

Panel 3: Striking the right balance between security concerns and protecting the human

The reform of the European Union's external borders management

Peter Webinger, Director-General for Migration and International Affairs
Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior

Facts and Figures

Analysis

Approaches for a fair and humane System

27 000

Irregular migration via Central Mediterranean Route

between 2011-2016: 630,000 people

Figure 1: Irregular migrant and refugee flows to Italy (crossing the Central Mediterranean), 2011-2016

Number of migrants arriving, dead or missing

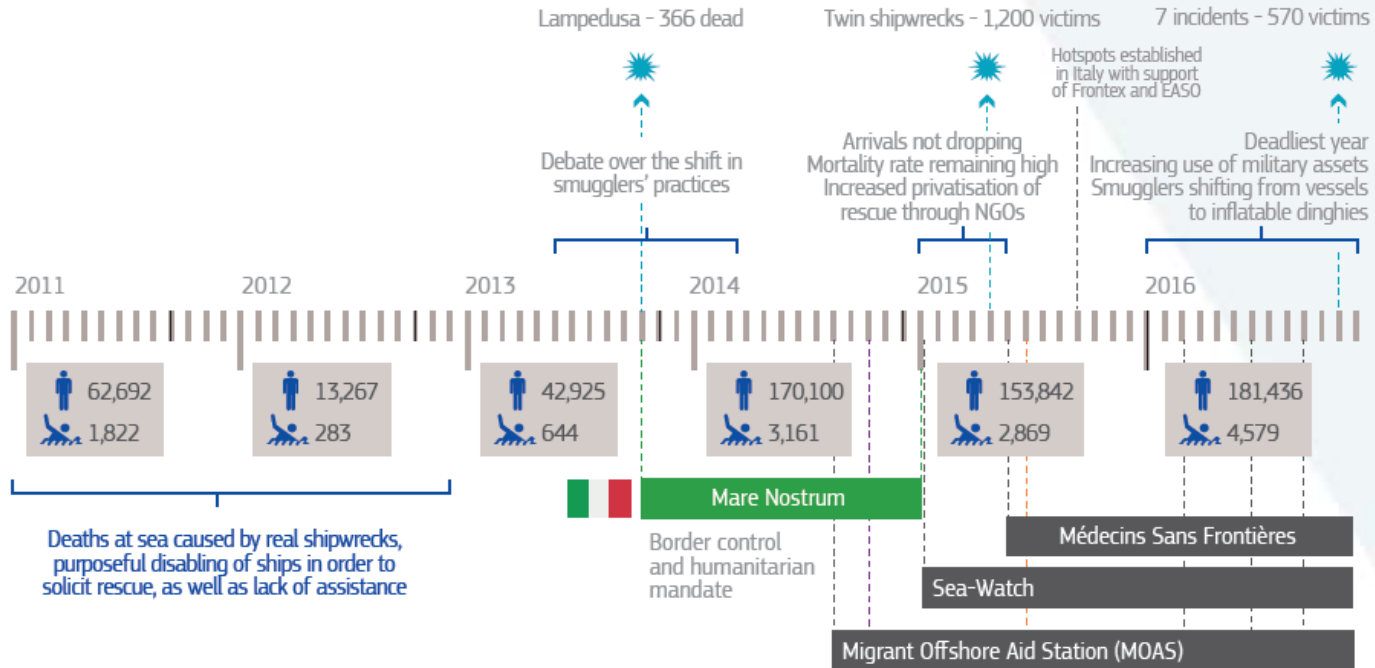
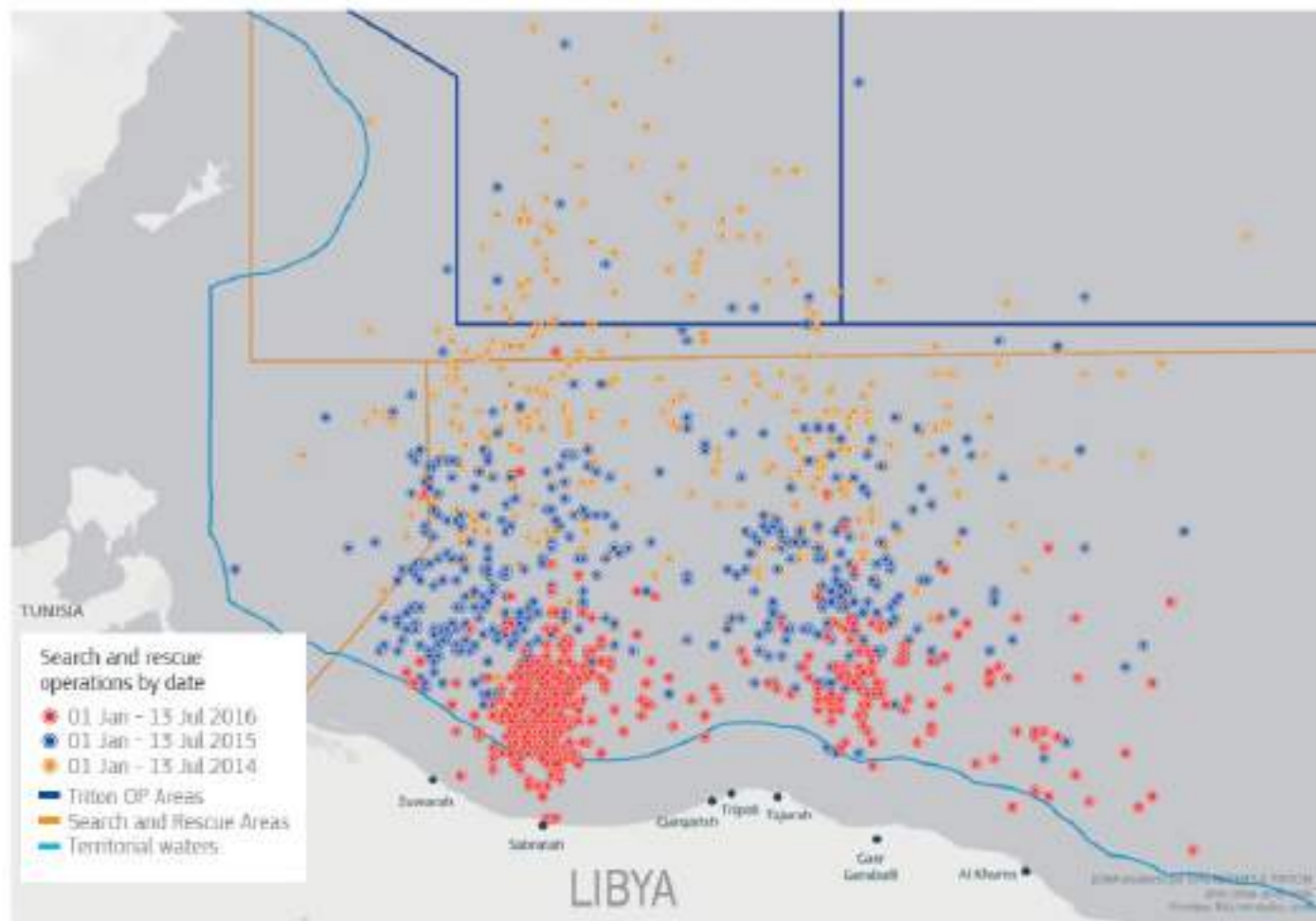


