

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

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

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Destination Istanbul!



Istanbul was originally founded in the seventh century BC as Byzantium, and the city was already a prosperous port when the Roman Emperor Constantine I decided to make it the capital of the 'New Rome' in the third century AD, and rather modestly changed the name to Constantinople. The New Roman Empire (Byzantine) continued in an ever-diminishing form from that time until it was finally conquered by Mehmed II in 1453 and became Istanbul, the capital of an expanding Ottoman Empire.

In its history, the city has been fought over by the Persians, Athenians, Spartans, Macedonians, Romans, and finally the Ottomans.

Not for nothing has the city seen so much conflict. The city and the country that surrounds it are probably the most strategically placed real estate on earth. It sits at the crossroads of two continents, Europe and Asia, and the junction of two major seas, the Mediterranean and Black Sea. It was made rich by the movement of goods and people and being at the centre of great empires.

Today, despite the advent of air travel and the mass movement of goods by ocean-going container shipping and tankers, Istanbul and Turkey remain both metaphorically and literally, the

strategic bridge between Asia, Africa, and Europe. Not only for the legitimate movement of people and goods but also for the illegitimate.

Turkey is the major pathway for refugees from the war-torn Middle East and Central Asia. Turkey is itself the world's leading refugee-hosting country, giving shelter to approximately 3.6 million forcibly displaced people.

But it follows that it is the major land route for illegal migrants from those regions and Africa into Europe.

Turkey is also the central link in the so-called "Balkan Route" for opiates transported from Afghanistan and Iran, into Europe via the Balkans.

So, it seems entirely appropriate that the World Border Security Congress community will gather in Istanbul later this month.

At this year's event friends and colleagues from around the world, will gather again to continue discussions, and share information and experiences from across the full range of integrated border management issues. I am particularly excited about a new Closed Agency Workshop, concentrating on 'Latest/New Modus Operandi' where agency delegates will have the opportunity to share analysis and experiences of the changing Modus Operandi of criminal groups operating within their area of responsibility, and perhaps, more importantly, to share what they have done to combat it.

In the exhibition hall, we will host some of the world's leading suppliers of border security technology, ready to share their new developments and technological know-how with frontline officers, to help them make us a safer world!

Tony Kingham
Editor

Fighting human trafficking and migrant smuggling in the Americas



Reinel Serrano, National Border Service officer of Panama, refers to the more than 500,000 migrants who attempted to cross the Darien Gap, a 575,000-hectare tropical forest across Panama and Colombia, when he says “These are unprecedented numbers, never seen before in the jungle.”

Migrants face several risks when attempting the harrowing journey, including natural hazards ranging from high temperatures to wild animals to overflowing rivers. Desperate to succeed in their attempts, many turn to migrant smugglers, i.e., people who take advantage of migrants by exploiting their desperation to move – for a fee.

“Crossing through the Darien Gap is a fundamental part of the journey of migrants coming from other continents, because it is located at a point where smugglers take advantage of the conditions of the territory to be able to offer a service to migrants,” said Carlos Perez, UNODC Programme Officer.

Smugglers often perpetrate rape, kidnappings, and various other forms of violence and abuse against migrants during their journeys, exacerbating the dangers of the crossing.

Project Turquesa

Many of these smugglers belong to organized crime groups, who rake in an estimated \$5 – 7 billion globally from migrant smuggling and human trafficking every year. Latin American and Caribbean countries serve as territories of origin, transit and destinations for these crimes.

“There is a criminal structure that sees irregular migration as an easy way to make money, charging astronomical sums to each person,” said Reinel.

An initiative led by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and INTERPOL, “Project Turquesa”, aims to identify cases of human trafficking and migrant smuggling and dismantle the organized criminal groups responsible.

It brings together 16 countries to promote interagency and international cooperation; investigate and prosecute human trafficking and migrant smuggling; and build understanding of the routes, trends, modus operandi and context of these crimes in the region.

“When a migrant in his or her country of origin decides to embark on the migratory route, we need to have authorities in these countries that are prepared to build transnational responses and who are able to identify and prosecute this crime,” said Carlos.

“From both organizations, we seek to support those key actors that are mandated to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and ensure that we are actually seeing convictions against criminal groups that engage in these crimes,” added Isaac Espinosa, Criminal Intelligence Analyst at INTERPOL.

Since 2019, Turquesa Operations have led to the arrest of over 1,000 smugglers and traffickers, hundreds of new investigations, and the identification of thousands of victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

“We have been able to strengthen the capacities of prosecutors and judges to subsequently carry out operations that allow us to dismantle organized crime networks,” said Esperanza Montenegro, District Attorney of Panama.

Project Turquesa will run through September 2025 and is funded by the Government of Canada through its Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP).

BORDER SECURITY - VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

*By John Coyne, Director of the
Australian Strategic Policy Institute's
Border Security Program*

On October 19, 1981, the American rock band Journey released the worldwide hit 'Don't Stop Believin', which would also become a karaoke hit. The inspirational and upbeat song depicts people from different walks of life struggling but still holding on to a belief in their vision for their future. Over the last decade, border agencies worldwide have posited visions of the future of border management. Like the people in this song, they've been 'holding on to that feeling' in anticipation of

achieving their vision. Unfortunately, progress towards the vision of a future invisible, adaptable, and digital bore that is both permanent and secure has been limited at best.

Before the outbreak of COVID-19, more than a few commentators predicted a future of open borders, where globalisation would increasingly diminish the importance of the sovereign state and their borders. COVID-19, geopolitics, and global population movement trends appear to increase, not diminish, the

importance of borders and border security. The increased focus on border security across countries like Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom is more than just a policy priority from governments. Increased economic, security, and geopolitical uncertainty is fueling public demands for a greater focus on sovereignty. So borders are here to stay and, to some extent, may become increasingly impermeable or selectively permeable for some travellers and businesses.

The visions of the invisible, adaptable, connected and digital borders are, for the most part, still that. Traveller experiences at major airports, from Heathrow to Sydney and Bangkok to Los Angeles, indicate limited change: long queues and slow movement still plague air travel. While there have been some successes with measures like trusted trader programs and free trade agreements, border permeability for cargo falls well short of the visions shared at conferences, dialogues and trade shows. Arguably, some countries have applied new technologies, especially concerning passenger arrivals and targeting, but scaling this success is still a challenge.

Naturally, border security measures vary significantly from country to country. Despite this variation, strategic thinking across different border agencies does share some common concerns.

For several years, I have presented future thinking and strategy sessions to emerging customs and immigration leaders from across



the Indo-Pacific region. It was heartening to see how many mid- and senior-level officers focus on ensuring they, their officers, and their organisations are future-ready. This focus has ensured that there are always plenty of tough questions.

Over time, I have observed a surprising uniformity in the questions I receive in each lecture. The questions tend to converge on budgets, technology and how to prepare for the future.

It seems that all border agencies, whether in Myanmar, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, or Sri Lanka (to name but a few), feel they are inadequately resourced. All border agencies could indeed do with larger budgets. However, the reality is that government organisations must, by necessity, operate within set budget appropriations. Unfunded or unfundable visions are more akin to dreams than workable future targets. Regardless, agencies focused on being future-ready or planning to reach some vision must be realistic

about their budgets and the limits that they impose.

These budget questions highlight why strategic thinking on border management must focus on effectiveness and efficiency. Budget realities must underpin decisions on effectiveness and efficiency. Inevitably, tough choices and compromises will be needed: finding a balance between ends, ways and means is no easy task for any strategist.

Border agencies may find relief in alternate innovative and entrepreneurial approaches, especially concerning technology: for example, the establishment of private-public partnerships, adoption of technology innovations (cloud-based computing), and subscription-based models for technology products and services.

I am frequently asked about technology or specific technological innovations in these courses, such as artificial intelligence, self-learning algorithms, or digitisation.



Reductionism abounds in public policy debates on border security. So, innovation discussions are often limited to debates on new walls or biometric advances rather than strategy. Unsurprisingly, industry representatives in this reflexive paradigm present arguments that some new wall, biometric concept or surveillance platform will 'fix' or ameliorate the border security problem, but those products don't make a strategy.

Here, there needs to be a clear focus on strategic intent. Border agencies must avoid the temptation to prioritise modernisation that focuses on digitising existing business processes. While simple digitisation is not without value, it does not set border agencies on the path of true modernisation.

Similar piecemeal approaches focussed on 'quick fixes' leave border agencies with technological, strategic, and policy misalignment. Good border management involves

a system of systems. A system of systems refers to a collection of interconnected and interdependent systems working together to achieve a common goal or function, often exhibiting emergent properties beyond the capabilities of individual systems. This concept emphasizes integrating, coordinating, and collaborating among diverse systems to create a more complex system with enhanced capabilities and functionalities.

Border agencies would be better served by modernising their core business processes and operations, focusing on achieving their government's strategic intent. A mindset change that tested the many long-held assumptions that underpin border agencies may be most helpful here. For example, border agencies have traditionally concentrated their targeting efforts on identifying high-risk transactions, be they travellers or cargo crossing a border. A move towards macro-level

border security risk assessments focussed on clearing low-risk border transactions quickly and invisibly could dramatically improve the allocation of resources to targeting and disruption.

The visions of the future border shared over the last decade are not wrong or inaccurate. However, to reach these visions, border agencies must first resolve the challenge of aligning strategic intent and performance indicators focused on operational performance measures. Moreover, if governments want transformational change at their borders, they must modernise their thinking about border operations.

In preparing for the future, it is helpful to acknowledge that Border agencies are inherently operational in nature. In many cases, border officials narrowly focus on key performance indicators that may or may not be valid measures of their agency's achievement of strategic intent. Illicit drug seizures illustrate this point. Border agencies' performance is often assessed based on the number and size of illicit drug seizures. While such measures are indicators of operational success, their link with the strategic intent of reducing the availability of illicit drugs is tenuous. Thai and Australian border agencies continue to break seizure records, but illicit drug availability and price remain unchanged. Unfortunately, this reality doesn't cue the need for a new strategy or policy approach.

While this contribution's tone may appear negative, my experience with

the Indo-Pacific border management leaders is anything but. The current and emerging border management leaders are firmly focused on being 'future ready' and proactively seeking opportunities to shape the necessary change. One thing we can be sure of is that these leaders will face a protracted period of rapid change and instability. They'll need to focus their agency's modernisation efforts on increasing adaptability in this context. And the only way they can achieve this is through new approaches.



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DIGITAL TRAVEL CREDENTIALS – THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

By Ross Greenwood, Identity Matters Consulting

The International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) technical specifications for the Digital Travel Credential (DTC) extend the global standards based framework for securely authenticating travel documents further into the digital domain.

To facilitate travel and to better protect privacy and personal data, self sovereign models for verifying identity across travel touchpoints

are also being promoted (e.g. The International Air Transport Association's (IATA) One ID). These self sovereign models differ in detail but typically comprise identity credentials secured in digital wallets with access controlled by the holder. The verification of such identity credentials require that all the "Issuers" and "Verifiers" are part of the same network or share the same Trust Registry. A consequence is that verification can't be done offline.

It is clear that in future travel will more often be undertaken with less friction and more digital verifications. At the same time the relationship between security and facilitation and identity and citizenship remain familiar, and fundamental, to international travel. A reminder of aspects of these fundamentals is the subject of this article.

The digital identity credential used in international travel will most often be the ICAO DTC, because only the DTC can be relied on as evidence of identity and citizenship.

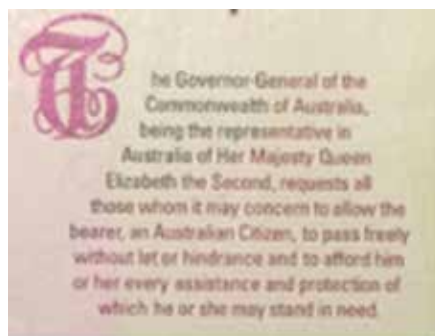
THE ROLE OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Passports, including DTCs, are evidence of identity and citizenship, issued by national Governments for the primary purpose of facilitating international travel.

National passports can be distinguished from other travel documents that don't include evidence of citizenship.

THREE (FORGOTTEN?) FEATURES OF PASSPORTS

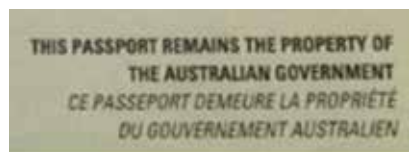
#1 A national passport is a request from one State to others, carried



Identity Matters 2017

by the holder, to facilitate the international travel, entry and stay of the genuine holder of the passport.

#2 State issued passports remain the property of the national issuing authority and typically include statements to this effect.



Identity Matters 2017

#3 Passport holders travel under the protection of the passport issuing State.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PASSPORT AS EVIDENCE OF CITIZENSHIP

In combination the three (forgotten) features of passports have some significant implications.

The border authorities of transit and destination States rely, in part, on the “evidence of citizenship” feature of national passports to establish the bonafides of the traveller. The significance of this reliance is most easily understood by considering how travel documents that don't include “evidence of citizenship” are treated by immigration and border authorities.

“Evidence of citizenship” establishes, prime facie, the ability to enforce the return of the traveller to the passport issuing State . These three features of passports together constitute a promise to transit and destination States that

the holder of the passport continues to enjoy the protection of the State that issued the passport.

But every passport was issued some time in the past and the promise needs to remain current. The promise is credible only if national mechanisms exist to revoke passports, and only if that revocation can be communicated to transit and destination States ahead of travel, during transit, at entry, after arrival, and at exit.

It follows that a passport issuing State can:

- A. revoke a passport thus withdrawing their request for travel to be facilitated (#1); and/or
- B. attempt to recover the passport from the citizen to whom it was issued (#2); including in rare instances -
- C. withdraw their “protection” of the person to whom the passport was issued (#3).

Re: A./#1. With a scope extending beyond that suggested by its acronym, the INTERPOL SLTD includes the details of cancelled, as well as lost and stolen, travel documents. Passports and travel documents might be cancelled by States for a range of reasons - when passports contain errors, where the integrity of passport issuance has been systemically compromised, when they include biometric, biographic or other attributes that are false or fraudulent, when they have been used fraudulently by imposters and more commonly in recent years

The UN Laissez-Passer and INTERPOL “Passport” are travel documents that provide:

- ✓ *evidence of identity; and*
- ✓ *evidence of employment at the time of issue of the document, and*
- ✓ *advice of the citizenship/nationality of the holder of the document.*

However, because the documents can’t confirm citizenship, many States while accepting these documents as evidence of status and employment, require the holders to travel on a national passport with the qualification for travel, entry and stay determined by the national passport.

In other words, transit and destination countries insist that the bonafides of the traveller (and the associated prime facie ability to enforce the return the traveller) can only be established by the permission to travel, enter and stay associated with their national passport.

The situation for holders of Refugee Convention travel documents is even more stark.

Having lost the protection of their former State, refugees can be identified, and their status as refugees can be evidenced, in the special travel documents issued to them.

However, the ability of the holders of refugee travel documents to travel is limited, and ultimately depends on the visa and stay permit conditions that are endorsed separately into their travel documents.

when they have been issued to, or used by, foreign terrorist fighters and other transnational criminals.

Re: B/#2. As a matter of good practice, passport issuers attempt to recover cancelled passport booklets to render them unusable. For foreign terrorist fighters and other transnational criminals this is not always possible.

Re: C/#3. In some circumstances and subject to no contravention of international law (notably the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness), the national law of States may provide for citizenship to be revoked.

Since it is impractical for States to continuously confirm to other States the current status of every

travel document previously issued, other mechanisms are necessary. These mechanisms, incomplete and imperfect, are nevertheless essential to the security of international travel. They comprise the:

- I. INTERPOL SLTD; and
- II. INTERPOL nominal list (which includes the United Nations Security Council Consolidated List (UNCSCL)); and

- III. Certificate Revocation Lists published to the ICAO PKD

The investment by the EU in their Entry Exit System; similar investments in exit control in the US, Canada and the United Kingdom and the requirements of United Nations Security Council Resolutions mandating checks of

the INTERPOL SLTD suggest that States will continue to require that the continuous review features of these revocation mechanisms be preserved, so that travel can, when and where required, be prevented.

In conclusion, self sovereign identity verification during travel will likely increase to realise the facilitation, privacy and data protection benefits these solutions are designed to achieve.

However, confirming “citizenship” will continue to require a confirmation between States – because determining “citizenship” is the sovereign domain of States.

ICAO’s MRTD framework ensures paper passport booklets, the ePassport booklet, and the DTC


together maintain the (incomplete and imperfect) notification at all stages of travel of the revocation of travel documents. Importantly their verification does not require a common trust registry or network, and thus allows for offline verification (as long as the issuer's Country Signer Certificate Authority (CSCA) is available).

A challenge for the border and travel community is to develop a facilitative travel document model for the information age that preserves the travel document revocation mechanisms used by States that are essential to the security of travel.

Self sovereign identity credentials that rely on a one time enrolment of a DTC into a digital wallet will require




alternative mechanisms for eMRTD and DTC revocation to be managed at the travel touchpoints where assurance of identity is critical.

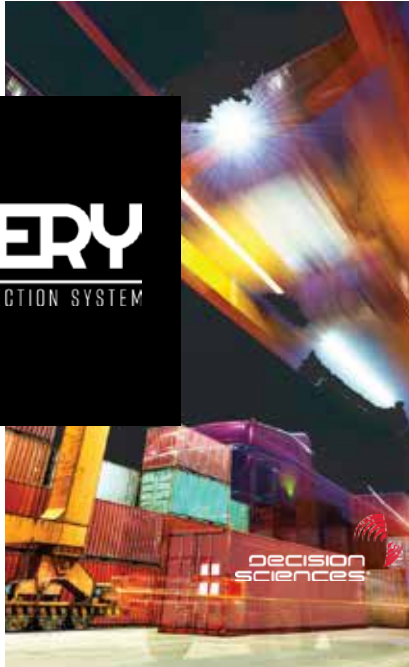



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Three arrested in Spain following migrant deaths at sea



A joint operation between the Spanish National Police (Policía Nacional) and the Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil), supported by Europol, has led to the arrests of two men and a woman in Cádiz and Granada. The suspects carried out migrant smuggling activities, which resulted in deaths. The joint investigation between the Spanish National Police and the Civil Guard resulted in the

discovery of the precise location of the boat and the identification of the itinerary of this smuggling activity.

The investigation led to the identification of three suspects, allegedly responsible for the death by drowning of five migrants who were thrown into the sea in November 2023. The three suspects allegedly forced the migrants - through violence and intimidation - to jump off of a high-speed boat into the water. They threatened them with machetes, forcing their passengers to jump into the sea, knowing that there were strong currents active and that many of the migrants were not able to swim. A boat crew, which was in the area at the time, managed to save five migrants out of the 37 on board, all of whom were forced to jump into the water. The migrants had paid between EUR 3 000 and 12 000 for this risky journey between Kenitra and Cádiz.

42 arrested for smuggling migrants across the Danube

A cross-border investigation led by the Romanian Border Police, supported by Europol and involving the Bulgarian General Directorate Combating Organised Crime and the German Police, has resulted in the dismantling of an organised crime group involved in migrant smuggling. The group were smuggling migrants from Bulgaria to Romania, across the Danube river, and then toward Western Europe.

The investigative activities established that the criminal network, composed mainly of Bangladeshi, Iraqi and Romanian citizens, was formed in the beginning of 2023. The suspects recruited migrants from Middle-East

who wanted to reach Western European countries, especially Germany.

The criminal network smuggled the migrants in two phases. In the first phase, the suspects picked migrants up from Bulgaria and transported them in boats across the Danube river. The migrants would then be taken in groups of 20-30 via cargo transport to the western part of Romania, mainly the areas of Timișoara/Arad and Caraș Severin. The smugglers also used off-road vehicles, but mainly transported groups of 13-17 migrants in 5-seat vehicles.

Almost 5 000 false identity documents seized in Greece

The Aliens Division of Attica within the Hellenic Police, supported by Europol, targeted a criminal network involved in document fraud and migrant smuggling activities. The criminal network, based in Athens, produced high-quality falsified travel and identification documents, which were used to enable irregular migrants to travel illegally across the EU and legalise their stay in their final destination country.

The suspects used sophisticated equipment (laser printing devices, software and document scanners) to produce high-quality false travel and identification documents, which were especially difficult to detect as fraudulent. The documents seized during the raids alone held an estimated market value of EUR 600 000.



Securing the Africa Cup of Nations amidst regional terror challenges



INTERPOL has deployed a special intelligence support team to a high-risk terrorism zone in West Africa to support Côte d'Ivoire in maintaining a safe environment for Africa's Cup of Nations - CAN.

To make the event as safe as possible for the three

million fans travelling to Côte d'Ivoire, local police are working with INTERPOL to make sure frontline officers have the global INTERPOL tools they need to detect dangerous individuals at border checkpoints.

