

# BORDER SECURITY REPORT

VOLUME 31  
JULY / AUGUST 2023

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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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.

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Border Security Report is a bi-monthly electronic magazine and is the border management industry magazine delivering agency and industry news and developments, as well as more in-depth features and analysis to over 30,000 border agencies, agencies at the borders and industry professionals, policymakers and practitioners, worldwide.



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## The temperatures rising in more ways than one!



As the northern hemisphere swelters in record-breaking temperatures, most of the press coverage focusses on China, Mediterranean Europe and the USA.

For people in these developed economies, the current heatwaves will prove dangerous even fatal for the vulnerable few, but most people can expect no more than to be uncomfortable and maybe mildly inconvenienced.

That's because developed economies have the resources and infrastructure to cope with these temporary conditions. For example, in 2008, reservoirs dipped so low that Barcelona was forced to import drinking water from France.

But extreme climate conditions in North Africa and the Sahel mean a very different story. Algeria and Morocco are currently experiencing the same temperature extremes as the very hottest of that in Europe. Ethiopia and Kenya are enduring

one of the worst droughts in four decades.

In poorer countries where some agriculture is marginal at best, adverse climate conditions can make food supplies and access to fresh water exceptionally vulnerable. Governments that are already heavily burdened with debt, do not have the capacity to step in with relief for large parts of their more remote populations, even for one drought season.

The net result of this is that those who can't move, generally women, children, the old and the sick, will stay where they are and suffer, and possibly starve. Those that can, will be on the move. Most will become internal refugees or end up in neighbouring countries.

But many will head for Europe. So, border agencies in Europe should expect an increase in the numbers of irregular crossings in the coming months and even years, because those making the perilous journey across the Sahara may take years to arrive at Europe's door.

Of course, the problem is only going to get worse with climate change. So, Europe needs to do more to ensure that African states have the refinancing, trade, technology and know-how to help their people to help themselves!

Tony Kingham  
Editor

## Nearly 3 Million Displaced by Conflict in Sudan



Nearly 3 million people have been displaced internally and across borders by the conflict in Sudan, in less than three months.

In addition to the more than 2.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), nearly 700,000 others have fled into neighbouring countries, according to the latest figures by the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

Most of the people displaced in Sudan have fled from Khartoum state (67%) and Darfur (33%) towards Northern state (16%), River Nile (14%), West Darfur (7%) and White Nile states. Food, access to health services and essential relief items remain critically lacking. While most IDPs live with the host community, over 280,000 of them are currently living in last-resort shelters such as camps, public buildings, and improvised shelters, particularly in White Nile state (DTM).

Mixed movements have been observed across the border into Egypt (40%), Chad (28%), South Sudan (21%), Ethiopia and the Central African Republic. Of the over 697,000 people who crossed into neighbouring countries, 65 per cent are Sudanese and 35 per cent are estimated to be returnees and third-country nationals (TCNs). Most are in extremely

precarious conditions.

The continued escalation of violence is compounding an already dire humanitarian situation in the country and the region. At least 24.7 million people – about half the population of Sudan – are in urgent need of humanitarian aid and protection, one third of whom are in Darfur, where the situation is deteriorating dramatically.

"IOM reiterates calls for a permanent ceasefire and removal of bureaucratic impediments, to ensure safe and guaranteed humanitarian corridors and enable the delivery of aid to people in hard-to-reach areas," said IOM MENA Regional Director, Othman Belbeisi.

Under the Sudan Crisis and Neighbouring Countries Response, operations have scaled up across Sudan, Chad, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt, Libya and the Central African Republic. In Sudan, a large number of containers with relief items have arrived in Port Sudan, to be distributed through partners and the common humanitarian pipeline.

In Chad, over 22,400 people have been reached with assistance; in South Sudan over 37,900 people have been reached with Onward Transportation Assistance (OTA); in Ethiopia, over 48,500 people have been reached with multi-sectoral assistance; in Egypt, over 20,800 people have been reached with direct assistance and distribution of relief items, and in Libya, IOM is preparing for the distribution of non-food items (NFIs) and hygiene kits prepositioned in Al Kufra to new arrivals.

To meet the increasing needs across the various areas of operations in view of both the continuation of the conflict and high rate of new displacement, additional funding is urgently needed to enable IOM to maintain and continue scaling up operations across Sudan.

# TRADE IN HUMAN BEINGS PREVENTION – QUO VADIS?

*by Christoph von Harsdorf, Dipl.-Jur.  
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Expert*

This opinion-article honours the donor community's strong commitment to preventing and combating Trade in Human Beings (THB) and commends all their activities on the ground, including new and innovative ones like Mobile Identification Teams. THB as a criminal offence is committed in various countries and modes during a migration journey, a crime with a low reporting and insufficient conviction rate.

The article advocates to go new ways for recognizing the international, trans-border character of victimization processes, for increasing the reporting rate on one side and intensifying pro-active criminal investigations on the other side, as necessary for all criminal offences with high dark figures.

## **Dark figure of crime**

All institutions and practitioners presume a high number of undiscovered or even undiscoverable THB.



It was Belgian mathematician and sociologist Adolphe Quetelet, who first coined the term “dark figure of crime” back in 1832. He argued: “Our observations can only refer to a certain number of known and tried offenders out of the unknown sum total of crimes committed. Since this sum total of crimes committed will probably ever continue unknown, all the reasoning of which it is the basis will be more or less defective.”

The ‘dark figures’ of crime cover all law violations, including THB, smuggling of persons and goods, tax evasion, prostitution, illegal drug use, illegal gambling, child abuse, domestic violence and traffic violations.

Criminal offences are brought to attention of the authorities usually through:

- Criminal complaints of victims (e.g. defrauded investors, victims of burglaries)
- Pro-active search by investigators (e.g. drug investigators, audits of OLAF)
- Police and Customs controls (e.g. document fraud)
- Competitors of offenders (e.g. in monopoly law, cartel law)
- Notifications by governmental authorities (e.g. medical institutions, social services)
- Reports by competent non-governmental organisations (e.g. organisations active in victim protection and aid)
- Whistleblowers (e.g. in organized crime, in corruption cases)



- Inconsistent information provided by offenders themselves (e.g. tax declarations)
- Technical detection installations (e.g. traffic control cameras; perimeter protection video cameras)
- Witnesses, neighbours, activists (e.g. ecologists)
- Press and Media (e.g. investigative journalism)

When we look at THB, none of these statistically frequent ways of crime detection is predominant. This phenomenon has to do with the specific characteristics of the statutory offence, with *modi operandi*, but also with interests and decisions of THB victims.

Some THB victims may not be aware of being or having been victimized, some may not trust foreign states’ authorities and not be ready to notify law enforcement authorities and testify, many victims may worry about an interruption of their migration journey, some victims

may fear further victimization by the same offenders, some victims may forgive or protect the offender (e.g. family member, same tribe, regarding a trafficker who they may need later again), some victims may be involved in offences, e.g. use of false or falsified or forged documents or false declarations of family relations and finances, some may be involved in smuggling of persons or goods.

It is my hypothesis that many victims may weigh the reporting of victimization against other genuine interests, like the swift and smooth continuation of their migration journey to safe havens.

A scientific, empiric case study from Italy found that “some victims become exploiters themselves in order to use their earnings to pay the debt more quickly: the madams give them the possibility of recruiting a girl (generally a sister or a friend) to be exploited in prostitution so that they can obtain the money in

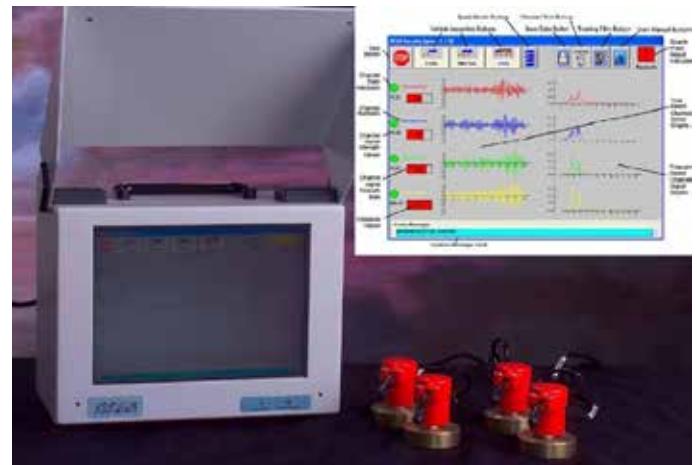
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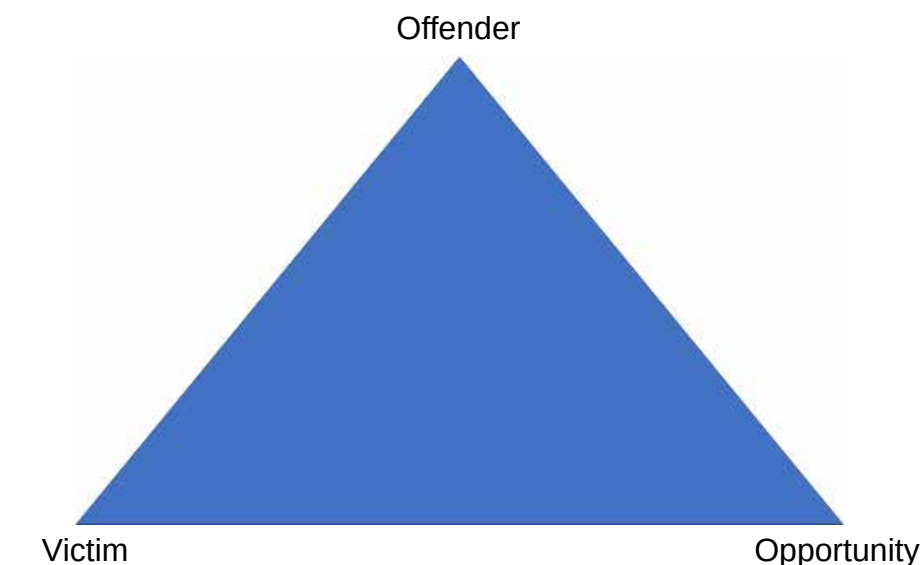
a shorter time. This is an important feature of the modalities used to carry out the exploitation because in this way the victims are directly involved in the criminal activities and less disposed to denounce the crime to law enforcement authorities.”

THB offenders and smugglers are highly specialised and professionalised, they are often part of organized crime groups or networks. Their *modi operandi* are often realized clandestine during the migration journey.

If justice and law enforcement authorities want to prevent and combat THB, they must apply sound criminalistic models of clearing the dark figure of crime. THB is a triangle with 3 sides.

For all three sides of the triangle is research available at criminological Faculties, other research institutions, empiric Police research centres and NGOs.

For Germany, I would like to name the Max-Planck-Institute for the study of Criminality, Security, Law (Freiburg) with its Balkan Criminology Partner Group, the Centre for Criminology (KrimZ), Wiesbaden, the German Federal Investigation Bureau Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), Wiesbaden, the Criminological Research Institute Lower Saxony (KFN), Hannover, and the Research Departments of the 16 Federal States' Central Investigation Bureaus Landeskriminalämter (LKA). Comparable, prestigious research



*Authorities must (1) deter and punish offenders, (2) encourage and compensate victims and (3) reduce opportunities.*

structures exist in other EU member states.

The German Federal Ministry of Interior published on 8 November 2022 an interesting study on the dark figure of crime. The representative population survey “Security and Crime in Germany” (SKiD) of BKA and infas is a nationwide dark field study based on a survey with persons aged 16 and older. Among other things, the survey asked about the feeling of safety, victim experiences and the evaluation of police work. In addition to crimes known to Police (“bright field”), the survey also recorded crimes not known to Police (“dark field”).

The SKiD survey was based on a nationwide sample taken from the registers of residents’ registration offices. The questionnaire could be

completed in 4 languages either on paper or online (CAWI). Almost 47,000 people took part nationwide. The most surprising result was that 14 % of the whole population over 16 % had become victims of cybercrime in the last 12 months, the highest single victimization type among all types of crimes.

Back to THB: Whoever wants to prevent or combat THB, has a rich choice between EU member states’ criminological and criminalistic research to find empirical, best practices.

### **New and innovative paths for increasing the reporting rate**

Which considerations prevent victims from reporting - and the authorities from clearing - THB?

THB happens during a migration journey through several countries



with different languages, religious orientations, cultures and legal systems, different law enforcement authorities and jurisdictions. At the moment, each temporary host country of victims is competent for THB, only during the short stay of the victimized migrants on their territory. Even willing investigators lose contact after victims have left the host country. How can this gap be closed?

### **Recognizing and responding to the trans-border character of THB**

We still treat THB as phenomenon on just one territory, the one which temporarily hosts victimized migrants. We must however understand the entire migration journey as a continuum.

What are the victims' interests? The victims' interests are to move from country to country to the eventual final destination, and to decide according to their own interests if, where and when and to who they are ready to report THB.

This means in practice: The legal possibility for migrants must be created to report and register all kind of THB offences they have suffered during their entire migration journey any time AFTER they have reached a safe haven (e.g. Austrian, German, Swedish, Swiss Reception Centre). This requires a robust legal framework and a coordinated international approach. It could start with a study.

### **Compensating victims of THB despite of the trans-border character of THB**

The same applies with regard to victim-compensation which is still based on national legislations. No country offers compensation for victimisation in another country. THB would however require that. It could start with a study.

Offering fair compensation for THB victimisation by the international community could be another way to increase the reporting rate.

### **Decriminalising minor offences committed by victims of THB**

We should distinguish between major and minor offences committed by THB victims. It can be discussed to – case by case - refrain from punishing victims of THB who have committed minor offences like smuggling of not-dangerous goods. If THB victims must fear prosecution, they would probably not report their own victimisation.

We must stop the idealization of migrants. As in life, migrants can be offenders, not all migrants are “only” innocent victims. Some migrants steal from migrants, some migrants defraud or rape migrants, some migrants abuse other migrants.

### **Pro-active investigations – principle of legality versus principle of opportunity**

Some types of criminal offences seem “victimless”. This phenomenon is well researched for insurances, public institutions, tax authorities buildings. People rarely identify with anonymous institutions, banks (“I don’t own a bank”).

Other example: Some believe that a prostitute cannot be raped and enjoys less right to physical integrity. Similar misunderstanding happens with migrants' victimisations. Some people believe irregular migrants deserve less protection because they are “irregular”, because it is their own “voluntary” decision to migrate. If THB victims don't report cases of THB, they become part of this misconception. Legally, it does not play a role if a victim of THB

reports or doesn't report: THB must be investigated anyway.

Europe as a whole follows the "Principle of Legality": All serious offences must be investigated. Example: The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) as an independent public prosecution office of the European Union stated in Art. 66 of its Framework Preamble:

"In order to ensure legal certainty and to effectively combat offences affecting the Union's financial interests, the investigation and prosecution activities of the EPPO should be guided by the legality principle..."

Europe does not follow the Anglo-Saxon principle of "opportunity", making investigations depend on political interests or financial resources. All European states along a migration route are bound to investigate and prosecute cases of THB.

If victims do not report, the state must pro-actively penetrate the criminal biotopes and investigate and bring offenders to justice. A legal framework is needed that all Public Prosecution Services and Police along the migration route investigate THB that has happened on their territories, even if the migrant has not reported - the principle "volenti non fit iniuria" is not applicable. And it must be investigated even if the victim has already left the territory.

### **Cyber THB – online exploitation**

This is the fastest growing industry.



New, innovative investigations are needed to identify offenders who search online for vulnerable possible THB victims.