Figure 7: Search and rescue operations moving closer to the Libyan coast line

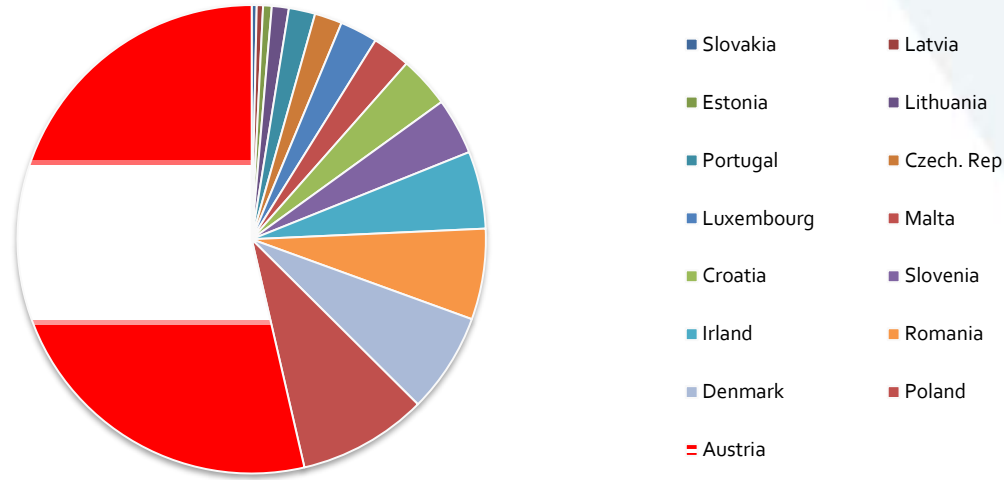


Source: Frontex

1 000

Comparison of Asylum Applications

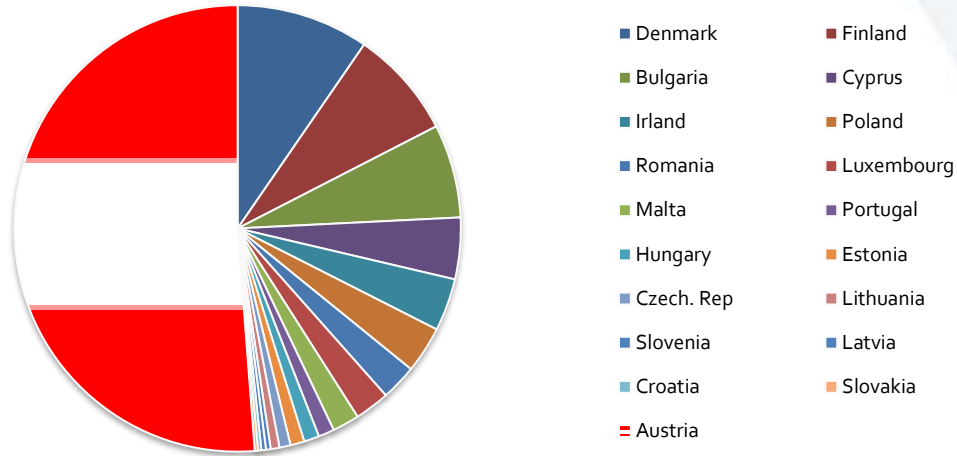
2015 - 2022



More asylum applications lodged in **Austria** than in **14 EU MS** combined

Protection status granted (1st instance)