An INTERPOL expert team is working with Côte d'Ivoire's national police to cross-reference passenger manifests for all incoming flights against INTERPOL's criminal databases. The objective is to identify any suspected criminals in-flight and enable Ivorian authorities to apprehend individuals listed in INTERPOL's databases upon their arrival.

Côte d'Ivoire is located near the Sahel region where extremist terrorist groups often clash. To prevent spill-over into Cote d'Ivoire during the CAN, police across the country have been equipped to also perform biometric checks against records of suspected terrorists.

Disrupting a Grandoreiro malware operation

Brazilian authorities announced the arrest of five administrators behind a Grandoreiro banking trojan operation.

Considered a major cybersecurity threat across Spanish-speaking countries since 2017, Grandoreiro malware is introduced through phishing emails impersonating recognized organizations such as courts or telecom and energy companies.

Once in, the malware tracks keyboard inputs, simulates mouse activity, shares screens, and displays deceptive pop-ups, collecting data such as usernames, operating

system information, device runtime and most importantly, bank identifiers.

With full control over victims' bank accounts, criminals empty them, sending funds through a money mule network to launder the illicit proceeds before transferring the funds to Brazil.

The organization behind the malware is thought to have defrauded victims of more than EUR 3.5 million, however, according to CaixaBank several failed attempts could have yielded more than EUR 110 million for the criminal organization

Revised toolkit empowers law enforcement with responsible AI practices

INTERPOL and UNICRI have released an updated version of the Toolkit for Responsible AI Innovation in Law Enforcement, a practical guide for law enforcement agencies on developing and deploying artificial intelligence responsibly, while respecting human rights and ethics principles.

The AI Toolkit is comprised of seven distinct resources, underpinned by a comprehensive user guide, providing guidance for law enforcement executives and officers to navigate responsible AI innovation from technical foundations to organizational assessments on readiness and risk.

The updated toolkit, which is based on extensive consultation with stakeholders, incorporates several key changes aimed at enhancing its usability and relevance in today's rapidly evolving technological landscape.



Identifying forged documents and imposters at the border focus of study visit to The Netherlands



Disseminating good practices and enhancing knowledge of new technologies in detecting forged documents and imposters at border crossing points was the focus of a three-day study visit organized by the OSCE Transnational Threats Department. This

study visit included both an instructional component on chip technology in passports and a working visit to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and took place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. This visit was held in close co-operation with the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee and the Identity Fraud and Documents Centre of Expertise (ECID) for border police representatives from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Participants improved their knowledge of the latest forgery trends and the basics of chip technology. They also learned about new security features incorporated into travel documents thanks to a briefing from Dutch document experts. Participants also visited Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, one of Europe's largest and busiest airports, to observe firsthand good practices in managing document checks of passengers at airports.

OSCE and ICCT hold expert seminar on artificial intelligence, preventing and countering violent extremism to discuss challenges and opportunities

The OSCE's Transnational Threats Department and the Office of the Representative on the Freedom of the Media (RFoM) held an expert meeting to discuss challenges and opportunities affiliated with the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (P/CVERLT). The meeting, which took place in The Hague, the Netherlands, was organized in close co-operation

with the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT).

The participants highlighted issues such as the existing challenges in addressing violent extremist and terrorist use of AI, and emerging technologies, ensuring a human rights-compliant use of such technologies by all stakeholders who work on P/CVERLT, as well as working around the challenges with bias in AI algorithms.

OSCE Transnational Threats Department training course partners with Ukrainian border guards to identify forged documents and imposters

The hands-on training was delivered by experts from the Forensic Center of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine to a training cohort of 28 border guards, including 19 women and nine men. The two Ukrainian experts had earlier completed an OSCE Training of Trainers course held in July 2023. This was the first time that experts trained through this project were used to share the knowledge they acquired with their peers.

Participants improved their knowledge of the latest trends in the forgery of documents and the diversity of new travel document security features. They

strengthened their technical expertise and practical skills in detecting counterfeit documents by conducting document verification using the Docus Lumus magnifiers donated by the OSCE.



Over 110,000 Displaced in Mozambique Amidst Surging Violence as Needs Soar



More than 110,000 people have been displaced since the end of last year by the resurgence of attacks by non-state armed groups in a distressing escalation of violence in Cabo Delgado Province. This alarming figure represents

the second-largest wave of displacement in Cabo Delgado since the onset of the conflict in 2017, underscoring the deepening humanitarian crisis in the area.

Responding to this humanitarian emergency, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been at the forefront, providing essential aid to over 22,000 recently displaced individuals. The organization's multifaceted approach includes managing displacement sites, delivering shelter, healthcare, mental health support, and coordinating a multifaceted response to meet the escalating needs. Despite these efforts, the magnitude of the crisis continues to outstrip available resources, highlighting a gap that urgently needs to be addressed.

The escalating crisis has placed a considerable strain on IOM's Mobile Teams and Clinics, which are instrumental in providing health, nutrition, and psychosocial support across affected districts.

Norway and IOM Strengthen Partnership to Address Migration and Humanitarian Needs

The Government of Norway announced the allocation of 70 million Norwegian Kroner (approx. 6.6 million USD) to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to strengthen partnership and support the Organization's response to pressing migration and humanitarian needs worldwide.

Thanks to flexible, unearmarked funding, the

contribution will address priority humanitarian needs identified in IOM's Global Appeal 2024, including assistance to displaced persons and host communities affected by crises, conflicts and climate change. The allocation will also support IOM's Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration programme in North Africa, which provides protection assistance to vulnerable migrants.

Strengthening Global Cooperation Vital in Addressing Climate-Induced Migration

The IOM is calling for strengthened global cooperation in addressing climate-induced migration as world leaders convene for the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

"As leaders and decision makers gather at UNEA to set the global environmental agenda, let us not forget the plight of those forced to move due to climate and environmental factors," said IOM Chief of Staff Mohammed Abdiker.

It is estimated that up to 216 million people could become internal climate migrants by 2050 if specific climate action is not taken. With concrete, collective and timely actions, this number could be reduced by 80 percent. In 2022 alone, nearly 32 million new internal displacements

were due to climate-related hazards, underscoring the mounting need to address this issue.

"Through dialogue and cooperation, we can strengthen our commitment and action to address climate mobility," highlighted Abdiker.

No region in the world is immune to the negative impacts of climate change, felt either directly or indirectly. Less developed countries, which have contributed the least to its cause, are even more impacted.



Frontex strengthens partnership with EU's Fundamental Rights Agency



Frontex is pleased to announce the signing of a renewed Working Arrangement (WA) with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). This significant event, taking place at the margins of the Fundamental Rights Forum in Vienna, marks an important moment in the longstanding cooperation with FRA since 2010.

The signing not only reflects the evolution of the mandates but also deepens the commitment to

enhancing the protection and promotion of fundamental rights within the European Integrated Border Management. Through this arrangement, Frontex and FRA will continue their collaborative efforts on various fronts, including supporting compliance with fundamental rights at external borders, consulting on fundamental rights-related activities, and exploring cooperation on the development of EUROSUR components.

"The strong and constructive partnership with the Fundamental Rights Agency has been instrumental in our shared efforts to safeguard fundamental rights. The extension of our partnership reinforces our mutual dedication to these principles, laying the groundwork for even more effective collaboration in the future," said Frontex Executive Director Hans Leijten.

Frontex remains committed to working closely with FRA and other partners to uphold the highest standards of fundamental rights protection, reflecting the core values upon which the European Union is built.

An integrated approach to combat document and identity fraud

Document and identity frauds are instrumental for a broad range of criminal activities. The ability to assess the identity of a document bearer and the validity of their documents quickly and effectively is essential in facilitating bona fide travellers while preventing cross-border crimes. In 2023 alone, Member States and Schengen Associated Countries reported the detection at the EU's external borders of 17,424 fraudsters using or possessing 22,395 fraudulent documents.

In order to address the issue, the Frontex Centre of Excellence for Combatting Document Fraud (CED) invited managers and document experts from Member

States, Canada and the Western Balkans as well as representatives from the European Commission, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Interpol, as well as two EU agencies: CEPOL and Europol, in addition to industries dealing with document security features or document checking equipment.

The event underlined the need for collaboration along the identity chain, both at the national and international level.

Frontex and the United Kingdom strengthen border management cooperation

Frontex and the United Kingdom's Home Office signed a working arrangement to pave the way for close cooperation in border management and security. This formal signing embodies a joint commitment to enhancing safety and security while upholding fundamental rights obligations.

This collaboration is rooted in the mutual understanding that effective border management requires close cooperation across borders. The arrangement provides

a framework for joint efforts in areas including situational awareness, risk analysis, information exchange, and capacity building. It also opens new avenues for innovation and technical cooperation, emphasising the deployment of staff for advisory and coordination roles.



The future of training for border guards

Frontex has brought together the European and national training experts, EU agencies and industry to start shaping the future of training technologies in a rich and interactive debate. A conference taking place on 28-29 February in Kraków, Poland, constitutes a big leap towards a more innovative training methodologies for the borders.



The vision

Frontex has organised a conference on innovative industry solutions to support the training of law enforcement officers today by assessing and evaluating the potential needs of tomorrow. The Kraków Congress Centre attracted over 200 participants, including EU agencies, researchers and representatives from industry, all keen on developing new technologies that will help avoid the future risks and threats at the EU's external borders.

Hans Leijtens, the Executive Director of Frontex, welcomed the participants and outlined the objectives of the conference: "We are organising this conference because we need to understand how we can use new technologies to better train our border guards, and especially because Frontex will employ 10,000 new border guards by 2027. We also see beyond our Agency. This event is a unique opportunity for Member States to learn about the modern training technologies and see how they can use them for their own training at national level".

The subject matter

The main goal of the conference was to demonstrate innovative industry solutions that can support the training of law enforcement officers. During the two-day event, researchers presented advanced training concepts and technologies that can be practically applied to supporting training activities in the European Border and Coast Guard context. The exhibition area hosted around 50 industry representatives demonstrating the latest achievements,

such as virtual and augmented reality sets, video training content production, wearable devices, and AI solutions for more real-life training situations.

The participants could follow six panels covering various aspects of future training technologies:

1. Technology-driven opportunities for training innovations;
2. The trainer's challenges and needs for the future – to focus on the future role of the trainers;
3. Focus on the main actors of the training process in leveraging technologies – to put the spotlight on the needs of a learner;
4. The neuroplasticity of learners' brain – to deal with memorisation techniques and absorption of knowledge;
5. Gaming in learning.

A peak into the future

Many researchers, entrepreneurs and academics from the major European institutions, border police and the European Commission agreed that the future will be guided and dominated by the increasing capabilities of the virtual and augmented reality. The AI potential in creating realistic training conditions should be observed and developed with the awareness of its own risks and impact on human mind. Given the fact that the borders and their management are essential elements of migration management, well trained border guards are key to respond to this challenge.

"We are involving all interested parties in this conference, as we all have a share in shaping the future. Member States can use the ideas from today's debates and presentations to train their national crews. Also, we will keep them informed about the Frontex study on these emerging technologies for border management training, which is now being conducted in order to establish the Border and Coast Guard Academy," announced Frontex Executive Director Hans Leijtens.



MONGOLIA LAUNCHES THEIR PASSENGER INFORMATION UNIT WITH THE SUPPORT OF UN COUNTERING TERRORIST TRAVEL PROGRAMME

*By the Public Information and
Communications Office for the CT
Travel Programme, UNOCT*

The Mongolian People's Republic launched its new Passenger Information Unit (PIU) to detect and prevent the movement of terrorists and serious criminals, becoming the fourth Member State to achieve this milestone with the support of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme ('CT Travel'). The PIU adopted the United Nations software solution "goTravel" that is housed within the General Authority for Border Protection authority.

An in-person inauguration ceremony organized by the National Counter

Terrorism Council of Mongolia was held in Ulaanbaatar to mark the occasion and celebrate the milestone achievement, while also highlighting the benefits of Mongolia's 'whole-of-Government' approach.

In her opening remarks, H.E. Ms. Solongoo Bayarsaikhan, Deputy Minister of Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia said "The Mongolian Government is working closely with the international community to maintain border security, improving screening mechanisms, preventing

of terrorist travel and other serious crimes while promoting human rights and freedom, which are integral part of our national security. While doing so, the Government of Mongolia is developing policies to work closely with international organizations within the framework of international agreements and conventions signed between UN Member States, and Mongolian Legislations.”

Expressing gratitude to UNOCT and all implementing partners of the CT Travel programme, Major General Peljee Odonbaatar, Director General of the National Counter-Terrorism Council (NCTC) of Mongolia stressed “Once the Mongolia PIU starts to operate, we will have a chance to prevent and combat terrorists and transnational criminal groups and their accomplices from entering or transiting through Mongolia with the help of data exchange with international organizations and partner countries.”

In her opening remarks, Ms. Christine Bradley, Chief of the Countering Terrorist Travel Section at UNOCT highlighted that “Mongolia is the first country within the broader Central and East Asia region to establish and inaugurate their PIU with the assistance of the CT Travel Programme. This is a truly significant milestone for Mongolia, as well as the UN and the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme”.

Integrating the expertise and mandates of the three national entities, the Mongolia’s new PIU includes enhanced operational and technical capabilities in the areas of passenger data collection,



analysis and response to detect and prevent the movement of terrorists and criminals, in compliance with the requirements of United Nations Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019), international standards and recommended practices, relevant privacy laws, and human rights principles.

The launch represents a milestone for the CT Travel Programme, with establishment of the Mongolia’s PIU representing the fourth such unit to become fully operational with the support of the Programme, and the third (following on Norway and Botswana) to go live in using the “goTravel” solution. goTravel, which is a key component of the CT Travel Programme’s comprehensive support package to Member States, is a United Nations-owned software solution that supports the end-to-end process to enable the collection of passenger data from the transport industry, to conduct targeted analysis of data received, as well as share the findings of data assessment with relevant competent authorities.

Led by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), CT Travel follows an “All-of-UN” approach providing comprehensive, yet tailored assistance to beneficiary Member States with the support of its six implementing partners, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Office of Information and Communication Technology (UNOICT), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The Programme is co-funded by strategic investments and in-kind support from the European Union, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the State of Qatar, Germany, Australia, the United States of America, the Republic of India, Japan, Hungary, and the Republic of Korea.

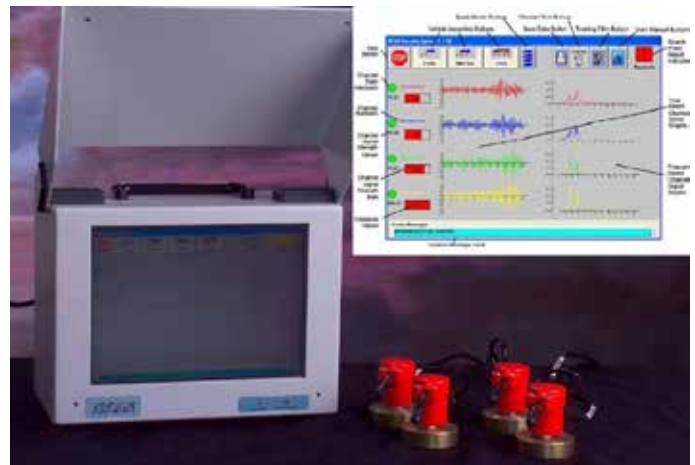
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Regional Exercise on Strengthening Maritime Security in the Western Indian Ocean



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recently hosted a meeting of Member States from South-Eastern Europe to discuss priorities for partnership and cooperation on drugs and crime prevention. Coming together in the Steering Committee for the UNODC Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe, the meeting enabled UNODC to present the results of its work in South-Eastern Europe in 2023 and discuss with its partners both the 2024 work plan and future priorities.

Setting the stage for the discussion, Mr. Tofiq Murshudlu, Officer in Charge of the UNODC Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia, noted: "With its strategic location on the crossroads between East and West, South-Eastern Europe plays a key role in facilitating trade across evolving transit corridors. Cross-border cooperation remains essential to address drug and other illicit trafficking and counter organized crime groups, which keep adapting their modus operandi."

In 2023, UNODC implemented close to 200 activities reaching approximately 4,000 practitioners with targeted training and other capacity development in South-Eastern Europe. "With its inclusive process and adherence to the principle of national ownership, UNODC's Regional Programme offers countries in

South-Eastern Europe not only a framework for tailored support to strengthen the rule of law, but also a platform to export ideas and good practices in the area of drugs and crime", said H.E. Ms. Eglantina Gjermeni, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania.

Key results of UNODC's work in South-Eastern Europe were presented during the meeting. This includes the roll out of drug prevention programs reaching over 500 teachers and 5450 children in 250 schools in 3 countries (Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia). Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a new strategy against transnational organized crime with UNODC support. Montenegro and North Macedonia introduced new provisions on firearms offenses in their criminal codes. Albania ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

In 2023, UNODC supported 9 joint inter-agency law enforcement units at land borders, sea and airports throughout the region contributing to significant seizures of illicit drugs and other contraband. Mock trial exercises enabled 150 criminal justice practitioners to get hands-on experience with the handling of human trafficking cases.

UNODC's support to a regional platform on implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption contributed to the development and implementation of 4 anti-corruption and asset recovery strategies in 3 jurisdictions (Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia), and 1 MOU facilitating collaboration between the supreme audit institution and anti-corruption agency (in Bosnia and Herzegovina) to more effectively prevent and fight corruption. With a new regional component of the Global Operational Network of Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE) network launched, international cooperation on asset recovery also advanced.

Regional Exercise on Strengthening Maritime Security in the Western Indian Ocean



The vast expanse of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) presents opportunities and challenges for the countries in the region. As a key maritime trade route, the WIO offers immense economic potential for these nations. However, it also poses security threats such as piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling and drug trafficking, amongst others. Therefore, enhancing maritime security in the WIO region is crucial to safeguarding economic interests and national sovereignty.

“As a child, I have always dreamed of being a police officer, as I have seen several drug-related incidents in my hometown and witnessing the negative impact of drugs on individuals and families fuelled my passion to pursue a career in law enforcement. I wanted to be part of the solution and contribute towards creating a society free from the devastating effects of drugs,” said Ranger Eunice Jira, who has been with the Kenya Coast Guard Service (KCGS) for five years and is a boat crew member specialised in communications and operations data retention. She recently completed the two-week Maritime Rule of Law Training (MROLEX) training facilitated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Maritime Crime Programme (UNODC GMCP) in Seychelles, the agency’s training hub for the region, from October to November 2023. The exercise included participation by country teams from Comoros,

Djibouti, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia, and Tanzania.

During the two-week exercise, the participants explored the challenges of maritime security operations, vessel detection, boarding procedures, asset maintenance, and legal prosecution. The training participants engaged in various simulated scenarios and practical exercises. These included scenarios where they had to respond to a suspicious vessel approaching a restricted area, exercises where they practised boarding procedures and maintenance procedures on different types of vessels, and simulations of legal prosecution processes for maritime crimes. Commenting on this, Warrant Officer II Peter Mbugua with KCGS emphasised, “This has alleviated my knowledge on maintenance tasks. I learned about the importance of regular inspections and troubleshooting techniques to prevent potential issues whilst on patrol”. These hands-on experiences allowed participants to apply their knowledge and skills in realistic situations guided by a team of experts in each field. Additionally, 2nd LT Anod, Head of Operations for the Somali Police Force Coast Guard Department stated, “As an observer, I have gained insights into the importance of effective communication and coordination among team members during operations and witnessed the thoroughness and attention to detail required in the legal prosecution processes for maritime crimes”.

The significance of MROLEX extends beyond skill-building; it serves as a platform for knowledge sharing and regional cooperation. At the exercise, representatives from national maritime law enforcement agencies exchanged experiences and established professional networks, laying the groundwork for coordinated efforts against common threats. “After this training my colleagues and I have successfully intercepted drugs originating from the Tanzania border to Kenya, resulting in an active court case over the past two months,” said Eric Mwenda Kabiti, a Kenya National



Police Service Directorate of Criminal Investigation Officer with the Anti-Narcotics Unit. In addition, Capt. Wong-Pool of the Seychelles Coast Guard said on the topic of such common illegal activity, "It is important to develop such capacity at the regional level. Additionally, we give the chance for all the countries to have common training whereby it facilitates joint operations – something being pushed for in the region under various international and regional frameworks that are being established".

These principles and recommended actions from this meeting adhere to SDG 14 and further its goals of conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources. In addition, it also aligns with the UNODC's Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 in promoting sustainable development and safeguarding Africa's natural resources.

As UNODC GMCP continues strengthening maritime security in the WIO, this training aligns with SDG 16, which aims to promote peace, justice, and strong institutions and SDG 14, focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans by addressing security threats that can undermine marine ecosystems. Furthermore, aligns with the UNODC's Strategic Vision for Africa, 2030, emphasising the promotion of sustainable development and the safeguarding of Africa's natural resources.