This needs high technical preparedness, pro-activeness and various identities of investigators, since offenders increased their efforts to recruit victims and victims who recruit other victims.

Broad research is available on online radicalization which can be learned from. Example: The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) published a study "How to prevent online radicalisation in the cyber security realm of the Western Balkans?"

There is even some overlapping regarding victims' profiles: under-informed, trusting false promises, unrealistic hopes, readiness to depend on a criminal offender.

### **Free-of-charge legal aid**

Examples from many countries and projects of cooperation show that

legal aid is often a pre-requisite for making use of rights and stopping submission. Pilot projects could test the ground.

### **Whistleblowers**

Whistleblowers are a recognized way to gain insider information on illegal activities. But many irregular migrants and victims of THB do not even know this possibility. This is why Free-of-charge legal aid (see above)

Whistleblowers have sometimes high ethical motives, sometimes not. In organized crime, some offenders want to get a legally privileged status as whistleblowers.

Irregular migrants frequently travel in ethnic groups. This handicaps and hampers successful whistleblowing. Omertà (code of silence) reigns in many migration groups like in Mafia. Others are ready to speak, if they will be protected (see below Witness protection). Operational pilot projects could tell more.





### **Witness protection**

THB offenders are sometimes armed. If not, their criminal friends are. Witnesses and whistleblowers must adequately be protected. This is also not known and applied to victims, witnesses and whistleblowers of THB.

### **Undercover agents**

If a government undercover agent is not allowed to abet an innocent person to do something illegal. Undercover agents must be managed with highest attention to professional and ethical standards, in order to produce objective evidence to Courts.

Since undercover agents are not part of criminal organisations, they must use informants from the criminal environment who “know” about illegal activities. Informants want to be paid (or get legal advantages) for sharing their “knowing”.

Regarding drug dealing, there are informal scales (“tariffs”) applied

within EU Police Forces on how much law authorities are ready to pay for an information leading to a discovery of a drug deal. I remember a case in Germany that an informant took Police to Court, if the agreed-on amount would not be paid. In this specific case, Police paid.

The same system works regarding tax evasion or tax fraud. The German Ministry of Finance of the largest Federal State North Rhine-Westphalia bought from whistleblowers of Swiss and Liechtenstein banks and lawyers’ Offices compact discs (CDs) with information on untaxed money and undeclared wealth. Upon Parliamentary inquiry, the Ministry defended its practice as “last opportunity” and insisted to continue with it, case by case.

The disadvantage of cooperating with informants is the degree of their own involvement. Outsiders don’t know much, insiders know, but are

partly involved. Informants usually never report their own involvement, but usually enemies’ or competitors’ illegal activities. This implies the risk of “selective” investigations and prosecutions, that are more or less directed by informants.

As far as I know, undercover agents and payments to informants are not yet used in suspected THB cases. Already existing mobile identification teams led by Police could be trained on “under-cover techniques”. But above all, agreements are needed that undercover agents can follow suspected THB offenders cross-borders.

### **Investigative journalism**

In 2015, leading German newspaper “Süddeutsche Zeitung” (SZ) was contacted by an anonymous source calling itself “John Doe,” who offered to leak financial documents. Doe did not demand any financial compensation in return. The Panama Papers are 11.5 million leaked documents (or 2.6 terabytes of data) that were published beginning on April 3, 2016. The papers detail financial and attorney–client information for more than 214,488 offshore entities. The documents, some dating back to the 1970s, were created by, and taken from former Panamanian offshore law firm Mossack Fonseca, and compiled with similar leaks into a searchable database. It spans from the 1970s to the spring of 2016.

One of the immediate consequences of the revelations was the April 4, 2016 resignation of Iceland’s

Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson. On May 9, all of the 214,488 offshore entities named in the Panama Papers became searchable via a database on the website of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ).

We are still waiting for THB cases.

**Extending the statute of limitation for THB reporting could be another option.**

THB as offence lapses and prosecution and sentencing become time-barred. It could be discussed to abandon this the privilege for offenders. Resolutions of relevant organisations could ask for it.

**Offender research**

The same challenges with “dark fields” come with other offences too, particularly with sexual offences: Relatively low, relatively “stable” reporting rates - as presently observed - pretend a picture of a “situation under control”, while the opposite is true. Anonymous victim and anonymous offender surveys suggest that only a small fraction of a multitude of sexual offences is reported and investigated.

In one research study the reporting rate of victims correlated to the closeness between offender and victim. The closer the relation between offender and victim was, the less was reported. The same can be assumed as hypothesis for THB. This is a core problem discovering THB.



Another interesting study is the Offending, Crime and Justice Survey 2021-2022 (OCJS), the first national longitudinal, self-report offending survey for England and Wales. The series began in 2003 and continues up to today. The OCJS is commissioned by the UK Home Office, with the overall objective of providing a solid base for measuring prevalence of offending and drug use in the general population of England and Wales. The survey was developed in response to a significant gap in data on offending in the general population, as opposed to particular groups such as convicted offenders. A specific aim of the series is to monitor trends in offending, mainly among young people.

Both, the British survey 2021-2022 and the recent German study SkiD (mentioned above) evidence that the population commits many more offences than registered and that the population also is to a much higher

degree victimized than expected.

The criminalistic response is working either with whistleblowers (involved or informed insiders) or with undercover agents (official investigators) or with investigative journalists. All three options need totally different approaches and are not free from risks.

# TRANSMISSION OF ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION (API) AND PASSENGER NAME RECORD (PNR) DATA: CONNECTIVITY OPTIONS WITH THE TRANSPORT INDUSTRY

*By Rovshan Namazov  
Advisor: Prof. Nobuhide OTOMO  
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Advance Passenger Information (API) data is the set of data consisting of the details of the flight by the aircraft operators and the biographic data of a passenger or crew member available on his or her travel document collected by air carriers during check-in and, complemented with travel route information, transmitted by these carriers to the border control authorities of the country of destination. According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), over 90 countries

now require airlines to send API before the flight's arrival (IATA, Passenger Facilitation, 2022). More countries are planning to introduce similar requirements soon. The provision of API data allows law enforcement to screen passengers' data prior to arrival and helps to improve border controls and combat illegal immigration through the transmission of data by airlines to a Single Window.

Passenger Name Record (PNR) data – is a generic name given



to records created by aircraft operators or their authorized agents for each journey booked by or on behalf of any passenger. PNR data are used by operators for their own commercial and operational purposes in providing air transportation services. More clearly, PNR relates to travellers' reservation and itinerary data in the carrier's departure and control reservation systems.

The analysis of PNR data helps law enforcement agencies to detect suspicious travel patterns and identify criminals and terrorists, particularly unknown ones. The core objective of using PNR data by law enforcement is about to prevent and fight against terrorism, serious crimes, and drug and human trafficking.

The technology used by participating countries to support the transmission of crew and passenger information by a commercial air carrier and/or commercial service provider is called the Data Acquisition Solution (OSCE). Normally, there are two options for commercial air carriers to push the passenger data to the Single Window. This could be possible via commercial service providers and/or commercial air carriers transmitting the data directly to the Single Window of the respective law enforcement agency.

However, the studies show that countries implementing API and PNR systems sometimes struggle to choose the right scenarios. Thus, not knowing the proper regulation of the data transfer procedure results in both resource and time loss. Mostly, the root of the problem lies in the



fact that the lack of knowledge and skills as well as human resources. Thus, countries with limited technical ability or capacity accept free connection proposals to their system offered by commercial providers and this sometimes results in poor data transmission and invisible financial losses.

It is obvious that not all countries have the same level of resources and capacity in implementing API/PNR systems and countries significantly differ from each other in this regard. The classification of countries is measured by their income and other factors such as the availability of human resources and technological advancements.

This article mainly focuses on the transmission methods of API and PNR data and potential connectivity options for governments. Although, it will provide cost and benefit analysis in implementing and operating passenger data systems. However, the document does not cover technical information related to the data standards.

#### Data Transmission Methods

Effective implementation of API and PNR systems necessitates focusing on the following work streams:

- Legislative framework;
- Institutional set-up and operational capacity;
- Connectivity options and cooperation with stakeholders;
- Technological readiness.

As it is seen, the third important component is the arrangement and transmission of high-quality data between the air carriers and the government. The close cooperation with the airlines to ensure collaboration and technical connectivity is quite significant in obtaining the data appropriately and on time. The essential part of this process is to manage effectively the connection between the air transport industry and the Single Window.

From this standpoint, the development of API and PNR systems, especially the rules applied in data transmission, is



highly dependent on the availability of resources. The issues of data transmission and connection with airlines are the most important stages of the API/PNR implementation process, and the countries' readiness plays a crucial role in obtaining high-quality data in line with international standards.

The practical challenges and statistics depict that governments connecting with airlines are faced with technical and financial issues, including a lack of manpower in transmitting passenger data. Namely, governments and airlines need to mutually adapt their messaging systems and the private sector cannot always use its resources to fulfil these needs.

There are a number of options for governments in collecting data. The most important for governments in the data exchange process is to receive API and PNR data in an agreed format and standards without paying a lot of money. However, this is not that simple. Obviously, if

governments are not able to create their own gateways, they need to work with commercial companies to finalize their passenger data project. In the case of the one-to-one relationship between the airlines and the government, they need to contact and consult individually and sign separate contracts regarding data transmission. The whole aspects of the data exchange process, including format, frequency, time, commitments, responsibilities and so on, are reflected in the content of the contract and this is an effective way to avoid any misunderstanding or confusion between the parties during the transmission process.

Additionally, the success of this scenario is that a responsible government agency is not obliged to pay any annual service fee to any third parties for the transmission and automatically eliminates its future dependency as well. However, in order to pursue the first scenario and for it to be successful, high technological capacity and

high-calibre manpower resources are necessary for governments.

The second scenario in data transmission is about using commercial service providers or data brokers. In practice, most airline companies have not been happy to work directly with governments. The main reason is that airlines need to use their resources for many administrative issues related to technical connections and legal adjustments. Therefore, service providers play a crucial role in connecting airlines to governments. The advantage of this scenario is that the service providers transmit the required information in an approved format in a short time. In addition to that, the responsible government agency gains significant time by avoiding consultation and some other redundant stages to ensure data transmission. It is because the data transmission process is quite long, exhausting and time-consuming. There are several technical and administrative issues that need to be agreed upon and integrated between the parties, and it can take several months or even years for the whole process to be completed.

There are many commercial organizations that offer these solutions for connecting governments with air carriers around the world. Passenger data gateways are different due to the potential and product portfolio of each provider. However, most companies are trying to ensure an end-to-end solution for governments in obtaining, collecting, transmitting and storing Advance Passenger Information (API) and



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Passenger Name Records (PNR) data. Normally, the main services offered by commercial organizations are:

- submission of data in a standard format;
- direct connectivity with airlines to collect passenger data;
- provision of data in line with WCO/ IATA/ICAO rules;
- transmission of data to Single Window or other relevant government agencies based on national legislation;
- connectivity options with other transport modalities;

SITA, WCC, IDEMIA, IBM and others are offering collection, transmission, processing and profiling of passenger data as commercial service providers. According to SITA (SITA, 2023), there are over 600 airline carriers connected to their gateway, enabling fast implementation and certification.

WCC's HERMES Passenger Data Gateway is an end-to-end solution

for governments who prefer to have full control over obtaining, managing, and forwarding Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Records (PNR) passenger data. Alternative commercial service providers offer gateway services that act as a "black box". The main differentiator of WCC's PDG is that the government has full control over the data and the associated data connections (WCC, 2023).

Another great model is goTravel, the United Nations-owned software solution. Despite goTravel not being a commercial product, it offers complete and comprehensive end-to-end solutions to governments. These include data ingestion, interactive API, analytics, integration with respective databases, artificial intelligence, machine learning and other options.

It is clear that integration and data transmission processes through the service providers are not free. In actual fact, some service providers may offer free connections to the airlines by placing some conditions

on the contract. These conditions can be as follows:

The broad-used version is that the service provider ensures free transmission of data from one Center to the Single Window in a unique format and charges governments some fees in return for this service. Normally countries allocate a significant amount to the implementation of API and PNR systems and service fees of a commercial service provider are constituting part of general expenditures.

Another offered option by the service providers to the governments is to cover expenses from the ticket sales and charges the costs from the budget of passengers. In most cases, this option covers the entire implementation process including hardware, targeting system, carrier engagement, and legal and technical support. Additional proposals could be the integration of whole systems to electronic visas. Taking into account the large volume of this approach, this is quite expensive and charged per passenger. Namely, all costs included extra to the airline tickets.

At first glance, this proposed version may seem convenient, attractive and profitable for governments. However, when we look at the issue deeply from the aspects of the national legislation, passengers' rights and the position of governments, this scenario may not be considered so appropriate and effective. Additionally, this policy is against the financial strategy of airlines. These additional charges are used to solve the issues related to the national

security of the countries, not aviation security.

The arrangement and transmission of high-quality data between air carriers and Single Window are quite costly and in most cases, commercial providers adopted different payment methods, such as per-passenger charging. Certainly, prestigious professional services firms are following ICAO guidelines and IATA policy, and their systems are priced traditionally. In addition to that, per passenger fee mechanism is not stable and fluctuation in the number of passengers disrupts assurance and permanency.


Therefore, governments carefully consider and understand all scenarios before starting API and PNR implementation. Particularly,

commercial offerings require a deep analysis not only from the financial and technical aspects, but also from the legal, data privacy, passengers' rights, and national security aspects.

The passenger data systems must be secured and designed with robust measures to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of data collected. The legal and technical framework must be in place for accuracy and completeness. All these include establishing protocols for data entry, validation, verification, access control, data encryption and obtrusion detection.

To sum up, if the technical and financial capacity of the country allows arranging direct connections between commercial air carriers and

Single Window through a secure channel under the framework of a one-to-one relationship, that potentially eliminates the need to engage with a commercial service provider as well as future dependency. However, commercial service providers are an effective solution in case of a lack of resources.



## Setting limits to border queues.

**Regulations make EU borders more secure, secunet border gears makes them faster.**

## 24 arrested after Portuguese authorities seize cocaine hidden in acai shipment



An international law enforcement operation supported by Europol has led to the dismantling of a Brazilian cartel flooding Europe with cocaine.

A number of actions have been carried out over recent months in Brazil, Spain and Portugal to

target the members of this highly professional criminal syndicate.

Coordinated raids were carried out in Spain and Portugal. 20 house searches were executed in Spain (provinces of Málaga, Córdoba, Madrid, Cantabria, Vizcaya) and 4 in Portugal (Cascais and Sintra), resulting in 24 arrests. Over 73 kilos of methamphetamine, 5 firearms and more than EUR 116 000 in cash were seized. Seven other members of the same gang had been arrested earlier in Spain, Portugal and Brazil.

This series of arrests follows the June 2022 seizure of 800 kilos of cocaine hidden in a container of frozen acai berries originating from Brazil, in the port of Sines, Portugal.

## 21 arrested for labour exploitation and 261 victims identified

Between 10 and 17 June 2023 Europol coordinated EMPACT Joint Action Days (JADs) targeting human trafficking for labour exploitation purposes. The JADs were led by the Netherlands, and carried out by law enforcement and labour authorities from 31 countries with support from Eurojust, the European Labour Authority and Frontex.

Over 27,000 officers carried out inspections in a total of 11,360 locations in a range of sectors, including gastronomy, agriculture and the beauty industry, focusing in particular on the exploitation of non-EU

nationals and refugees. Over the span of the action week, 65,839 individuals and 22,958 vehicles were checked. As a result of these checks, 57 suspects were identified and 21 were arrested for labour exploitation, with a total of 261 victims identified. Data gathered during the operation has led to the launch of 86 new investigations in order to identify further potential suspects and victims linked to human trafficking cases across the EU and abroad. This interlinked approach, which involved both law enforcement and labour authorities, facilitated the exchange of information and knowledge about human trafficking indicators.