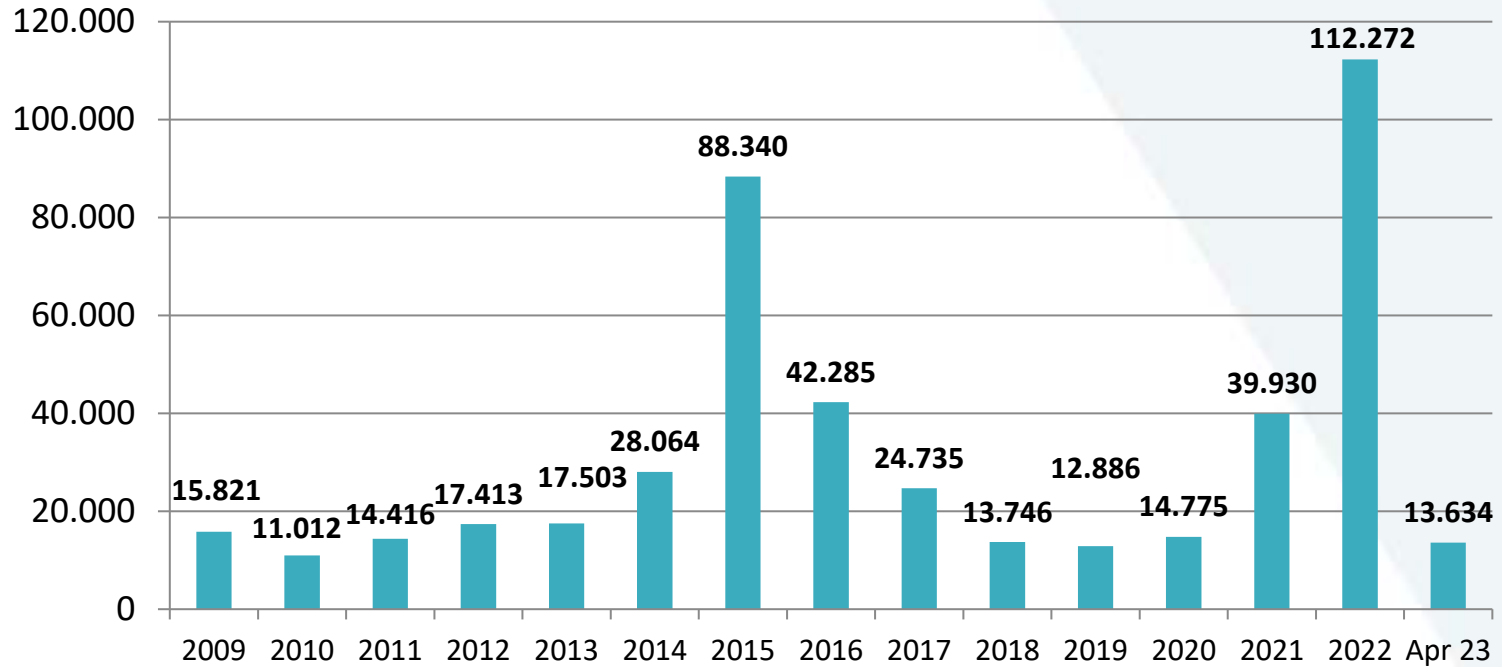
2015 - 2022



**More protection granted by
Austria than in 18 EU MS combined**

Asylum Applications in Austria

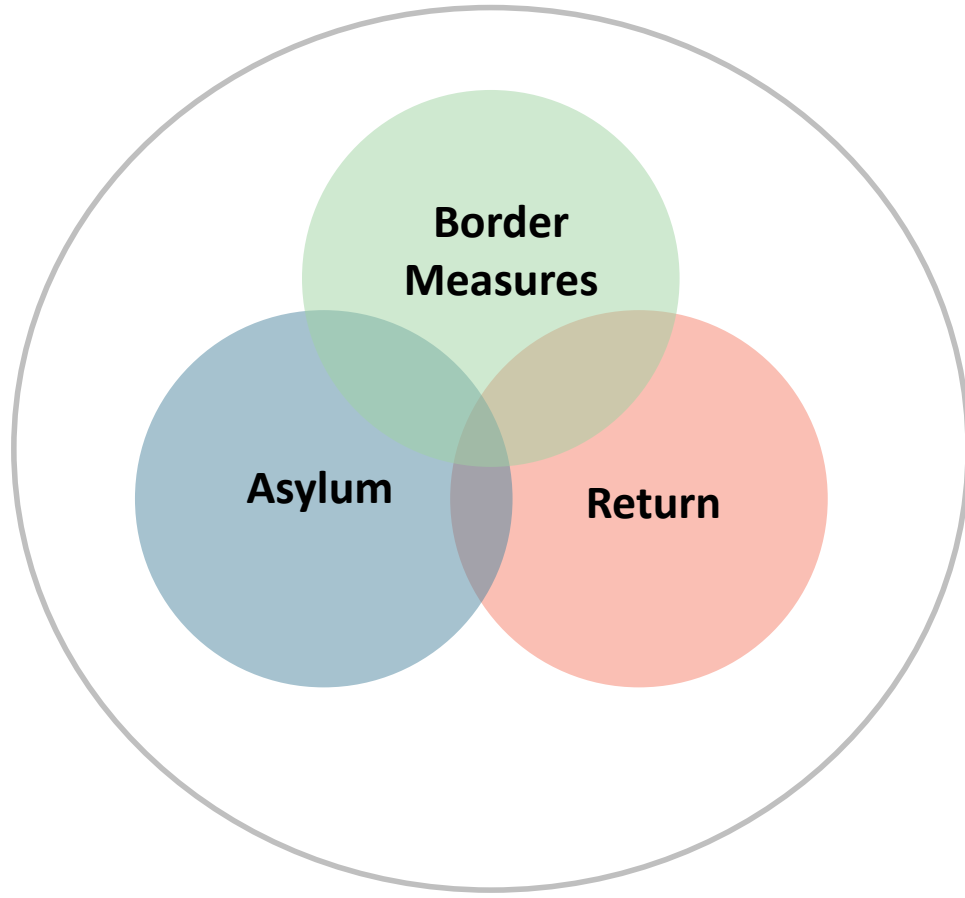
2009–2022



Analysis

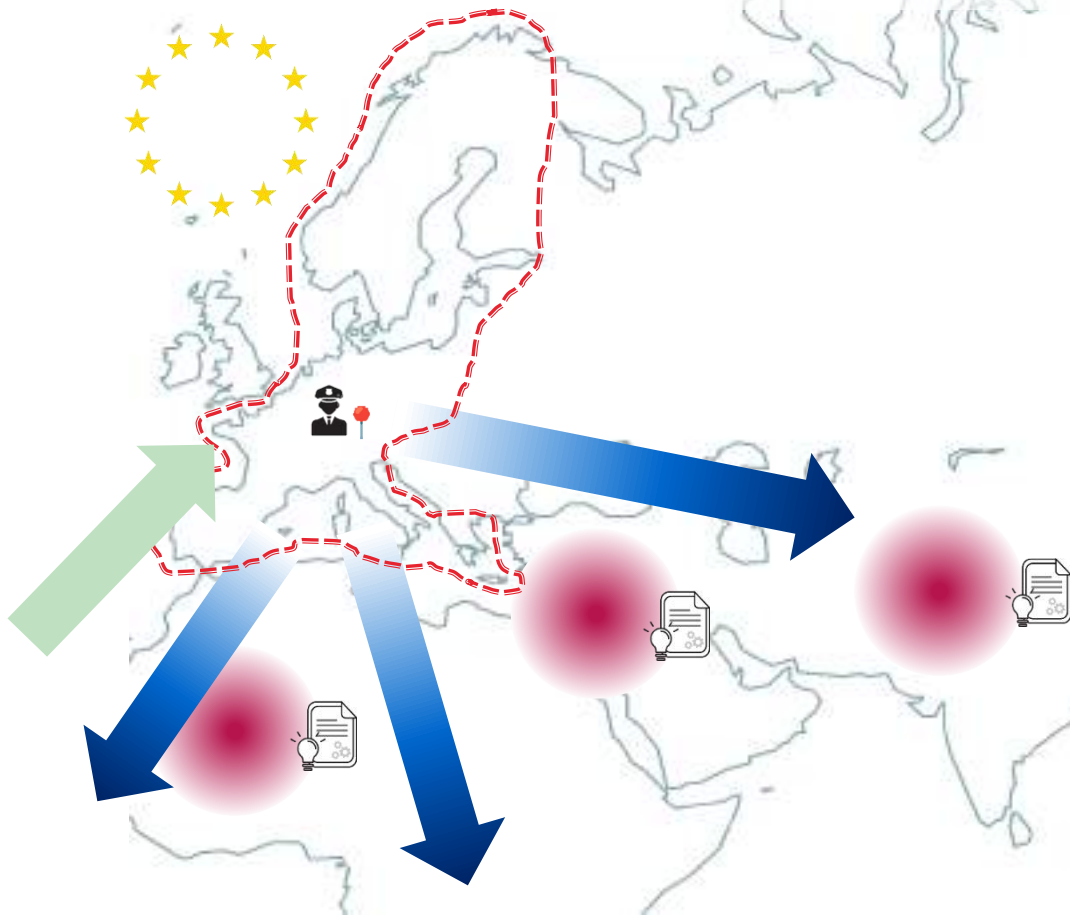
Europe developed its protection system in a pre-globalized world....

... and still applies it in a globalized one.