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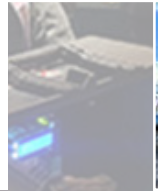
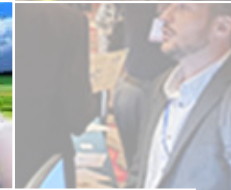
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Beware of Fake Oil and Gas Jobs in West African Countries

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), has uncovered a new ploy by some suspected human traffickers who are exploiting coordinated global brand trademarks and offering unrealistic Oil and Gas job offers to traffic unsuspecting youths and other classes of people to neighboring West African countries for various forms of exploitation.

Prof Fatima Waziri–Azi, Director-General of NAPTIP, revealed this alarming trend at the Agency's Headquarters in Abuja while discussing emerging trends in human trafficking for the year 2024.

In recent times, NAPTIP has redoubled its efforts through enhanced partnership, collaboration, diligent prosecution, and extensive awareness campaigns aimed at bolstering its operations, resulting in a significant increase in convictions of human traffickers.

Prof. Fatima Waziri–Azi emphasized, "As part of our comprehensive enlightenment strategies to equip Nigerians with timely and accurate information to reduce their vulnerability, we have received reports

indicating that traffickers have adopted new tactics to lure unsuspecting victims, predominantly to Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, and other West African nations."

She continued, "Under the guise of lucrative employment opportunities in gold mining and oil companies, victims are enticed with promises of monthly incomes as high as Nine Hundred Dollars (\$900.00), which, as always, are blatant lies."

"Victims are often instructed to bring up to Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N850,000) for documentation and other logistical expenses. Upon arrival at their destination, traffickers confiscate this money, along with the victims' phones and other personal belongings."

"The targeted demographic includes male and female victims aged between 15 and 35 years old. They are typically trafficked through the waterways of Ode Jetty in Lagos en route to the Benin Republic and other parts of the West African region. Some victims are also trafficked via land routes."

Man charged over brazen 20kg meth import at Sydney Airport



A Taiwanese national was been charged for allegedly importing more than 20kg of methamphetamine concealed in wine bottles and herbal tea in his carry-on luggage.

The man, 27, was questioned by Australian Border

Force (ABF) officers at Sydney International Airport after he arrived on a flight from Thailand.

ABF officers examined the man's luggage – which included a carry-on bag and checked-in suitcase – and allegedly found methamphetamine concealed in wine bottles, herbal tea and bath salts. The estimated weight of the packages allegedly containing methamphetamine was 21.2kg.

He was later charged with importing a commercial quantity of a border controlled drug, contrary to section 307.1(1) of the Criminal Code 1995 (Cth), which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

US CBP agents arrest 69 migrants inside the El Paso public storm drain system



Agents assigned to the El Paso Station were notified of a possible illegally entry into the U.S. near an area known as Boone Storm Drain, east of the Bridge of the Americas international port of entry. Agents assigned to the El Paso Station Confined Space Entry Team (CSET) responded and initiated a search. They located an entry through a manhole near Interstate 10. High levels of chlorine were detected at the site.

Agents subsequently intercepted and apprehended a group of 27 migrants. Immediately thereafter, CSET agents responded to the same location for another entry. Agents intercepted and apprehended an additional 43

migrants exploiting the storm drains near Paisano Avenue.

A total of 69 migrants from Guatemala, Mexico, Bolivia, Honduras and El Salvador, including four unaccompanied juveniles from Mexico and Guatemala, were all arrested.

Five people attempted to illegally cross the Polish-Belarusian border



People on the Belarusian side, tried to destroy elements of the technical barrier protecting the Polish border. The events took place in the section protected by the Border Guard Post in Czeremcha.

Foreigners moving along the barrier are constantly monitored by the monitoring

system and Polish services. Migrants are still looking for opportunities to cross the border illegally. In January 2024, citizens of Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Syria tried to illegally enter the territory of Poland in the section protected by the Podlaskie Branch of the Border Guard.

Four foreigners claiming to be Afghan citizens found in the truck trailer Four foreigners claiming to be Afghan citizens



Four foreigners were detained as a result of information obtained from police officers from the Police Headquarters in Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki. After arriving at the site, officers from the Warsaw-Modlin Border Guard Station checked the legality of stay of both four men claiming

to be Afghan citizens and the driver – a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They found that four foreigners did not have any identity documents or other documents proving their legal stay in the territory of the Republic of Poland, which is why they violated the provisions of the Act on Foreigners. Preparatory proceedings were initiated against all four of them for crossing the border of the Republic of Poland contrary to the regulations, i.e. for an offense under Art. 264 § 2 of the Penal Code.

The suspects admitted to committing the acts they were accused of, giving explanations and declaring their willingness to voluntarily submit to punishment under Art. 335 § 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in the form of a prison sentence of 6 months with conditional suspension of the execution of the sentence for a probation period of 3 years and publication of the judgment.

Eurojust coordinates arrests in Swedish cannabis trafficking case



Eurojust has supported the Swedish and Spanish authorities in the coordinated arrest of four suspects involved in the wholesale and transport of cannabis and other illicit drugs. The main suspect was allegedly organising the reception of the drugs in Sweden and their distribution in and around Stockholm. He was arrested in Spain based on a European Arrest Warrant

(EAW) with a view to surrender him to Sweden.

Eurojust set up a coordination centre last week to assist the Swedish and Spanish authorities with the exchange of information and the execution of the EAW, as well as European Investigation Orders. A number of premises were also searched and various goods and telecommunications equipment seized during concerted actions in both countries.

Based on the interception and decoding by the Swedish authorities of large-scale encrypted communications, it was established that the suspects has transported, received and stored large quantities of cannabis in the second half of 2020. During this period, also a large quantity of the synthetic drug MDMA was handled

Five arrested for bringing 150 kilos of cocaine hidden in double funds of furniture from South America into Algeciras



The Spanish Civil Guard, within the framework of operation "IROKO", has dismantled a criminal organization dedicated to the introduction of cocaine into Spain from Panama. In total, five people have been arrested and 150 kilograms of cocaine have been seized in the port of Algeciras.

The operation began in July 2023 after the interception in the port of Algeciras

of a container in which 150 kilos of cocaine were found. The drugs were hidden in double bottoms made in different types of furniture that arrived at the port of Algeciras from Panama.

From that moment, the investigators began to analyze all the information, discovering that the organization used company screens to transport the containers.

CMF-assigned cutter seizes hashish and methamphetamines in North Arabian Sea



A U.S. Coast Guard cutter patrolling under the command of Combined Task Force 150 of the Combined Maritime Forces seized hashish and methamphetamines with a total estimated street value of \$24.3 million in the North Arabian Sea.

It was the third seizure by a CMF-assigned cutter in four days, following seizures by USCGC Clarence Sutphin Jr. (WPC 1147) and USCGC John Scheuerman (WPC 1146) of hashish, heroin, methamphetamines and pills with a total estimated street value of \$24.5 million in the Gulf of Oman.

A team from USCGC Robert Goldman (WPC 1142), a Sentinel-class cutter, boarded a dhow after it displayed indicators consistent with illicit drug trafficking.

Aboard, the team discovered over

300 bags of drugs containing 3,514 kilograms of hashish and 417 kilograms of methamphetamines.

42 arrested for smuggling migrants across the Danube



A cross-border investigation led by the Romanian Border Police (Poliția de Frontieră), supported by Europol and involving the Bulgarian General Directorate Combating Organised Crime (Главна Дирекция Борба с организираната престъпност) and the German Police (Bundespolizeiinspektion Waidhaus), has resulted in the dismantling of an organised crime group involved in migrant smuggling. The group were smuggling migrants from Bulgaria to Romania, across the Danube river, and then toward Western Europe.

The investigative activities established that the criminal network, composed mainly of Bangladeshi, Iraqi and Romanian citizens, was formed in the beginning of 2023. The suspects recruited migrants from Middle-East who wanted to reach Western European countries, especially Germany.

In the first phase, the suspects picked migrants up from Bulgaria and transported them in boats across the Danube river. The migrants would then be taken in groups of 20-30 via cargo transport to the western

part of Romania, mainly the areas of Timișoara/Arad and Caraș Severin

Bulgarian customs officers at Lesovo BCP found cigarettes in a truck with furniture



The customs officers at Lesovo BCP found 80 000 pieces (4000 boxes) of contraband cigarettes in a truck transporting furniture to France.

The truck with a foreign registration arrived at Lesovo BCP on an inbound route into the country. The driver, a Turkish citizen, submitted documents that he was transporting furniture from Turkey to France via Bulgaria. During the customs inspection with specialized X-ray equipment, the inspectors mark a suspicious area in the cargo. A physical inspection was carried out, during which undeclared 80 000 pieces (4000 boxes) of cigarettes of various brands were found hidden among the declared furniture in the marked area. The contraband cigarettes were seized. Against the driver with initials I.D. an administrative violation act was drawn up.

Since the beginning of February alone, the customs officers of the Lesovo BCP have discovered 67 attempts to smuggle cigarettes, and a total of 339 900 cigarettes (16 995 boxes) have been seized.

Major blow to Albanian drug trafficking network: 59 arrests across Europe



Italian and Albanian authorities have taken decisive action against a major drug trafficking network operating from both countries. With the support of Eurojust and Europol in a large-scale operation, 59 suspects were arrested, including in Albania, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom, and 10 suspects were subjected to other precautionary measures in Italy. The network mainly smuggled heroin, cocaine, hashish and marijuana into Germany and Spain using cars with double bottoms or secret compartments.

Last year, 21 suspects were arrested in a first operation against the same Albanian-led organised crime group (OCG). That operation also led to the seizure of drugs worth an estimated EUR 2.7 million.

15 arrested in intercontinental crackdown against Nigerian crime syndicates

Europol coordinated a massive international operation targeting Nigerian criminal networks active in the EU and abroad. 16 partners from four continents joined forces to fight poly-criminal Nigerian criminal networks responsible for a multitude of serious crimes.



This unprecedented international operation, supported by EMPACT, was conducted by law enforcement from across Europe, Africa, South America and North America. 468 law enforcement officers took part in the action day. The crackdown targeted Nigerian criminals responsible for crimes such as the smuggling and distribution of drugs, trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation, fraud, illegal waste smuggling, and money laundering.

Sting operation leads to Brazil arrest of one of South America's most wanted fugitives



Diego Nicolás Marset Alba, a reputed drug kingpin and brother to the leader of the “Primer Cartel Uruguayo” cartel, was arrested in Brazil as part of a regional police operation involving INTERPOL National Central Bureaus (NCBs) in Brasilia, La Paz, Asuncion and Montevideo.

22-year-old Uruguayan national Diego Marset had been avoiding arrest for many years by using multiple false identities from Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. He is thought to be a central figure in the trafficking of drugs from South America to Europe and is also linked to several high-profile killings.

Diego Marset was the subject of an INTERPOL Red Notice requested by Paraguay, which serves as a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and arrest a suspect for extradition.

Ramey US CBP Agents Apprehend 30 Undocumented Migrants in Two Separate Locations in North Western Puerto Rico



US Border Patrol apprehended 30 undocumented non-citizens during two separate migrant smuggling incidents in the coast of Aguadilla and Isabela.

In the early morning hours, a Puerto Rico Police FURA unit intercepted a “yola” type makeshift vessel with 14 men: 12 adults from the Dominican Republic, 1 juvenile from the Dominican Republic and 1 Haitian juvenile.

At about 9:30 AM, a concerned citizen contacted Ramey Radio to inform of a migrant smuggling event near Jobos beach in Isabela.

Border Patrol agents, along with Isabela Municipal Police and Puerto Rico Police Department FURA agents searched the area, and after several hours, apprehended 16 migrants. All migrants claimed to be citizens of the Dominican Republic.

Customs inspectors at Sofia Airport seized over 2800 packages of veterinary vaccines and 128 animal passports

Customs officers from TD Customs Sofia seized 2 878 packages of veterinary vaccines, over one kilogram



of veterinary tablets and 128 passports of dogs and cats, which they found in the suitcase of a passenger at Sofia Airport.

Customs inspectors stopped for a routine inspection a passenger who arrived from Turkey. The woman said she had nothing to declare.

During the inspection with a scanner, a large amount of veterinary preparations were found in her suitcase – vaccines and tablets for deworming, passports of dogs and cats, suspected of being fake. From a payment document it becomes clear that the woman has purchased them from the Russian Federation, from where she travels through Turkey to Bulgaria.

EU DRUG MARKETS ANALYSIS 2024 KEY INSIGHTS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

The following are some selected extracts from the EU Drug Markets Analysis 2024 Key insights for policy and practice report by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and Europol

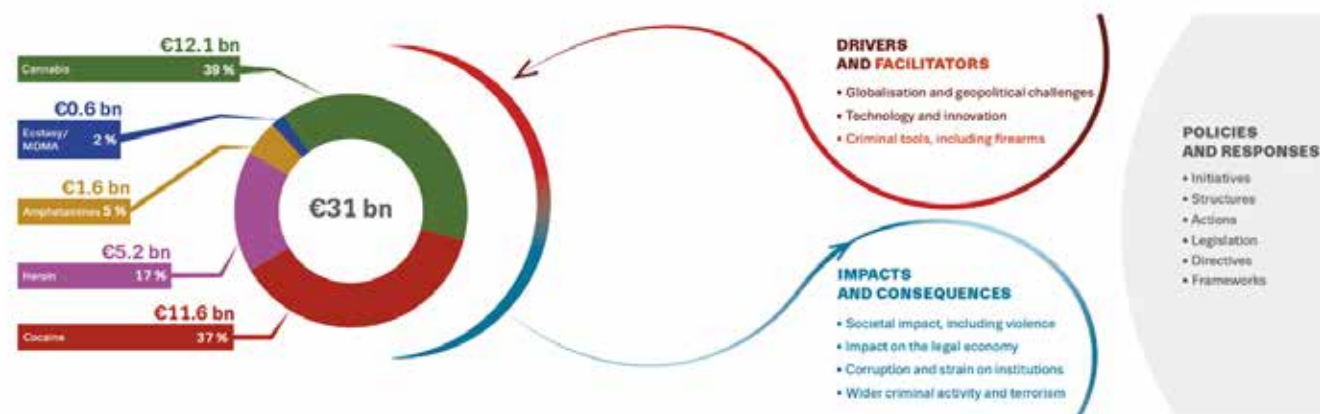
Current landscape and key threats

Based on 2021 data, the EU drug market is estimated to have a minimum retail value of at least EUR 31 billion. It is a major income source for organised crime. A key feature of this market is the interconnectedness between different illicit drugs, with criminal networks and key brokers and facilitators often engaging in poly-drug criminality. The large EU drug market also intersects with, and has a significant impact on other crime areas, such as the trafficking in firearms and money laundering.

The latest data and analysis show a large, complex and constantly evolving EU drug market (Figure 1).

Availability remains high across the main drugs used in Europe, evidenced by the large and in some cases increasing quantities that continue to be seized in the European Union. In addition, the market for illicit drugs is characterised by the diversification of consumer products and the widespread availability of a broader range of drugs, including new psychoactive substances, often of high potency or purity.

Figure 1. EU drug markets ecosystem



Specialised equipment may be required to meet the detection and monitoring challenges posed by this diversification. The recent emergence of highly potent opioids, particularly benzimidazoles (nitazenes), poses a particularly complex threat to public health due to their increased risk of life-threatening poisoning. The potential emergence of new patterns of consumption in Europe is also a key threat, due to the availability of cheap and highly potent or pure drugs. This is particularly the case for cocaine, which has seen unprecedented levels of availability.

Industrial-scale production of cannabis and synthetic drugs, such as amphetamine, methamphetamine, MDMA and cathinones, takes place in the EU for both domestic and international markets. The scale and complexity of synthetic drug production in Europe is driven by innovation in methods and equipment, and the availability of the key chemicals needed. Large-scale cocaine processing also now

takes place inside the European Union. Europe is also likely an important transit zone for global drug flows, particularly cocaine from Latin America and to a lesser extent amphetamine in the form of captagon tablets from Syria and Lebanon.

A diverse range of criminal networks operate in the EU drug market. These networks demonstrate a high level of adaptability, capitalising on technological advancements and broader societal changes, exploiting legal business structures and taking advantage of opportunities in the traditional and digital economies. Criminals often rely on other networks or brokers to facilitate their illicit activities. This also gives them the flexibility to diversify sources and products, trafficking routes and concealment methods – enhancing their efficiency and adaptability to minimise risks and maximise profits.

The EU drug market has shown remarkable resilience to global crises, instability and significant political and economic changes. Recent examples

of such shocks include the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war on Ukraine and the Taliban's rise to power in Afghanistan. In response, criminal networks have adapted, changing trafficking routes and diversifying their methods. Simultaneously, these developments have also influenced the emergence of new markets and in some cases appear to have changed consumer preferences.

Illicit drug markets and the regular economy intersect in numerous and significant ways. For example, criminals exploit the commercial transport infrastructure to traffic drugs and they use loopholes in legislation to access chemicals for illicit drug production. These intersections are also visible on the cannabis and opioid markets, where some products legally available for medicinal or industrial purposes may be diverted. For example, legal industrial hemp cultivation and CBD (cannabidiol) production may be exploited for the manufacture of unauthorised cannabis products.



Some EU Member States are experiencing unprecedented levels of drug market-related violence, often related to the cocaine and cannabis markets. This appears to be concentrated in distribution hubs and in competitive retail markets. Such violence includes killings, torture, kidnappings and intimidation, and often takes place between criminal networks, although innocent people are also victims. This has a severe impact on society as a whole, increasing the perception of public insecurity.

Criminal networks rely on corruption across all levels of the drug market to facilitate their activities and mitigate risks, including those posed by the criminal justice system. Drug-related corruption also targets individuals with access to key infrastructure, such as those working in logistics hubs, the legal profession and the financial sector. Corruption, which is often linked to violence, has a corrosive effect on the fabric of society and undermines governance,

creating systemic vulnerabilities and sometimes coercively involving people in criminal activity.

Innovation in illicit drug production results in higher outputs, increased potency or purity, and a broader range of consumer products. Criminal networks continue to introduce novel chemicals to produce synthetic drugs, posing complex challenges for law enforcement. Innovation in the chemical concealment of drugs also significantly complicates detection and interdiction. Simultaneously, criminal networks leverage digital advances and technological opportunities to conceal illicit communication, improve drug distribution models and reduce risk. An example of this is the recent rise in the use of social media and instant messaging applications for the retail sale of drugs, making a wide range of substances more accessible.

Actions to address current threats and increase preparedness

Monitoring and responding to the

multiple threats that are posed by the EU drug market requires a multidisciplinary, flexible and future-oriented approach – mitigating harms and seizing opportunities for positive change. Below the report outlines the key areas that need to be addressed in order to respond effectively to current and future threats arising from EU drug markets.

Improve the intelligence picture: detection, monitoring and analysis

- Strengthen the systematic monitoring and analysis of the EU drug market, including precursors, illicit drugs and new psychoactive substances, making further use of advanced methods and technologies, such as artificial intelligence and satellite imagery analysis.
- Enhance detection and monitoring of particularly harmful substances with significant negative implications for public health, such as synthetic opioids and new psychoactive substances.
- Further strengthen threat assessments across the drugs supply chain, including a focus on how developments outside Europe may impact on the EU drug market.
- Improve monitoring and analysis of drug market-related violence, using comparable indicators and tools, with the aim of developing a deeper understanding of its causes. In conjunction, prioritise the mapping of criminal networks that pose the highest threat.
- Enhance monitoring and analysis of the use of online platforms to trade and distribute drugs.

Particular attention should be paid to developments on the surface web and social media platforms, especially in relation to their use by young people.

- Develop new frameworks to analyse the potential impact of legislative changes on illicit drug markets. This will require improved understanding of the size of the drug market and its possible impacts on governance.

Strengthen responses to reduce supply and enhance security

- Strengthen operational responses against criminal networks, particularly against high-risk criminal networks and high-value targets. The latter include the brokers and facilitators that enable illicit activities, such as money-laundering networks.

- Further prioritise operational activities that dismantle entire criminal networks and their associates.

- Make full use of relevant European tools for operational coordination and international cooperation, in particular operational task forces and joint investigation teams.

- Enhance responses to the trafficking and diversion of precursors and essential chemicals used in drug production. Enhanced strategies are required to prevent criminal networks from exploiting weaknesses of current control measures and to reduce the supply of precursors.

- Strengthen administrative barriers to prevent criminals from exploiting legal loopholes and the licit economy. This should include enhanced and targeted measures to tackle corruption to prevent criminals from



undermining the rule of law. Enhance interdiction capacity at seaports, post and parcel hubs in Europe. This should include the implementation of advanced monitoring technologies and tools.

