poaching, illegal harvesting, illegal poisoning

Any crimes that result in the loss of biodiversity (forest fires, urban planning linked to protected areas, introduction of invasive species, irregular trade and use of pesticides)

Any crimes linked to this phenomenon such as money laundering, tax evasion, document fraud, corruption, public tenders illegal assignment, as well as cyber-crimes



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FUTURE PERSPECTIVES POLICY CYCLE 2022-2025

Paris Agreement

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030

EU Wildlife Action Plan

EU Green Deal

Next Generation EU

Directives on Circular Economy

Concrete examples of the clear and strong direction assumed by the European Union in order to make what can be named “the Green Revolution” real



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FUTURE PERSPECTIVES POLICY CYCLE 2022-2025



Excellent tool aligned with the current and future needs and focused on the aspect of fighting environmental crime.

“Situational Awareness” in favour of the States, consisting of:

- the knowledge of the phenomenon;
- its comprehension;
- and, above all, its projection in the future



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FUTURE PERSPECTIVES POLICY CYCLE 2022-2025

CONCLUSION

Environment
Preservation has
strongly entered the
EU's political agenda

1. Environment preservation needs a multidisciplinary vision.
2. Environmental Crime, as a part of this huge European commitment, also requires an overall vision to efficiently tackle it.
3. EMPACT Envicrime has proven to be an excellent tool to introduce the necessary multidisciplinary component to tackle this threat.
4. Three essential aspects should be improved in the immediate future:
 - More and better-trained units specialized in investigations;
 - Harmonized legislation to facilitate cross-border investigation. Today we also share a great opportunity in the framework of the EcoCrime Directive as a clear example of the correct way;
 - Environmental Priority should be open to any associated crime as previously described.



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FUTURE PERSPECTIVES POLICY CYCLE 2022-2025

CONCLUSION

The next future will pose new challenges to all European countries, deeply affected and changed by an unforeseen event such as the pandemic of Covid 19: hence, environment and the strategy to tackle the criminality operating in this field – which is going to take advantage from the extraordinary measures approved by the EU institutions and by the countries - need to assume a central role in our lives.

EMPACT Envicrime represents an adequate tool to better address and coordinate the actions in the near future scenario.



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YOUR KIND
ATTENTION!

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Ltc. Fabio De Rosa
Italian Carabinieri Corps
EnviCrimeNet