



**EUROPEAN  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
PLATFORM AGAINST  
CRIMINAL THREATS**

**Fighting crime together**

# Fighting serious and organised crime through cooperation, intelligence, and action.

## How does EMPACT work?

EMPACT follows a two-yearly cycle based on threat intelligence and strategic cooperation across and beyond the EU. The four key steps are as follows:

### STEP 1: Policy development

Europol publishes the EU Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) with input from Member States, Agencies, third parties and private sector.

### STEP 2: Policy setting

The Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) prepares on the basis of the Policy Advisory Document (PAD), a limited number of priorities, that are defined in Council conclusions.

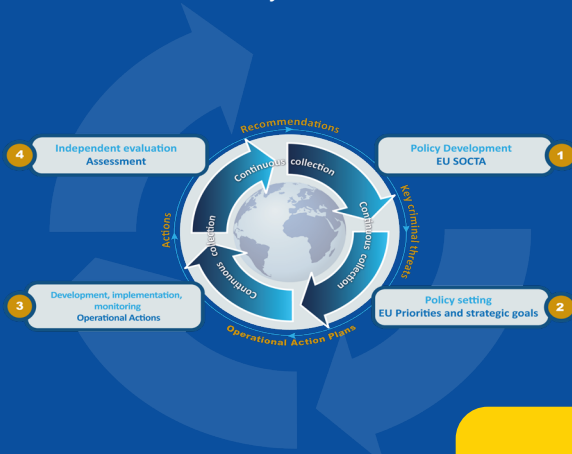
A General Multi-Annual Strategic Plan (G-MASP) containing Common Horizontal Strategic Goals (CHSGs) for all Operational Action Plans (OAPs) is developed in order to improve consistency and achieve a multidisciplinary, integrated and integral approach to effectively address the prioritised threats.

### STEP 3: Operational actions

Development, implementation and monitoring of biennial Operational Action Plans (OAPs), each comprising of various Operational Actions (OAs).

### STEP 4: Evaluation

At the end of each EMPACT cycle, an independent evaluation is conducted to assess the implementation of EMPACT and its outcomes. The results are transmitted to the Council, which then makes an informed policy decision, and will serve as guidance for the next EMPACT cycle.



# EMPACT

is a permanent and key EU instrument for structured multidisciplinary cooperation to fight serious and organised international crime, driven by the Member States and supported by EU institutions, bodies and agencies.

## Key Features of EMPACT

EMPACT works via a multiannual cycle and is led by EU Member States.

The EMPACT approach is:

### › Collaborative

EMPACT works via collaborative contributions from multiple administrations working in partnership, with active involvement of EU Member States, EU agencies, institutions and bodies, and other relevant actors.

### › Intelligence-led

EMPACT revolves around the identification, analysis, and strategic management of crime areas.

### › Multi-disciplinary and integrated

The platform addresses all levels of crime using a full range of measures to tackle the priority crime threat. These measures could be preventive, repressive, capacity building, among others. EMPACT offers grants for operational support

## A Member State driven process

- › The **EU Member States** are the key actors of EMPACT. Their role is performed at various levels: COSI, NEC, OAP participant, Coordinator of CHSG, Driver, Co-Driver and OA Action Leader, Co-Leader or participant.
- › **National EMPACT Coordinator (NEC):** Every Member State appoints a NEC under its national competence, which aligns the Member State's involvement in OAPs and promotes cooperation among law enforcement, public authorities, and the private sector.
- › **OAP Participation:** Member States volunteer to participate in various OAPs, to help with the development and the implementation at MS/Eu agency/institution level. If needed, the OAP participant is expected to be willing to lead and/or co-lead at least one operational action of the OAP.
- › **Non-EU Countries:** MS decide on the involvement of third countries and other non-EU partners in EMPACT activities.

# The EU crime priorities for the 2026-2029 cycle

The EU-SOCTA 2025 identifies seven EU crime priorities, addressed through 13 OAPs:

1. Most Threatening Criminal Networks and Individuals
2. Fastest Growing Crimes in the Online Sphere
  - › 2.1 Cyber-attacks (CYBER)
  - › 2.2 Online child sexual exploitation (CSE)
  - › 2.3 Online fraud schemes (OFS)
3. Drug Trafficking
  - › 3.1 Cannabis, cocaine and heroin (CCH)
  - › 3.2 Synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances (NPS)
4. Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings
  - › 4.1 Migrant Smuggling (MIGR)
  - › 4.2 Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)
5. Firearms and Explosive Crimes
  - › 5.1 Firearms and explosives (FI-X)
6. Environmental Crimes
  - › 6.1 EnviCrime (all forms) with a high focus on waste trafficking (ENV/WASTE)
7. Economic and Financial Crimes
  - › 7.1 VAT/MTIC fraud (VAT)
  - › 7.2 Excise and Customs fraud (EXC)
  - › 7.3 Intellectual property crime and counterfeiting of goods and currencies (IPC)

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