- Strengthen and further prioritise crime prevention policies focused on young people at risk of exploitation and recruitment by criminal networks. Prevention and awareness programmes targeted at online risk behaviours among young people should also be enhanced.

Strengthen international cooperation

- Strengthen engagement and cooperation with international organisations and third countries to tackle criminal networks across the entire supply chain for illicit drugs. Particular attention should be paid to improving cooperation at key hubs for drug flows destined for the European Union.

- Promote the exchange of data and intelligence on drug trafficking networks, routes and trends to

enhance situational awareness and coordinated responses between the European Union and third countries.

- Further support the implementation of relevant European regulations and international agreements to harmonise legal frameworks to disrupt the drugs trade. Particular attention should be paid to improving frameworks for extraditing and prosecuting criminals operating in external countries.
- Strengthen public-private partnerships to prevent the exploitation of licit business structures and international trade routes. This includes prioritising improved resilience against criminal activity in key logistics hubs.

Invest in capacity-building

- Increase the human and financial resources devoted to operational and strategic responses. Particular attention should be paid to capacitybuilding in key entry points for drugs flows to Europe, and to ensuring coherence and alignment with established best practice.

- Strengthen investment in the development and implementation of innovative detection, monitoring and analysis technologies.
- Further invest in the training of key workers and officials, both within Europe and in key external countries, to raise awareness and further disseminate best practices to prevent criminal activities.
- Enhance assistance and capacity-building support to third countries on key drug trafficking routes to Europe, focusing on law enforcement, border control and drug treatment and harm reduction programmes

Strengthen policy, public health and safety responses

- Further enhance evidence-based policymaking to mitigate the negative health and security impacts of illicit drug markets. Specifically, future-oriented policy approaches and responses are needed, based on detailed threat assessments, to anticipate and proactively mitigate emerging threats.
- Improve targeted crime prevention efforts, focusing on vulnerable communities.
- Enhance investments in targeted and evidence-based prevention, treatment and harm reduction interventions to mitigate the harmful consequences of drug use.
- Improve policy awareness and responses to the environmental risks and damage associated with drug production, trafficking and use.



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction



EU Drug Markets Analysis | 2024

Key insights for policy and practice

Towards a coherent approach

The EU legislative framework is key to providing a coherent approach for law enforcement and judicial authorities in tackling organised crime. This legislative framework provides Member States with efficient tools, such as the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), to disrupt criminal actors across the supply chain for illicit drugs. Going forward, there is a need to strengthen other integrated approaches that address the root causes of illicit drug markets. To this end, policies and responses should aim to tackle the social, economic and psychological drivers of illicit drug markets. Continued implementation of all relevant measures under the EU legislative framework, along with the development of new policies and responses to tackle emerging threats, is of great importance to ensure coherence in the fight against organised crime.

Detailed recommendations are available in the individual modules: https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/eu-drug-markets_en

You can read the full report at: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/EU%20Drug%20Markets%20Analysis%202024.pdf>.

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INTERPOL Financial Fraud assessment: A global threat boosted by technology

A new INTERPOL assessment on global financial fraud highlights how the increased use of technology is enabling organized crime groups to better target victims around the world.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), large language models and cryptocurrencies combined with phishing and ransomware-as-a-service business models have resulted in more sophisticated and professional fraud campaigns without the need for advanced technical skills, and at relatively little cost.

Analysis behind the INTERPOL Global Financial Fraud Assessment also points to the global expansion of human trafficking for the purpose of forced criminality in call centres, particularly to carry out 'pig-butchering' scams – a hybrid scheme combining romance and investment frauds, using cryptocurrencies.

INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock said, "We are

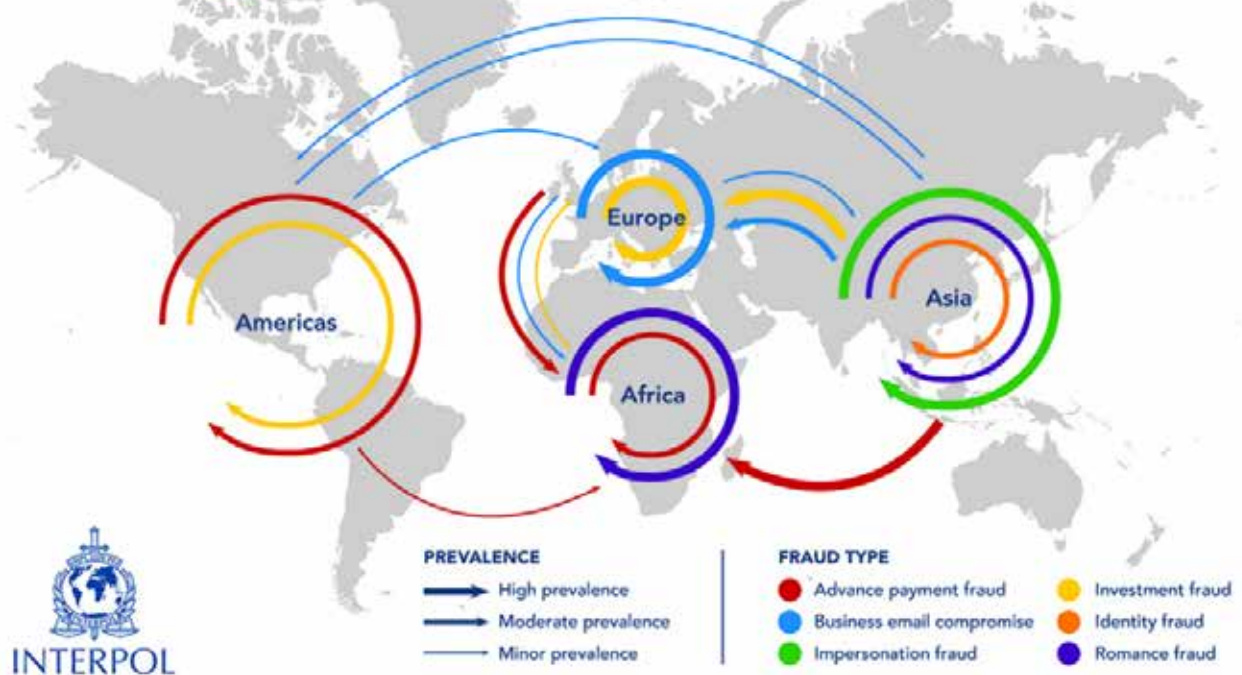
facing an epidemic in the growth of financial fraud, leading to individuals, often vulnerable people, and companies being defrauded on a massive and global scale.

"Changes in technology and the rapid increase in the scale and volume of organized crime has driven the creation of a range of new ways to defraud innocent people, business and even governments. With the development of AI and Cryptocurrencies, the situation is only going to get worse without urgent action.

"It is important that there are no safe havens for financial fraudsters to operate. We must close existing gaps and ensure information sharing between sectors and across borders is the norm, not the exception.

"We also need to encourage greater reporting of financial crime as well as invest in capacity building and training for law enforcement to develop a more effective and truly global response."

Regional Trends in Financial Fraud



The report is being launched by the Secretary General at the Financial Fraud Summit, organized by the UK government in London.

Key findings

Other key findings of the report, which is for law enforcement use only, include:

The most prevalent global trends are investment fraud, advance payment fraud, romance fraud and business email compromise

Financial fraud is most often carried out by a network of co-offenders, varying from highly structured to loosely affiliated.

An urgent need to strengthen data collection and analysis in order to develop more informed and effective counter strategies.

To effectively address this globally escalating crime and bridge crucial information gaps, one of the report's recommendations is the need to build multi-stakeholder, Public-Private Partnerships to trace and recover funds lost to financial fraud.

Since the launch of INTERPOL's Global Rapid Intervention of Payments (I-GRIP) stop-payment mechanism in 2022, the Organization has helped member countries intercept more than USD 500 million in criminal proceeds, stemming largely from cyber-enabled fraud.

Regional Trends in Financial Fraud

Africa

Business Email Compromise remains one of the most prevalent trends in Africa, however there is increasing use of the pig butchering fraud. Cases of this fraud type have been identified in West and Southern Africa targeting victims in other jurisdictions beyond the continent.

Certain West African criminal groups, including the Black Axe, Airlords and Supreme Eiye, continue to grow transnationally, and are known to have extensive skills in online financial fraud such as romance fraud, investment fraud, advance fee fraud, and cryptocurrency fraud.

Americas

The most common types of fraud across the Americas are impersonation, romance, tech support, advance payment, and telecom frauds.

Human trafficking-fuelled fraud continues to be a growing crime phenomenon. The INTERPOL coordinated operation, Operation Turquesa V, revealed that hundreds of victims were trafficked out of the region after being lured via messaging apps and social media platforms and coerced to commit fraud, including investments frauds and pig butchering.

There is emerging evidence that Latin-American crime syndicates such as Commando Vermelho, Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) and Cartel Jalisco New Generation (CJNG) are also involved in the commission of financial fraud.

Asia

Pig butchering fraud schemes initiated in Asia in 2019, and expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, Asia has emerged as a focal point, with criminal organizations in poorer countries across the region employing business-like structures.

Another fraud type that has experienced a surge in recent years in Asia is a type of telecommunication fraud where perpetrators impersonate law enforcement officers or bank officials to trick victims to disclose their credit card or bank account credentials or to hand over huge amounts of money.

Europe

Online investment frauds, phishing, and other online financial fraud schemes have escalated on carefully selected targets to maximize profits. Mobile phone apps are also being targeted by cybercriminals.

The criminal networks involved in these online schemes often display sophisticated and complex *modi operandi*, which are usually a combination of different fraud types.

Pig butchering, predominantly carried out of call centres in Southeast Asia, is also on the rise.

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TACKLING THE COMPLEX CHALLENGES OF LAND AND SEA BORDERS

How governments and organizations use innovative technologies and solutions to secure their land and sea borders by Nicolas Phan, Head of Market Development, IDEMIA Public Security

There are many complex operational challenges when securing land and sea borders. This is primarily due to the diverse categories of travelers, crossing either in a group or independently, as well as the various modalities used to cross borders (cars, motorcycles, trucks, cruise ships, ferries, cargo ships, etc.).

Managing this requires a combination of solutions, ranging from eGates to smartphone-based that must function in varied lighting, climate, and landscape conditions.

They should also seamlessly integrate with current systems and services and provide the flexibility to comply and adapt to changing needs.

These varying characteristics and challenges are why governments and private entities understand that a one-size-fits-all approach is impossible. As such, they are turning to innovative solutions and technologies to manage their land and sea borders.

Person-centric border security management

To securely clear travelers at border-crossing points, it is instrumental to implement a comprehensive, end-to-end solution adapted to the unique requirements of land and sea checkpoints. The solution must ensure a speedy clearance experience for travelers of varying profiles and modes of transport while also providing the highest level of security.

An example that illustrates the changing requirements for land and sea borders is the European Union's implementation of the new border management initiative, the Entry/Exit System (EES), set to start later this year.

With the EU-EES, third-country nationals (TCNs) entering the Schengen Area for the first time will have their face and fingerprints captured and enrolled to create a new, secure European biometric database. This data will be used to perform clearance checks of TCNs entering or exiting the Schengen Area.

By deploying a person-centric approach, this new initiative has the potential to prevent illegal border crossings and modernize border management. The traditional document-centric approach is being replaced with one that empowers border guards to make decisions based on a traveler's trusted identity. This transformation of border control is possible only through the utilization of robust multibiometric technologies integrated into an



end-to-end border management solution. A person-centric approach should also rely on assessing the profile of each traveler. Through a risk analysis system, border authorities can leverage travelers' data to identify suspicious profiles and proceed accordingly.

An innovative and versatile approach to border management

Successfully developing and implementing a fully integrated solution requires a deep understanding of the government's and border's unique requirements. Today, IDEMIA Public Security harnesses leading-edge technologies and field experience to secure a wide range of land and sea borders.

- Within the framework of the European EES, nine Member States entrust IDEMIA Public Security to ensure regulation compliance and enhance the security of their borders including land and sea locations. To secure the border-crossing process,

Member States are deploying IDEMIA Public Security's solutions that include equipping traditional manual counters to pre-clearance kiosks, ABC gates, tablets, mobile suitcases, smartphone Software Development Kits (SDKs), and management systems.

- In the Middle East, IDEMIA Public Security is working on a border clearance proof-of-concept that automatically registers and clears passengers as they remain inside their cars.

- Working alongside the Singapore Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA), IDEMIA Public Security installed biometric kiosks at the Woodlands Train Checkpoint (WTCP). Using a cluster of kiosks that scan passports and capture biometric data in 24 seconds, the ICA can save space, process more than 10,000 entering/exiting travelers daily, and redeploy officers to areas requiring workforce support. All while ensuring a pleasant experience for tourists as well



as commuters crossing between Singapore and Malaysia by train or bus.

- Securing sea and land borders extends to private entities responsible for ensuring compliance with government regulations while providing an enjoyable experience for their customers. The implementation of IDEMIA Public Security's portable face-capturing system has helped the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line to cut processing time by threefold. Achieving peak performance, the system processes 720 passengers per hour, resulting in reduction of staffing resources from eight to just two guards per boat, accommodating up to 4500 passengers.

Governments and organizations rely increasingly on technology to secure land and sea borders while facilitating passage of bona fide travelers. This is why system providers must offer robust, reliable,

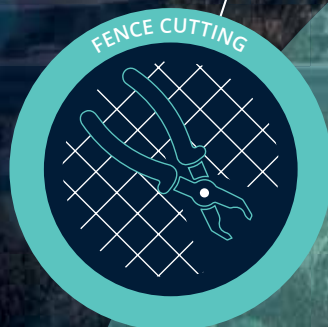
and tailored solutions that can scale and evolve over time.

Extending Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) solutions to land and sea borders, along with the emergence of the Digital Travel Credential and other newer solutions and technologies, will gain momentum in the years to come. This will require an ever-increasing need for scalable border management systems.



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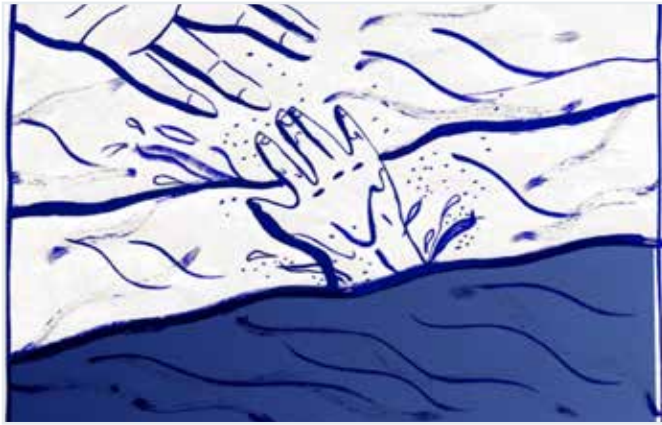
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Deadliest Year on Record for Migrants with Nearly 8,600 Deaths in 2023



At least 8,565 people died on migration routes worldwide in 2023, making it the deadliest year on record, according to data collected by IOM's Missing Migrants Project. The 2023 death toll represents a tragic increase of 20 per cent compared to 2022, highlighting the urgent need for action to prevent further loss of life.

"As we mark the Missing Migrants Project's ten years, we first remember all these lives lost. Every single one of them is a terrible human tragedy that reverberates through families and communities for years to come," said IOM Deputy Director General Ugochi Daniels. "These horrifying figures collected by the Missing Migrants Project are also a reminder that we must recommit to greater action that can ensure safe migration for all, so that 10 years from now, people aren't having to risk their lives in search of a better one."

Last year's total surpasses the number of dead and missing globally in the previous record year of 2016, when 8,084 people died during migration, making it the deadliest year since the Missing Migrants Project's inception in 2014. As safe and regular migration pathways remain limited, hundreds of thousands of people attempt to migrate every year via irregular routes in unsafe conditions. Slightly more than half of the deaths were a result of drowning, with nine per cent caused by vehicle accidents, and seven per cent by violence.

The Mediterranean crossing continues to be the deadliest route for migrants on record, with at least 3,129 deaths and disappearances. This is the highest death toll recorded in the Mediterranean since 2017. Regionally, unprecedented numbers of migrant deaths were recorded across Africa (1,866) and Asia (2,138). In Africa, most of these deaths occurred in the Sahara Desert and the sea route to the Canary Islands. In Asia, hundreds of deaths of Afghan and Rohingya refugees fleeing their countries of origin were recorded last year.

In 2024, ten years since the establishment of the Missing Migrants Project as the only open-access database on migrant deaths and disappearances, the project has documented more than 63,000 cases worldwide. The true figure, however, is estimated to be much higher due to challenges in data collection particularly in remote locations such as the Darien National Park in Panama and on maritime routes, where IOM regularly records reports of invisible shipwrecks where boats disappear without a trace.

Established in 2014 following two devastating shipwrecks off the coast of Lampedusa, Italy, the Missing Migrants Project is recognized as the sole indicator measuring the level of 'safety' of migration in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

An upcoming report provides detailed analysis of missing migrants data from 2023 and key facts and figures on migrant deaths and disappearances over the last ten years. It provides an opportunity for IOM and partners to assess ongoing work to expand safe and regular migration pathways, enhance search and rescue operations, and support affected individuals and families. IOM, alongside many other organizations, and as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, calls on governments and the international community to continue working together to prevent further loss of life and uphold the dignity and rights of all individuals.

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ENHANCING BORDER SECURITY THROUGH BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

By Seyit Ali Kaya, Iris ID

In an era marked by increased globalization, migration has become a significant phenomenon, presenting both opportunities and challenges for nations worldwide. As countries endeavor to manage their borders effectively, the identification of individuals during border crossings holds paramount importance. This essay explores the critical role of biometrics in border management, emphasizing

the principles of de-duplication, 1: N identification, and the humane treatment of migrants.

Biometrics, the measurement, and analysis of unique physical and behavioral characteristics, has emerged as a powerful tool in border security. By utilizing biometric data such as fingerprints, facial recognition, and iris captures, authorities can accurately verify the identities of individuals, enhancing

security and streamlining border processes. The importance of biometrics in managing migration cannot be overstated, as it provides a robust means of authentication that is difficult to forge or replicate. One of the key principles underpinning effective biometric identification in border management is de-duplication. De-duplication refers to the process of ensuring that each individual is represented by a single identity record within a database. This prevents the duplication of identities and helps maintain the integrity of border control systems. By eliminating duplicate entries, authorities can enhance the accuracy and reliability of identity verification processes, reducing the risk of fraud and enhancing security. The test of de-duplication must be fast and shouldn't require expensive computing power or bandwidth since not all borders have the required connectivity and/or computing power.

However, amidst the pursuit of stringent border security measures, it is imperative to uphold the fundamental principle of treating people as individuals rather than mere suspects or crime committers. Migration is a complex phenomenon driven by a myriad of socio-economic, political, and humanitarian factors. Therefore, border management policies and practices should be guided by principles of dignity, respect, and compassion towards migrants.



Biometric identification should serve as a tool to facilitate lawful and orderly migration while safeguarding the rights and well-being of individuals.

De-duplication, the process of ensuring that each individual is represented by a single identity record within a database, offers several significant benefits during border management:

1. **Enhanced Security:** De-duplication helps to maintain the integrity of border control systems by preventing the creation of duplicate identities. This reduces the risk of identity fraud, identity theft, and other forms of illicit activity that may compromise national security. By ensuring that each individual is uniquely represented in the database, authorities can more effectively track and monitor border crossings, mitigating potential security threats.

2. **Improved Accuracy:** De-duplication enhances the accuracy of identity verification processes by eliminating the possibility of multiple identities for the same individual. This ensures that border control authorities have access to reliable and up-to-date information when screening individuals during crossings. As a result, the likelihood of errors in identification is significantly reduced, leading to more precise decision-making and enhanced overall border security.

3. **Streamlined Operations:** By maintaining a single identity record for each individual, de-duplication streamlines administrative processes and reduces operational inefficiencies. Border control agencies can avoid redundant data entry, duplicate screening procedures, and unnecessary delays in processing travelers. This optimization of workflows allows for smoother and more efficient border



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management operations, improving the overall experience for both travelers and border personnel.

4. Cost Savings: De-duplication can lead to cost savings for border control agencies by reducing the need for redundant data storage, maintenance, and system resources. By consolidating identity records and eliminating duplicates, agencies can optimize their IT infrastructure and allocate resources more effectively. This not only reduces operational expenses but also maximizes the return on investment in border management technologies and systems.

5. Enhanced Data Integrity: De-duplication helps to maintain the integrity and reliability of identity databases by ensuring that they contain accurate and up-to-date information. By eliminating duplicate or outdated records, authorities can rely on the data more confidently when making critical decisions related to border security, immigration enforcement, and law enforcement. This promotes trust in the integrity of border management systems among stakeholders and the public alike.