Integrated Border Management

Fair and humane protection and border system

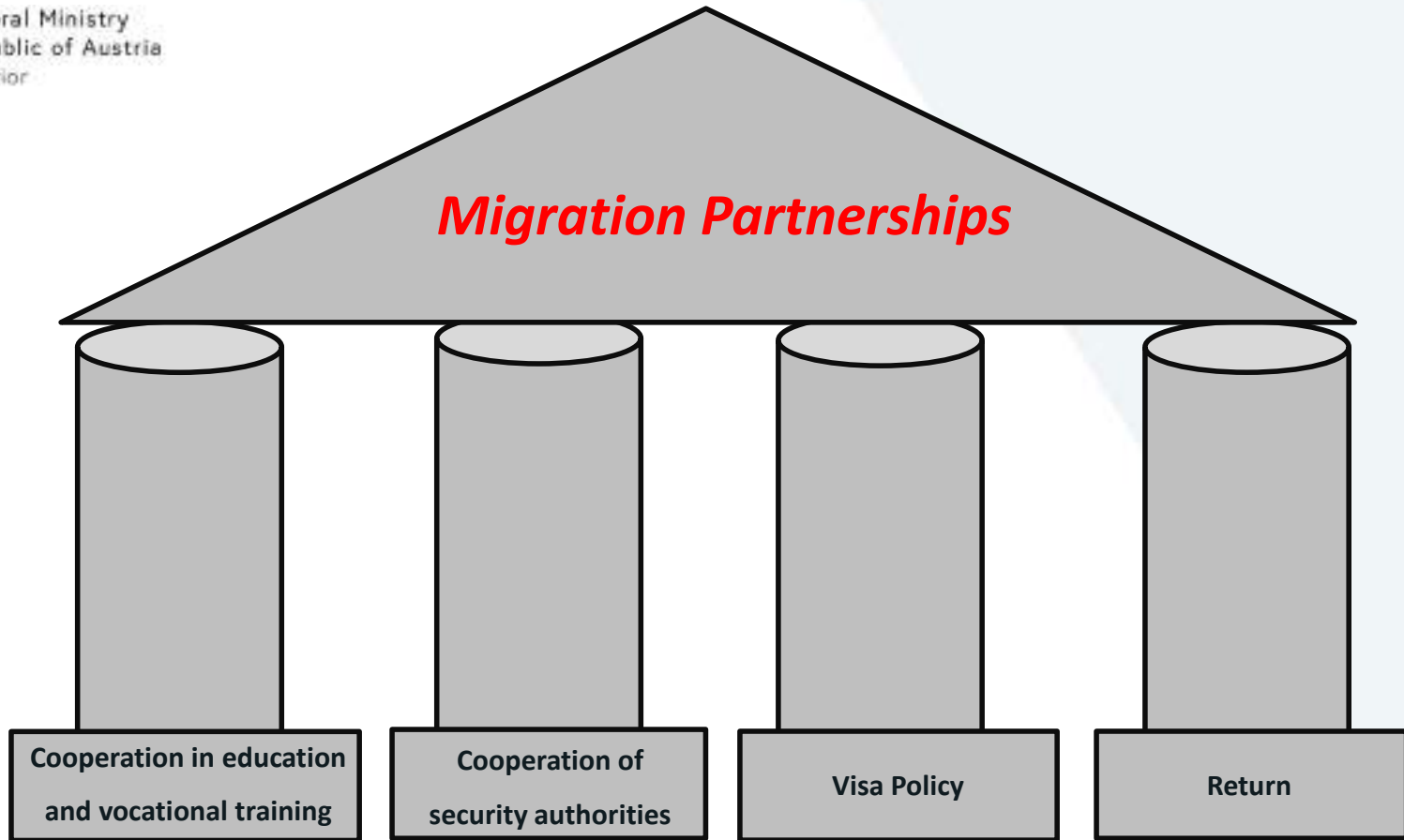


1. Efficient National Systems

2. Integrated Border Management

3. External Dimension – Mutual Respect & Partnership

4. Safe and legal Pathways



Thank you for your attention!

Merci pour votre attention!



RABAT PROCESS HUMANISED BORDER MANAGEMENT

**POLICIA NACIONAL -
BLUE SHIELD**

**Enrique Morales Arias
UCRIF - International and Institutional Relations.
Policía Nacional**



1988



2006



2018



2020



- Migration is a phenomenon originated by multiple causes.
- Influence in migration by different factors (Technological transformation, Geopolitical changes, Enviromental variations, Economy...).
- Migration is a phenomenon that requires a multiapproach startegy, involving different stakeholders.
- Need of a holisitic action to tackle migration.
- Key relevance of the implication of regional and local actors and authorities.

- KEY ELEMENTS:
 - Priority is HUMAN LIVES.
 - Combat the phenomenon in the origin.
 - Need for COOPERATION with Regional and Local Actors and Authorities.
 - PARTNERSHIP
 - SUPPORT
 - COORDINATION
 - PREVENTION
 - PROTECTION & ASSISTANCE





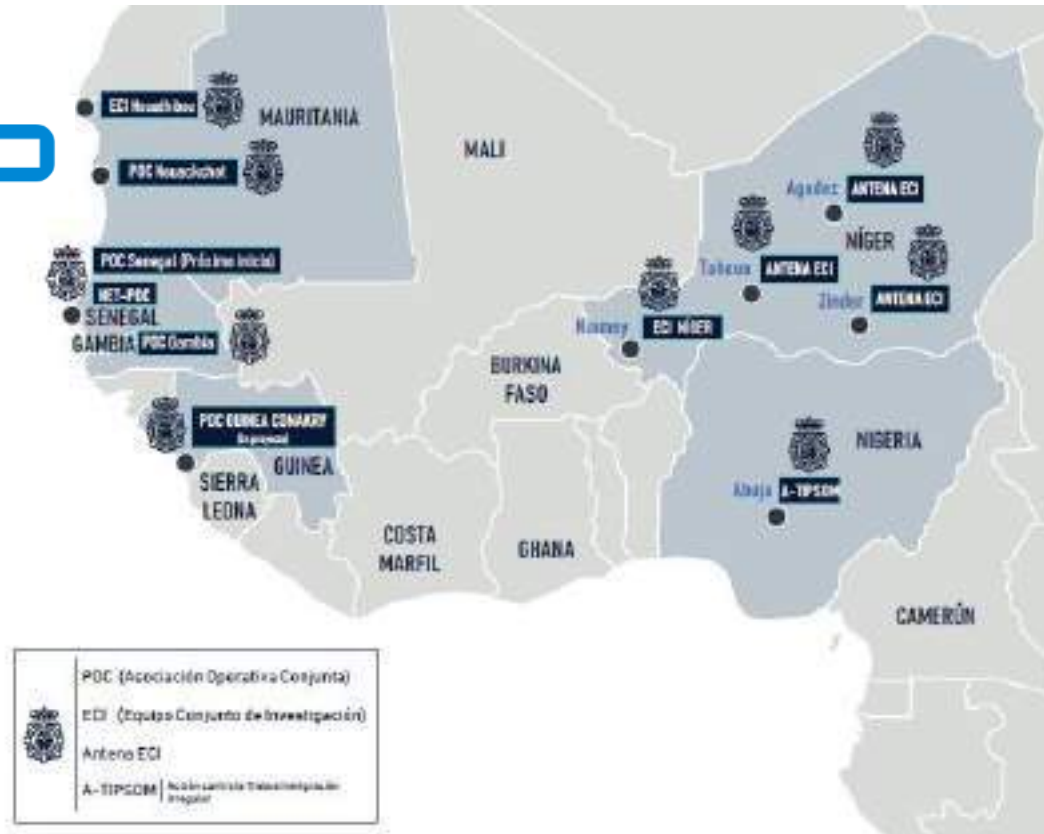
BLUE SHIELD



- Promotion of a serie of Joint Investigation Teams, Common Operational Partnerships, and Projects in and with countries of origin.
- Strengthening the capacities, at operational and judicial levels.
- Operational actions, investigations, logistic support...
- Mentoring, trainings, study visits, coaching...



BLUE SHIELD



BLUE SHIELD

- MAURITANIA:
 - ECI Noudhibou (2008).
 - POC Nuakchot (2022). EU funded.
- SENEGAL:
 - SENSEC EU – POC SENEGAL (2019 – 2023). EU funded.
 - NETCOP (2021). EU funded.
 - Helicopter deployment (2006)
- GAMBIA:
 - COP Gambia(2021). EU funded.

BLUE SHIELD

- **NIGERIA:**
 - A-TIPSOM. EU funded.
- **NIGER:**
 - ECI Niger. EU funded.
- **POC GUINEA CONAKRY:**
 - Pending of cooperation agreement to be approved by the Parliament in Spain.



Inspector Enrique MORALES ARIAS

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Réunion thématique sur la gestion humanisée des frontières

La stratégie de gestion intégrée des frontières de la Suisse et les questions de protection

Grégoire Cretaz, Coordinateur régional, Coopération internationale
Secrétariat d'Etat aux migrations, Département fédéral de justice et police

Processus de Rabat
Marrakech, les 22 & 23 juin 2023

Processus de Rabat, Réunion thématique, les 22 & 23 juin 2023, Marrakech

1

1

Contexte

- Stratégie de gestion intégrée des frontières IBM
- Espace Schengen – frontières extérieures
- Sécurité/contrôle vs. personnes à protéger
- Droits des migrants – Droits de l'homme



«il ne s'agit pas de trouver un équilibre,
mais de faire les deux»

Processus de Rabat, Réunion thématique, les 22 & 23 juin 2023, Marrakech

2

2

Protection aux frontières

- Requérants d'asile
Loi sur l'asile révisée en 2019
- Victimes TIP
Plan d'action de lutte contre la traite 2023-27
- Migrants vulnérables/MNAs
- Droits de l'homme
Aussi dans le cadre de Frontex

Asile
aéroports: 296
en 2022
(total: 24'511)

TIP:
150 victimes
identifiées par
années

25 cas
vulnérables
identifiés
aux
aéroports
en 2022.