## 6.5 tonnes of cocaine found hidden between bananas in Colombia and Spain

Europol supported the Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil) to dismantle a criminal network involved in the multi-tonne trafficking of cocaine from South America to the EU. The investigation, which started in October 2022, involved the Colombian National Police (Policía Nacional de Colombia) and the Latvian State Police (Latvijas Valsts policija). Europol facilitated the exchange of information and provided continuous analytical support. On the action day, Europol deployed officers to Spain to support intelligence developments during the field activities.

Over the past seven months, national authorities seized a

number of large cocaine shipments linked to this criminal organisation. In December 2022, the Colombian Police seized about 3 tonnes of cocaine concealed in banana shipments transiting from the port of Turbo via the port of Cartagena and destined for the Spanish port of Algeciras. In another incident, Colombian authorities intercepted a second shipment of 1.25 tonnes of cocaine at the port of Cartagena.





## New joint initiative against human trafficking and migrant smuggling'



INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have announced the launch of a new project designed to fight migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the Americas.

Based on the successful model of previous INTERPOL-led operations, Project Turquesa will leverage the strengths of both organizations to ensure a whole-of-justice approach to migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

With organized crime groups earning billions of dollars from their operations, Latin American and Caribbean countries serve as territories of origin, transit and destinations for these crimes.

Given that human trafficking and migrant smuggling are highly gendered crimes that affect men, women, and children differently, gender considerations will be mainstreamed throughout the project. Furthermore, particular attention will be paid to ensuring full respect for the rights of smuggled migrants and victims of trafficking

## Wildlife crime: extradition of prominent trafficker to face prosecution in Tanzania

A Ukrainian woman arrested during an INTERPOL operation for smuggling 116 live tortoises into Thailand has been extradited to Tanzania to face prosecution.

Travelling to Bangkok from Dar es Salaam in July 2022, the suspect was first arrested during Operation Golden Strike 2022 when Thai Customs at Suvarnabhumi International Airport detected CITES-protected tortoise species concealed in her luggage.

Although the suspect fled Thailand before she could be

fully prosecuted, intense international police cooperation resulted in her location, identification and extradition from Bulgaria to Tanzania in June 2023.

It has been established that the suspect was working in collaboration with Egyptian and Tanzanian partners who assisted her to commit the offences.

CITES is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals from the threats of international trade.

## 14 terror suspects arrested in African operation"

A counter-terrorism operation coordinated by INTERPOL with the support of AFRIPOL has enabled frontline police across Central and Eastern Africa to arrest 14 terror suspects and seize explosives.

The month-long operation, codenamed Tripartite Spider, was organized to support the ability of national Counter-Terrorism (CT) investigation teams to identify suspected terrorists and disrupt the financial networks behind them.

It was undertaken in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda.

The operation involved police, customs, border forces and counter-terrorism experts, including INTERPOL's Regional Counter-Terrorism Node in Africa.

Underlining the need for a pan-African, multi-stakeholder effort against terrorism, the 14 suspects arrested during the operation were linked to terror groups ADF, Al-Shabaab and ISIS, which pose a growing threat across Africa.



## OSCE contributes to strengthening of regional border co-operation



The OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek together with the Border Service of State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic and representatives of the border services from the Republic of Tajikistan and

the Republic of Uzbekistan conducted a Line of conduct practical exercises.

The Line of conduct practical exercises organized annually in accordance with the annual co-operation plan between the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and the Border Service of State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic and aimed to strengthen co-operation and security, as well as contribute to confidence building, and good co-ordination of joint activities at the border.

The event served as a platform for the participants to discuss border security with the focus on transnational threats and how transnational threats can be addressed effectively.

## OSCE and Spain's Guardia Civil improves capacity of Ukraine's border management agencies in combating illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW)

The OSCE, in partnership with the Guardia Civil of Spain, trained canine team instructors in detection of weapons, ammunition and explosives (WAE) through a four-month course to support Ukraine's capacities in countering illicit trafficking of SALW.

The training of eight instructors, six from the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) and two from the State Customs Service (SCS) of Ukraine, was held at the Guardia Civil Dog Training Centre (CADEPE) in Madrid.

During the graduation ceremony, the Ukrainian canine instructors and their service dogs demonstrated their skills in the search for WAE.

Trainees went through over 600 hours of theoretical and practical sessions set up in a module-based training of trainers (ToT) programme delivered by experts from CADEPE, in accordance with European standards and best practices in product scent detection.

## OSCE supports training of trainers on document security in Turkmenistan

The OSCE Centre in Ashgabat organized the series of three-day events in close co-operation with the EU Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA) in Turkmenistan (Phase 10) to provide future trainers with basic and advanced training programmes and a set of materials for further training of the field staff.

The training course introduced participants to the document check system and international standards and recommendations for document screening

technical equipment and systems. National trainers provided an overview of document fraud types and elaborated on identification means in border control.



## Nearly 1 Million Newly Displaced in DRC in First Half of 2023 Amid Surge in Violence



A surge in attacks on civilians by non-state armed groups has newly displaced close to 1 million people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since January, according to the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

An estimated 6.1 million people are currently internally

displaced in DRC, a 17 per cent increase from October 2022.

Since the beginning of the year, the civilian population has been severely affected by violence and brutal attacks perpetrated by non-state armed groups in eastern DRC, resulting in loss of life, mass displacement, and increasing instability. As the conflict intensifies, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate, and millions are facing acute food insecurity as well as other critical needs.

At least 46 people were killed in June, including children, and others injured following an attack by an armed group on the Lala displacement site in the eastern part of Ituri province. The attack, reportedly carried out by the CODECO (Coopérative pour le développement du Congo) non-state armed group, also resulted in the renewed displacement of over 7,800 people from the site, destruction of shelter and personal belongings.

## Soaring Number of Migrants in Distress in Yemen Demands Greater Relief Efforts

Half-way through 2023, more than 77,000 migrants have crossed the Gulf of Aden to Yemen, surpassing last year's figures and fast approaching pre-pandemic levels. As migrant arrivals rise, so have the dangers facing people moving along the "Eastern Route" marked by human rights violations, including torture, violence and trafficking.

Violence, exploitation, and abuse against migrants is widespread, and perpetrators act with impunity.

Insecurity, arrest campaigns and forced transfers have left approximately 43,000 migrants stranded across the country.

Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) remains the only safe pathway home for stranded migrants in Yemen. So far this year, IOM has assisted 5,631 migrants, including 5,572 Ethiopians, to return home on VHR flights, a considerable increase from previous years.

## Deaths on Migration Routes in MENA Highest since 2017: IOM 2022 Data Reveals

Nearly 3,800 people died on migration routes within and from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region last year (January-December 2022), the highest number since 2017 when 4,255 deaths were recorded according to newly released data from the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Missing Migrants Project (MMP).

The 3,789 deaths recorded in 2022 was 11 per cent higher than the previous year.

The MENA region accounted for more than half of the total 6,877 deaths recorded worldwide by the MMP, according to the new report.





## 810,995 counterfeit products, 61,246 counterfeit electronic devices seized in a global operation against smuggling

fifteen EU Member States joined efforts to prevent hundreds of thousands of counterfeit items to reach the European market.

Everyday criminal networks attempt to penetrate the external borders of the EU and profit of off illegal activities. Tirelessly improving the integrated border management and responding to the challenges at the European frontiers, Frontex together with Bulgaria and Portugal organised an operation seeking to thwart smugglers at land and sea borders.

Counterfeit goods, usually cheaper and of inferior quality, can endanger the health of consumers, undermine the legitimate market and negatively affect EU revenues and the labour market situation.

Operation Pirates 1, part of EMPACT Joint Action Days, involved a wide range of law enforcement authorities and was actively supported by Europol, OLAF, EUIPO, CELBET, LEWP-Customs, and the Pharmaceutical Security Institute.

## Frontex Boosts Firearm Detection Skills in the Western Balkans



Frontex recently concluded a successful firearm detection training programme for Border and Customs officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia.

This two-week initiative, which took place in Croatia, was designed to bolster skills and knowledge in combating weapon smuggling - a crime that often fuels other criminal activities. The programme was conducted in collaboration with UNDP/SEESAC and

was enriched with insights from experienced EU national experts.

Participants engaged in practical training exercises and received updates on illicit weapons trafficking methods. The hands-on training approach, which included exercises at the Border Control Point at Karasovici, Croatia/Montenegro border, ensured that officers are well-prepared for real-life scenarios.

Recognising the need for continuous education, Frontex has also developed a comprehensive "Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs". This resource brings together latest developments and best practices from European and international experts in the field. The handbook, currently being translated into Albanian and North Macedonian, is intended to serve as a go-to guide for border officers throughout the Western Balkans and beyond.

## 46 people smugglers arrested, millions of cigarettes seized in global operation led by Frontex

More than 30 million of cigarettes seized, 43 fraudulent documents confiscated, 46 people smugglers arrested in a global operation against tobacco, human smuggling.

Frontex coordinated Joint Action Days (JAD) Arktos 5, focusing on tackling tobacco smuggling, migrant smuggling and document fraud in the Baltic Sea Region. This JAD was led by Latvia and co-led by both

Estonia and Lithuania. The coordination centre was established in Frontex HQ, with border guards and customs representatives from participating countries as well as Interpol.



## More Than Half of Child Trafficking Victims are Trafficked Within Their Own Countries: IOM-Harvard Report



More than half of child trafficking victims are trafficked within their own country according to new report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University (FXB). The report further reveals that in cases of international trafficking children are mostly trafficked to neighbouring, wealthier countries.

Despite significant efforts, the number of children who continue to fall victim to traffickers remains high, largely due to inequitable social, economic, environmental, and political factors that foster exploitative and discriminatory practices. Close to half of the child victims of trafficking were being trafficked for forced labour (mainly boys), in a wide range of industries, such as domestic work, begging and agriculture. Sexual exploitation, including through prostitution, pornography, and sexual servitude, is also prominent, affecting 20 per cent of trafficked children, predominantly girls.

According to the report titled *From Evidence to Action: Twenty Years of IOM Child Trafficking Data to Inform Policy and Programming*, child victims trafficked for sexual exploitation were commonly trafficked internationally, while those trafficked for forced labour were more likely to be trafficked domestically. Involvement of family and friends in their recruitment, is a prominent trend with more than half of child victims experiencing this.

"The report shows that child trafficking is a multifaceted and complex phenomenon that continues to spread and evolve within and across borders. No age range, no gender, and no nationality is immune to child trafficking; it is a truly global phenomenon," says Irina Todorova, Head

of IOM's Core Protection Unit.

Effectively addressing child trafficking requires up-to-date and reliable data to empirically ground policy and programming. At present, actionable data are limited, and child victims are typically hard to reach through traditional surveys, for a variety of reasons.

This report, a first of its kind, is based on analysis of extensive, globally sourced data, using the IOM Victims of Trafficking Database (VoTD). The largest available international database of individual victims of trafficking, the VoTD contains primary data collected from approximately 69,000 victims of human trafficking of 156 nationalities, trafficked in 186 countries, who registered with IOM in 113 countries where the Organization works; 18.3 per cent of VoTs in the database were children.

The study assessed the factors that drive vulnerability to trafficking, and revealed trends for the trafficking were mostly gendered, informed by education and income levels of the victims (and their families). For instance, boys were almost twice as likely to be trafficked as children than girls and had 39 per cent less likelihood of being trafficked internationally than domestically, as compared to girls. Victims with little or no education were more than 20 times more likely to be trafficked than victims who had attended high school while children from low-income countries were five times more likely to be trafficked as a child (rather than as an adult) when compared to victims from high-income countries.

The report contributes to understanding child trafficking's dynamics and drivers while focusing on the vulnerabilities and human rights violations that emerge throughout the trafficking process.

"It has never been more urgent to scale up our efforts and ensure that eliminating trafficking in persons remains an international priority, with responses tailored to the context of each country, and to the complex intersection of individual, community and societal factors affecting children," urges Monica Goracci, Director of IOM's Department of Programme Support and Migration Management. to pay in addition to the application fee. It is important travellers take time and assess these factors carefully," added Laruelle.

# MEASURES TAKEN AT TURKEY'S LAND BORDERS

*Faced with an unprecedented wave of migration, Turkey's Border Authorities are completing border management projects to increase surveillance and response capacity at its land borders.*

*By Hüseyin HANCIOĞLU, EU EXPERT & Oğulcan BÜYÜKAĞÇALI, EU EXPERT of the MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE*

As is known to all, Türkiye is located at the point where the continents of Africa, Europe and Asia come closest to each other. As a natural consequence of this, Türkiye is a transit route for international trade, an excellent tourism destination for almost every tourism enthusiast, and a hub for intercontinental travelers. All these attributes and characteristics sound perfect, but

in order to understand any subject or concept in depth, the opposite and negative benefits of each good attribute and feature should not be overlooked. That being, the large number of entry-exit points make Türkiye the perfect place for ill-intentioned people to disguise human trafficking among the legitimate tourist and trade traffic and of course because it is the



shortest route. And of course, most visibly, people who want a better life, fleeing brutality and chronic poverty choose Türkiye as fastest route to reach EU countries.

In addition to these problems, the unstable countries neighboring Türkiye and the civil wars taking place in these countries complicate everything in terms of the threat of foreign terrorist fighters. For all these negative and positive characteristics, Turkish Borders are complex, dynamic and difficult to manage. In the following parts of this article, the transition process from a human-based security approach to a technology-oriented border security and capacity building activities in ensuring the security of land borders will be discussed.

### Main Problems

All professionals working in the border management sector know that the most important issue is accessing data and checking documents properly. Almost all of the Border Management approaches, training modules for border guards and equipment in use is shaped on this premise. This premise is a familiar, natural and understandable for both travelers and border guards. However, it does not work like that every time. Let's imagine a situation; millions of people who do not have any travelling documents or even ID, claiming to be at risk of being treated with inhumanely, try to cross your land borders, which are nearly 3000 kilometers of often challenging topographic conditions. It is hard to



imagine, isn't it? That is what exactly happened in the case of Türkiye. Firstly, millions of people came to Türkiye after Syrian Civil War and then a second wave tried reach to Turkish borders after that with the end of Resolute Supporting Mission in Afghanistan. Nowadays, Türkiye continues to host the largest number of refugees worldwide.

### New Strategy & Investments

The pressure of migration waves of undocumented (literally) people made Turkish Border Authorities to rethink their strategy. In the lead, the Ministry of Interior Turkish Border Authorities saw that all the conventional strategies like increasing the count of patrols, increasing the number of staff etc., are ineffective against that huge issue. In order to decrease illegal border crossing attempts, to protect people from organized crime groups and terrorist organizations and to direct the migrants to legal and safer ways to seek asylum Türkiye has

increased its investments in border management and security.

The investments in the light of new strategy encompasses four components: infrastructure, physical border obstacle systems, technological border surveillance systems and border lightening systems. This might seem fairly straightforward but as it mentioned before Türkiye has nearly 3.000 kilometers land border, with difficult climatic conditions especially at Iran border, and an average altitude of 2500 meters. Political relations with neighboring states also make every single effort harder.

With that in mind we can start with infrastructure. Turkish border cities, especially cities at Iranian border are far away from border line. There is no residential area nearby, due to climate and altitude, agricultural activities are not rich, and the road network is not good. Historically, these areas did not need an improved infrastructure.