Moreover, the shift from 1:1 to 1:N matching in biometric identification is essential for ensuring the thorough scrutiny of individuals during border crossings. While 1:1 matching compares a single biometric sample against a specific template to verify identity, 1:N

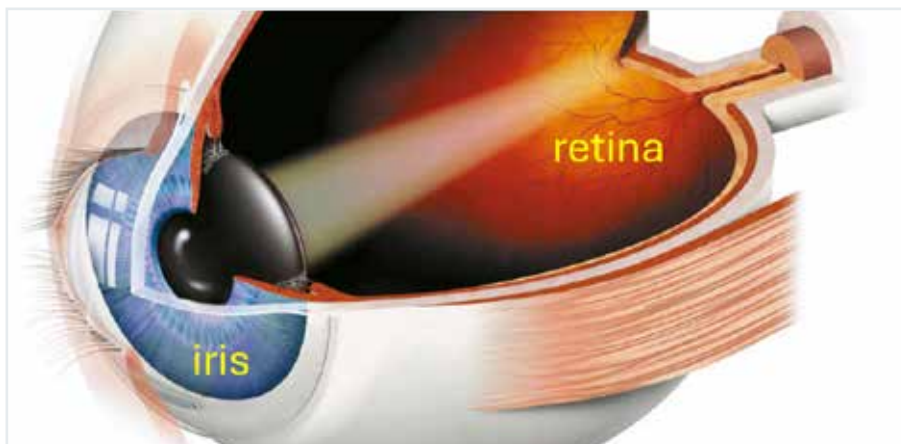
matching involves searching a database of biometric data to identify potential matches. This approach is crucial in border management as it enables authorities to confirm a person's identity even in the absence of documentation or when individuals attempt to conceal their true identities. By conducting comprehensive searches across large datasets, border control agencies can enhance their ability to detect individuals with fraudulent intentions or criminal backgrounds. When we move the discussion one step further let us think someone has multiple genuine passports with different names and DTC (Digital Travel Credentials) in them. When you run a 1:1 comparison all passports will pass the control and that person will have multiple identities. However, if you keep a record of all individuals and run 1:N queries every single border cross attempt you will be 100% sure that the person's identity is single, and you can catch that fraud attempt easily. You may be concerned about the computing power and data center investment to have such a system. You don't need to be concerned about this if you are using iris recognition since it requires minimum reasonable investment and flexibility. On the other hand, if you are dealing with irregular migration, you may not have a travel document to relate the person with an identity in this case, de-duplication is vital. You must have a real-time identity

check and 1:N research to be sure about a person's identity.

This real-time identity check and border crossing could be possible and applicable with iris recognition but most of the countries are still using face and fingerprint, all three modalities are important but if the issue is identity authentication iris is the most secure and accurate way. Fingerprint and face recognition can be used for evidence collection purposes but not real-time while iris can not be used for evidence collection. Since you must be recognized intentionally.

The donut shape of the eye except for the black part(pupil) is the iris, which is responsible for setting the amount of light going to the retina. Iris recognition technology is different from retina scan. It is the same as taking pictures using a normal digital camera – there is no worry about eye safety. All security and accuracy come from the unique features of the human iris listed below:

- The Iris pattern is stable for life after age 1.
- The right and left eyes are unique.
- Identical twins have the same DNA but different iris patterns.
- The probability of 2 individuals with the same iris pattern is 1: 10⁷⁸.
- There are more than 240 variables (degrees of freedom) in a single human eye.



Comparison of Iris Recognition with Fingerprint and Face Recognition:

Uniqueness: The iris of the eye is highly unique, even more so than fingerprints. Each person's iris has distinct patterns that can be used for identification purposes with a high level of accuracy.

Accuracy: Iris recognition systems are known for their high level of accuracy. The complex patterns in the iris allow for precise identification, reducing the chances of false matches or rejections.

Stability: The iris remains stable throughout a person's lifetime and is not significantly affected by factors such as aging, injury, or environmental changes. This stability ensures consistent and reliable identification over time.

Non-intrusiveness: Iris recognition is non-intrusive and does not require physical contact with a sensor, unlike fingerprint recognition. Users simply look into a camera, making it convenient and hygienic, especially

in scenarios where hygiene is crucial, such as in healthcare or public security.

Resistance to spoofing: The intricate and random patterns in the iris make it extremely difficult to replicate, reducing the risk of spoofing or fraudulent attempts to deceive the system compared to simpler biometric modalities like face recognition, which can be more vulnerable to spoofing attacks.

Speed: Iris recognition algorithms are capable of quickly and accurately identifying individuals in real-time, making them suitable for applications requiring fast authentication, such as border crossing, access control systems at airports, government facilities, or high-security environments.

Versatility: Iris recognition can be used in various applications beyond traditional security measures, including banking, healthcare, border control, and identity management. Its versatility makes it a valuable

tool for enhancing security and streamlining processes across different industries.

Privacy: Unlike some biometric modalities, such as facial recognition, which raise concerns about privacy and surveillance, iris recognition typically involves only the analysis of the iris patterns without capturing detailed facial features, offering a higher level of privacy protection.

In conclusion, the identification of people during border crossings is a multifaceted challenge that requires a balanced approach integrating security imperatives with humanitarian principles. Biometrics offers a potent means of enhancing border security through accurate and reliable identification processes. By emphasizing de-duplication, 1:N matching, and the humane treatment of migrants, countries can strengthen their border management systems while upholding the rights and dignity of individuals moving across borders. Ultimately, effective border management should aim to reconcile security concerns with the principles of inclusivity, fairness, and respect for human rights. To reach an ideal secure and comfortable system for humans and countries during border crossing we must have a multimodal biometric database consisting of iris, face, and fingerprint. The iris recognition will be used for identity authentication while the face and finger are collected and stored for more investigation purposes.

Trafficking for sexual exploitation and recruitment of children on the rise

UN experts have expressed alarm about increasing reports of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, for purposes of sexual exploitation and sexual slavery, child and forced marriage, and the recruitment of boys for participation in hostilities in Sudan, against the backdrop of the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in the country that has caused an unprecedented mass displacement of over 9 million people.

Access to support for victims and survivors has reportedly deteriorated since December 2023, eight months after the outbreak of conflict between Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in April 2023, the experts said. Young women and girls, including internally displaced persons are reportedly being trafficked for sexual slavery and other forms of sexual exploitation.

“We are appalled by reports of women and girls being sold at slave markets in areas controlled by RSF forces and other armed groups, including in North Darfur,” the experts said.

The experts also expressed concern about the increase in child, early and forced marriage, reportedly a result of family separation, and gender-based violence, including rape and unwanted pregnancies.

“Despite previous warnings to both Sudanese authorities and RSF representatives, we continue to receive reports of recruitment of children to actively participate in hostilities, including from a neighbouring country,” the experts said.

Support urgently needed to avert a deeper Sahel crisis

Mali has continued accepting refugees, most recently from Burkina Faso, allowing them to access services once registered.

A top protection official of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, commended Mali and its neighbours for keeping their borders open to people fleeing danger, and for upholding asylum principles in a fragile region.

Mali is one of several countries providing safe haven to the more than 1.1 million refugees and asylum-seekers who have crossed international borders to escape war, persecution and other generalized, life-threatening dangers across the Sahel and elsewhere in Africa.

Completing a weeklong visit to Mali and Togo, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Ruvendrini Menikdiwela praised Mali’s generous approach to refugees by keeping its borders open and offering them, once registered, the same rights as Malians, including access to services like health care and education. But she cautioned that such humane responses may become increasingly rare without immediate and sustained international support.

Mali and other countries in Africa’s Sahel region are under “alarming” strain from forced displacement and require immediate, additional support to avert an even more acute humanitarian crisis, Menikdiwela warned.

“The risks in Mali and its neighbouring countries, many of which are now confronting their own displacement crises, are alarming,” Menikdiwela said. “We must act now to ensure the safety and well-being of displaced people, preserving their rights and dignity during these challenging times.”

The country currently hosts some 66,793 refugees as it grapples simultaneously with the urgent needs of over 354,000 people displaced within its own borders. The refugees, mainly from Burkina Faso and Niger, include a significant influx of 40,000 from Burkina Faso in the last three months alone, fleeing turmoil and instability in their country.

The challenges facing the region are huge. Aside from multiple conflicts, rising prices and dwindling humanitarian aid, the effects of climate change are adding additional acute strains. In total, nearly 4.8 million people in the Sahel have recently been forced to flee their homes to seek safety elsewhere.

TSA and DHS S&T to Prototype Self-Service Screening System at Harry Reid International Airport



The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) unveiled a prototype checkpoint technology, the self-service screening system, at Harry Reid International Airport (LAS) in Las Vegas, NV. TSA PreCheck® passengers at TSA's Innovation Checkpoint will be the first travelers to have the option to use the new system starting in mid-March, when the testing begins. The same rigorous screening standards and rules required of passengers using the TSA PreCheck® lanes apply to the self-screening lane.

The self-service screening system is a prototype technology that TSA and S&T designed, developed and tested initially in a laboratory setting at the TSA Systems Integration Facility in Arlington, VA. The prototype has a video monitor that provides step-by-step instructions for passengers to complete screening at their own pace. Once passengers have completed the required screening process and are cleared for travel, automated exit doors open so travelers can gather their belongings and head to their flights. While there is minimal assistance from Transportation Security Officers (TSO), TSOs will be available for assistance as needed. TSOs will work to ensure TSA PreCheck® passengers using the self-screening lane

are following security protocols. The aim is to provide a near self-sufficient passenger screening process while enabling passengers to directly receive on-person alarm information and allow for the passenger self-resolution of those alarms to reduce instances where a pat-down or secondary screening procedure would be necessary.

During the assessment in a live checkpoint environment, TSA will collect passenger feedback and data on the system's performance, design, cybersecurity, human factors and other variables to inform future design requirements and system development and to understand how passengers and TSOs interact with the system. The data collected will inform design, development, feasibility and viability decisions for future iterations.

"We are constantly looking at innovative ways to enhance the passenger experience, while also improving security," said TSA Administrator David Pekoske. "This self-service prototype allows our trusted travelers to complete the screening process at their own pace. Testing at the Innovation Checkpoint in Las Vegas gives us an opportunity to collect valuable user data and insights, and explore opportunities to apply parts of the prototype to other airport security checkpoints. I am grateful for our partners in S&T and LAS airport, who were critical in bringing this vision to reality."

"The number of airline passengers continues to increase year-over-year, creating a need for innovative screening solutions that enhance transportation security and make traveling more efficient," said DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology Dr. Dimitri Kusnezov. "At S&T, we are pushing the envelope with new technologies and concepts



toward designing the airport of the future. Self-paced screening is one step toward building that future.”

In late 2021, S&T awarded contracts to three companies to develop self-screening concepts,

prototypes and hardware. The self-service screening prototype at LAS is the first to succeed in laboratory testing. Others are still in development and will be tested soon in a laboratory for future consideration in operational assessments.

TSA and S&T will carefully study the results of this assessment before they announce a timeline for any future deployment of this prototype to other checkpoint lanes or at other airports.

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MASTERING API-PNR DATA COMPLETENESS: A KEYSTONE FOR EFFECTIVE PASSENGER INFORMATION UNITS

By David Pautet, Chief Technical Officer and Helene Dubos, Head of Marketing at Streamlane, API-PNR service providers

In the complex world of global security and border control management, Passenger Information Units (PIUs) play a pivotal role. These specialized units are tasked with a critical mission: to safeguard national and international security by scrutinizing passenger data to identify persons of interest and detect suspicious behaviors. The cornerstone of their operation lies in the collection and analysis of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Records (PNR), which provide comprehensive details about travelers and their travel patterns.

The Challenge of Data Completeness

At the heart of PIUs' effectiveness is the completeness and integrity of the data they collect. Without access to complete and accurate information, the ability of PIUs to perform their duties is significantly compromised. This challenge underscores a fundamental truth in data analysis: you cannot analyze data you don't have. Therefore, it's crucial for a PIU to ensure the full collection of API and PNR messages for all flights in their area of authority. This enables the identification of carriers not meeting

their obligations allowing for swift communication to address and rectify the situation. From an analysis point of view, this provides information on the nature, context and approximate quantity of missing data.

Common Technical Solutions for Ensuring Data exhaustivity (H1)

To address the challenge of data completeness, PIUs utilize a variety of technical means to cross-check actual aircraft movements against the API-PNR messages collected from air carriers. A foundational approach involves leveraging batch files provided by airports or specialized databases such as OAG, which contain detailed logs of aircraft movements within specified periods. These files serve as a retrospective tool, allowing PIUs to reconcile recorded flights with the corresponding passenger data submitted by airlines.

A more dynamic and proactive solution involves establishing real-time links with air traffic control (ATC) authorities. These real-time data streams offer immediate insights into aircraft movements, presenting an opportunity for PIUs to identify discrepancies in real-time - between the flight activity and the API PNR data actually received for each flight - thus enhancing the timeliness and effectiveness of security operations. Although setting up this solution might be complex for PIUs on their own, API-PNR service providers have developed such solutions for easy and quick implementation.



Eurocontrol's Role in Enhancing Data exhaustivity

In Europe, Eurocontrol plays a pivotal role in managing air traffic and ensuring the safety and efficiency of air navigation across the continent. As a central coordination body, Eurocontrol can provide comprehensive data on aircraft movements across its member states, making it an invaluable resource for PIUs in the region.

Eurocontrol's Centralized Services offer tools and services designed to facilitate the exchange and analysis of flight data. By tapping into Eurocontrol's data, PIUs can gain access to precise information on flight paths, schedules, and real-time movements of aircraft over Europe. This data is instrumental in verifying the accuracy of API and PNR information received from carriers, thereby enhancing the completeness

of the data at PIUs' disposal.

Furthermore, Eurocontrol's Network Manager Operations Centre (NMOC) provides real-time traffic flow management, which can be leveraged by PIUs to obtain current and accurate flight movement data. The NMOC's capabilities in monitoring and managing airspace usage across Europe ensure that PIUs have access to reliable data for cross-referencing with API and PNR submissions.

Collaboration with Air Traffic Control Authorities

Beyond Eurocontrol, collaboration with various national and regional air traffic control authorities worldwide is crucial. These authorities oversee aircraft movements within their respective airspaces and can provide specific data that complements the information available from Eurocontrol and other sources.



By establishing partnerships and data-sharing agreements with these entities, PIUs can enhance their capability to monitor and analyze passenger movements more effectively. Such collaborations ensure that PIUs are not solely reliant on data provided by airlines but have multiple channels to verify and supplement this information, thereby significantly reducing the likelihood of missing or incomplete data.

In summary, leveraging the capabilities of Eurocontrol and other air traffic control authorities globally presents a comprehensive approach to ensuring the integrity of API and PNR data. These technical solutions, combined with strategic collaborations, empower PIUs to fulfill their mission with a higher degree of accuracy and efficiency.

Reconciling aircraft movement with the related API and PNR transmission

One of the nuanced challenges in cross-referencing actual aircraft

movements with API-PNR messages collected from various air carriers is the different identification used for a same aircraft movement : commercial flight numbers and air traffic control call signs. Commercial flight numbers are familiar to passengers and are used by airlines for booking and marketing flights. In contrast, air traffic control (ATC) call signs are used for operational communication and coordination, facilitating clear identification and management of aircraft in-flight by air traffic controllers. Both IDs are valid ones !

According to insights from Flightradar24, call signs and flight numbers often differ due to several reasons, including but not limited to, the airline's internal scheduling systems, codeshare agreements between airlines, and the specific requirements of air traffic control systems across different regions. For instance, an airline may operate a single flight under multiple flight numbers due to partnership agreements with other airlines

(codesharing), leading to a scenario where one aircraft movement corresponds to several flight numbers. Conversely, for air traffic control purposes, a single, unique call sign is used to identify that flight operationally, which may not directly match any of the commercial flight numbers.

Case of flight identification discrepancies and challenges to overcome

Case 1 : British Airways (BA) launched a new air route to Luxembourg through its subsidiary, CityFlyer (CJ). This initiative was part of a strategy to expand its operations in Europe and offer more options to travelers. The flights were operated under the name CityFlyer and were declared to Eurocontrol with the identifier CJ, in accordance with standard operational procedures. However, a complication arose due to the configuration of the reservation system / DCS. The Advanced Passenger Information (API) data transmitted from these systems was sent under the BA ID. This inconsistency in the code has led to inconsistencies that no longer allow API-PNR data received to be associated with an aircraft movement declared to ATC.

Case 2 : Another case that illustrates a cause of divergence. In business aviation. world, certain operators declare their flights to ATC using the aircraft tail number (aircraft registration ID), whereas they transmit their API-PNR data associated with their "ICAO flight

identifier” (as expected by the norms and imposed by many PIUs).

As seen in the previous examples, this discrepancy can pose a significant challenge for PIUs attempting to reconcile API and PNR data (which are tied to commercial flight numbers) with real-time aircraft movement information when identified by ATC call signs. The complexity is further exacerbated by the global nature of air travel, where an aircraft might traverse multiple air traffic control jurisdictions, each with its distinct operational protocols and communication practices.

To address this challenge, PIUs can employ sophisticated data matching and integration techniques that account for the differences between commercial flight numbers and ATC call signs. This may involve developing algorithms or employing software solutions capable of intelligently linking these two types of identifiers, based on historical data, flight schedules, and patterns of codeshare agreements. Close collaboration with airlines, airports, air traffic control authorities, and tech providers of the API-PNR market, is essential for accessing comprehensive datasets that can facilitate the accurate matching of API and PNR information with actual aircraft movements.

The Importance of Additional Controls

Beyond these methods, the implementation of additional controls to identify unexpected messages



from carriers is critical. Such anomalies could indicate incorrect message routing or unscheduled changes in airline operations not properly communicated to state authorities. Addressing these issues is essential for maintaining the integrity of the data and, by extension, the security operations dependent on this information.

A Call for Comprehensive Data Management

In conclusion, the role of PIUs in contributing to global security cannot be overstated. As the transport industry continues to evolve and expand, the need for robust, reliable data collection and analysis mechanisms becomes increasingly critical. By ensuring this first goal of completeness of API and PNR data, PIUs are better equipped to identify threats and safeguard against potential security breaches.

This effort requires a collaborative approach between all stakeholders and powerful technologies enabling, among other things, cross-referencing of data to monitor carrier compliance and, by extension, tools to automatically notify carriers in the event of a problem.

STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF COMBATING TERRORISM AND PREVENTING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

By: Dr. Noora Hassan is a Defence and Strategy Consultant, Lawyer, and Scientist. Integrating Law and Science for Strategic Consulting

Images: Qatar News Agency

The persistent challenge posed by terrorist groups and transnational criminal organisations exploiting porous land borders to traffic illicit goods and deploy operatives for attacks not only undermines global efforts to combat terrorism and organised crime but also compromises state security measures and exacerbates

vulnerabilities among affected populations. This phenomenon further fuels the financial resources of these illicit syndicates. Additionally, the infiltration of “foreign terrorist fighters” (FTFs) highlights the critical need for robust border security and management (BSM) to prevent the cross-border movement of individuals intending

to carry out violent extremist activities or join extremist groups abroad. Effective strategies and anti-corruption measures are imperative to strengthen border security and mitigate the threats posed by terrorism and transnational crime. Given the distinct challenges presented by porous borders, it is imperative for states to acknowledge the significance of securing these boundaries and fostering cross-border cooperation, facilitating collaboration among various inter-agency bodies, neighbouring border security agencies, and local border communities comprehensively.

States must recognise that adopting a multilateral, coordinated strategy towards border management is essential in effectively mitigating the diverse array of threats and challenges encountered by each state independently. Intra-agency cooperation pertains to collaboration and coordination among various levels of hierarchy within a border agency or ministry, while inter-agency cooperation involves coordination and collaboration between distinct ministries and border agencies, spanning both national and cross-border domains. International cooperation encompasses collaboration and coordination among border agencies, training centres, and ministries of other states or international organisations. Intra-agency



relations encompass both formal and informal arrangements, with formal agreements or procedures being essential for sustained cooperation in operational activities. These formal arrangements should be documented and cover aspects such as standard operational procedures, reporting mechanisms, communication protocols, analytical methods, and workflow coordination, all aligned with national legislation and administrative directives. Informal arrangements involve unit-to-unit or person-to-person exchanges of information, consultations, opinions, or advice during daily operations, lacking institutionalisation within a broader structure.