Demandes
asile MNA:
2'450 en
2022)

Processus de Rabat, Réunion thématique, les 22 & 23 juin 2023, Marrakech

3

3

Coopération interministérielle →

Secrétariat d'Etats aux migrations
Office fédéral de la douanes et
de la sécurité des frontières
Police fédérale
Autorités cantonales – polices cantonales

← Représentation sur place

Attachés de police
Représentants des douanes / Airline liaison officers
Immigration liaisons officers
Département fédéral des affaires étrangères

Processus de Rabat, Réunion thématique, les 22 & 23 juin 2023, Marrakech

4

4

Coopération avec les pays partenaires (1)

- Coopération aux frontières /police aéroports
Tunisie, Nigéria, Somalie, pays des Balkans Visites et échanges de compétences
- Lutte contre la fraude documentaire
Guinée-C, Tunisie, Nigéria, Gambie, pays des Balkans Equipement et formation (ToT, modules)
- Coopération transfrontalière
Cameroun, Nigéria, Liban, Projets sur place (deux/plusieurs pays)
- Lutte contre la traite des êtres humains
Nigéria, Liban, pays des Balkans Projets sur place (+ échanges bilatéraux)

Processus de Rabat, Réunion thématique, les 22 & 23 juin 2023, Marrakech

5

5

Coopération avec les pays partenaires (2)

- Formation annuelle pour le sauvetage en mer
Tunisie, Maroc, Liban, Egypte, Libye Forces armées maltaises (régional)
- Analyse et gestion des données
Nigéria, Ethiopie, Projets sur place OIM (plusieurs bailleurs)
- Soutien à l'élaboration de la stratégie de gestion intégrée des frontières
Côte d'Ivoire
Projet sur place ICMPD

Processus de Rabat, Réunion thématique, les 22 & 23 juin 2023, Marrakech

6

6

Approche équilibrée des migrations

Gestion des frontières

- un élément parmi d'autres des dialogues migratoires/partenariats migratoires bilatéraux menés par la CH
- Lien avec d'autres thématiques des 5 domaines du Processus de Rabat

Prévention de la migration irrégulière; aide au retour et réintégration; accès à l'emploi et formation professionnelle; lutte contre la traite; migration et développement.

Protection et asile: prévention de la séparation des familles et migrants disparus - réunion thématique à Genève les 20 & 21 septembre 2023.

BORDER AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN SLOVENIA

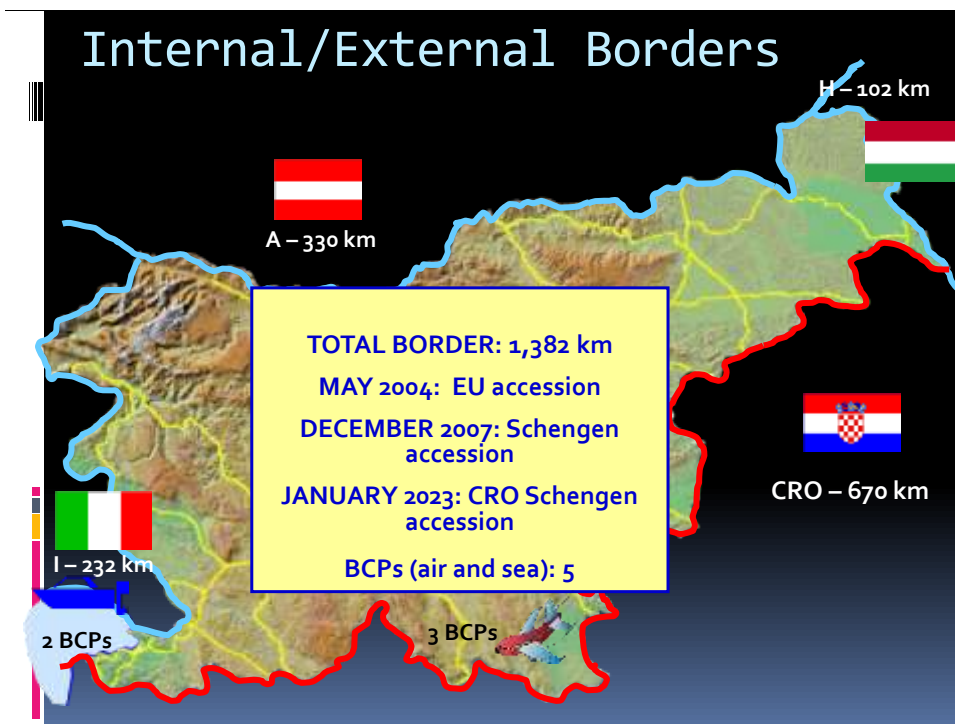
Peter Skerbiš
Head of Border Police Division
Slovenia

1

Legal Basis for Border Police Work

- EU legislation
- International Agreements and Treaties
- National legislation:
 - Police Tasks And Powers Act
 - Border Control Act
 - Foreigners Act
 - Penal Code
 - Criminal Procedure Act,
 - Misdemeanour Act
 - Other national legislation and subordinated legal acts

2



3



4

Compensatory Measures (internal borders and inland)

- Target oriented police controls
- Based on risk analysis
- 8 PPIU
- 2 SENDM
- Highly specialized personnel
- Mobility
- Operational support



5

Technical equipment and service dogs



6

Migrants – Police Procedure



- Registration process (fingerprints, photographing, statement verification, databases...)
- Interview - Screening / Debriefing / individual
- Misdemeanour procedure / international protection
- Readmission procedure (agreements with neighbouring countries)
- Accommodation in the Centre for foreigners (readmission / return)
- High prominence to the respect for human rights

7

Facilitators / Organisers of Irregular Migration



- Organised crime
- Facilitation
- Walking guides
- Cross border roads and inland
- Collecting evidence
- Risk analyses
- International cooperation
- Mainly detected on cross border roads
- Criminal offence according to the Penal Code

8

Contingency Planning

- Scenarios
- Increased migration flow
- Situation monitoring





Fighting international migrant smuggling criminal networks

Thematic Meeting on Humanised Border Management

22 - 23 June 2023

Marrakesh, Morocco

Álvaro Rodríguez Gaya
Head of Operational Coordination
EMSC



EUROPOL

Europol Unclassified - Basic Protection Level

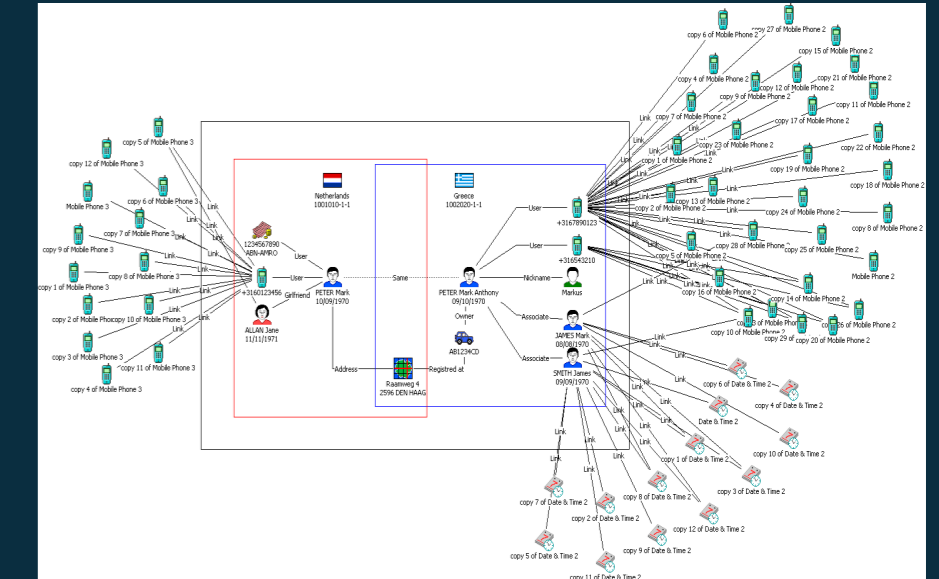
Europol's mandate

to support and strengthen action by the competent authorities of the Member States and their mutual cooperation in preventing and combating serious crime affecting two or more Member States, terrorism and forms of crime which affect a common interest covered by a Union policy.