But after the migration waves from the eastern border of Türkiye, these areas emerged as one of the busiest migration route. There was a need for energy transmission lines that would provide the necessary power to high-tech border surveillance systems, and patrolling roads that would allow immediate intervention to border units.

Secondly, physical border obstacle systems, the general name of systems such as modular concrete walls, wire fences, trenches, vary according to the topographic structure of the region and the demands of the border units. Although it is a clear that it is impossible to prevent immigrants who have crossed thousands of kilometers with 4-meter concrete

walls, physical barrier systems create a deterrent impression, prevent mass illegal border crossings, make large-scale smuggling difficult, and most importantly, create extra time for border units to intervene. Another beautiful aspect of the border physical security systems is that Türkiye, which is a party to the Ottawa treaty, serves the goal of getting rid of antipersonnel and antitank mines. The routes chosen for the construction of the border physical security systems ensure that the minefields in the region are carefully cleared. Thus, while contributing to border security, an outdated border security method is also avoided.

Thirdly, and the costliest, is

technological border surveillance systems. Thanks to improvement in Turkish Defense Industry, Turkish land borders are watched by hi-tech thermal cameras, electro-optical systems and sensors. Most of these technological border surveillance systems are procured within the scope of EU funded projects and they are playing a critical role in providing safer borders. One of the largest European Union projects on the installation of high-tech border surveillance systems includes the supply of electro-optical masts on Türkiye's eastern and western borders. When the all the systems are operational, 1090 kilometers of Turkish green borders will be able to watched through hi-tech masts which has thermal cameras, gunshot detection systems, land surveillance

radars and wireless sensors.

Another EU funded project which aims at procuring thermal cameras is finalized at Syria border of Türkiye. These thermal cameras, which can detect objects from 16,000 meters and people from 10,000 meters, and have the ability to rotate 360 degrees, make the work of border units much easier.

Last but not the least, border lighting systems are so important when the issue is uninterrupted surveillance. It is clear that, all the illegal actions are prone to be committed at night time. To make border units aware 7/24 lighting plays a crucial role. Türkiye aims to install lighting systems on all its borders that it deems at risk.

To sum up, in order to provide border security at land borders Türkiye has a four-step strategy. The first step is the establishment of the necessary infrastructure, followed by physical barrier systems as a deterrent, then the installation of lighting and high-tech surveillance systems for uninterrupted surveillance is completed. Thus, land borders are strengthened with physical and technological obstacle systems that allow immediate intervention to border units.

In conclusion, Türkiye faced an unprecedented wave of migration. Hardly any of the conventional methods of border management offered prescriptions applicable to this situation. The magnitude of the crisis was quickly grasped and the volatility of the situation adjusted. Instead of seeking temporary



solutions, permanent projects that require great effort and investment were started. Although there is still a lot of work to be done, Türkiye has succeeded in fortifying many of its most risky borders with complex border security systems.

All of these efforts can be followed in EU's Türkiye Report 2022 as "Türkiye continued to invest significant efforts and financial means in modernising border security at the land border in the east of the country. After the construction of a wall and a barbedwire fence along the Syrian border financed by the national budget, the installation of modern communication and surveillance masts, which continued at the Iranian border and was partially funded by the EU. Communication and surveillance masts have been erected also at the western land border."

The Turkish border authorities are determined to respond with the same dynamism to the dynamic and variable nature of irregular migration and cross-border crimes in line with the humanitarian policy pursued from the beginning of the process. It is aimed that the border security measures completed in the riskiest sections will be completed at all borders within 5 years through projects financed with funds from the national budget and the European Union.



# TRIGGER TO REFLECTION

by *Lina Kolesnikova, Security Expert*

Nowadays, almost half of 350,000 inhabitants of Mayotte (French archipelago in Indian Ocean) do not have French nationality. Among the population living in the slums, only a third of the inhabitants have it.

Since last April the French authorities have deployed hundreds of police and gendarmes at the prefecture of Mayotte to carry out a series of interventions under the name of Wuambushu (“recovery” in Shimaore). This operation aims to reduce unsanitary housing, fight against crime and expel

irregular migrants, mostly from the neighbouring archipelago of the Comoros.

The French government provides the means to reach these objectives. The French Minister of Interior Gérald Darmanin announced the extension of the operation Wuambushu on June 24 during his trip to Mayotte’s regiment in Combani in the centre of Grande-Terre. He specified that the intervention would be extended by “more than a month” then, and the “second phase of operation” would

begin in September, targeting, through legal proceedings, illegal farming and fishing, as well as slum traders. Gérald Darmanin also said that he is in favour of the construction of the second administrative detention centre, where migrants, waiting for the deportation, would be locked up. As to build up consequentially required logistic routes and “their” destinations, the Minister announced that he intends to go “to Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Mozambique after the summer holidays to negotiate readmission agreements” with these countries from which, some of the illegal migrants originate.

On a balancing note, he also assured that he is in favour of moving some of the refugees, who had been granted asylum, to the mainland (France).

The currently achieved results of the operation are rather modest, so far. The judge Safina Souls insists that “there needs to be a lot more destruction of slums, sanctions for slum merchants and more border control”.

The control of illegal migration had to be reinforced by expulsions, with a target of 150 to 400 daily removals, compared to an average of 70% per day in 2022. However, expulsions were disrupted by the shutdown of maritime links with the Comoros for almost a month.

The third key objective of Wuambushu - the fight against crime, is hampered by prison's overcrowding. The only prison on the island had been blocked as from the



beginning of June by prison guards due to the occupancy rate reaching 230%.

So far, it seems, the objectives do not necessary match the means.

### **Human congregations and settlements**

The number of institutional (under control of state or under umbrella of humanitarian aid organizations) and makeshift migrant camps (created by their own dwellers) show skyrocketing increase in the recent years. Military conflicts, ecological problems, urban insecurity and lack of economic prospects push millions of people to move to safer destinations.

The makeshift camps have increasingly become a permanent presence along border areas and in cities around the world, constituting, according to urban researchers, a “hidden geography” that is crucial for observation of mobility of thousands of migrants each year and essential to understanding

modern informal migration. Europe, for example, is confronted with the emergence of a new “archipelago” of such camps resulting from the growing presence of irregular migrants. Informal camps have thus appeared recently in European cities such as Paris, Rome Budapest, Belgrade, Brussels and Athens, among others. Meanwhile, the majority of makeshift camps are located outside of the European Union.

The makeshift camps become one of sources and base grounds of developing parallel reality and parallel society. The formally set objectives of local politics and operations like Wuambushu are usually driven by the “official” society, while the parallel society remains ignorant of these objectives and unsupportive as to the means deployed for reaching these objectives, at best.

Drivers leading to creation of improvised (makeshift) migrants' camps are, most commonly, related

to several circumstances:

- Camps could be set up at the national border zones, where local law enforcement and state border control interrupt journeys of migrants. The border, in this context, could be either or both, land as well as maritime. Makeshift camps have also emerged close to places where migrants are being suspended en route, such as Calais, Dunkirk and Patras, or in border regions and along established routes, like in northern Serbia and northern Bosnia-Herzegovina, Northern Italy, on the border of Belarus with EU countries, USA-Mexican border etc.
- They could be set up along routes leading to borders, wherever such routes are rather long, and migrants could not get over in one shot.
- They could be set up in the cities, larger or smaller, which migrants use as temporarily points towards other destinations.
- They could be set up in cities presumed as final countries-destinations, whenever authorities cannot manage influx of mass arrivals and giving them a place at institutional camp(s) (result of the backlog problem), or whenever migrants want to stay in a country even after authorities declined their demands, thus, leaving people without a place to stay;
- On another side, improvised camps could be set up at symbolic locations (churches, near state institutions etc.) to attract attention to their habitants' dire then-current situation.

The makeshift camps are often created in urban environments, gravitating towards areas inside or near train or bus stations, both being central nodes of national and transnational mobility. Migration logistics plays an important role in "suggesting" areas of interest, where migrants' presence is settled temporarily and/or quasi-permanently.

Consideration on basic supplies is another trend when a makeshift camp is constructed not far from a state camp, the latter providing some sort of assistance. Migrants would like to use offered facilities without a need of registration, as the official camp will surely demand. That is a scheme when migrants have another geographical destination in mind and use a camp as a temporary place of stay. Basically, within this context, migrants are characterized by increased readiness and mobility, more often than not, coming from the fear that registered inhabitants could be easier deported.

When these camps grow, and their existence is noticeable, international and local humanitarian aid agencies often step in to provide basic amenities such as water, portable toilets, tents etc. At the same time isolated makeshift camps are often dependent on smugglers who are the main providers of necessities and play a role of authorities there.

### **Camps and slums are a business too**

As humans tend to organize in settlements, with their growth and decline historical cycles, often driven by nature (or an "official society")

forces, there are always profiteers.

In the context of migrants and camps, there is an interesting phenomena of slum merchants and makeshift camps becoming slums. The journalists warn in 2016 about Idomeni refugee camp has developed into a settlement with a fixed infrastructure, and it was named the first European favela. The same could be observed with regards to the Jungle of Calais. Unfortunately, "favelisation" of some parts of European urban areas will be increased with a growing number of illegal newcomers, backlogs and ineffective readmission processes. We witness the situation when border security becomes the part of the urban security as well. It is definitely a food for thought for creation of a new security partnerships among border security, law enforcement and local authorities.

As we have human traffickers facilitating the "move", the slum merchants/traders appear on the stage facilitating the "settlement". Like with "normal" housing market, "places" in camps are being build, bought and sold, and there is a practice of "renting out" or "sub-renting" such places too. Therefore, we might say we have a new key figure, who, sometimes could be a trafficker and slum trader at the same time. Another gloomy prospect is a more influence of local criminal groups on the life of people in such places.

### **Demolition of makeshift camps**

Like with historical human settlements were under pressure



of nature and its forces, migrants and camps are under pressure of existing “official” societies.

The public wish is to delegate all dealings with migrant crisis to the state institutions with its clear control of health and security related risks regarding of mass arrivals of people. Basically, the aim would be to remove “inconveniences” arising from migration and blocking its effects. Just like nature forces build up slowly to “attack” human settlements (if you consider them as inconvenience and aberrations in the nature), migration crisis is usually met with slow decision-making process, lack of immediately available financial resources and

justifiable discussion on the future of migrants.

The usual modus operandi of authorities is to close eyes in the early stage of a situation build up, then going through a prolonged period of back-and-forth balancing between one (official society) and the other (migrants and their camps and slums), and then arriving to desire of strong decisive measures like demolishing the makeshift camps by force as situation gradually matures with sanitary situation and security going out of control.

We see that the strategy of demolishing makeshift camps is

used by authorities around the world (e.g., France, Serbia, Mexica...) in an attempt to run a “campaign” addressing usually growing insecurity and growing demand of local population. Would such strategy help to solve the problem of irregular migrants or it is just a temporary “cosmetic surgery”?



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# AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

## Taiwan, Thailand smash cross-border drug trafficking scheme



The Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) announced they had smashed a cross-border drug trafficking scheme with the cooperation of Thai police and that the Taiwanese duo involved were both detained after they sought to smuggle 20 kilograms of ketamine into Taiwan last year.

A 30-year-old woman was arrested in Thailand late last year and her ex-partner who had multiple criminal records, was arrested in Taichung earlier this year, after their smuggling attempts were foiled by police in the two countries, CIB officer Chen Jung-piao told a news conference.

The Royal Thai Police had been tipped off by the CIB that the two had entered

Thailand in Oct. last year. However, the man left the country, returning to Taiwan, Chen Jung-piao said.

Chen Jung-piao added that the woman was arrested by Thai police in Nov. last year after police discovered the 20 kg of ketamine - that has an estimated street value of NT\$20 million (US\$641,519) - she was attempting to ship back to Taiwan.

The first batch, which comprised 10.8 kg of the drug, was discovered concealed in two incense boxes at a Thai logistics company that were about to be shipped to Taiwan.

## AFP charges second man over 214kg meth import



A Victorian man is facing the Sydney

Downing Centre over his alleged involvement in a transnational organised crime syndicate importing methamphetamine into Australia.

The AFP has charged the man, 31, with attempting to possess 214kg of methamphetamine, which was allegedly hidden in a consignment of gas heaters sent from Malaysia in December, 2022.

Police arrested the man who is the second person charged as a result of an investigation which began in December after Australian Border Force (ABF) officers in South Australia examined the heaters and allegedly found the drugs hidden inside.

## Maritime Smuggler Sentenced to Five Years for Alien Smuggling, Intentionally Ramming Coast Guard Vessel

During the early morning hours of December 17, 2022, Alcaraz shuttled an estimated 12 undocumented migrants from Mexico across the maritime boundary line to the vicinity

of the Hotel Del Coronado in Coronado, California. Before reaching shore, Alcaraz instructed the individuals to remove lifejackets and enter waist-deep surf, even though some could not swim. Eight individuals were apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol agents while four persons were assessed to have absconded. The individuals from Mexico and Guatemala were paying between \$13,000 and \$24,000 to be smuggled into the United States illegally.

The U.S. Coast Guard Joint Harbor Operations Center observed Alcaraz complete the drop-off near Coronado and return to sea on a southerly course toward Mexico. Responding to the event, a U.S. Coast Guard vessel patrolling in the area attempted to compel Alcaraz—the sole operator of the lights-out, panga-style vessel operating at 30-40 knots—to stop. Alcaraz repeatedly ignored the orders of the Coast Guard. Ultimately, after a brief respite from chase while Alcaraz switched fuel barrels, Alcaraz increased speed and steered directly toward the Coast Guard vessel, ramming them twice with his vessel's pointed bow.

## **SI Nogales, partner agencies disrupt transnational drug trafficking organization**

The United States and Mexican law enforcement announced significant enforcement actions against a prolific transnational drug trafficking organization operating in Nogales, Sonora, along the U.S.-Mexico border. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) continues to investigate transnational criminal organizations in partnership with DEA both domestically and internationally. U.S. Customs and Border Protection's U.S. Border Patrol,

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives have also played significant roles in the fight against drug trafficking.

After extensive bilateral cooperation between the United States and Mexico, Mexico's Attorney General's Office, Fiscalía General de la República, conducted a significant enforcement operation to dismantle a prolific transnational drug trafficking organization operating in Nogales, Sonora, along the U.S.-Mexico border. The operation resulted in the arrest of five people and the seizure of 120,000 fentanyl pills, 15 pounds of methamphetamine, 17 pounds of heroin, 15 pounds of cocaine, 3 assault rifles, one 9mm handgun, and a vehicle.

In one weekend, agents arrested 111 illegal border crossers from 15 countries. In another week, they apprehended 141 people from 17 countries, Chief Garcia said. Foreign nationals are illegally crossing between ports of entry, often at night, through remote wilderness entering northern U.S. states to avoid detection. Many are single men who run away from agents before being caught.

## **Finnish border guard detains two over suspected illegal crossing from Russia**

The Finnish Border Guard has detained two people they suspect of illegally entering Finland from Russia.

The crossing occurred at Suokumaa near the city of Lappeenranta, just north of Suokumaanjärvi lake — part of which is within Russian territory.



Finnish authorities located the pair about 30 kilometres from Lappeenranta and said in a press statement that they have opened a preliminary investigation into the incidents.

The two are suspected of committing a state border offence. Both have also applied for asylum in Finland.

## **Nigeria's Land Borders Remain Shut, Only Five Strategic Ones Reopened in 2022, Says Customs Comptroller-General**

Acting Comptroller-General of the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), Mr Wale Adeniyi, has clarified that the federal government has not ordered the reopening of all land borders shut across the country since 2018.