To effectively achieve their objectives, national border services must enhance capabilities and

capacities among their subordinate departments and units. This entails sharing expertise, implementing best practices, and improving coordination and cooperation across the organisation. In some states, border guard, border police, and customs services operate as autonomous entities, potentially affiliated but not integrated within a larger ministerial structure. Thus, it is beneficial to outline in national border management strategies and action plans methods for enhancing cooperation, information exchange, and resource management within these services at local, regional, and central levels. In other states, tasks related to BSM are divided among various law enforcement agencies simultaneously, leading to potential duplication and overlapping of competences, which can hinder effective border security



and management efforts. State services responsible for border security and management often face limitations in cooperation when it comes to establishing overall strategic directions.

To enhance cooperation, state border services should focus on improving collaboration between relevant departments at central, regional, and local levels, ideally establishing coordination structures such as inter-departmental committees. This collaboration should include not only Ministries of the Interior and Finance but also other relevant ministries like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense. These inter-institutional bodies must routinely address operational issues rather than setting long-term strategic directions. Inter-agency cooperation adopts a horizontal approach, emphasising effective coordination of activities, tasks, and responsibilities among officials of relevant services operating at the border, as well

as among regional and central ministries or authorities responsible for those activities. It should be formalised through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) covering the entire spectrum of BSM. However, existing regulations often fall short in this regard, leading to ambiguity in defining activities and responsibilities. Collaboration among civil services, including border guards, border police, customs agencies, and security services such as police and defense forces, is essential for maximising resource utilisation, building comprehensive intelligence, and addressing complex threats posed by terrorist organisations and transnational crime. Successful inter-agency cooperation relies on regular interaction, timely exchange of information, and the use of common communication platforms, although establishing such platforms can be challenging. Neighbouring states should establish inter-agency task forces to bolster BSM efforts and combat

transnational threats like terrorism and organised crime. These structures enable coordinated responses to crises and immediate threats. Regular joint exercises among BSM services are considered a best practice for refining coordination and response mechanisms, learning from experiences, and addressing any identified shortcomings. Engaging with international, regional, or multilateral organisations enhances access to vital information, research, analysis, and intelligence, while also facilitating accountability and combating corruption. These organisations can offer assistance in training, and provide neutral platforms for practitioners to collaborate, share information, and improve coordination in border security efforts. Clarifying specific responsibilities among border officials contributes to enhanced security, particularly in areas where border demarcation is challenging. Cooperation between border agencies can be bolstered through practical measures such as reporting suspicious activities. Proficiency in local or widely spoken languages among cross-border officials is crucial for effective cooperation and communication in border areas. Efficient monitoring of remote border areas and zones adjacent to official ports of entry, including airports, seaports, land border crossings, train stations and ferry terminals, where applicable, is essential to prevent individuals

from bypassing official checkpoints, smuggling goods, carrying out terrorist attacks, or entering and leaving a state's territory illegally. A consistent presence of border officers in these areas acts as a deterrent to terrorists, FTFs, and cross-border criminal activities, while also fostering resilience within border communities against the influence of terrorist groups and criminal enterprises. This presence also enhances awareness of terrorist threats among local communities and highlights the personal impacts of such activities. Understandably, this is particularly challenging for countries like Turkey and Syria who share a border, which is 911km long.

When deploying border security equipment and systems, especially in remote regions, it is crucial to consider local conditions and capabilities, including climatic and territorial challenges, like along the difficult 560km Turkey and Iran border. Advanced equipment may not always be suitable, so states should explore cost-effective and agile surveillance systems tailored for remote areas. Establishing a baseline of infrastructure requirements applicable across various investment levels and capabilities is essential. Border guards should utilise both stationary and mobile units to fulfil effective border surveillance duties. Legal frameworks should empower border guards to carry out their tasks effectively and prevent individuals



from bypassing checkpoints. Adequate legal provisions should also be in place for mobile units. The deployment of border guards should be adjusted according to identified transnational threats and estimated risks.

Interacting with remote border communities can provide essential behavioural insights for officials, thereby improving situational awareness and facilitating the detection of suspicious activities. With their intricate understanding of the local terrain, criminal networks, and terrorist organisations operating in their vicinity, these communities are well-equipped to offer pertinent intelligence to border services. Fostering connections with border communities promotes collaboration between remote areas and central government agencies. It is essential to educate these communities

about the link between common crimes such as smuggling and the financing of organised crime and terrorism, with the resulting impact on society, thereby building resilience against criminal influence. Border law enforcement agencies can cultivate trust and resilience within communities through initiatives like Border Community Policing, addressing shared threats collaboratively. When considering the economic impact of border security policies, development projects aimed at bridging communities and fostering trust with authorities are crucial. To prevent exploitation by criminal and terrorist organisations and mitigate radicalisation, states should pursue policies promoting social and economic integration for border communities, ensuring access to essential services

and infrastructure. Trust-building measures are vital, as border communities can serve as valuable partners in enhancing border security, leveraging their local knowledge and networks in remote areas. Border Community Policing fosters collaboration between national border services and border communities to tackle transnational threats like terrorism and organised crime, enhancing public safety and improving the lives of border communities. It underscores the importance of building ties with law enforcement agencies and working closely with community members. Clear and precise communication, as well as proactive information exchange among officials from border police, border guards, and customs services, are critical for successful cooperation and effective coordination of activities at border crossing points and along borders. Overcoming barriers to information exchange is essential and extends beyond cooperation between border police, guards, and customs services. Successful cooperation necessitates broader information exchange involving ministries and their respective agencies, such as criminal police, organised crime units, intelligence services, immigration services, and visa regime authorities. Developing an effective information exchange system connecting border communities to state border services is crucial for comprehensive BSM systems.

Communication, coordination, and cooperation among neighbouring border services and relevant law enforcement agencies within and across states are crucial for preventing transnational threats and combating cross-border crime.

Coordinating border surveillance activities between neighbouring states, based on mutual agreements and national legislation, is essential for effective cross-border cooperation. Joint patrols, coordinated patrolling, and mixed patrolling involving officers from different border services contribute to sharing expertise, building trust, and developing cross-border cooperation. Joint multi-agency and interdisciplinary operation exercises should be organised with the participation of relevant border agencies within a region, focusing on border management strategies, cross-border security issues, national policies on BSM cooperation, mutual aid frameworks, and human rights considerations in porous border areas. Joint operations between border law enforcement agencies, both nationally and across borders, are crucial for efficient coordination and effective cooperation in BSM.

Cross-border operational engagement involves planned activities of greater coordination over an extended period or wider territory. These operations range from detailed checks to large-scale efforts aimed at intercepting

trafficking channels and countering transnational threats. They may occur at major BCPs, nationally, or involve multiple states' law enforcement agencies. Joint operations often involve border patrol and surveillance using combined mobile units. The benefits of joint operations include increased effectiveness through the pooling of intelligence and resources, as well as enhanced efficiency with on-site authorities able to expedite proceedings when uncovering crimes falling within their jurisdiction.

Risk analyses play a critical role in BSM by informing cooperation, joint operations, and training at national and cross-border levels, focusing on public safety and security risks and identifying gaps between risk and capabilities. While it's impossible to eliminate risk entirely, understanding risk scope and nature is vital for effective risk management. Risk analyses assess identified risks, uncertainties, intelligence gaps, and recommend priorities for mitigating transnational threats. They inform decision-making by presenting post-incident reports and guiding appropriate actions based on analyses. The establishment of robust border management and control mechanisms at national ports of entry necessitates the engagement of all pertinent domestic stakeholders. The execution of a BMS mandates the development

of a National Action Plan, outlining key activities including protection against transnational threats, counterterrorism measures, combating cross-border organised crime, human resource management, education and training, procurement of technical equipment, as well as implementing public awareness campaigns and fostering public-private partnerships. These initiatives are to be collaboratively implemented by all relevant stakeholders.

Effective border security management relies on comprehensive strategies, cooperation among national and international stakeholders, and the implementation of recognised standards and best practices. From enhancing communication and coordination among law enforcement agencies to engaging border communities and conducting joint operations, these efforts aim to mitigate transnational threats, combat organised crime, and ensure public safety. By prioritising collaboration, investing in resources, and implementing robust border management mechanisms, states can bolster their ability to protect their borders and safeguard against emerging security challenges in an increasingly interconnected world. This holistic approach to border security underscores the importance of adaptive strategies that evolve alongside the changing



nature of threats. Recognising the dynamic nature of border security challenges, it is imperative for governments to remain vigilant and adaptable. This includes ongoing assessments of threat landscapes, regular updates to policies and procedures, and continuous investment in training and technology. Additionally, fostering strong international partnerships and information-sharing networks is paramount in addressing transnational threats effectively. Furthermore, promoting community engagement and public awareness initiatives can serve as force multipliers in enhancing border security efforts. By empowering local communities to become active participants in safeguarding their own borders, authorities can tap into a vast network of eyes and ears on the ground, thereby increasing

the likelihood of detecting and thwarting illicit activities. Ultimately, the pursuit of effective BSM requires a multifaceted approach that integrates a range of strategies, from technological advancements to community empowerment initiatives. By embracing collaboration, innovation, and adaptability, governments can build resilient border security frameworks capable of effectively countering evolving threats in today's complex security landscape.

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Turkey has rail and/or road links from Armenia, Iran, and Azerbaijan

(the exclave of Nakhchivan) in the east, Georgia in the northeast, Bulgaria and Greece in the northwest, and Iraq and Syria in the southeast. And from there to the rest of the Middle East and Central Asia.

Conflict in the neighbouring countries has led to major influxes of refugees heading for Europe or simply the nearest safe haven. Turkey has an estimated four million refugees currently hosted, mainly coming from Iraq and Syria.

Terrorism is a major problem from both domestic terrorist groups

including the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and the Gülen movement. As well as spill over from neighbouring conflicts.

Turkey's strategic position as a routeway between continents also means that it is also a major route for human trafficking, drugs, weapons and other goods bound for the lucrative European market.

The heroin trade from Afghanistan to Europe is especially a problem with Turkish organised groups controlling the wholesale traffic of heroin to Europe.

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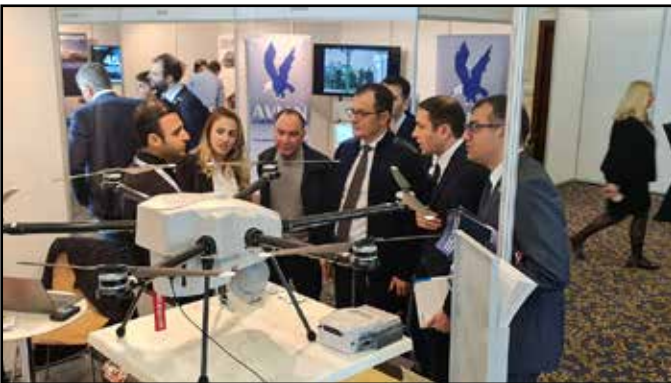
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The 2024 World Border Security Congress will be held on 24th-26th April 2024.

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

On behalf of the Organising Committee, you are invited to join us in Istanbul, Turkey in one of the most strategically positioned countries, on 24th-26th April for a stimulating and essential gathering of international border and migration management professionals.

www.world-border-congress.com



**BORDER SECURITY
REPORT**

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Welcome to your guide to the Preliminary Congress Programme of the 2024 World Border Security Congress taking place in the historic city of Istanbul on 24th-26th April 2024.

In this guide you will find all the information you require for a successful attendance, from the outline Congress Programme (correct at the time of printing) to details on the Closed Agency Only Workshops, as well as a great Accommodation Special Rate the Congress has arranged with the venue hotel and how to book your delegate place and accommodation.

If you have any queries regarding your attendance to the World Border Security Congress, including clearance to attend the Closed Agency Only Workshops, please contact Neil Walker, Event Director, World Border Security Congress at neilw@world-border-congress.com.

We look forward to welcoming you to Istanbul, Turkey this April, for the next exciting gathering of the border management and protection community, international border agencies and agencies at the border.

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Dear Colleague,

Developing Border Strategies Through Co-operation and Technology

Turkey is arguably one of the most strategically positioned countries in the world and Istanbul, the most strategically positioned city. Turkey stands on the crossroads between two continents and indeed two cultures. It also sits astride the Bosphorus Strait, connecting two of the world's most important seas, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Conflict in the neighbouring countries has led to major influxes of refugees heading for Europe or simply the nearest safe haven. Turkey has an estimated five million refugees currently hosted, mainly coming from the conflicts in Iraq and Syria.

Terrorism is a major problem from both domestic terrorist groups including the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and the Gülen movement. As well as spill over from neighbouring conflicts.

Turkey's strategic position as a routeway between continents also means that it is also a major route for human trafficking, drugs, weapons and other goods bound for the lucrative European market.

The heroin trade from Afghanistan to Europe is especially a problem with Turkish organised groups controlling the wholesale traffic of heroin to Europe.

Turkey is working hard with neighbours including the EU to address these challenges including the sharing of intelligence, conducting joint operations, and offering humanitarian assistance.

With its unique position as one of the world's gateway cities, Istanbul and Turkey is the perfect place to convene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

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

We are delighted to be co-hosted and supported by the Ministry of Interior of Turkey. The Congress is also supported by *the Organisation for Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Association of Airport and Seaport Police (EAASP), African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC), Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI), African Young People Support Center, World Border Security Network and International Association of CIP Professionals*, and is the premier multi-jurisdictional global platform where the border protection policy-makers, management and practitioners together with security industry professionals, convene to discuss the international challenges faced in protecting borders.

The Congress programme (correct at the time of printing) will deliver high level discussions and a series of Closed Agency Only Workshops for promoting greater collaboration on the international challenges.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee you are cordially invited to Istanbul, Turkey on 24th-26th April 2024 for World Border Security Congress, the premier gathering of border and migration management professionals.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Neil Walker
Event Director
World Border Security Congress





Turkey's geographical location poses significant challenges for its border security and migration agencies. Straddling two continents, Turkey sits at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Its unique position makes it a vital transit point for migrants and refugees looking to reach European countries, as well as organized criminal gangs to conduct cross border smuggling activities.

One of the main challenges arises from Turkey's extensive land and sea borders, sharing borders with eight countries, and its boundaries encompass rugged terrains, including mountains and rivers that can be difficult to patrol. Moreover, its maritime borders with Greece and Bulgaria, across the Aegean Sea, provide multiple clandestine entry points for people trying to reach Europe. The vastness and complexity of these borders necessitate considerable manpower and resources to monitor and secure effectively.

Turkey has become a major route for mass migration movements, especially since the Syrian civil war, which resulted in millions of refugees seeking asylum. This has put immense pressure on Turkey's migration management capacities. The influx of migrants not only requires border control but also humanitarian aid, asylum processing, and integration efforts. This ongoing situation leads to the challenge of balancing security measures with human rights obligations.

The geopolitical situation is another factor complicating the border control issues. The political unrest in neighboring regions and the rise of non-state actors, such as smugglers and human trafficking networks, exploit the situation, making the enforcement of border regulations even more daunting.

Turkey's location presents a unique set of challenges for border security and migration. The country has to deal with a complex border landscape, significant migration flows, geopolitical uncertainties, and the pressure of aligning with European Union standards, all of which tax its resources and policy-making decisions.



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

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

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

You are cordially invited to attend the World Border Security Congress in Istanbul, Turkey on 24th-26th April 2024.

Current Border Security Challenges:

- Migration Crisis Tests European Consensus and Governance
- Migrants and refugees streaming into Europe from Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia
- Big Business of Smuggling Enables Mass Movement of People for Enormous Profits
- Climate Change and Natural Disasters Displace Millions, Affect Migration Flows
- Europe and the United States Confront Significant Flows of Unaccompanied Child Migrants
- Tackling Southeast Asia's Migration Challenge
- Cross-border organised criminal gangs exploit human trafficking, drug smuggling and small arms proliferation
- Border Skirmishes Resonate in National Domestic Politics
- Women's Labour Migration from Asia and the Pacific

Why Attend

The 2024 World Border Security Congress will bring together the world's senior policy makers, practitioners and players, in Istanbul, Turkey in April 2024, to discuss and debate the current and future issues facing the border management, security and migration management sector.

Your attendance to the World Border Security Congress will ensure you are up-to-date on the latest issues, policies and challenges facing the world's border management, protection and security forces, as well as contribute to the discussion on how to best collaborate and cooperate to make our borders safer and more secure.

You will also gain an insight in to what the future holds for the management of migration and refugee movement, as well as systems and technologies employed in fighting illegal border activities, including drug and people trafficking.

With active senior border force officials and speakers delivering discussion and thought provoking presentations on many of the serious border protection, management and security issues and challenges facing the industry.

- High level conference with leading industry speakers and professionals
- Learn from experiences and challenges from the world's border agencies
- Gain insight into national, regional and global policy and border agency developments
- Constructive debate, educational opportunities and cooperation advocacy
- Share ideas and facilitate in valuable inter-agency cooperation
- Exhibition showcasing leading technologies and products
- Networking events and opportunities

Who is the World Border Security Congress for?

Immigration and border management and security policy makers and practitioners.

Senior representatives from national border services, police, customs, and immigration services, as well as organisations, services and suppliers to the border management and security industry, including:

- Customs and border control officials
- National / Homeland security advisors, policymakers and personnel
- Coast guard officers
- Chiefs of Police and Police and law enforcement officers
- Boundary commissioners
- Diplomats and foreign affairs officials
- Borderland planners and managers
- Defence and security departments
- Consular officials
- Policy analysts
- Global Security Risk Analyst
- Heads of Department of Economic, Management and Operation of Maritime Transport
- Heads of National Analysis Centre
- Heads of Sector, EU and Schengen
- Security system providers

CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL

8:30am - 12:00pm	Site Visits
9:30am - 12:30pm	AU-ECOSOCC/AYPSC Africa Workshop
10:30am - 12:30pm	EAASP Workshop
1:30pm - 3:30pm	MINISTERIAL OPENING, WELCOME AND OPENING KEYNOTE SESSION
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Networking Coffee Break
4:00pm - 5:30pm	PLENARY - Managing Migration (organised crime as cover for migrant smuggling and THB)
7:00pm	Welcome Reception (Invitation Only)

THURSDAY 25TH APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am	PLENARY - Terrorism and Countering Terrorism (incl. FTFs as sleepers)
9:00am-10:30am	TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP
9:30am - 7:00pm	Exhibition Open
10:30am - 11:15am	Networking Coffee Break in the Exhibition Hall
11:15am - 12:30pm	BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - Challenges for small ports and airfields
	CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - Inter-Agency Cooperation and Information Sharing
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Delegate Lunch
2:00pm - 3:30pm	PLENARY - Maritime Border Challenges
2:00pm-3:30pm	TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP
3:30pm - 4:15pm	Networking Coffee Break in the Exhibition Hall
4:15pm - 5:30pm	BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - IT/Tech at the Border as an Enabler/Threat - Cybercrime / AI
	CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - Latest/New Modus Operandi
5:30pm - 7:00pm	Networking Reception in the Exhibition Hall

FRIDAY 26TH APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am	PLENARY - Countering Serious Organised Crime, Drugs, SALW, Smuggling
9:00am - 10:30am	NATO COEDAT Countering Terrorism Workshop
9.30am - 4.30pm	Exhibition Open
10:30am - 11:15am	Networking Coffee Break in the Exhibition Hall
11:15am - 12:30pm	BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - ID / Document Fraud
	CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - Watchlisting
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Delegate Lunch
2:00pm - 3:30pm	PLENARY - Future Borders
4:00pm	World Border Security Congress Round Up and Close

EXHIBITION OPENING HOURS

Wed 24th April	1.00pm to 5.30pm
Thur 25th April	9.30am to 7.30pm
Fri 26th April	9.30am to 4.30pm

ON-SITE REGISTRATION HOURS

Wed 24th April	12.00pm to 5.00pm
Thur 25th April	8.30am to 7.00pm
Fri 26th April	8.30am to 4.00pm

REGISTRATION



Government Agency / Public Sector

The World Border Security Congress is open for members of federal government, border management agencies, law enforcement or inter-governmental agencies, the European Union, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, AFRIPOL, ASEANAPOL, AMERIPOL, OSCE, IOM, EAASP and associated Agencies and members (public and official) involved in border security, management and protection. Applications will be reviewed and considered on an individual basis. Delegates are requested to register sufficiently early to ensure participation. For all above mentioned communities the World Border Security Congress **early registration (prior to 31st March 2024) is “Free of Charge”**.

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

Commercial, Industry and Other Organizations

Industry companies and other organizations sending staff members to the World Border Security Congress are required to purchase a conference pass.

Registration Fees can be found on the Registration Form at the back of this booklet, or alternately online at www.world-border-congress.com/conference/registration-fees. Early Bird registration deadline is **31st March 2024**.