Functions of the EMSC – operational coordination



Operational intelligence analysis



Operational meetings – on/off-line

Mobile Office, UFED



Tactical and financial support

Joint Investigation Teams

HVTs & OTFs

Arising threats in 2023

Migrant Smuggling



The online environment

Integral part of different forms and stages of migrant smuggling

Increase in use of violence and dangerous modus operandi

Increased migrant smuggling to/within the EU

Central and Eastern Med. Routes; Eastern Borders, towards UK, the misuse of air routes, facilitation of secondary movements

Increased demand for facilitation services

Opportunities for criminal networks

Arising threats in 2023

Trafficking in human beings



Latin American and
Asian criminal actors



Risk of exploitation
for UA refugees



Online dimension



Enhanced vulnerability

EU and non-EU victims
(underreported)

The misuse of legal
business structure



Criminal Networks

Migrant Smuggling

- Agile, adapting to changes
- Cooperation and violence integrated part of business model
- Heads reside outside the EU

THB

- Modi operandi create the appearance of legitimacy
- Cooperation with recruitment agencies and subcontractors

Migrant Smuggling and THB

- Interlinked
- Complex with different roles
- Digital solutions
- Use of legal business structure



Deadly business model

Smugglers put people's lives at risk, offering false perspectives and causing serious harm to migrants. The fundamental rights of migrants are often gravely violated and migrants are often unable to seek help due to their irregular status. Migrants – particularly those in vulnerable situations such as children and unaccompanied minors – are exposed to violence, extortion, exploitation, rape, abuse, theft, kidnapping and even homicide.



Situational picture

Main trends & threats

Increase reporting on use of violence along the Western Balkan routes

- deadly traffic accidents (cars, vans & lorries)
- attacking/shooting at law enforcements officers
- migrant smuggling advertising video showing weapons
- criminal networks armed with weapons
- clashes between criminal networks

Possible further increase in migrant smuggling cases & violence



Violent/reckless behaviour

25/08/22: Two BG police officers died after being rammed by a bus transporting irregular migrants

08/11/2022: ABG Border Guard resulted injured by shots fired from the Thurkish side of the BG-TK border



Source: VOA NEWS



Source: dir.bg

Instrumentalization of Migration

EMSC – EU IRU
Belarus Referral Action Day – 16/12/2021



Aim - disrupt communication, prevention
Monitor vs Delete
What illegal content means?
Better visible than nothing?

Referred accounts

Facebook	349
Telegram	98
TikTok	8
Total	455

Deleted accounts

Facebook	131 users 31 groups
Telegram	NIA
TikTok	8

Millionaire criminal business

Estimated turnover of criminal networks

Some examples

Turnover – vessels from Turkey to Italy
Estimated 109 000 000 €
January - October 2022



Small boats across the English Channel
(source UK)

Estimated **120 000 000 €**

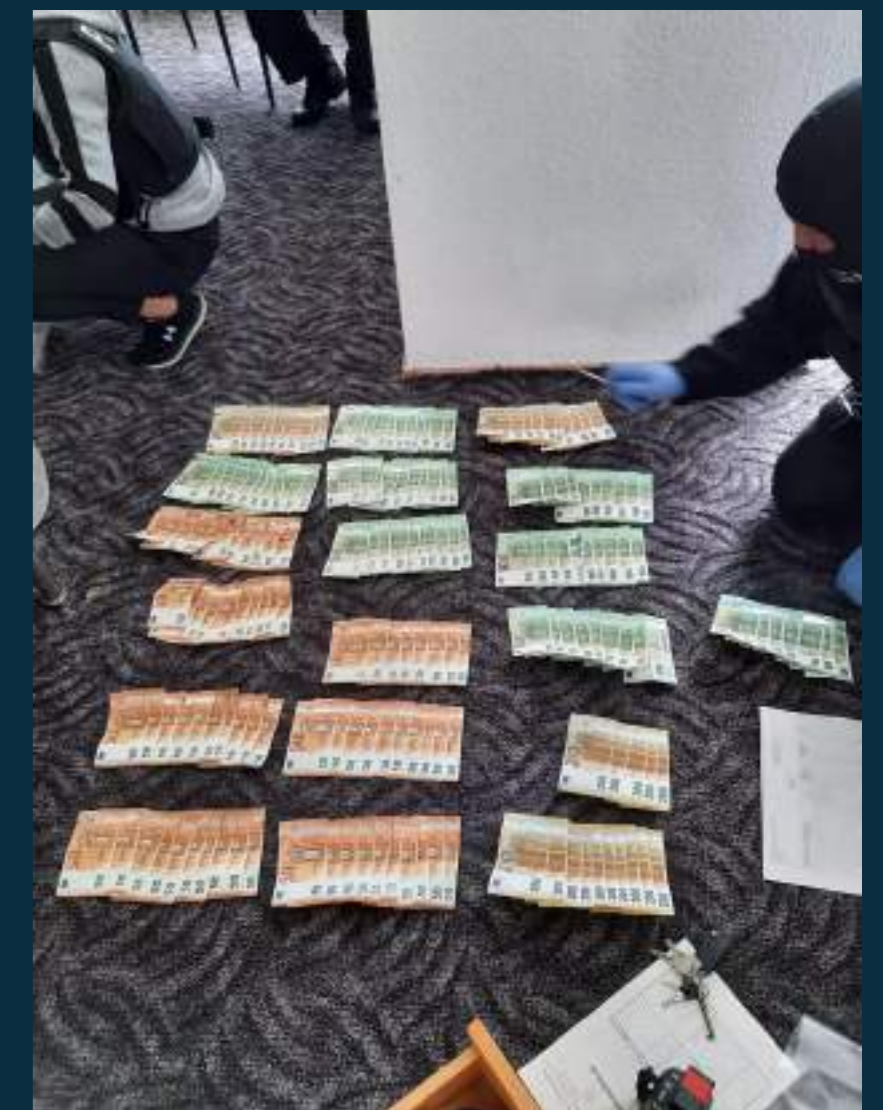
January –October 2022

Payment to facilitators

600 - 4000€

Per journey

Different route / mean of transportation / number of smuggled irregular migrants



Intel sharing key for preventing smuggling activities

Functions of the EMSC

- Detect Trends , Early Warning
- Regular reports - EPMT
- Strategic reports
- Contribution to the EU policy
- Building new partnerships