The alleged reopening of all land borders by President Bola Tinubu was one of the numerous unverified news items on several social media platforms and news channels in the first few days of the present administration.

Addressing newsmen Tuesday after meeting with President Bola Tinubu at the State House, Abuja, the Customs boss said the borders which were not among the five selected strategic borders reopened in 2022 still remain shut, although a thorough review of the situation is currently ongoing.



## Border Patrol agents apprehend human smugglers

Border Patrol agents working in the busiest sector at the US northern border are continuing to arrest human smugglers, contributing to their convictions.

Over the last nine months, Swanton Sector Border Patrol agents alone have apprehended over 4,600 foreign nationals who've illegally entered the U.S. from Canada from over 67 countries. Despite being understaffed, they've apprehended more people this fiscal year than in the last seven years combined.

The Swanton Sector, which shares 295 miles with Canada, includes all of Vermont, six upstate New York counties and three New Hampshire counties.

## Hungary Sentences 2 People Smugglers to 10 Years in Prison, Bans Them From Entering for Another 10

In a recent ruling, a court in Budapest has sentenced two people smugglers, who are residents of Belgium, to ten years of imprisonment each. The smugglers were found guilty of transporting dozens of illegal migrants in a truck without proper ventilation.

The court's statement revealed that the defendants had attempted to transport 38 Turkish, Indian, and Syrian nationals from the Hungary-Serbia border to Austria in April last year.

After stopping and inspecting the truck on motorway M5 in central

Hungary, the police discovered one of the passengers unconscious. The police immediately provided first aid to the individual and arranged for their transportation to a hospital for further medical attention.

## Human rights organizations say EU's biometric border controls



### negatively impact migrants

The continuous and expansive use of digital technologies such as biometrics in the implementation of digital border control policies known as 'techno-borders' by European Union (EU) countries is infringing on the privacy and human rights of migrants, according to a publication by human rights watchdogs Statewatch and EuroMed Rights.

EuroMed Rights was previously known as the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, and is made up of 68 human rights advocates and groups from 30 countries.

Analysis in the report suggest that such infringements are facilitated by the increasing use of mobile biometric systems used by border control officials such as handheld fingerprint scanners.

The publication notes that while the intension for deploying such

technologies on the one hand is to facilitate the movement of 'bona-fide' travellers, the huge amount of data collected from them will be used to train algorithms intended for future tech applications.

## Fuel smuggling persists in borders despite subsidy removal – Customs boss



The Acting Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service, Adewale Adeniyi, vowed a heavy clampdown on oil thieves, insisting that the nation cannot "afford to let saboteurs take over our economy."

Adeniyi, who said there were still cases of smuggling of Premium Motor Spirit, popularly called petrol, at Nigeria's border stations despite the removal of subsidy on the commodity, said the agency had adopted new border patrol strategies to close in on oil thieves.

Adeniyi spoke as the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited said it intercepted a suspected Cameroon-bound vessel with a cargo of crude oil on board.

The vessel, which is owned by a Nigerian registered company, was heading to Cameroon when it was apprehended.

## **B**order Police prevents the smuggling of goods in Jashanica of Leposaviq

The Kosovo Police, the Rapid Intervention Unit within the Regional Directorate of the North Border Police, has prevented a smuggling of goods in the village of Jashanica in the municipality of Leposaviq.

As it is known, two vehicles, vans, with Serbian license plates, which were suspected of smuggling significant quantities of goods such as: Coca Cola, crates of alcoholic beverages (beer), food products, as well as money: 1370 euros and 6600 dinars.

## **K**enya Says Somalia Border Reopening Delayed After Attacks



Kenya said it was delaying the planned reopening of its long-closed border with Somalia after a number of deadly attacks on its soil attributed to the Islamist militant group al-Shabaab.

Interior Minister Kithure Kindiki said the phased reopening of border posts in Mandera, Lamu and Garissa along the lengthy frontier with Somalia would not go ahead as announced in May.

The decision comes after the murder of five civilians and the deaths of eight police officers in Kenya in separate incidents near the border last month

blamed on al-Shabaab.

Kenyan police killed 20 al-Shabaab terrorists in a gun battle along the porous border with Somalia.

## **T**hree detained for fraud involving medical and IT research, €8,5 million seized

The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Iași (Romania) has detained three people and seized €8,5 million, in an investigation into a suspected criminal organisation that obtained millions in EU funds for medical and IT research.

The suspected ringleader of the group was captured in June 2023, while trying to go through passport control at the Bucharest International Airport to board a flight to Athens. Two other suspects were also detained on the same day. They were placed under judicial control by the Court, with interdiction to leave the country and to contact other parties in the process, as well as mandatory periodical presentation in the police station of their place of residence.

The crimes under investigation include expenditure fraud, money laundering, setting up a criminal organisation and forgery of documents.

## **P**oland to bolster security on border with Belarus, interior minister says

Poland said it will send 500 police to shore up security at its border with Belarus to cope with rising numbers of migrants crossing as well as any potential threats after the Wagner

group of mercenaries relocates to Belarus.

"Due to the tense situation on the border with Belarus I have decided to bolster our forces with 500 Polish police officers from preventive and counter-terrorism units," Minister of Interior Mariusz Kaminski said.

The police force would join 5,000 border guards and 2,000 soldiers in securing the border.

Poland has accused Belarus of artificially creating a migrant crisis on the border since 2021 by flying in people from the Middle East and Africa and attempting to push them across the frontier.

## **32** Cuban migrants taken into custody after arriving in Florida Keys



Federal agents took 32 Cuban migrants into custody after their boat arrived in the Florida Keys Tuesday morning, according to a top U.S. Border Patrol official.

Chief Patrol Agent Walter N. Slosar, who leads the agency's Miami sector, tweeted that Border Patrol agents responded to a report of a migrant landing around 5 a.m. and encountered the migrants.

Authorities said the group of migrants consisted of 27 adult males and 5 adult females.

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## Deadline on Africa's contested borders nears

African countries have only four years from now to resolve their disputed borderlines.

The deadline set for the demarcation or re-fixing of the territorial boundaries that have been disputed by nations is 2027.

This was revealed by Frederic Gateretse Ngoga, a representative of the African Union (AU), during the launch of a peace caravan aimed at addressing the matter.

"This is a complex and expensive matter," said Ngoga.

"The AU is keen to ensure this is done, even though only a few countries have ratified a convention to its effect," he said.

The Niamey Convention, which aims to ensure the peaceful resolution of border disputes, has been signed by 18 out of the 55 AU member states to date.

And only nine of the signatories have ratified the Convention, none from the seven-nation East African Community (EAC) bloc.

Mr Ngoga, who was speaking at the Namanga border town, said for the protocol to come into force, it must be

ratified by 15 AU member states.

He said the re-demarcation of the boundaries of African countries stems from the fact that they are a source of conflict.

"A boundary line that is not well demarcated is a source of most border disputes on the continent," he said.

According to him, currently, there are over 100 border disputes among nations in Africa that can trigger serious conflicts if not resolved.

"Unresolved border issues have the potential to escalate into violence and threaten peace and security," he observed.

Such crises can also undermine regional integration efforts by "creating insecurity in border communities and the movement of people, goods and services".

Poorly defined and marked borders in Africa present an impending risk that can derail the desired goal of a more united and prosperous continent.

Within the EAC bloc, at least 22 boundary and territorial disputes—both manifest and latent—have been identified following a study carried out in 2021.

## IOM, EU, and Turkish National Police Successfully Conclude Joint Project on Border Security

Representatives from the European Union (EU) Delegation to Türkiye, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ministry of Interior (MoI), Turkish National Police (TNP), Directorate General of Provincial Administration (DGPA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), Turkish Coast Guard (TCG), Gendarmerie General Command (GCC) and Central Contracts and Finance Unit (CFCU) gathered in Ankara to mark the closure a project that contributed to the ongoing efforts of Türkiye to address irregular migration in line with the EU standards and best practices.

The 30-month EU-funded project on "Enhancing Capacities of Turkish National Police and Other Law Enforcement Agencies in Detection of Forgery in Travel Documents and Risk Analysis" focused on increasing the capacities of TNP and related institutions in detecting forged documents and conducting risk assessments related to irregular migration. Aligned with Türkiye's Strategy Document and National Action Plan on Irregular Migration, and National Plan for EU Accession, this initiative represented a significant step towards achieving safe, orderly and regular migration.

# STANDARDISATION PEERS OUT FOR PRACTICISM - A HORIZON EUROPE PROJECT

*By Kitti KEREKES (SFC), Tom FLYNN (TFC), Zoltán SZÉKELY (SFC) and Blain MURPHY (KPMG)*

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRN-E) threats are cross-border by nature. Border security forces are working daily to prevent trafficking of materials and precursors from prohibited pesticides to protected species, enforce pandemic travel restrictions and detect radioactive contraband. However, relevant standards, products, services and stakeholders are not always clear initially and practitioners have no hands-on tools to check the CBRN-E landscape and easily learn about developments and changes.

A new Horizon Europe project has been launched recently to help practitioners connect with pre-standardisation, standardisation, stakeholders, products and services in this field. A former border guard senior officer is leading one of the participating organisations, ensuring that border security aspects of this issue will not be overlooked.

Practice Ecosystem for Standardisation (PEERS) is a Horizon Europe project funded under the call topic CL3-2021-DRS-01-04 – Developing a prioritisation mechanism for research programming in



Source: Linev Systems (<https://www.linevsystems.com/solutions/customs-and-border-crossings/>)

standardisation related to natural hazards and/or CBRN-E sectors.

The team behind PEERS have a great ambition to advance and reinforce the European Union's operational safety and security policies – connecting the existing defense systems from the ground level to the top. Through a co-creation approach with engaged practitioners and policymakers, PEERS will operate the development of a policy and practitioner-driven ecosystem, which is primarily focused on pre-normative and standardisation processes and supporting innovations and including the Better Practice Guide initiative, which sits in the pre-nominated standardisation space, as well as the co-creation provision of plug in and supporting, educational tools, as part of its initial remit.

European Standards Bodies (such as CEN, CENELEC or ETSI) define and outline standards as documents since their respective establishment time. Naturally these certificates

first and foremost are established by consensus and approved by at least one recognised body. These establish perspicuous guidelines, rules, or define distinct characteristics for forms of activities or for their predestined results. Their goal is to achieve a high level of order and discipline in each suitable environment for onefold, common or repeated use.

PEERS believes and preaches that standards should stem from consolidated results of practical and contemporary experience, science, and technology (in this order). If all three factors are met, then we can reach the optimum community benefits. Despite these obvious statements and already existing assumptions, especially over the recent years, the disaster management community has seen increasingly farfetched, unpractical standardisation processes unfolding across the EU. To put further emphasis on the issue of standards, they definitely help the uptake of innovations and

new market entrants. However, the matter of standardisation is not generally seen in a positive light either by First Responders or Emergency Medical Services (EMS) operatives. During the course of the ENCIRCLE project, it was reported that operational practitioners in the European Disaster Risk Resilience (DRR) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) have difficulties when it comes to the subject of standardisation. It was also reported in the ENCIRCLE project that many standards are poor and outdated and that they have little relevance to current capabilities. (Ref: ENCIRCLE Market Survey, 2021). Societal and civilian standards may exist, but they are not necessarily known and/or being applied by those expected to use them. Additionally, there are many non-coordinated pre-standardisation initiatives that have resulted in generating fragmentation and confusion in these areas. An example of fragmentation is highlighted in Table 1.



<a href="#">ISO 22300:2021</a>	Security and resilience – Vocabulary
<a href="#">CWA 17335</a>	Terminologies in Crisis and Disaster Management

Table 1 - Fragmentation in the perceived arena of standardisation

We live in a time where man-made and natural disasters are becoming more frequent, more dangerous, and more unmanageable to the living flora and fauna, the human population and infrastructure. To protect our future, we must step back and start all over again from the beginning. We must listen to the echo growing louder and louder that this current standardisation mechanism is not seen in a positive light by the community and will not bring us to the era of a more efficient, effective, and flexible disaster management. We have to look out for the current and long-standing security problems e.g., handling of hazardous goods, transport and commerce of dual-use products, consequences of climate and geopolitical climate change and population overgrowth, questionable security framework of biolabs (COVID-19). All these issues listed previously could become more manageable or even preventable with a practical harmonised standardisation system.

Indeed, there is an opinion too that EU research projects do not sufficiently take onboard the existence of established standards and the importance of compliance. Perhaps, the drivers of these deliverables are not the people who

should be driving. The first port of call should be to the relevant Technical Committee before the development of a CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) is sanctioned for production. What we know is that confusion in the area of standardisation exists across the CBRN-E domain in particular. In the citizen and societal security area, this is not warranted. The ENCIRCLE project has taught us much, and fresh-thinking and know-how has been brought to reality through the establishment of the PEERS project, which as mentioned is based on a co-creation approach. We listen, learn, act and further engage so that by the end of the project the final version of the platform within the ecosystem and collectively all components and based on the needs of policy makers and practitioners.

To get on the right track for a better managed future, the PEERS team is relentlessly working on developing a market-oriented ecosystem that involves: disaster resilient related platforms, an e-learning tool, virtual reality tools and a Better Practice Guide mechanism. The PEERS ecosystem will function for the needs of practitioners and policymakers primarily; secondly for improving and keeping building

up the system of resilience across EU Member States. With the help of an engaging approach, PEERS considers already existing and ongoing activities in the community and the process of identifying priority needs for the research disaster-resilient society programme.

PEERS kicked off on 1st November 2022 with the mission to respond to the long-standing need both at the international and national levels, to enhance the empowerment and participation of Europe's disaster risk management community. PEERS aims to serve both sides of DR management practitioners: for natural hazards and CBRN-E and key to the undertaking is the co-creation approach which through pre-alpha designed and developed platform presentations and demonstrations to many such as Space4Security event (Budapest, April 23) and EUROPOL internal event on standardisation (The Hague, June 23) extensive positive feedback has been obtained not just on the platform but on the ecosystem on whole including the Virtual Reality education component and the emerging Better Practice Guide mechanism..

Furthermore, during the development of the PEERS platform background it is taken into account that the results and insights of the European research policymaking system as well as other stakeholders (e.g., research

community, national standardisation bodies in related activities including products and services definitions) to improve the entire ecosystem.

PEERS is envisioned to be co-created with practitioners and policymakers, designed with close collaboration to respond to the disaster management community's needs, demands, and identify gaps in the system. For PEERS, it is of "utmost importance" when it comes to public safety, security and defense mechanisms, that the team promotes flexible and harmonised operational procedures that are needed by every actor of the system. PEERS contribute to cost savings in terms of production runs, cost management and operational effectiveness.

The PEERS ecosystem aims to strengthen the preparedness and responsiveness in the field of Disaster Risk Resilience and CBRN-E through the experience-focused Better Practice Guide mechanism, gamification, and e-Learning support. The project put an emphasis on building on a comprehensive engagement and consultation governance mechanism that will be applied later for the realisation of the ecosystem.

PEERS does not neglect the usage of already existing platforms, such as the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) and the air quality monitor system (CAMS) to help improve and stabilise the PEERS ecosystem capability for



including additional resilience to environmental factors. As mentioned, the PEERS ecosystem will support existing community-building platforms and follow a gamification strategy. The project team hopes to encourage and build a solid user engagement, strengthen interaction-based activities, and train not just the members of the community but any interested party in situational awareness skills and methods.

