

EUROPEAN LAW ENFORCEMENT RESEARCH BULLETIN SPECIAL EDITION ON FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

CALL FOR PAPERS

Firearms trafficking remains a significant security concern at the EU level, facilitating organised crime and posing threats to public safety. Criminal networks continue to exploit various channels to supply illicit firearms, underscoring the need for continuous legislative adaptation and more effective enforcement measures. European Union has adopted strict regulations to combat illicit arms trade, including the [Firearms Directive \(EU\) 2021/555](#) and the [Firearms Regulation \(EU\) No 258/2012](#). These instruments aim to enhance traceability, tighten cross-border controls, and strengthen cooperation between Member States and international partners.

Addressing these emerging challenges requires continuous research, innovation, and cross-sector collaboration. In response to these trends, the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) is preparing the **Special Thematic Edition No. 2 of the European Law Enforcement Research Bulletin dedicated to firearms trafficking**. This initiative falls under the Strategic Goal External Dimension (SG8) of the [EMPACT](#) (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats) Operations Action Plan (OAP) on firearms (FIA) 2023-2025.

This call for papers aims to consolidate expert knowledge, share best practices, and highlight innovative research that can support evidence-based decision-making and operational processes. This initiative intends to highlight emerging trends by identifying and analysing current patterns in firearms trafficking within and across the borders of the EU and CEPOL together with the International Cooperation Unit (ICU) partner countries¹. It seeks to provide a platform for discussing the operational challenges and strategic threats associated with this type of crime.

¹ Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo*, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine**, Serbia, Tunisia, and Ukraine.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and it is in line with the UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence. **This designation shall not be continued as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual position of the Member States on this issue.

The call for papers will promote the exchange of best practices and successful interventions employed by law enforcement authorities in addressing firearms trafficking. In addition, it will support informed policymaking, providing valuable insights to help lawmakers and law enforcement agencies develop more targeted strategies and policies.

CEPOL and its International Cooperation Unit is pleased to invite law enforcement services including prosecutors and judiciary authorities, senior policymakers, frontline officers, academic researchers, and practitioners specialising in firearms trafficking to contribute to the Special Thematic Edition No. 2 of the [European Law Enforcement Research Bulletin](#). Interested entities from EU Member States and CEPOL ICU partner countries are encouraged to submit research papers for this publication.

We welcome papers that contribute to a comprehensive understanding of firearms trafficking, addressing a wide range of areas such as legal, technological, operational, and strategic aspects.

The following **subtopics** are of particular interest:

- Legal frameworks and compliance, focusing on international and national laws regulating firearms.
- Technological advances, exploring the use of technology in producing, tracking, and intercepting illegal firearms.
- International cooperation and information exchange between EU and non-EU countries, as well as interoperability.
- Case studies, analysing specific cases that highlight unique challenges and innovative solutions.
- Strategic analysis, offering insights into the broader implications of firearms trafficking on regional and global security.

Other topics related to firearms trafficking are also welcome.

EXTENDED deadline for submission of the complete manuscripts: 15 July 2025

Please submit your manuscript with the subject "Paper Submission – Firearms Trafficking Thematic Edition No. 2" to the attention of the Editor in Chief of the Bulletin, Maria Joao Guia, via this email address: research.bulletin@cepol.europa.eu

Author Guidelines

Manuscript Submission Guidelines - European Law Enforcement Research Bulletin

Contributors are kindly invited to bear in mind, when drafting their text, that the Bulletin addresses both academics and practitioners in the law enforcement domain and is intended for a European and international readership. The Bulletin invites original work but also considers publishing summaries or variants of contributions published elsewhere, as long the initial copyrights are observed.

Before preparing and submitting your manuscript, you are invited to check the Author's guidelines below and on CEPOL's website [here](#).

Format requirements

- All contributions should be written - and spell-checked - in (UK) English and saved in MS Word format.
- Authors are responsible for ensuring that the language is suitable for publication. It is recommended that texts written by non-native speakers are checked for comprehensibility and proper use of English grammar before submitting.
- Contributions are to be exclusively submitted via email to: research.bulletin@cepol.europa.eu (while the OJS Programme is being updated²).
- As a standard, text shall be formatted in Times New Roman, 12pt, double spacing, each page numbered.
- On the first page of the contribution, the following information should be provided: full name of the contributor(s), institutional affiliation(s), email address (mandatory); telephone number (optional). The second page should include an abstract of no more than 250 words. and indicate a maximum of 5 keywords. The recommended length of contribution is between 2000 and 5000 words, including footnotes and references.
- Tables, figures, graphics, and images must be provided and uploaded separately in the original file format (e.g., Excel or other) in the highest available resolution, in order to achieve the best results in printing.

² CEPOL's Open Journal Systems (OJS) is currently unavailable due to an ongoing update. Until further notice, all communication regarding this call for papers will be done via email: research.bulletin@cepol.europa.eu.

Review procedures

- Submitted contributions are subject to a review process, depending on the type of submission. For original research articles, the Bulletin editorial board will apply double-blind review with external reviewers.
 - The author(s) are required to send their contributions by **15 July 2025**.
 - Furthermore, the editors retain the customary right to style and if necessary, can shorten the material accepted for publication.
 - Contributors will receive a confirmation of receipt of the submission and information on a final decision, or eventually reviews of their contributions.
 - On acceptance of publication, the author(s) need to complete and upload the mandatory disclaimer form.
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Citation and reference style

For the Bulletin, the Harvard Citation Style is obligatory for in-text citations and reference lists. Contributions not in line with these rules will be returned for revision. An exhaustive guide on how to correctly make use of the Harvard style is available [here](#). Indicative examples are presented below:

Citing one author

A recent study investigated the effectiveness of using Google Scholar to find medical research (Henderson, 2005).

Citing two or three authors

Recent research indicates that the number of duplicate papers being published is increasing (Arrami & Garner, 2008).

Evidence shows that providing virtual laboratory exercises as well as practical laboratory experience enhances the learning process (Barros, Read & Verdejo, 2008).

Book: print

Simons, N. E., Menzies, B. & Matthews, M. (2001) A Short Course in Soil and Rock Slope Engineering. London, Thomas Telford Publishing.

Book: online/electronic

Simons, N. E., Menzies, B. & Matthews, M. (2001) A Short Course in Soil and Rock Slope Engineering. London, Thomas Telford Publishing. Available from: <http://www.myilibrary.com?ID=93941> [Accessed 18th June 2015].

Book: chapter in an edited book

Partridge, H. & Hallam, G. (2007) Evidence-based practice and information literacy. In: Lipu, S., Williamson, K. & Lloyd, A. (eds.) Exploring methods in information literacy research. Wagga Wagga, Australia, Centre for Information Studies, pp. 149–170.

Journal article (printed)

Chibber, P. K. & Majumdar, S. K. (1999) Foreign ownership and profitability: Property rights, control, and the performance of firms in Indian industry. *Journal of Law & Economics*. 42 (1), 209–238.

Journal article: online/ electronic

Arrami, M. & Garner, H. (2008) A tale of two citations. *Nature*. 451 (7177), 397–399. Available from: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v451/n7177/full/451397a.html> [Accessed 20th January 2015].

Communication

Communication about submissions, revisions, and acceptance between authors, editors and reviewers will be done exclusively via email (research.bulletin@cepol.europa.eu) until the new OJS Programme is in place.

All general enquiries about the Bulletin and its editorial policies can be sent to the same email address: research.bulletin@cepol.europa.eu.

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