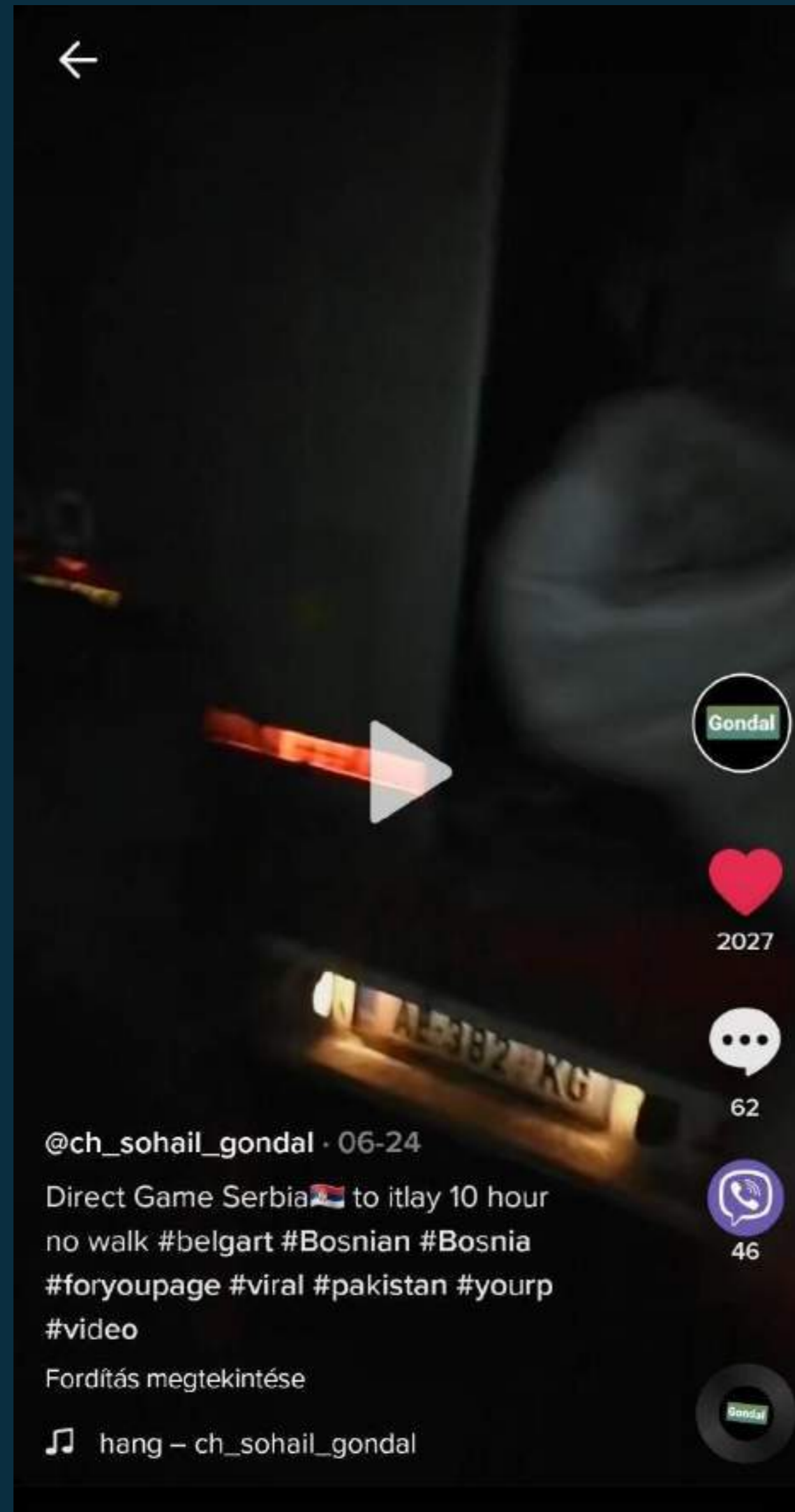


Action Plan against migrant smuggling 2021-2025

Europol's key role

- Dedicated tailor-made Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnerships with third countries and regions along the migratory routes towards the EU
- Make optimal use of the specialised services provided by Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre and share information from immigration liaison officers, COPs, and CSDP missions and operations through the Information Clearing House
- Member States consolidating the use of the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA)
- Europol's Operational task Forces to continue to support common investigations of identified high value targets, including from partner countries.
- Member States to support the Joint Liaison Task Force on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Being

Digital Migrant Smuggling



VPN applications on mobiles + Apps



Photo & Video Vault hide photos






- Scanners
- Apps for “cleaning” a mobile phone content

EU secondary movements – Risks and threats



Main routes

-  Entry routes
-  Secondary movements
-  "Bottlenecks" – high demand for services



OC and Terrorism

- Opportunistic use of migratory routes and criminal structures;
- Overlapping in document fraud and financial investigations;
- Poly criminality nature of smuggling networks increase risks of synergies



Europol's response to high risk OC

▶ HVT/OTF concept designed to:

- Promote investigations targeting individuals that constitute the highest serious and organized crime risk
- Intensify asset tracing and increase the rate of confiscation of criminal proceeds

High Value Target (HVT)

A person (*the identity of the suspect proposed as a High Value Target does not necessarily have to be known to the country making the proposal*), whose criminal activity fulfils the criteria listed in SOP and therefore constitutes a high risk of serious and organized crime to 2 or more EU MSs

Operational Task Force (OTF)

A temporary group of people consisting of representatives of the MSs and Europol.

Formed to carry out a specific project, coordinating intelligence, and investigative efforts focusing on the criminal activities of 2 or more selected HVTs and members of their criminal network.

The Supply chain - OTF DUNE

39 arrests in cross-border operation against migrant smuggling in small boats across English Channel

Three High Value Targets and prime suspects identified by Operational Task Force Dune arrested in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK



The action day on 5 July led to:

- 39 arrests (9 in France, 18 in Germany, 6 in the Netherlands and 6 in the UK)
- Three High Value Targets arrested
- Over 50 location searches
- Seizures include over 1200 lifejackets, about 150 rubber boats, close to 50 engines; about EUR 40 000 in cash, firearms, cars and drugs