During the development of PEERS, we have several stages to achieve; milestones to reach. The team behind the project is laying down the foundations for the structured ecosystem via a two step-mechanism. First to implement was a two-way consultation and engagement mechanism. In this process, the team has reached out (and continuously does) to direct and indirect practitioners, relevant policymakers. Parallel to this, a roadmap and related

implementation activities are drawn out for visualising effective project outcomes; considering partners', and products' and services' technical, technological, semantic, and operational needs, the team will dutifully collect and organise the incoming inputs, following the filtering, this data will be synthesised to advance the PEERS ecosystem. PEERS aims to highlight their partners' priorities according to the degree of maturity, emergency, and effectiveness of expected impact.

PEERS goal during and after its development phase, is to consolidate Europe's highly and counterproductively fragmented disaster risk management community and system through the introduction of this ecosystem. Our team drew the conclusions from the so-called predecessor projects, such as: STAIR4SECURITY; learnt from the hard-earned lessons. Furthermore, with due



are needed by them, at low cost.

*The PEERS project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement No. 101074040. Views and opinions expressed in this article are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the Research Executive Agency of the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.*



respect PEERS will build on from the DRIVER+, Community of Practice (CMINE platform) and the ongoing Better Practice Guide initiative devised in NO-FEAR. The execution of this work will be done by uniting the existing networks of natural hazard and CBRN-E experts (including the standardisation bodies) with a community serving vision, joint and forward strategy under the umbrella of a shared brand name.

The team behind PEERS is committed to pave the way to proactively engage with the disaster risk resilience and CBRN-E community. The final aim is to build a policymaker and practitioner needs and empowerment roadmap, effectively supporting an efficient definition of medium- and long-term research and innovation.

PEERS' developers endorse the need to provide immediate access

to the developed ecosystem to relevant and interested stakeholders across the disaster resilient society, promoting usage of the platform's acquired knowledge in standardisation to further exploit their own business outcomes as well as supporting the identification of the gaps in the system.

In a nutshell, PEERS aims to resurge interest in standardisation to implement better policies at the national and European levels. With involving the community too in the process their capability of resilience to environmental disasters, pandemics, and other natural or CBRN-E threats can be strengthened. The co-creation engagement approach built by PEERS will serve the purpose to discourage people to work in silos and contribute to a revolution for which practitioners will be empowered to actively participate in the development of processes that



## Govt plans care homes in border states for victims of trafficking



The Centre has approved a scheme to help states and Union territories sharing international borders in setting up protection and rehabilitation homes for victims of trafficking, the women and child development (WCD) ministry has announced.

The homes will ensure that victims of trafficking from neighbouring countries, particularly minors, are provided food, shelter, clothing, counselling

and primary health care facilities, among other requirements, a statement released by the ministry said.

Noting that India is a “source as well as destination country” for human trafficking, the ministry said that women and minors are often trafficked to India from neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar on the pretext of getting a better life, job and good standard of living.

“A majority of those trafficked are minor girls or young women, who after their arrival in India are sold and forced into commercial sex work. These girls/women often reach major cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad etc. from where they are taken to the Middle East and Southeast Asia... This is the reason why states bordering these countries need to be more vigilant and have adequate facilities to provide relief and rehabilitation services to the victims,” the ministry said.

## NAPTIP at 20; Pledges Renewed Commitment and Improved Strategy to Tackle Human Trafficking in Nigeria



The Federal Government of Nigeria has expressed satisfaction with the performance of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) describing it has given Nigeria a face in the comity of nations as a foremost counter trafficking Agency providing mentorship for several other countries within Sub-Sahara Africa and other continents, setting the pace for others to follow.

Permanent Secretary, the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Dr. Nasir Gwarzo, stated this

today at the World Press Conference organized in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of NAPTIP and the 2023 World Day Against Human Trafficking held at the agency's Training and Resource Centre, Abuja.

Represented by the Director of, the Humanitarian Department Affairs Department, Alhaji Grema Ali, the Permanent Secretary, submitted NAPTIP has not only lived up to the expectation of its founding fathers and other partners across the World, but it has succeeded in coordinating regional efforts thereby enhancing the fight against human trafficking globally.

He said “Gentlemen of the Press, in fulfillment of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women, and Children in July 2003, Nigeria enacted the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act. This legislation was amended in 2005 and re-enacted in 2015 as the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act.

# COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN : CHALLENGES, STRATEGIES, AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

*By Adnane KAAB*

*Adnane was a senior officer at the Royal Moroccan Air Forces, and is a part-time doctoral candidate at the Department of Public Law and Political sciences of Med V University in Rabat*

Human trafficking is a grave concern in the Southern Mediterranean region, characterized by its proximity to migration routes and socio-political complexities. This article provides an in-depth analysis of the complexities of human trafficking in the Southern Mediterranean, focusing on the forms and scope of trafficking, as well as the underlying factors and causes. It also presents comprehensive approaches to counter human

trafficking, encompassing prevention and intervention measures, legal and policy frameworks, and victim support and rehabilitation programs.

The forms of trafficking discussed include international trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation, as well as domestic trafficking within countries. Socioeconomic vulnerabilities, political instability, armed conflicts, and gender-based discrimination are identified as significant factors contributing to

human trafficking in the region.

To effectively counter human trafficking, the article emphasizes the importance of awareness campaigns, public education, and targeted interventions for vulnerable populations. Strengthening community resilience and empowerment are also crucial in addressing the issue. Furthermore, legal and policy frameworks, including legislation, law enforcement efforts, international cooperation, and information sharing, play a vital role in combating trafficking. The provision of comprehensive support services for victims, including shelter, medical care, counseling, vocational training, and legal assistance, is essential for their recovery and reintegration.

The article concludes that by implementing these comprehensive strategies, the Southern Mediterranean countries can make significant progress in countering human trafficking and protecting the rights and well-being of vulnerable individuals. Monitoring and evaluation of counter-trafficking initiatives are crucial for assessing their effectiveness and identifying areas for improvement. Ultimately, through collaborative efforts, the region can strive towards a future free from human trafficking, where individuals are safeguarded and their dignity is respected.

### **Understanding the Complexities of Human Trafficking in the Southern Mediterranean**



### **Forms and Scope of Human Trafficking**

International trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation - The Southern Mediterranean region, encompassing countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Algeria, has witnessed a significant increase in international trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an estimated 90% of migrants arriving in Europe through irregular means have experienced exploitation and abuse, with a substantial number falling victim to human trafficking networks.

Domestic trafficking and exploitation within countries - Domestic trafficking is prevalent within Southern Mediterranean countries. For example, in Egypt, internal trafficking networks exploit vulnerable individuals, including children, for forced labor in

agriculture, domestic work, and street vending. Similarly, in Algeria, domestic trafficking networks target women and girls for sexual exploitation within the country.

### **Factors and Causes of Human Trafficking**

Socioeconomic vulnerabilities and inequality - The Southern Mediterranean countries face socioeconomic challenges that contribute to the vulnerability of individuals to human trafficking. High unemployment rates, poverty, and limited access to education and healthcare create a breeding ground for traffickers who prey on the desperation of those seeking better opportunities. For instance, in Morocco, where the youth unemployment rate is approximately 25%, many young people are susceptible to trafficking due to their lack of economic prospects.

Political instability and armed





conflicts - The presence of political instability and armed conflicts in the Southern Mediterranean region exacerbates the problem of human trafficking. Countries like Libya, which has experienced protracted armed conflicts, are particularly vulnerable. The breakdown of law and order, weakened governance structures, and the displacement of populations provide an ideal environment for traffickers to operate with impunity.

Gender-based discrimination and exploitation - Gender-based discrimination and exploitation are significant factors in human trafficking within the Southern Mediterranean. Women and girls, particularly those from marginalized communities, are disproportionately affected by trafficking, often falling victim to sexual exploitation and forced labor. In Egypt, for example, women and girls from rural areas are lured into urban centers with promises of employment, only to be

exploited in the informal economy.

### **Comprehensive Approaches to Countering Human Trafficking in the Southern Mediterranean**

#### **Prevention and Intervention Measures**

Awareness campaigns and public education - To address human trafficking in the Southern Mediterranean, targeted awareness campaigns and public education initiatives are essential. These initiatives should focus on highlighting the tactics employed by traffickers, raising awareness about the risks and consequences of trafficking, and promoting the rights and protection of potential victims. For instance, Tunisia has implemented awareness programs in schools and communities to educate individuals about the dangers of trafficking.

Targeted interventions for vulnerable populations - Tailored interventions are necessary to address the

vulnerabilities of specific populations in the Southern Mediterranean.

This includes providing support and resources to migrants, refugees, and individuals living in marginalized communities. Access to education, healthcare, and income-generating opportunities can help mitigate their vulnerability to trafficking. In Algeria, initiatives have been launched to provide vocational training and job placement services to vulnerable populations, aiming to reduce their susceptibility to exploitation.

Strengthening community resilience and empowerment - Building resilient communities is crucial in countering human trafficking. Empowering communities to identify and respond to trafficking through training programs, capacity building, and the establishment of support networks is essential. Community-led initiatives, such as those implemented in Morocco, encourage collaboration between civil society organizations, government agencies, and local communities to prevent and combat human trafficking effectively.

#### **Legal and Policy Frameworks**

Legislation and law enforcement efforts - Enacting comprehensive anti-trafficking laws and enhancing law enforcement efforts are fundamental in combatting human trafficking. Governments in the Southern Mediterranean should criminalize all forms of trafficking and ensure appropriate penalties for offenders. Additionally, law enforcement agencies need to be

equipped and trained to effectively investigate and prosecute trafficking cases. Countries such as Egypt and Tunisia have enacted anti-trafficking laws and established specialized units within their law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking.

**International cooperation and information sharing** - Addressing the transnational nature of human trafficking necessitates international cooperation and information sharing. Southern Mediterranean countries should collaborate with neighboring and European countries to share intelligence, information, and best practices. Joint operations, intelligence exchanges, and mutual legal assistance agreements can help dismantle trafficking networks and enhance victim identification and rescue efforts. For instance, Tunisia and Italy have strengthened their cooperation to combat human trafficking, resulting in increased joint investigations and arrests of traffickers.

**Victim support and rehabilitation programs** - Providing comprehensive support services for trafficking victims is crucial for their recovery and reintegration. Immediate and long-term assistance, including shelter, medical care, psychosocial counseling, vocational training, and legal support, should be made available. Egypt has established shelters and rehabilitation centers that provide a range of services to trafficking survivors, aiming to ensure their safety, well-being, and



reintegration into society.

**Monitoring and evaluation of counter-trafficking initiatives** - To assess the effectiveness of counter-trafficking initiatives, regular monitoring and evaluation are imperative. Governments, non-governmental organizations, and international bodies should collaborate to develop robust monitoring mechanisms. These mechanisms should measure the impact of prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation programs, enabling policymakers and practitioners to identify areas for improvement. Monitoring systems, such as those established by the National Agency for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons in Morocco, can help track progress and inform evidence-based interventions.

In conclusion, countering human trafficking in the Southern Mediterranean requires a comprehensive and region-specific approach. By understanding

the various forms and causes of trafficking, implementing prevention measures, strengthening legal frameworks, promoting international cooperation, and providing support to victims, countries in the region can make significant strides in combating this grave human rights violation. Through concerted efforts, the Southern Mediterranean can strive towards a future where individuals are protected, vulnerabilities are addressed, and human dignity is upheld.

# NEW IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS HELP MEET TODAY'S BORDER CHALLENGES, LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE INNOVATION

By Declan Trezise, *Babel Street*

## What's a national border for?

Think of it as your country's front door. And like your front door at home, the majority of people knocking are both legitimate and welcome. Your friends arrive for a Saturday afternoon barbecue. Your mom stops by to watch the kids so you and your spouse can enjoy a date. A neighbor drops off some just-picked tomatoes from her garden.

You don't want to make entry hard for these people. You don't ask them

a bunch of qualifying questions or have them pass through metal detectors before coming into your foyer. In fact, you only have locks, alarms, and security cameras to deny passage to the very few people who annoy you, who want to steal from you, or who would do your family harm.

Similarly, the majority of people and goods crossing borders every day do so for completely legitimate reasons. And we want them here: increasingly, our national economies



depend on tourism and international trade. So, we must find ways to enable their easiest possible passage. Concurrently, we need to better stop the terrorists, human traffickers, drug runners, arms dealers, and purveyors of counterfeit goods who seek international passage alongside business travelers and families going on vacation.

Identification systems for matching names and searching publicly available information can help customs and border security agencies meet this two-pronged goal.

Let's take a closer look at current border initiatives; how legacy systems too often fail to support those initiatives; and the new technologies that can overcome the shortcomings of legacy systems.

### **Easing passage, improving security**

New identification systems can help customs and border security agencies implement emerging border-protection approaches such as pre-screening and integrated border management.

### **Pre-screening to “push the border out”**

AI-powered natural language processing technologies can empower customs and border officials to effectively pre-screen people and businesses — assessing their risk before they or their cargo arrive at a nation's land crossings,



airports, or maritime borders. This capability helps agencies make entry decisions in advance, easing passage as appropriate while improving security.

### **Integrated border management**

Integrated Border Management (IBM) is a second emerging approach for concurrently facilitating legitimate passage and improving national security.

In many countries, a vast array of agencies operating from federal to local levels of government take some responsibility for customs and border security. IBM is an initiative to enable significant collaboration among these agencies by integrating border-related information, systems, processes, and people. This collaboration most often takes place among different agencies working at different levels of one country's government. However, it can also occur among neighboring countries.

Data sharing is the first step in IBM.

### **The legacy technology hurdle**

Cutting-edge technologies for name matching and searching publicly available information (PAI) are needed to pre-screen travelers and implement IBM. Unfortunately, too many customs and border security agencies lack the right technologies for matching names and obtaining insight from PAI. As a result, these agencies' activities are often hampered by suboptimal name matching capabilities; lack of insight; and lack of communication among legacy systems.

### **Suboptimal name matching capabilities**

Often, customs and border security agents rely on ineffective full-text search platforms to match names in structured text, such as when comparing names of incoming travelers against watchlists.



The name matching capabilities of these search engines lie somewhere between binary match determinations and fuzzy matching — a computing approach that improves upon binary processes by considering degrees of truth. Returning only exact or near-exact matches, search platforms are fuzzy enough for general searches, but not expansive or fast enough for optimized name matching.

Glaring shortcomings abound in these systems. They often return an excess of false positives. These false positives require human investigative time to resolve. They typically accommodate only a limited number of languages, making it difficult to match translated names, transliterated names, and names rendered in non-Latin scripts. Finally, they often fail to spot aliases, nicknames, misspellings, honorifics, or out-of-order names.

### Lack of insight

“Publicly available information” is any data that is freely accessible by the public. This data includes social media posts, news stories and videos, information appearing on websites, and more. In a world where people spend 27 percent of their time online<sup>1</sup>, creating more than 2.5 quintillion bytes of data daily<sup>2</sup>, there is an unfathomable amount of PAI available for search.

Searching, monitoring, and analyzing PAI in real time can help customs and border security officials better identify potential threats. These officials can use PAI systems to detect and track illegal cross-border activity; monitor the movements of individuals and groups of interest; and aid in real-time threat intelligence and response planning.

These capabilities help border

officials better manage both potential and present threats. Consider a State Department official pre-screening travelers for United States visas. That official can use a PAI platform to examine social media posts and other content to determine whether the applicant is in any way associated with a criminal appearing on a watch list. Benefits are even clearer to those charged with preventing present danger. If a PAI system detects someone tweeting, “Just saw a woman abandon a bag @JFK Airport, Gate 8,” it can trigger an alert to airport authorities.

While some customs and border security organizations currently use PAI systems, those systems are often suboptimal. They may only scan a limited number of data sources; serve up poor quality data; and prove incapable of handling the vast amounts of data necessary for true insight.