Register online at www.world-border-congress.com/onlinereg

HOW TO REGISTER

1. Online at www.world-border-congress.com
2. Complete the Registration Form enclosed with this booklet and email to:
registration@world-border-congress.com.
3. Complete the Registration Form enclosed with this booklet and mail to:
World Border Security Congress, Torch Marketing, 200 Ware Road, Hoddesdon,
Herts EN11 9EY, United Kingdom.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT - deadline 31st March 2024

For Commercial, Industry and Other Organizations, register yourself and your colleagues as conference delegates by 31st March 2024 and save with the Early Bird Discount.

Discounts for Members of Supporting Associations

If you are a member of one of the following trade associations, supporters of the World Border Security Congress, then you can benefit from a special discount rate:

- National Security & Resilience Consortium (NS&RC)
- International Association of CIP Professionals (IACIPP)
- International Security Industry Organization (ISIO)

Check the Registration Form enclosed with this booklet for full details.

CLOSED AGENCY ONLY WORKSHOPS



FOR BORDER AGENCIES AND AGENCIES AT THE BORDER ONLY – If you are interested in participating in the Closed Agency Only Workshops, in order to obtain clearance to attend the Closed Workshops, please register via the Online Agency Registration complete the Agency Registration Form and return, to begin the approval process. If you have any queries please contact Neil Walker, Event Director, World Border Security Congress at neilw@world-border-congress.com.

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 key organisations and experts, with a series of behind closed door discussion and working group opportunities.

This years Closed Agency Only Workshop topics are:

Thursday 25th April 2024 - 11.15am - 12.30pm

Inter-Agency Cooperation and Information Sharing

Moderator: UNOCT | UNCCT | Border Security and Management

It is well established that inter-agency and international information sharing is essential for effectively fighting cross border crimes such as terrorism, THB, weapons and drug smuggling, the trade in cultural heritage and protected species. With no formal global organisation for agencies at the border, this Closed Agency Workshop is a mechanism and resource for agencies to discuss sharing information and how the international community can collaborate to achieve common aims.

Thursday 25th April 2024 - 4.15pm - 5.30pm

Latest/New Modus Operandi

Moderator: UNODC

This Closed Agency Workshop will enable practitioners the opportunity to share analysis on the latest trends in cross border crimes and share some of their latest experiences of changing Modus Operandi of criminal groups operating in their area, and what they have done to combat these changing criminal activities/actions.

Friday 26th April 2024 - 11.15am - 12.30pm

Watchlisting

Moderator: U.S. Department of Justice/ICITAP

This Closed Agency Workshop aims to promote the responsible and ethical use of watchlists. Why they are an essential tool for law enforcement and border agencies. It will cover what is required for an individual to be included on a watch list, what data and biometrics is included on an individual's record within a watch list, what watchlist resources are available and how to share information on a watchlist internally and with international partners, consistent with international law and legal standards.

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL

1:30pm - 3:30pm MINISTERIAL OPENING KEYNOTE AND WELCOME

Minister of Interior, Turkey
Senior Representative, Turkish National Police
Jalel Chelba, Acting Executive Director AFRIPOL, African Union*
Gerard Waite, Head of Mission IOM Turkey
Ms Siv-Katrine Leirtroe, Head of Border Security and Management Unit, Transnational Threats Dept, Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
Senior Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Senior Representative, European Association of Airport & Seaport Police (EAASP)

4:00pm - 5:30pm **PLENARY SESSION - MANAGING MIGRATION (ORGANISED CRIME AS COVER FOR MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND THB)**

It is well established that organised crime groups are able to adapt and evolve to use any weakness or vulnerability at our borders as a cover for nefarious activities. The migration crises we are experiencing on the southern borders of the US and EU offer prime opportunities for criminal activities, including smuggling migrants for money, which is generally a voluntary transaction but leaves migrants dangerously exposed to death, injury and abuse, and THB, which is the forced trafficking of persons. Regions of Asia are also experiencing unprecedented levels of THB, often for the vice trade. What are the latest challenges with migrant smuggling and THB, how do these two crimes differ in terms of methodology and how does can the international community combat cross-border crimes or irregular migration?

Senior Representative, Ministry of Interior, Turkey

Vulnerable persons at the border: Protection and Prevention - Amanda Read, National Operational lead, Safeguarding & Modern Slavery, UK Border Force
Pier Rossi-Longhi, Senior Regional Immigration and Border Governance Specialist, IOM

Akuila Ratu, Head of Secretariat, Pacific Immigration Development Community, Samoa

Jorge Gobeia, General Director, SENAFRONT, Panama

Jeremy Douglas, Regional Representative, UNODC SE Asia Pacific*

Facilitating Safe and Dignified Migration in the Context of Outward Migration (ECOWAS Free Movement Protocols) - Justice Cornelius Amevor, Immigration Officer - Sector Commander, Ghana Immigration Service

Migration Flows and Their Impact on Border Management in Receiving Countries by Using Time Series Models - Iliuta Cumpanasu, Border Management Expert, Lead Evaluator in Vulnerability Assessment Unit, FRONTEX

7:00pm - 9:00pm **WELCOME RECEPTION (INVITATION ONLY)**

THURSDAY 25TH APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am

PLENARY SESSION - TERRORISM AND COUNTERING TERRORISM (INCL. FTFs AS SLEEPERS)

Whilst the threat from ISIL and Al Qaeda has diminished since the destruction of the Islamic Caliphate in Syria and Iraq, Isil's defeat has left thousands of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF's) in captivity in the Middle East and -Stan countries, with many more yet unaccounted for. How much of a long-term threat do these unaccounted for and incarcerated FTF's pose as they are released or escape and use the THB networks to infiltrate back into their countries of origin. And how many have already made their way back to their home country without being picked up by the local criminal justice system. 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.

Goran Stojkovski, Programme Management Officer, UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CT Travel), United Nations Office of Counterterrorism (UNOCT), UNCCT Senior Representative, Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
Michael Hughes, Director, INTERPOL Washington*

Valdecy Urquiza, Director of International Cooperation, Policia Federal, Brazil*

Threats and Challenges of Trade Facilitation Under Insurgency and Fragile

Borders: Nigeria Customs Experience - Sanusi Tasiu Saulawa, Assistant Comptroller of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service

What can we learn from Behaviour - Sarah Jane Prew, Security Consultant, Arup

What place does AI have in Behavioural Detection? - Tamara Mulley, Security Intelligence, Heathrow Airport

Big data analytics and analyzing traveler movements - Jonas Oijevaar, Head of Product Marketing, WCC Group

9.00AM - 10.30AM

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

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

Developing a border security lab at the European Commission - Joint Research Centre - Guido Ferraro, Project Manager, European Commission - JRC

DNA fast-track: Unveiling VeriDNA's abilities in border security - Stefan Sauter, Senior Product Manager, Veridos GmbH

Real-time Border Crossing with Iris Recognition - Seyit Ali Kaya, Regional Manager, Iris ID Systems

Unifying Intelligence and AI for Next-Gen Border Security: Strategies and Insights - Moe El-Hamalawy, SVP - Borders, Babel Street, USA

Uninterrupted Long-Range Border Surveillance through Buried Optical Fiber Technology - David Hill, Chief Technology Officer, Sintela Ltd

Why today's C-UAS systems must be built to defend against tomorrow's USVs and UGVs - Chris Abraham, VP Marketing, CRFS

Kevin Davies, Chief Commercial Officer, Decision Sciences

Use and impact of Artificial Intelligence in Maritime Border Security - Malcolm Glaister, CEO & Ian Clarke, Director Business Development and Client Relations, Sirius Insight

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

BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - CHALLENGES FOR SMALL PORTS AND AIRFIELDS

As perpetrators of trafficking human beings (THB) and international crimes, such as smuggling of drugs or illicit goods, continue to show signs of avoiding commercial airlines, there is evidence that regional airlines and airports, as well as light aircraft into small private aerodromes and fields, are being used for these activities, where the handling of these flights by departure and arrival are not through the regular border controls. Similar issues and challenges are being faced on coastal borders, with smugglers and traffickers of human beings using small boats to benefit from utilising beaches or hidden alcoves to conduct their illegal activities. What can be done to tackle the use of light aircraft and private airfields, and small boats, which are difficult to detect, highly problematic to intercept and easy for criminal to be in and out again in a matter of minutes?

Peter Nilsson, Head of AIRPOL

Project Pegasus - Thomas King, Team Leader, General Aviation Multi Agency Hub, Home Office, UK

Sjoerd Top, Executive Director, Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (MAOC)

Ruggero Scaturro, Senior Analyst, Global Initiative

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

Moderator: Rocco Messina, Head of the Border Security and Management Unit, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

It is well established that inter-agency and international information sharing is essential for effectively fighting cross border crimes such as terrorism, THB, weapons and drug smuggling, the trade in cultural heritage and protected species. With no formal global organisation for agencies at the border, this Closed Agency Workshop is a mechanism and resource for agencies to discuss sharing information and how the international community can collaborate to achieve common aims.

Reducing Irregular Migration to the EU through Enhanced Regional Collaboration of Migration-related Structures in the Western Balkans - Snezana Trajanovska, Director, MARRI RC (Migration, Asylum, Refugee Regional Initiative - Regional Centre)

TBC



THURSDAY 25TH APRIL

2:00pm - 3:30pm

PLENARY SESSION - MARITIME BORDER CHALLENGES

Securing maritime borders is one of the most challenging problems facing border and associated agencies. Tens of thousands of kilometres of coastline. Thousands of secluded bays and river estuaries and inlets. Islands, islets, cliffs, beaches, marshlands and mangrove swamps. Busy ports and harbours. Numerous commercial and pleasure craft coming and going in conditions that can be anything from flat calm to gale force. Add to this the unseen; submersibles, semi-submersibles, scuba divers and underwater caches. Given the favourable conditions for criminal enterprise, no wonder smuggling is one of the oldest criminal activities. How do you secure your coasts and tackle the multitude of ingress and egress points and ensure that our coasts and maritime borders are as secure as they can be?

CDR (PRT-N) Ricardo Lopes, Cell Head CivMil Engagement - Sub Sahara, NATO Southern Hub

Senior Representative, Turkish Coast Guard

Captain John Gregg, Director of Law Enforcement, Maritime Security, and Defense Operations Policy, US Coast Guard

Major General Jorge Ludovico Bolas, Commander, Coastal and Border Control Unit, GNR, Portugal

Senior Representative, Coastal border control department of the Ministry of Interior Qatar

Rakesh Pal, Director General, Indian Coast Guard*

CG Admiral Ronnir Gavan, Commandant, Philippines Coast Guard*

2.00PM - 3.30PM

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

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

Application of Low Field - NMR (LF-NMR) for characterization and identification of products for customs purposes - Maria Carmela Emanuele, Chemist, Italian Custom

Digital Travel - Hype or Hero? - Andy Smith, Director, Government & Industry Relations, SITA

Improved Border Security Through Scalable Integrated Solutions - David Simpson, Senior Director/International Business Development, Teledyne FLIR Defense

The Shrinking World of Biometrics - David Gerulski, EVP, Integrated Biometrics

How Can Border Agencies Enhance Border Security with API-PNR Data? - Helene Dubos, Head of Marketing, Streamlane

On the move' vehicle and face recognition with mobile stand-off face capturing sensors from long distances - Fulya Tuncer Cetin, Chief Team Lead, ASELSAN Inc, Turkey

Air Border Management: The Increasing Value of X-ray Data Generation for Air Border Screening - Sara Bracceschi, Head of Consulting & Services, Customs, Center for Adaptive Security Research and Applications (CASRA)

Digitally and optically enhanced border guard frontliners to secure air, land and sea borders - Sandra Slavinec, CEO, Doculus Lumus

4:15PM - 5:30PM

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT SESSION - IT/TECH AT THE BORDER AS AN ENABLER/THREAT - CYBERCRIME / AI

The mandated use of API/PNR data will make travel much safer and ultimately easier. But, the more people and organisations that hold and share our personal data, the more vulnerable we all become to cyber-crime, both as individuals and as organisations. Systems using API/PNR data are and will be a target for cyber criminals. The more personal data we hold and the more we rely on data systems as enablers at the border, the more vulnerable we are malicious cyber-attacks, whether for financial gain such as ransomware attacks, identity fraud or simply to disruption of the regular flow of traffic at the border. Does this threat increase exponentially with the advent of AI or is AI the answer to protecting ourselves and our systems? Can AI be utilised to generate alerts, red flags on travellers?

Practices from Turkey and the World on Border Security and Management in the Age of Digitalization

- Asst. Prof. Dr., İbrahim İrdem, Head of Department of Security Strategies and Management, Turkish National Police Academy

Theofanis Syrigos, Head of Business Relations Management Sector, eu-LISA

Kaitlin Ball, Expert Adviser on Human Rights and New Technologies, ODIHR

Paul Igbinere, Executive Director, African Young People Support Centre

Man or morph? How morphing attack detection helps border control against identity fraud - Michael Schwaiger, Senior Product Manager, secunet Security Networks AG

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - LATEST/NEW MODUS OPERANDI

Moderator: UNODC

This Closed Agency Workshop will enable practitioners the opportunity to share analysis on the latest trends in cross border crimes and share some of their latest experiences of changing Modus Operandi of criminal groups operating in their area, and what they have done to combat these changing criminal activities/actions.

UNODC AIRCOP/CPP Programs - Senior Representative, UNODC

Disrupting organised criminal groups facilitating irregular migration by small boat - Senior Representatives, Home Office Intel. NCA and French Police





FRIDAY 26TH APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am

PLENARY SESSION - COUNTERING SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME, DRUGS, SALW, SMUGGLING

Criminal actors continue to be very creative in developing new techniques and channels to conduct illicit activities. There is an old saying, 'follow the money' - investigating financial transactions and use that information to indicate evidence of a crime, a suspect or criminal network. But it is not only the money that facilitates this, it's exporter, carrier, forward freighter, delivery address, destination and more. Like API/PNR for passengers, this information builds a picture of the whole transaction that will establish patterns and history vital to identifying the organised criminal gangs that smuggle drugs, weapons, people etc. What are the latest challenges in the battle against SOC and how can border and associated agencies better use the data available to them to defeat cross border organised crime.

A K M Nazmul Hasan, Director General, Border Guard Bangladesh

LTC Marcos Pérez-Mayor, Border and Customs Police Command, Guardia Civil, Spain

Tofiq Murshudlu, Head of Coordination, Border Management Branch, AIRCOP / UNODC

Casey Durst, Executive Assistant Commissioner, Operations Support, US CBP

Joseph Ahoba, Head of Small Arms Division, ECOWAS*

Border Security and Illicit Trade: A Case Study of South-Western Nigeria -

Emmanuel Oluwadare Oshoba, Comptroller of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service

Mastering security challenges from illicit trading with agile security

technology - Fidel Amakye Owusu, Subject Matter Expert for Security, unival group GmbH

9.00AM - 10.30AM

NATO COEDAT COUNTERING TERRORISM WORKSHOP - AGENCY ONLY

Moderated by: Marouan Hitti, Ugur Gungor, Richard Warnes - NATO COEDAT

COE-DAT will provide an academic insight into border security in the context of CT, and use case study examples from Türkiye and Lebanon in order to highlight how theoretical understanding can be applied in practice to better equip policy-level decision makers to defend their borders against terrorist activity.

The workshop aims to provide insight at the strategic level with regards to managing the range of tools available to develop border security, though this will include understanding the requirement to ensure strategy can be implemented at the tactical level. The outcome is to view border security and CT as a holistic process, underpinned by both academic research and practical experience."

Full details at www.world-border-congress.com/natocoedat-workshop

CONGRESS PROGRAMME



11:15AM - 12:30PM WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT SESSION - ID / DOCUMENT FRAUD

Criminals and terrorists historically often make use of fake and genuine identity and travel documents to enable their illegal activities. The adoption of Entry/Exit systems and data will no doubt make this more difficult but we should anticipate that criminals and terrorists will use their undoubted ingenuity and considerable resources to circumvent this problem. So, what is the future of identity fraud and how do we put in place mechanisms to identify the vulnerabilities. And once identified the vulnerabilities in the systems how do we plug the gaps and ensure that those gaps and plugs are shared with colleagues worldwide? With different agencies having developed different programs, how can these work together to the benefit of the international border management community?

Claudio Kavrecic, Head of Centre of Excellence for Combatting Document Fraud, Operational Response Division, Frontex

Robert Frain, FIELDS Policy Officer, INTERPOL

Ivanka Spadina, IBM Programme Coordinator for Turkey, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Senior Representative, Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - WATCHLISTING

This Closed Agency Workshop aims to promote the responsible and ethical use of watchlists. Why they are an essential tool for law enforcement and border agencies. It will cover what is required for an individual to be included on a watch list, what data and biometrics is included on an individual's record within a watch list, what watchlist resources are available and how to share information on a watchlist internally and with international partners, consistent with international law and legal standards.

Moderator: Daniel Guerrero, Watchlisting Assistance Support Program (WASP) Adviser, U.S. Department of Justice/ICITAP/Amentum

Senior Representative, INTERPOL*

TBC



2:00pm - 3:30pm

PLENARY SESSION - FUTURE BORDERS

It is now clear that entry/exit systems are future of our borders and that API/ PNR data is fundamental to their successful implementation. But how is that implementation progressing, especially at our maritime and green borders where there is little or no experience in the use of these technologies and data systems, and where conditions make it much more challenging, like busy ferry ports or secluded border crossings points or harbours? As passengers in general want technology to make travel simpler, governmental movements towards new forms of border control with the use of Digital Identity are with public-private cooperation. What is the changing landscape of API/PNR and how will that data and systems be managed as it rolls out across the world and are Trusted Traveller Programmes based on API/ PNR data the future. What's the latest thought leadership in enhancing border protection and management to counter the ever-changing challenges?

ETIAS Travel Authorisation Update - Sabine Kloss-Tullius, Head of Applications Processing Unit, ETIAS Central Unit, Frontex

Secure, Seamless Travel - Diane Sabatino, Acting Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Digital travel and biometrics at the security checkpoints - Austin Gould, Assistant Administrator for Requirements and Capabilities Analysis, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), USA

Integrated Border Stability Mechanism (IBSM) - Rocco Messina, Head of the Border Security and Management Unit, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

Free movement zones: Benefits and risks - Danilo Diniz Correia, Implementation Assistant, IOM Argentina & Lizeth Lema Matehu, Project Manager, IOM, El Salvador

Oksana Kurysheva, Associate Programme Officer, OSCE

Accelerating the Digitalization of Borders - Emmanuel Wang, Vice-President Governance, Travel & Transport Business Line, Idemia

3:30pm - 4:00PM

CONGRESS ROUND UP AND CLOSE

**invited*



SITE VISITS



SITE VISITS TO ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT; OR PORT OF ISTANBUL

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL – 8.30AM-12NOON

ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Istanbul Airport is the larger of two international airports serving Istanbul, Turkey. It is located in the Arnavutköy district on the European side of the city.

It served more than 64 million passengers in 2022, making it the busiest airport in Europe and 7th-busiest airport in the world in terms of total passenger traffic and, by serving more than 48 million international passengers, the 5th-busiest airport in the world in terms of international passenger traffic according to ACI World traffic values. It serves up to 114 countries and is the hub for Turkish Airlines.

Construction of the airport was divided over four phases. When all stages are completed, the airport will have the capacity to serve 200 million yearly passengers, which would at that time have made it the world's biggest airport. The cost of the project was estimated at €7 billion.

With the co-operation of the Ministry of Interior, The World Border Security Congress is delighted to offer, a guided site visit of Istanbul International Airport for a limited number of delegates.

PORT OF ISTANBUL



Port of Istanbul is a general cargo seaport, ro-ro and container terminal, situated in Haydarpaşa, Istanbul, Turkey at the southern entrance to the Bosphorus, near Haydarpaşa Station. It is operated by the Turkish State Railways (TCDD) and serves a hinterland which includes the country's most industrialised areas.

The Port of Istanbul is one of the three major Turkey's shipping ports, along with the Port of Ambarlı, and the Port of Zeytinburnu. Haydarpaşa was the largest port in Turkey until the early 2000s, as it was surpassed in TEUs by the Port of Ambarlı. Now, it is the third-largest port in Turkey. Haydarpaşa's annual cargo volume exceeds 60 million tons.

The Port of Haydarpaşa is located at the southern entrance to the Bosphorus. Two breakwaters protect vessels in the port, which total area is 343,420 square meters. The port handles ro-ro, containers, and general cargoes.

The World Border Security Congress is delighted to offer, with the support of the Ministry of Interior, a guided site visit of BPort of Istanbul for a limited number of delegates.

For further details and book your place visit www.world-border-congress.com/site-visit

Spaces are limited so ensure you book your place on the site tour early.