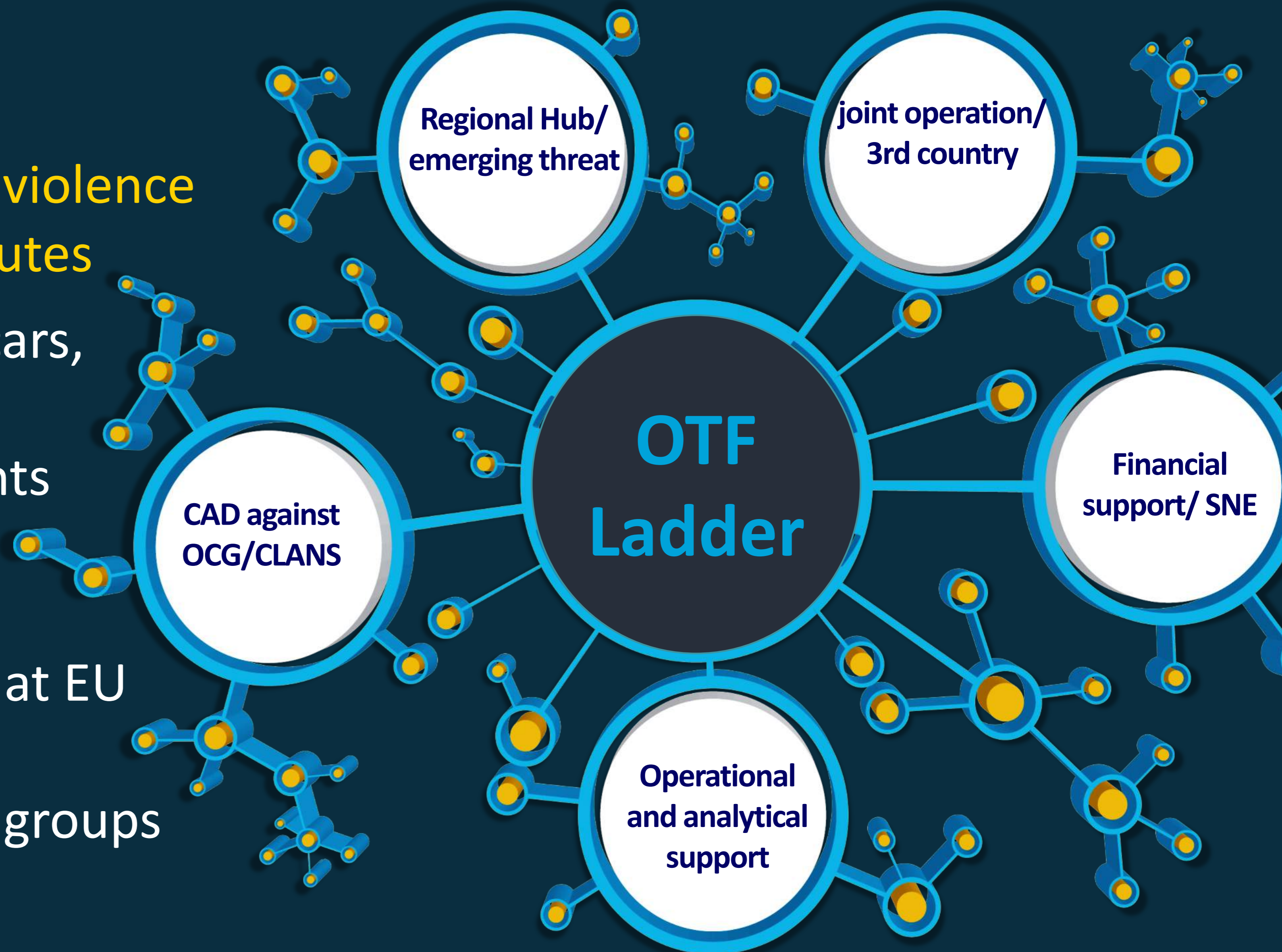


OTF LADDER

Main trends & threats in the WBR

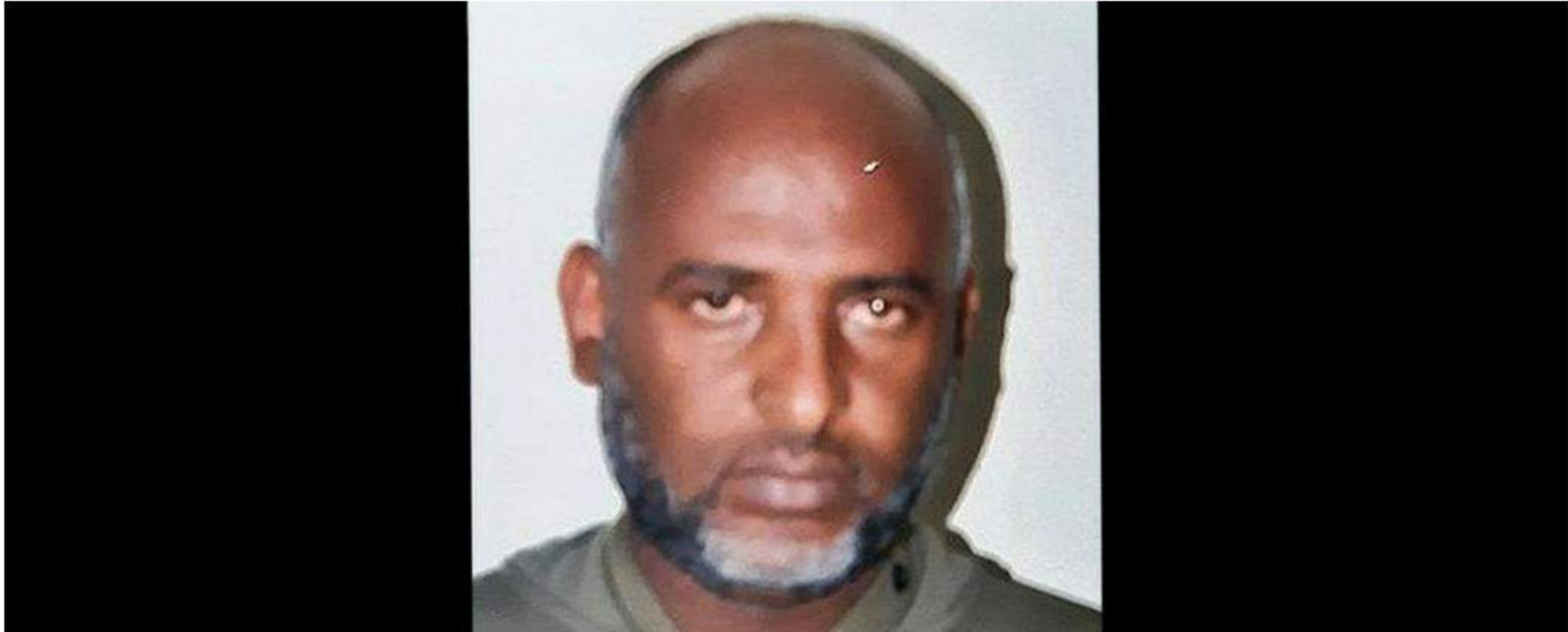
Increase reporting on use of violence along the Western Balkan routes

- deadly traffic accidents (cars, vans & lorries)
- attacking law enforcements officers/shootings
- weaponized smugglings
- armed criminal networks at EU borders
- clashes between migrant groups
- killing of police officers



European task force established to locate 'cruellest' human trafficker

Libya-based fugitive **Kidane Zekarias Habtemariam** is sought by Europol after escaping prison in Ethiopia, where he was convicted of extortion, kidnapping, and torturing migrants to death



Dutch court opens trial of accused Eritrean human trafficker

Ethiopia extradited the 38-year-old man late last year to face criminal charges in the Netherlands, where prosecutors say hundreds of people were extorted by the human smuggling operation.

MOLLY QUELL / January 10, 2023



NETHERLANDS
PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE

est > News >

Ethiopia extradites trafficker to the Netherlands in criminal case on migration crime

News item | 05-10-2022 | 12:41

At the request of the Netherlands, Ethiopia has extradited a 38-year-old Eritrean who is a key suspect in an international investigation into serious migration crimes. The man is suspected of having smuggled Eritrean migrants from Africa to the Netherlands on a large scale. The migrants were extorted and subjected to brutal violence in camps, including beatings, starvation and sexual violence.

The investigation by the Netherlands Public Prosecution Service (PPS) and the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (RNLN) focuses on a criminal organization involved in the smuggling of African migrants to Europe. The criminal investigation is conducted in collaboration with Italy, Europol, Interpol and the ICC, among others.

Near future – possible scenarios

Organised migrant smuggling will remain a key activity for criminals, sustained by continued demand for facilitation services

Demand

Number of irregular migrants approaching/in the EU

Offer

Migrant smugglers will continue to offer proactively their services

Unusual routes & nationalities

Digitalisation

An ever increasing trend



WAY FORWARD

- Migrant smuggling & THB cannot be dealt with in isolation
- Engage with all relevant stakeholders
- Provide outmost support to LEA
- Partnership remains key
- Reinforced cooperation with source and transit countries



Thank you for your
attention

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