### Lack of communication among legacy systems

Efforts to pre-screen travelers and integrate border management are further hampered by legacy systems’ inability to communicate with each other. One outdated system simply cannot work well with another to find and present the data needed to pre-screen travelers and businesses, then to communicate findings among agencies. Replacing these systems, or retooling them to communicate better, can be prohibitively expensive.

## The right tech improves border processes

New technologies to match names and obtain insight from publicly available information bolster pre-screening and IBM efforts. The best of these technologies is also easily deployable on legacy technology, and enables sharing among legacy systems.

AI-powered name matching systems match names across a broad variety of languages and scripts, detecting aliases, nicknames, and misspellings. To disambiguate names in structured text, (to find the right “John Andrew Smith” among a sea of “John Andrew Smiths”) they apply additional identifiers to each record. These identifiers help to differentiate between the teacher John Andrew Smith hoping to see Westminster Abbey with his family and John Andrew Smith, known human trafficker. Similar capabilities help link corporate names to their nicknames and to names of their subsidiaries. In doing so, these systems both improve matching capabilities and dramatically reduce instances of false positives — saving investigative time.

The best name matching technologies also provide clear scores, helping you to understand why two names have been deemed a “match” or a “mismatch,” thereby giving you confidence in the match obtained. They empower you to adjust match parameters according to your organization’s needs.



Automated PAI solutions trawl for information across all layers of the internet. Information examined comes from a broad array of web sites (including those hosted on the deep and dark web), social media sites, and real-word interactions generated on chats, online comments, and social media posts. Innovative PAI solutions also search their own large and diverse libraries of enriched data from commercially available sources. In conducting these searches and coalescing data, they help to resolve entities — matching names found in unstructured text to entities appearing in a public knowledge base or the knowledge bases maintained by your organization.

All the insight in the world does border and customs officials no good if it’s presented in a language they can’t understand. This is obviously true for news articles, social media

posts, and other pieces of PAI. It is also true for names. It’s a safe bet that very few American customs and border officials would recognize the name “Владимир Путин” as “Vladimir Putin.”

The best PAI and name matching solutions automatically transliterate names and translate content from an array of different languages, helping customs and border security officials to monitor names and online content from across the globe.

As discussed earlier, interoperability with legacy systems is a significant issue for those who want to deploy new PAI and name matching solutions. API-based solutions make deployment easier. They work on top of legacy systems to facilitate sharing from one application or data silo to another — avoiding the need to replace or re-tool older systems.

Charting a path to the future



Innovative name matching and PAI solutions help today's customs and border security agencies meet the dual goals of easing passage for legitimate visitors and cargo, while better securing their nations against terrorists, human traffickers, and other criminals. They also lay the groundwork for future innovation.

Many border officials now envision a frictionless border – one in which a combination of pre-screening, X-ray technologies and biometrics enable the free passage of legitimate travelers and goods.

What would a frictionless border look like? Imagine arriving at JFK, rushing for a flight to Sydney. Imaging systems automatically X-ray your car and your luggage. Before entering the terminal, you stand at a biometrics station. It scans your retina. With your identity confirmed and your possessions examined, you simply walk onto the plane. Or suppose you're an importer/exporter whose trucks regularly travel from the United States to Mexico and back. You enter a government program labeling your company a trusted international trader. Your cargo may be automatically scanned at the border, but your drivers roll right through.

The road toward frictionless borders and other innovations begins here, with prescreening and integrated border management processes. And optimal prescreening and IBM depend on improved name matching and PAI.

### Endnotes

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### Disclaimer:

*All names, companies, and incidents portrayed in this document are fictitious. No identification with actual persons (living or deceased), places, companies, and products are intended or should be inferred.*

## Strengthening Cross-Border Coordination Between Zambia and Namibia



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) handed over mobile four mobile offices to the border authorities of Zambia and Namibia, at a ceremony that took place in the Kazongola district in Zambia, near the Namibia border.

IOM has been actively collaborating with the Departments of Immigration in Zambia and Namibia to enhance cross-border coordination between the two countries. This collaboration falls under the IOM Development Fund (IDF) funded project titled “Strengthening the Implementation of a Border Residency Arrangements between Namibia and Zambia.” This initiative is aligned to the GCM Objective 11 which calls for collaboration among states on border management to ensure state security, the security of migrants and of course to facilitate regular border crossing.

Under this project, several significant milestones have been achieved. Most recently, the project facilitated a field visit to Mambova and Mwandi in Zambia and

Luhonono and Impalila Island in Namibia Border Posts in April 2023 which aimed at identifying exact controls and functions of the border crossing points and the border pass solution in place, including the enrollment process and current use of travel documents. Additionally, a technical exchange workshop was held from 23rd to 25th May 2023 in Livingstone, Zambia, which brought together immigration officials from both countries. The objective of the workshop was to review the Border Pass processes in detail and to make recommendations on the enhancement of Border Crossing Point (BCP) infrastructure.

During the field visit and technical exchange workshop, fruitful discussions took place, leading to the official handover of BCP infrastructure – mobile offices. This mobile offices will promote efficient border management, enhance collaboration between the two countries, foster regional stability and prosperity.

“The success story witnessed today is a testament to the innovative solutions developed by IOM and the Departments of Immigration in Zambia and Namibia”, stated Dr Japhet Lishomwa, the Zambian DG of Immigration. According to the Chief of Immigration, Namibia, Mr. Nehemia Nghishekwa “the support received from IOM will make a difference in the lives of the border residents and will enhance cultural interactions between communities as well as support their small-scale business ventures”.

This ongoing partnership demonstrates the commitment of all parties involved to facilitate safe and secure cross-border movements while promoting regional cooperation.

## Strengthening Cross-Border Coordination Between Zambia and Namibia

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) handed over mobile fo

# DEMARCATION OF STATE BOUNDARIES AS A SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT OF IMPROVING BORDER SECURITY

*By Mile Milenkoski, Border expert*

State boundaries delimitation and demarcation are important for defining the territories of states, state sovereignty and territorial integrity. The territory of a state enclosed by a precisely defined state border is still a distinctive feature of state sovereignty. Regulated state borders are important part of the relations between neighboring countries. It enhances trust, promotes cooperation and improves border security.

A well-known fact is that all state borders are to be demarcated and

set up with agreements between the countries or duly marked and defined. According to the European practice, the borderline, as a rule, is drawn in three stages: the first stage implies approval of an international act of delimitation; the second stage is the demarcation done by the Joint Committee of the two countries; and the third stage consists of precise designation of the border.

The delimitation of international borders is a diplomatic-expert activity of the parties to the agreement, which should decide





*The border between Ukraine and Romania*

on the extension of the border on the basis of mutual trust and on the basis of reliable evidences, which are acceptable to both contracting parties.

Regarding the European practice in this area, the European Commission has no jurisdiction over the border demarcation process. For candidate countries there is no *acquis communautaire* relating to border issues and no methodology for tracking progress in this field. However, regional cooperation and good neighborly relations are considered to be “an essential part of the process of integrating with the European Union” The demarcation of the border line between the countries is of high importance for the peace

and safety, and shall contribute to the retaining of the stability, also shall confirm the determination for solving the problems peacefully and shall reaffirm the principle of invariability of borders.

Among important steps of the process of building and preparing a negotiating team for the process of delimitation are required expertise, clear mandate and team dynamics, negotiating briefs, support services and access to information.

Demarcation represents the next phase of the process envisaged under the Agreement when the demarcation teams are assigned the task of transferring the delimitation directly on to the ground. National governments should ensure participation of local people from all groups in demarcation processes and take into account their views on where borders and checkpoints should lie. A number of delimited borders are not demarcated for many reasons, but in general maximum efforts must be exerted to demarcate the border where this is

possible.

Border documentation – it is necessary to produce border documentation consisting of descriptions of the location of the border markers/pyramids and the spreading of the border line, outlines/drawings describing the location of each boundary pyramid and photos of the pyramids.

The delimitation and demarcation of the international border will not give a full result if in the long term the parties do not adopt provisions for the protection and maintenance of the border. The work of the Joint Commissions for the maintenance and renewal of the border line never ends. Periodically, every few years, the boundary line and boundary markers should be renewed.

A large number of countries that gained their independence are facing unresolved borders with their neighbors. There is a real danger that as states consolidate their internal positions and begin to integrate as international entities, they will begin to face certain minor or major problems due to existing and unresolved border issues, such as a border that is not demarcated.

Given that unresolved border disputes have the potential to escalate and cause more serious problems, it is recommended that the affected states seek international expertise and assistance on how to resolve border disputes.

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### Former Yugoslavia

In the Balkans, the borders were established at the beginning of the last century and corrected by the outbreak of the Second World War, but they were once again important with the dissolution of Yugoslavia.

All the states created by the dissolution of Yugoslavia have taken over the state borders with the neighboring countries of Yugoslavia without any dispute. Yugoslavia, while having strictly defined borders with other countries, did not have precisely marked or defined borders among its constituent parts. Although it seems that the process will be relatively simple and the administrative borders will become state borders, it was not the case. After more than 30 years since the former Yugoslavia began to disintegrate, there are borders

whose delimitation is not even started and has brought various challenges. Some borders cannot be agreed because of the lack of a political climate between neighbors and some because of the different positions where the border lies.

All countries from the South-Eastern Europe region must jointly work for further development and progress. The same applies to the cooperation in the area of the mutual boundaries. Borders must be stable. The delimitation and demarcation of state borders are fundamental for stability. The borders should be well established to become invisible in the future within the EU and the Schengen area.

Additional benefit of the border regulation process is some kind of test of the capacity of the countries

to mutually solve bilateral issues without major foreign interference, test the political stability of the countries and good-neighborly politics and to finish the process of border consolidation in the Western Balkans in order to secure that there will be no border revisions.

### The Republic of North Macedonia

The Republic of North Macedonia is the first country out of the former Yugoslavia to legally regulate its boundaries. The successful demarcation of its northern border included the country to the family of the countries with completely regulated, internationally recognized and demarcated borders.

The process of delimitation and demarcation of the state border between the Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro (the names of the states when delimitation was made) was specific for a number aspects and the most significant ones are the following:

- Demarcation took place between two countries which were part of a former common country and between which never existed precisely defined borderline;
- The specific situations and transformations in Serbia and Montenegro;
- The situations in Kosovo and the unsettled status in particular;
- The ethnic tensions in the Republic of Macedonia which took place immediately after the

Agreement for borders was signed etc.

The demarcation and the designation of the site of the state border between the Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro was fulfilled on the basis of an Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for extension and description of the state border, signed in Skopje on 23 February 2001 after four-year negotiations about the delimitation of the two countries.

Bearing in mind the importance of similar Agreements which do not allow mistakes or improvisations, have unlimited term of validity and are irrevocable, the members of the Joint Committee tried hard to fulfill the task. The actuality and the significance of the problem, which required solution within the shortest term, and the public pressure contributed to the accelerated tempo and the increased responsibility of the members of the Committee as immediate creators of closing the most important matter between the two neighboring countries.

The Joint Committee agreed upon the extension of the state border based on the relevant documentation of the border extension. According to the international practice for state borders to extend along natural objects, in some places, the borderline has small deviations from its description in the documents, especially of some peaks and

dominant hills. For pragmatic reasons, the whole length of the borderline was divided into six border sectors and for the same reasons it was accepted that each of the countries would be responsible for the works at three border sectors.

Border demarcation between Macedonia and Kosovo started during 2008. The specific character of the demarcation was accompanied with some tensions because traditionally neighboring settlements with inhabitants from the same ethnic group found themselves at the opposite sides of the border. In some cases, with the retreat of the borderline, some settlements remain in one of the countries, whereas part of their farms, roads, captivated springs, streams, water reservoirs etc., remain on the opposite side of the border.

Border demarcation commission between Macedonia and Kosovo,

was based on the document of Marti Ahtisaari who worked on the proposal for the solution of Kosovo's status. The mixed commission for demarcation border was formed and has continued the working according to the signed Protocol on April 18th 2008 in Skopje.

The demarcation of the Macedonian-Kosovo border began with the installation of a border pillar on the Macedonian-Albanian-Kosovo border on June 30, 2008 in the shape of a three-sided border pyramid.

The demarcation of the border between Macedonia and Kosovo with a length of about 173 km was effectively completed in less than a year, although it took place under political pressure, dissatisfaction of the border population and in conditions of mined parts of the border area.







*Helicopters were used to place the border pillars on the impassable terrains.*



*Boundary pillar placed on the boundary line*



*Deminers search the area for mines*

With the completion of the demarcation of the border between the Republic of Macedonia and Serbia in 2006 and the demarcation of the border between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Kosovo in 2009, the processes of delimitation and demarcation of the international borders of the Republic of Macedonia were completed. Macedonia remains the only country from the former Yugoslav republics that has completed the demarcation of all its borders.

Macedonia as a country has shown that, although relatively small, it has the capacity to deal with such serious processes as the delimitation and demarcation of state borders. In contemporary Europe, there are not many examples from which experiences can be used, so the experts who participated

in the delimitation and later in the demarcation with Serbia and Kosovo can be used and can help and transfer their experiences and knowledge in processes of delimitation and demarcation of any border in the world. Good

neighbors require good borders, and good borders require good and experienced experts.



## The SBGSU is using aviation for border monitoring



According to prevent illegal activity at the border the units of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine are using innovative approaches and all means including aviation.

There is too much area to use aviation. Such as rescue and search operations, use as a transport, and so on. But the main field of using aviation remains monitoring of the state border.

Aviation is using since the beginning of the special border operation "Zahid 2023" (West 2023). The pilots are using light patrol helicopters type Airbus H-125

and light aircrafts Diamond type.

Since the beginning of the year, crews fulfilled 1565 flights. During the flight, the crews in the online regime are transmitting information about persons and vehicle detections, and signs of the border violation preparation. Such a job is significantly facilitating and accelerating prevention of the illegal activity in the border area.

It is become possible due to the modern cameras with the FLIR system. With this system, operators have the opportunity to detect objects within a few kilometers remaining invisible. Besides, all spotted objects are saved with photos and videos. In total, flight crews transmitted about 690 messages about signs of preparation for the border violation or border violations.

Besides, pilots are conducting flight patrols of the rear area of the controlled border area, they are detecting places of illegal cutting of trees, forest fires, and other violations or emergencies.

## CBP Officers seize currency, cocaine and methamphetamine at the Ysleta Port of Entry

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers working at the Ysleta Port of Entry intercepted \$164,934 in unreported currency, a combined 39.2 pounds of cocaine and 9.25 pounds of methamphetamine on four separate failed smuggling attempts.

"During the hottest days of summer and the coldest winter nights CBP officers stand ready to uphold their homeland security mission," said CBP Ysleta Port Director Arnoldo Gomez. "We are prepared to protect our nation day in and day out."

CBP officers encountered a 23-year-old male, Mexican citizen who arrived from Mexico via the vehicle lanes. The individual was referred for a

secondary inspection of the vehicle which included screening by a CBP canine and non-intrusive exam. Physical inspection of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of multiple bundles in the engine area containing a total of 17.6 pounds of cocaine.

CBP officers conducting outbound enforcement operations selected a vehicle driven by a 36-year-old male, Mexican citizen for a routine inspection. During secondary inspection of the vehicle, CBP officers discovered unreported bulk currency hidden underneath the center console area totaling \$164,934.

