



SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION

1. SUMMARY OF THE CONTEXT AND OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

(for the final period include conclusions of the action)

@ON Network enables the partner Countries to obtain in short time relevant information and to carry out focused police cooperation services, on the spot, to better dismantle organised criminal networks - top level OCGs, including Italian mafia groups, Russian speaking organizations, ethnic Albanians as well as Outlaws Motorcycle Gangs and related money laundering activities.

Thanks to the ONNET Project it was possible to improve the cooperation between MS Police authorities and the exchange of best practices, enhancing information exchange, to work out a better intelligence framework and to deploy @ON investigators, specialised in the criminal phenomenon under investigation.

The ability of @ON Network and Europol to analyze data coming from different sources allowed to develop a wider investigative intelligence picture of OCGs in the EU.

Through the ONNET **Project operational** activities it was possible to promote and **support the transnational investigations**; conduct **Operational Missions** by @ON Network investigators, supporting on the spot the requesting LEAs, use **Special Tactics** (rental of technical equipment and payment for informants) in accordance with the procedures in force at the LEAs involved.

2. WORK PERFORMED FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT TO THE END OF THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE REPORT AND MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED SO FAR (for the final period please include an overview of the results and their exploitation and dissemination)

The **Project** aims to:

- a. **enlarge the @ON Network**;
- b. **promote the operational exchange of information and good practices**;
- c. **deploy @ON investigators on the spot**.

As to point a., the number of participants joining the ON Network has increased so far, from **6** (Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Belgium and The Netherlands, as Core Group members), together with Europol, to **24 Countries**, representing **29 LEAs** (Hungary, Austria, Romania, Australia, Malta, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Poland, Croatia, Georgia, Norway, Albania, Portugal, USA, Sweden, Canada and Latvia).

In order to **promote the operational exchange of information and good practices in countering criminal organizations** (point b) **2 Operational Conferences** (OC) were organized.

In particular, on 16 April 2019, the first OC on “countering strategies against transnational organized crime” was held at The Hague (NL), at Europol HQ. It was attended by representatives

of EU Parliament, European Commission, Antimafia and Anti-terrorism National Direction, Eurojust, Europol, DIA, Italian police forces, as well as representatives of the Departments of criminal police of the main European police units and Third States (about **100** delegates, representing **25 Countries**).

In **September 2021** the second OC, on the *Fight against top level and mafia style organised crime – challenges for Police Forces and for Judicial Authorities*, was held in Palermo (IT) with about **148** delegates, representing **31 Countries**.

In this way, as a united front, it was possible to urge the EU Institutions on the need to harmonize the legal system so to hinder criminal organizations from taking advantage of the legislative gaps and from reinvesting their illicit proceeds, jeopardizing the EU safety and economy.

As to item **c. ONNET has allowed:**

- **to support 55 investigations in favour of LEAs partners;**
- **to organize 13 strategic meetings and 54 operational meetings leading to 171 operational missions, deploying on site 736 investigators of LEAs;**
- **to arrest 287 members of organized criminal groups;**
- **to apprehend 5 fugitives;**
- **to seize about 11.3 million euros, drugs and weapons.**

The investigations were focused mainly on **37** Italian mafia criminal organizations; **7** Albanian nationals, **1** Outlaws Motorcycle Gangs and **3** Euro-Asian criminal Networks;

Investigations mainly concerned intercontinental **trafficking and manufacturing of narcotics** in Europe destined for the whole EU territory, but also the **laundering of crime proceeds**.

Europol's Analysis Service also matched further data: **3432 suspects; 2203 enterprises; 222 bank accounts; 621 vehicles; 23372 telephone no.**

3. PROGRESS BEYOND THE STATE OF THE ART, POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND (IF APPLICABLE) EXPECTED RESULTS UNTIL THE END OF THE PROJECT

ONNET Project **implemented police cooperation to combat top-level and mafia-style criminal organizations**, as such, regardless of the crime committed and improved the intelligence picture of OCGs in the EU, raising the awareness on this threat and increasing police cooperation between MSs.

ONNET ensured its activities a full European dimension, financing @ON Network operational actions and giving importance to the EU Institutions, in cooperation with Europol and Eurojust.

These activities are increasingly indispensable for an effective prevention and fight against *mafia-type* organizations and for the seizure and confiscation of illicit asset reinvested in the EU legal economy.

The ONNET potential impact, is in line with the fundamental principles outlined by the Convention (Palermo 2000) and has another essential objective: to ensure that the fight against **the most dangerous organised crime groups** becomes a **priority** within the framework of the EU's Policy Cycle (2021-2027).

It is expected that, the Project will have a long-term impact on MS LEA operational activities, developing an alternative and complementary approach to EMPACT priorities, supporting a new counteraction model in combating top-level OCGs and mafia-type structures, using Europol as a primary intelligence exchange channel.

Partner Countries have directly **benefited** from the Project support and could maximize the positive outcome of ONNET, but all EU MS could indirectly benefit from ONNET positive results, improving their respective effectiveness in countering criminal activities.

As result, in the long run, also MSs who are not part of @ON could benefit from the Network, since OCGs, which are highly mobile and flexible by nature, will probably shift their centre of gravity to countries where law enforcement counteraction is limited.

The expansion of the Network will allow, as potential impact, to raise the awareness of the counterparts on the threat posed by top level OCGs and *mafia-type* groups. At the same time, it will raise the awareness of **the EU and national institutions** on the need to harmonize the legislative framework on organised crime, keeping pace with ever-changing *modus operandi* of criminal organizations.

Based on the above, the necessary **trust relationship** between the LEAs and police operators was significantly promoted, developing the information flow between Countries and **improving EUROPOL's analytical products** in qualitative and quantitative terms.

In this context, more operational developments and further significant operational results are expected in **2022**, although it is difficult to make predictions, being it a sensitive issue.

4. ADDRESS OF THE PROJECT'S PUBLIC WEBSITE

<https://direzioneeinvestigativaantimafia.interno.gov.it/>