24th-26^h April 2024, Istanbul, Turkey | 17

NETWORKING RECEPTION



NETWORKING RECEPTION

THURSDAY 25th APRIL

5.30pm - 7:30pm

Exhibition Floor

Networking Reception
Sponsored by:

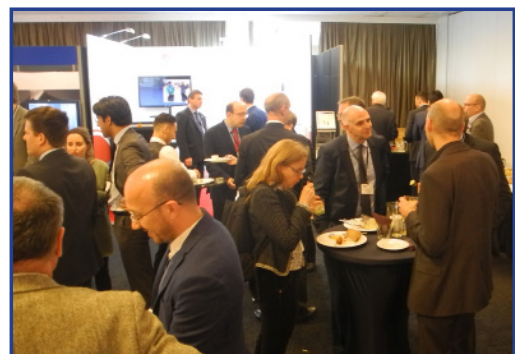
SITA

We invite you to join us at the end of the Thursday 25th April for the World Border Security Congress Networking Reception in the exhibition area at the Gorrion Hotel Istanbul, which will see the border security industry management professionals gather for a more informal reception.

With the opportunity to meet colleagues and peers you can build relationships with senior border agency and security officials in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The Networking Reception is free to attend and open to industry professionals.

We look forward to welcoming you.



**BORDER SECURITY
REPORT**

AFRICAN YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORT CENTRE / AFRICAN SMART CITIES INNOVATION FOUNDATION / AU-ECOSOCC WORKSHOP



ADVANCING SOCIAL ECONOMIC CROSS-BORDER RELATIONS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND COOPERATION

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL - 9.30AM-12.30PM

This Workshop, organized by the African Young People Support Centre (AYPSC) in collaboration with the African Smart Cities Innovation Foundation (ASCIF), is geared towards a comprehensive exploration of social-economic cross-border relations. Although a specific emphasis on the African continent, it covers examples from other continents. The event aims to unravel the intricate interplay between trade dominance, political mediation, and technological advancements, all pivotal in fostering cross-border coordination and cooperation.

The examination of cross-border dynamics is a focal point, delving into the intricate dance between trade, politics, and institutions, including scrutinizing the correlation between trade dominance and the resulting economic interdependency that gives rise to cross-border linkages. Special attention will be given to investigating the role of local-central networks, involving government actors and other organizations, in mediating these complex processes.

In the era of global digital transformation, the Workshop will address continental advancements

in digital governance from a global perspective. It will emphasize the imperative of continental harmonization and the need for complementary global actions to influence norms on digital governance. The 'digital agenda' calls for not only national policy implementation but also high-level political investment at the continental level, coupled with global engagement on standard setting.

The Workshop underscores the need for Africa to actively shape its role in global digital geopolitics. Insights shared during the event will focus on smart border technologies and their potential to revolutionize Africa's infrastructure, whilst contributing significantly to securing peace and stability across the African continent, by efficiently connecting African capitals and socio-economic activities.

Workshop Time

Wednesday 24th April 2024 : 9.30am – 12:30pm

Delegates of the World Border Security Congress are entitled to participate in this African Young People Support Centre (AYPSC) and African Smart Cities Innovation Foundation (ASCIF) Workshop.

Register online at www.world-border-congress.com/registration

24th-26^h April 2024, Istanbul, Turkey | 19

COUNTERING THE MOVEMENT OF TERRORISTS ACROSS BORDERS WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP FACILITATED BY NATO COE-DAT

FRIDAY 26TH APRIL 9.00AM-10.30AM

For Border agencies and agencies at the border only



Moderated by: Marouan Hitti, Ugur Gungor, Richard Warnes - NATO COEDAT

A Centre of Excellence (COE) is an entity offering specialised expertise and experience to the benefit of the NATO Alliance, especially in support of Transformation. The Centre of Excellence Defence Against Terrorism (COE-DAT) is a NATO accredited, multi-national sponsored entity located in Ankara, Türkiye. COE-DAT was inaugurated in 2005 as the second among the 30 NATO Centres of Excellence that exist today. The Centre is composed of personnel from eight NATO nations and is focused on providing key decision-makers with realistic solutions to terrorism and counter-terrorism (CT) challenges. COE-DAT is designed to complement NATO's current resources while also serving three different functions: NATO's Department Head in Education and Training for CT; Education and Training Facility offering courses and other training and education opportunities; and, a strategic-level think tank.

Border Security is one of the topics that COE-DAT invests in, as it is deemed relevant to CT efforts. Border Security, Refugees and Counter-Terrorism is one of the 12 NATO-approved courses that are taught at COE-DAT.

During the COE-DAT workshop at the World Border Security Congress, COE-DAT will provide an academic insight into border security in the context of CT, and use case study examples from Türkiye and Lebanon in order to highlight how theoretical understanding can be applied in practice to better equip policy-level decision makers to defend their borders against terrorist activity.

The aim of the workshop is to allow participants to engage with subject matter experts and discuss a series of factors that contribute to border security, highlighting how technological advances need to be matched by human understanding and conventional methods in order to provide comprehensive defence against terrorism.

The workshop aims to provide insight at the strategic level with regards to managing the range of tools available to develop border security, though this will include understanding the requirement to ensure strategy can be implemented at the tactical level. The outcome is to view border security and CT as a holistic process, underpinned by both academic research and practical experience."

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF AIRPORT & SEAPORT POLICE WORKSHOP



European Association
of Airport and Seaport Police

SHAPING GROUND-BREAKING TECHNOLOGIES TO SUPPORT END-USERS COUNTERING IDENTITY-FRAUD AT BORDERS

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL - 10.30AM-12.30PM

The **European Association Airport & Seaport Police** is one of the 23 parties involved in the EU-funded project **SafeTravellers**, which started January this year and will last for three years. It aims to produce a near-operational system at TRL7 or above. SafeTravellers is focused on:

- a) strengthening border security,
- b) improving the productivity of the Border Authorities by providing them with the appropriate tools to perform trustworthy identity management, combat identity fraud at the hardware, identity, and travel document, and biometrics levels, while
- c) offering a frictionless border crossing experience for EU and Third Country Nationals (TCN) citizens, eliminating the need for stops at border checkpoints.

This workshop is part of the requirements definition phase of the project, and practitioners are particularly welcome to contribute their operational preferences for an enhanced border system. The team will also share the emerging Use Cases that are being developed and ask for comments from the operational and technical communities.

SafeTravellers proposes both a new way of citizen identification based on multiple

biometrics, instead of the problematic identity document, and an enhancement of the current identity verification at borders through a set of tools that will detect attacks at the biometric hardware, identity and travel document fraud, and attempts to falsify biometrics.

The proposed solution must meet ethical requirements, has to be GDPR compliant, and introduces various privacy-preserving mechanisms to safeguard citizens' biometrics through homomorphic encryption. Through the one-of-its-kind distributed European Multi-Biometric Data Space offered by SafeTravellers, each Member State will keep the personal data of its country nationals within its jurisdiction while allowing cross-border identity checks without transferring or revealing any biometric data.

The role of the EAASP is leading in the coordination of four pilots containing use cases, with preparations already in full swing. We are looking for debate on the technical and (future) operational aspects of the pilots. The benefit for the workshop attendees is to gain deeper insight of the efforts, goals and outcomes of the project and benefiting from the final solution.

Join this workshop and help shape the future of the SafeTraveller programme.

THE VENUE / ACCOMMODATION

GORRIO HOTEL ISTANBUL

Yenibosna Merkez, Sanayi Cd. No:9,
34197 Bahçelievler/İstanbul,
Türkiye
www.gorrion.com/en
T: + 90 212 454 48 00



Accommodation online booking: www.world-border-congress.com/accommodation



Gorrion Hotel, which was established in April 2014, is located on the Istanbul Basın Express Road and provides service with 252 rooms. With strategic location, to the Istanbul World Trade Center, Istanbul Fair Center, and Turkish Exporters Assembly, makes the hotel an ideal opportunity for business travelers.

Gorrion Hotel Istanbul also attracts visitors participating in events at IFM and CNR Exhibition Centers throughout the year. Gorrio Hotel Istanbul is located within conveniently walking distance to Star City and Istwest shopping centers, which serve as social hubs for our guests. Additionally, historical landmarks such as the Grand Bazaar, Spice Bazaar, Blue Mosque, and Hagia Sophia are only a short drive away.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION RATES FOR ATTENDEES TO THE WORLD BORDER SECURITY CONGRESS

The World Border Security Congress has negotiated special discounted rates for delegates to stay at the hotel.

SPECIAL CONGRESS RATES (Book early to guarantee your room and special rate):

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Single Standard room: €150 pppn, incl B&B and taxes

Double Standard room: €170 pppn, incl B&B and taxes

Book your special rate accommodation via
www.world-border-congress.com/accommodation

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- Download the Hotel Booking Form using the following link:
www.world-border-congress.com/hotel-booking
- Complete the form with the booking according to your needs.
- Email the completed form to sales@gorrion.com

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The Organisers of the 2024 World Border Security Congress wish to thank the Sponsors and Supporters of this years event, without whom it would not be possible.

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**BORDER SECURITY
REPORT**



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French Authorities, Supported by MAOC-N, Seize more than 10 Tonnes of Cocaine in the Gulf of Guinea, an All-Time Record for the Centre



In a significant blow against drug trafficking, the French Navy, with support from the MAOC-N, intercepted a vessel carrying over 10 tonnes of cocaine in the Gulf of Guinea. This seizure, amounting to 10693kg, marks a record-breaking achievement for MAOC-N, surpassing the previous record of 9.5 tonnes seized in the vessel ESER, a general cargo, back in 2019.

The interception took place in the early hours of March 14th, 2024, when the French Navy boarded a 20-meter-long fishing vessel that had departed Brazil and was heading to the Gulf of Guinea.

French agencies OFAST and DNRED, in collaboration with partners from MAOC-N, initiated the intervention based on information obtained through a thorough investigation conducted alongside the Brazilian Federal Police.

Crucially, the successful seizure was made possible through intelligence provided by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) from the US, and by the National Crime Agency (NCA) from the UK, underscoring the importance of international cooperation in tackling drug trafficking.

Spanish Authorities Seize 157kg of Cocaine near Cape Verde, with Support from MAOC-N



In a joint operation by the Civil Guard, National Police and the Customs Surveillance Service, the Spanish Navy intercepted a sailing vessel carrying 157kg of cocaine in the waters near Cape Verde.

The 19-meter, Polish-flagged sloop had departed South America and was apparently en route to the Canary Islands with two crew members on board, who were later taken into custody by the competent authorities.

At first inspection, the search result was negative. However, during a second inspection at port, a hidden compartment was located inside the vessel, where the cocaine was being stored.

This successful operation was possible through extensive international cooperation between the aforementioned Spanish law enforcement agencies, the OFAST from France, the National Crime Agency from the UK and the US Drugs Enforcement Administration (DEA), supported by MAOC-N.

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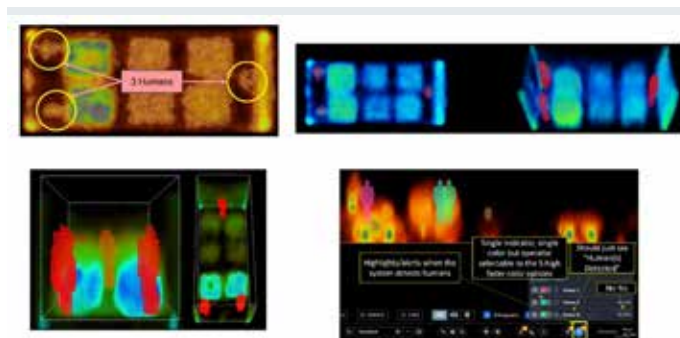
Countering the Movement of Terrorists Across Borders

View directly at www.border-security-report.com/webinar-countering-the-movement-of-terrorists-across-borders/



Decision Sciences launches new Human Detection Capability for its Discovery® system at this year's World Border Security Congress

Decision Sciences International Corporation (Decision Sciences or DSIC) has developed a groundbreaking Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) capability based on its unique Charged Particle (Muon) Tomography technology.



Differing Views Showing Humans – Enhanced with AI/ML and the GUI

Already capable of detecting contraband and anomalies such as drugs, weapons, chemicals, unshielded and shielded radiological and nuclear materials, even inside bulk truck cargoes and containers, penetrating cover loads such as produce, ice and water, salts, gravel and aggregate, steel and lead. DSIC's passive Discovery® system does not generate any harmful radiation as does x-ray, and is intrinsically safe for the user, the cargo, and any human beings

that may be hidden in the cargo.

Discovery® inherently uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the latest Machine Learning (ML) to produce a revolutionary 3-dimensional image and is capable of scanning dense cargoes that x-ray systems cannot penetrate. Now, in response to customer requirements, Decision Sciences has developed a new and revolutionary algorithm to safely detect human beings hidden inside containers and cargoes.

IDEMIA has the most accurate algorithms in the NIST latest Evaluation of Latent Fingerprint Technologies (ELFT) tests

ID documents are checked everywhere, even in the most remote locations. It is important that the tools border guards use will still support them offline, are always ready to use and conform with data protection rights.



National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) ELFT is the global benchmark for latent fingerprint and palm print identification used to identify latent fingerprints and palm prints found at crime scenes. For the fourth time in a row, IDEMIA Public Security leads the market with the most accurate and fastest (among the most accurate) algorithms. In addition to accuracy, which increases the chances of identifying leads in law enforcement investigations, IDEMIA's

algorithms showed a very low False Positive Identification Rate (FPIR – at less than 8% whereas the nearest competitor is at above 11%), allowing the latent examiner to process more cases, accurately and faster. Furthermore, IDEMIA demonstrated vastly superior performance in palmprint identification, another highly significant contribution. Using this technology, the human-Artificial Intelligence (AI) duo becomes more productive, and the examiner's valuable time is optimized.

Speeding Towards Secure Borders: Thales Unveils Next-Gen ABC Gates!

Picture this – a border crossing process so streamlined that it defies expectations. Thales ABC Gates revolutionize the experience, cutting through the red tape to deliver results in as little as 12 seconds.



At the forefront of the new ABC Gates is integrating biometric multimodalities, including face, fingerprint, and iris recognition. This multifaceted approach ensures rapid and accurate verification of travelers, streamlining entry and exit procedures with unprecedented efficiency. The core of the innovation lies in the fusion of cutting-edge technologies. Dual fixed cameras capture live face images instantaneously, while advanced algorithms process biometric data in a matter of seconds. This

seamless integration of hardware and software enables a swift and reliable authentication process, minimizing delays for travelers while enhancing security measures.

Moreover, these next-gen ABC Gates prioritize fraud detection, a critical component in maintaining the integrity of border control systems. Utilizing advanced liveness detection technology and cybersecurity, the gates can identify and thwart sophisticated presentation attacks.

Digitally and optically enhanced border guard frontliners

ID documents are checked everywhere, even in the most remote locations. It is important that the tools border guards use will still support them offline, are always ready to use and conform with data protection rights.



Simple but effective supportive equipment is needed, with which it is possible to do perform offline identity and document verification. With the new Snap&Go Adapter it is possible to fix connect any smartphone to Docus Lumus, the mobile document checking device, thus combining the optical and digital world. Going one step further, the newly launched training / operation case is the ideal tool kit for trainers and experts, including 14 Docus Lumus devices, 4 UV

torches, Smartphone Clips for photo and video documentation, an 8 MP document camera, all combined in a waterproof case that is cabin size.

To properly train the officers, our specially designed Visa Sticker Specimen includes relevant security features like an offset print with rainbow effect, DOVIDS, micro and nano text as well as Anti Stokes particles and much more. The Visa Sticker Specimen is part of the training case as well as all Docus Lumus packages.

Sirius Insight has commenced capability trials for its new Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Uncrewed Aircraft System (UAS) platform

Sirius Insight, a leading UK technology company focused on AI in the maritime environment, has commenced capability trials for its new Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Uncrewed Aircraft System (UAS) platform.



The trials follow the company's equity investment and strategic partnership with Flylogix, a pioneering UK-based uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV) firm.

The UAS platform integrates Sirius Insight's sensor suite to monitor maritime activity, extending Sirius Insight's real time maritime awareness capability well beyond the horizon and allowing efficient surveillance of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters and real-time detection of suspicious activity at sea.

Since 2020, Sirius Insight has worked alongside

the UK Government, providing maritime data to the Joint Maritime Security Centre (JMSC) in support of its mission to increase awareness and understanding of maritime security threats and to enable cross-government coordination in delivering a whole-system response to mitigate them.

The extension of maritime surveillance to the outer limit of the EEZ through its new BVLOS UAS platform allows Sirius Insight to provide maritime authorities with even greater levels of operational integration, resilience and cost-effectiveness.

The Upgraded Regula 4205D: Forensic-Level Document Verification for Border Security

The International Organization for Migration reports that the migrant flow has been steadily rising, with the numbers swelling from 153 million in 1995 to 281 million in 2022.



Concurrently, the quality of counterfeit documents keeps advancing. Under these circumstances, the need for more sophisticated border control tools has never been greater.

Regula steps up to this challenge by upgrading its Regula 4205D, a one-of-a-kind device designed to significantly enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of document verification processes. Equipped with 13 light sources and capable of 30x magnification, Regula 4205D streamlines the workflow of border officers, helping them make well-informed decisions.

"Border control authorities are at the

forefront of fighting identity document fraud, because it's usually where the most sophisticated document forgeries appear. We know how crucial it is to stop fraud at the entry point before it does any significant damage. That's why we upgraded our Regula 4205D to offer unparalleled document verification technology that elevates border control operations to new heights.." says Alex Lewanowicz, Director of Hardware Engineering at Regula.

CASRA announces the development and roll-out of new X-ray training modules for air cargo screening operations

CASRA, the leading organization for security research and applications, announces today the development and roll-out of new X-ray training modules for air cargo screening operations.



Effective air border management is a must-have as organized crime groups find faster and innovative methods to transport drugs and other illicit goods by using aircrafts.

CASRA has been providing training for Customs organizations in baggage screening and high energy

(trucks and containers) screening for several years through its computer-based training application, X-Ray Tutor 4. "This development in our Customs & Borders capabilities will further support Customs and border officers screening air cargo and mail" – says Alex Kunz, CASRA's Vice Director.

MicroSearch Human Presence Detection Systems (HPDS) has released the latest technology in detecting humans being smuggled in vehicles

MicroSearch Human Presence Detection Systems (HPDS) has released the latest technology in detecting humans being smuggled in vehicles

Current technology requires sensors being attached to a vehicle to determine the presence of humans hiding in vehicles. With MicroSearch this is no longer the case.

The Contactless Vehicle Sensors (CVS) can be used in locations where permanent installation allows for the sensors to be installed below grade and covered to protect the sensors or can be used in a mobile configuration where the sensors can be moved to support temporary locations.

When installed in a permanent location, this new technology allows for inspecting vehicles

in a manner that isolates officers from a potential threat located in the vehicle, and no longer requires physically affixing sensors to the vehicle.

This new technology requires less officers to process vehicles, utilizes a minimum of two and a maximum of four vehicles sensors and is completely compatible with all of MicroSearch's current configurations. Safer, takes fewer officers, same reliability, works on all vehicle sizes.

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Turkey is a transcontinental country, strategic positioned linking Europe, Asia and the Middle East, making it a perfect route for trade.

With a total border boundary of some 4,000 miles, about three-quarters is maritime, including coastlines along the Black Sea, the Aegean, and the Mediterranean, as well as the narrows that link the Black and Aegean seas.

The 'EU-Turkey deal', a 'statement of cooperation' between EU states and the Turkish Government, means Turkey can take any measures necessary to stop people travelling irregularly from Turkey to the Greek islands, and currently manages over 5 million migrants and refugees.

Turkey is a top destination for victims of human trafficking, as well a global trafficking hub for South American cocaine, fuelling rising demand for the drug in Eastern Europe and the Persian Gulf.

Many challenges face the region, which impacts globally, and therefore, an excellent place for the hosting of the next 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 Istanbul, Turkey on 24th-26th April 2024 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.

www.world-border-congress.com

for the international border management and security industry

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- AEAC Diane Sabatino, Acting Executive Assistant Commissioner (AEAC) for the Office of Field Operations (OFO), US CBP
- Amanda Read, National Operational lead, Safeguarding & Modern Slavery, UK Border Force
- Ana Cristina Jorge, Director of Operational Response Division of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency – Frontex
- Austin Gould, Assistant Administrator for Requirements and Capabilities Analysis, Transport Security Administration
- Colleen Ryan, Border Advisor, Border Security & Management Unit, Transnational Threats Department (TNTD), OSCE
- Dr Maria Carmela Emanuele, Customs Officer -Chemist, Italian Customs and Monopolies Agency
- Emmanuel Oshoba, Deputy Comptroller of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service
- Guido Ferraro, Project Manager, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Iliuta Cumpanasu, Lead Evaluator, FRONTEX
- LTC Marcos Pérez-Mayor Rodríguez, Chief of Staff of the Border and Customs Police Command, Guardia Civil, Spain

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