# AFREXIM BANK @ 30 & THE URGENCY OF AFRICAN BORDER SECURITY

*By Martin Igwe, The Director Media & Advocacy, West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA Nigeria)*

Africa Export import Bank was established in Abuja Nigeria in October 1993 by African Governments, Private and Institutional investors as well as non African financial institutions, for the purpose of promoting intra-Africa and extra Africa trade, stimulate a consistent expansion, diversification and development of Africa trade.

Between 18th – 21st June 2023, Ghana hosted the 30th Annual

general meeting which coincided with the 30th Anniversary of the Bank with the theme. Delivering the vision, building prosperity for Africa.

This historic gathering of African leaders was not only to celebrate the success stories in the last decades but to deliberate, reflect on possible ways of contributing meaningfully to African recovery process after the pandemic by looking at overcoming the



challenges of food security for sustainable development, realizing the vision of Africanism across generations, challenges of peace and security etc.

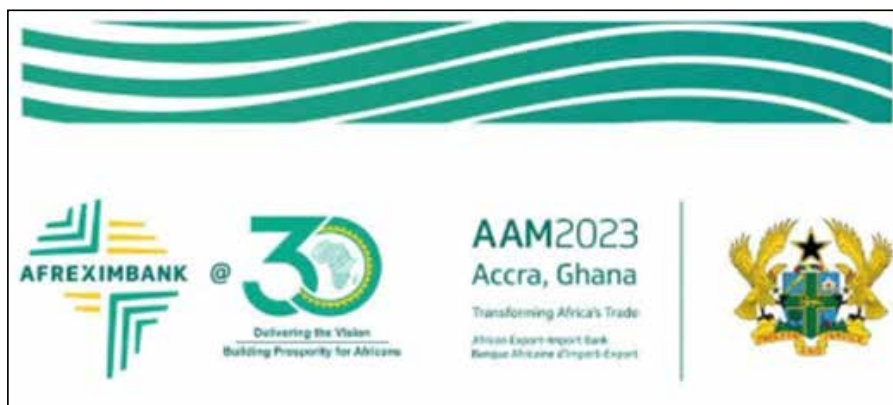
The host, President Akufo Addo told participants that African financial Institution lacks financial backing and needed to be capitalized in order to deliver effectively for the continent. The Chairman Board of Afrexim Bank Prof. Benedict Oramah confirmed that the Bank is delivering on the laid out blue print of the pioneers of African Union Socio-economic transformation, speakers were united towards granting transport and transit facilities and establishing a free trade area among the various African Countries.

Disappointingly these cannot be achieved maximally without coordinated management of African Borders. Report Review of African Natural resources center 2016 on illicit trade in natural resources in African countries shows that minerals, fisheries, timber, wildlife and oil sectors account for the bulk of illicit trading across borders in Africa.

In mining sector the minerals that are targeted for illicit trading are mainly high value resources. Illicit diamond trading is rife in Zimbabwe's Marange diamond field, Central Africa republic, Sierra Leone etc.

African Marine, fisheries contributed significantly to the livelihood of the coastal communities.

The fante people of Ghana for example have been fishing along



the West African coast since the 18th Century. According to the review losses from fishing industry are estimated to be about 2,5billion dollars annually, illicit trade in Forestry Sector is estimated to \$13 Billion Regionally the highest is recorded in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Gabon, Ghana and Equatorial Guinea.

According to the United Nations Environmental program and world Economic forum the estimated value of illicit trading in wild life globally is between \$7billion to \$23 billion. In Tanzania for example the elephant population dropped in 2014 as the tusks remains a product for illicit trade across African borders.

South Africa in the same year lost 215 Rhinoceros, this remains a problem for wild life management. Illicit trading in oil in Africa amounts to approximately \$100 billion annually. Blatant trade of Crude oil through vandalization of pipelines, proliferation of illegal refinery. There have been speculations that the illegal shipment of oil product in Southern Sudan from Port in Khartoum, remains a serious problem.

The time to extend hands of collaboration with World Border Security Congress is now. A well managed African Borders will significantly improve country's international trade position, increases country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), expand legitimate export trade which enables them to earn more foreign exchange and put them on an economic healthy position to contribute immensely to Afrexim Bank Capital Base which remains very small compared to the African developmental challenges.

Africa export import Bank must note this realities and further demonstrate more commitment to the vision of this great institution by extending a hand of collaboration to world border security congress now.

Happy 30th Anniversary from all of us from WAANSA Nigeria

# 2024 WORLD BORDER SECURITY CONGRESS: ISTANBUL, TURKEY

## 24<sup>TH</sup>-26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

*Where East Meets West – Developing  
Border Strategies Through  
Co-operation and Technology*



Join us in Turkey, on 24th-26th April 2024, for the next gathering of the border security, protection and management community.

Turkey is arguably 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.

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.

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 reconvene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level three day event that will once again discuss and debate current and future

policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

We look forward to welcoming you to Istanbul, Turkey on 24th-26th April 2024 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.



## CALL FOR PAPERS Deadline - 11th September 2023

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## CBP Officers Seize Over \$1 Million in Cocaine at Laredo Port of Entry

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations officers assigned to the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge and Colombia-Solidarity Bridge seized cocaine that totaled over \$1,000,000 in street value.

“Narcotic interdiction continues to be paramount in the CBP border security mission,” said Port Director Alberto Flores, Laredo Port of Entry. “These significant seizures demonstrate the result of our officers’ dedication to combating transnational crime and stopping dangerous drugs from crossing the border.”

The first seizure occurred at the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge, when a CBP officer referred a 68-year-old male U.S. citizen driving a 2015 Honda Civic for secondary inspection. Following a canine and non-

intrusive inspection system examination, CBP officers discovered a total of 28.10 pounds of alleged cocaine within the vehicle. The narcotics had a street value of \$375,309.

The second seizure occurred at the Colombia-Solidarity Bridge, when a CBP officer referred a 48-year-old male Mexican citizen driving a 2013 Ford Edge for secondary inspection. Following a canine and non-intrusive inspection system examination, CBP officers discovered a total of 47 pounds of alleged cocaine within the vehicle. The narcotics had a street value of \$628,752.

The narcotics had a combined street value of \$1,004,061.

## ASK THE EXPERT ENTRY / EXIT SYSTEMS EXPLAINED

Tony Kingham talks to Andy Smith, Director, Government & Industry Relations, Border Management at SITA TO explain Entry/Exit Systems, in the first of our short ‘Ask the Expert’ series.

[www.border-security-report.com/ask-the-expert/](http://www.border-security-report.com/ask-the-expert/)





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## Border Security and Migration Challenges in South East Europe

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## Responding to Conflict Migration Crises

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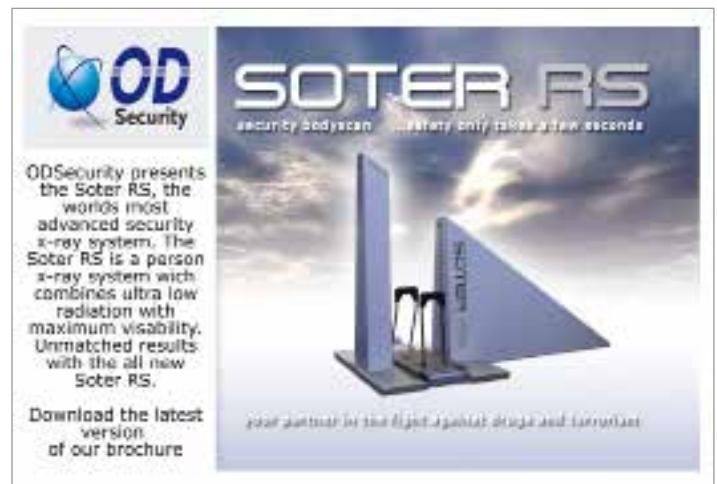


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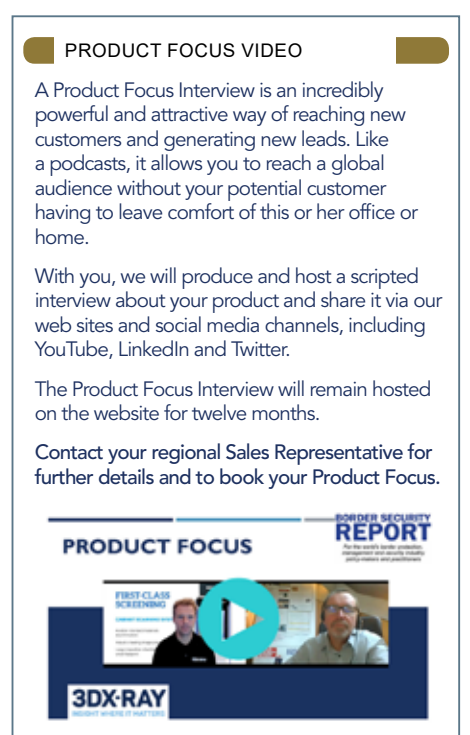
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COVER STORY: **WILDFIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

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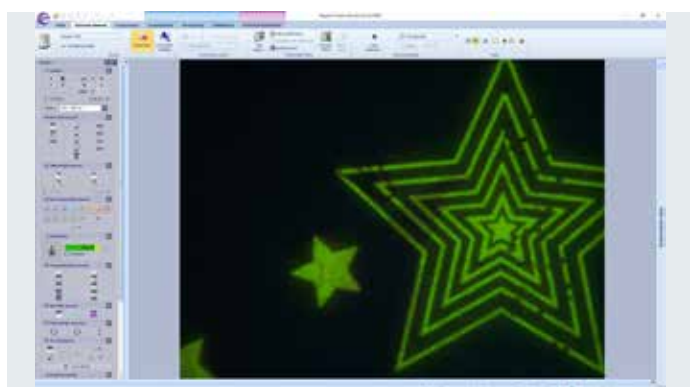
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## The Revamped Regula 4306: Thorough Document Verification With New Light Sources

The best-in-class, yet compact video spectral comparator Regula 4306, has been relaunched with two new features that are highly demanded by forensic experts.



The update of the Regula 4306 is centered around light sources that are indispensable for thorough document examination, including relief and various security features, especially those invisible to the naked eye. The redesigned device boasts of a new light source for the analysis of anti-Stokes luminescence, as well as the possibility to regulate the angle of oblique light, which is vital for certain tasks.

Anti-Stokes luminescence is a special effect of anti-Stokes inks used in various identity documents and banknotes as a security feature. Such inks glow when exposed to infrared light of high intensity.

Adding a special light source into the Regula 4306 to enable the verification of anti-Stokes luminescence enhances the capabilities of the device and makes this compact video spectral comparator even more powerful. Moreover, the new light source for anti-Stokes verification operates in live mode, which means experts are able to find the appropriate security elements, especially the tiniest ones, much faster, since they tend to elude detection in static mode. As for the revamped oblique light in the Regula 4306, it's now manually regulated.

## Iris Recognition Technology Gets High Marks at U.S. Border Crossings and Among Federal Agencies

The need for iris recognition biometrics as part of a multimodal identification system at U.S. border crossings is now a necessity for border patrol agents to process migrants accurately and quickly.



Gone are the days when only a manual face match to the traveler's provided documentation guaranteed admittance. Now, border agents are not only charged with keeping the identification process simple and secure for legitimate travelers but also with protecting the country from potential terrorist travelers who may be trying to falsify their identities. In 2002, the U.S. Congress enacted the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act. This law mandated that U.S. Embassies and Consulates abroad must

issue only machine-readable, tamper-resistant visas and other travel and entry documents that use biometric identifiers. It was decided by the Homeland Security Council that the U.S. standard for biometric screening would be a ten-fingerprint scan. The fingerprints that are collected in the ten-fingerprint scan are compared against fingerprints in several databases including FBI, Immigration, and DOD to perform a background check to confirm identity and/or issue visas.

## New 3D scanning technology at Edinburgh Airport will allow 11 million passengers to leave liquids and electronics in hand luggage from next year

Smiths Detection has announced that it has been awarded the contract to supply eight leading-edge passenger check-in baggage scanners at Edinburgh Airport, Scotland's busiest airport, with over 11.3 million passengers in 2022.



The scanners, which produce 3D X-ray images, will eliminate the requirement to remove electronic devices, liquids, and gels from hand luggage, and will allow passengers to take up to 2 litres of liquid to be carried onto a plane.

Smiths Detection's HI-SCAN 6040 CTiX is a computed tomography (CT) X-ray scanner which delivers quicker baggage assessment and low false-alarm rates of automatically identified threats. Featuring Smiths

Detection's industry leading digital technology, the HI-SCAN 6040 CTiX not only produces the highest quality images and the fastest delivery to operators, it also provides a very detailed analysis of a bag's content, allowing security operators to easily spot items that shouldn't be there.

Smiths Detection's Head of Market, Andy Evripides, said: "We are delighted to be supplying Edinburgh Airport with our leading CT checkpoint X-ray scanner."

## Rohde & Schwarz security scanners help to improve passenger comfort at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport

Amsterdam Schiphol Airport has installed R&S QPS201 security scanners. A shortage of personnel in the after COVID-19 period and a fully resumed air traffic turned out to be a major obstacle to its rapid handling at the security lanes.



After air passengers have recently been confronted with long waiting queues for security checks, the modernized security lanes at Schiphol now meet the surging post-pandemic travel demands.

Since 2019, Schiphol operates more than 25 security scanners. In February 2023, it was decided to also modernize the Schengen departure filter, where most traffic is expected especially during peak seasons like school holidays. The R&S QPS201 offers industry-leading speed and comfort for person screening without the need to raise arms

and ultra-low alarm rates that reduce the need for manual pat-downs. Moreover, the open construction of the scanner makes it much more pleasant for passengers who feel place constrained in classic cabin-type scanners.

The innovation is a win-win for everyone: Schiphol is now able to minimize manual pat-down searches consuming less time and passengers experience higher convenience and speed at security checkpoints.



## Rigaku Further Expands its Handheld Platform to Maximize Chemical Analysis Response with a device that can identify narcotics, explosives, toxic industrial chemicals, chemical warfare agents

Rigaku Analytical Devices announces the launch of the CQL Max-ID™ handheld 1064 nm Raman analyzer, offering features and benefits that maximize chemical threat analysis in safety and security applications.



With an on-board library of over 13,000 items, the CQL Max-ID provides border security officials with a device that can identify narcotics, explosives,

toxic industrial chemicals, chemical warfare agents (CWAs), and more—without the concerns of fluorescence interference.

## Airborne LINX – The choice for the Danish Home Guard patrol aircraft

As a subcontractor of the Swiss company Zimex Aviation Ltd., Airborne Technologies will design and certify the comprehensive surveillance suite of two new Danish Home Guard patrol aircraft.



The Home Guard supports the Danish Defence, the Police, and other authorities to accomplish their various special missions, be it Surveillance, SAR, Maritime Patrol, or ISR operations.

The Danish Ministry of Defence signed an 8-year lease contract with Zimex for two De Havilland DHC-6-300 aircraft. These patrol platforms will be missionized

with an Airborne LINX Surveillance System, which includes a state-of-the-art operator workstation, an observer station and a full ISR sensor suite.

The modifications will be performed at Zimex in Altenrhein, Switzerland, and the Airborne Technologies facility in Wiener Neustadt, Austria. Delivery of the two aircraft is expected in 2024.

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### CALL FOR PAPERS

**Abstract Submittal Deadline - 11th September 2023**

Submit your abstract at [www.world-border-congress.com/call-for-papers](http://www.world-border-congress.com/call-for-papers)

The Conference Organising Committee are inviting abstracts for consideration for inclusion in the 2024 Congress agenda.

**If you are interested in speaking in the Congress, submit your abstract by 11th September.**

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.

We look forward to welcoming you to Istanbul, Turkey on 24th-26th April 2024 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.

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