

EDUCATE, INNOVATE, MOTIVATE

# COVID-19

Impact of COVID-19 on law enforcement operations and training needs

## Content

Impact of COVID-19 on law enforcement operations and training needs .....	2
Changes in crime patterns .....	4
Impact on operational level .....	5
Training needs.....	5
Firearms .....	6
Environmental crime.....	6
Trafficking in human beings .....	7
Excise fraud .....	7
Facilitation of illegal immigration .....	8
Cybercrime – child sexual exploitation .....	8
Cybercrime – non-cash means of payment .....	9
Cybercrime – attacks against information systems .....	9
MTIC Fraud.....	10
Criminal finance, money laundering and asset recovery.....	10
Organised property crime .....	11
Cannabis, cocaine, heroine .....	11
Synthetic drugs, new psychoactive substances .....	12
Document fraud .....	12
Conclusions .....	13
Annex .....	14

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## Impact of COVID-19 on law enforcement operations and training needs

The EU agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), in cooperation with the European Council and the EMPACT structure, completed an analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on investigations and training needs. Outcomes of this analysis will provide the content for CEPOL training activities, including e-learning products, such as the newly launched webinar series that aims at enhancing the knowledge, skills and competencies of law enforcement officials across Europe as a response to the pandemic.

The analysis gathered responses from EMPACT groups<sup>1</sup> on changes in crime patterns, operations and training needs. The operational areas addressed in this analysis correspond to the most important threats posed by organised and serious international crime to the EU as adopted by the Council of the European Union in 2017, based on the outcomes of the serious and organised crime threat assessment<sup>2</sup>. This report summarises 197 responses from EU Members States, agencies, the European Commission, non-EU countries and international organisations. CEPOL hereby thanks all respondents for their contributions as well as the European Council and EMPACT groups for their support.

Due to the scope applied on EMPACT priorities, this analysis has limitations in areas outside of this focus.

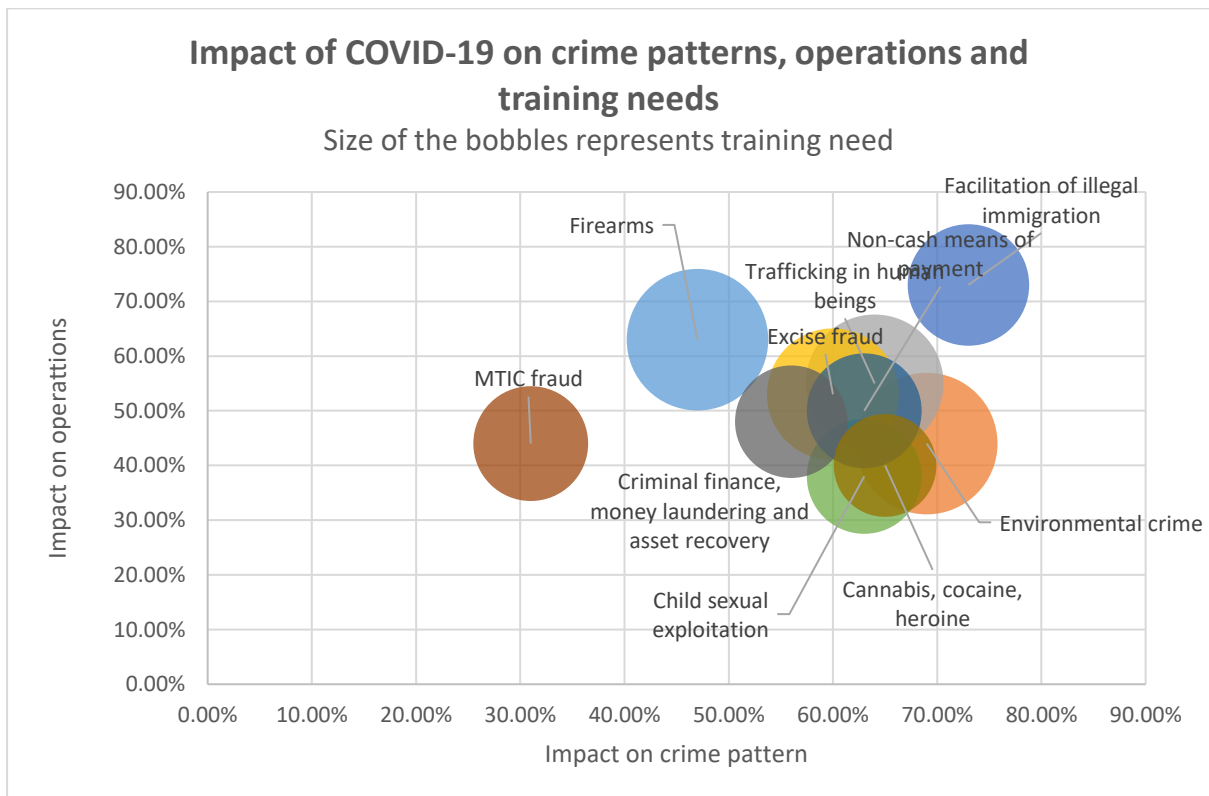
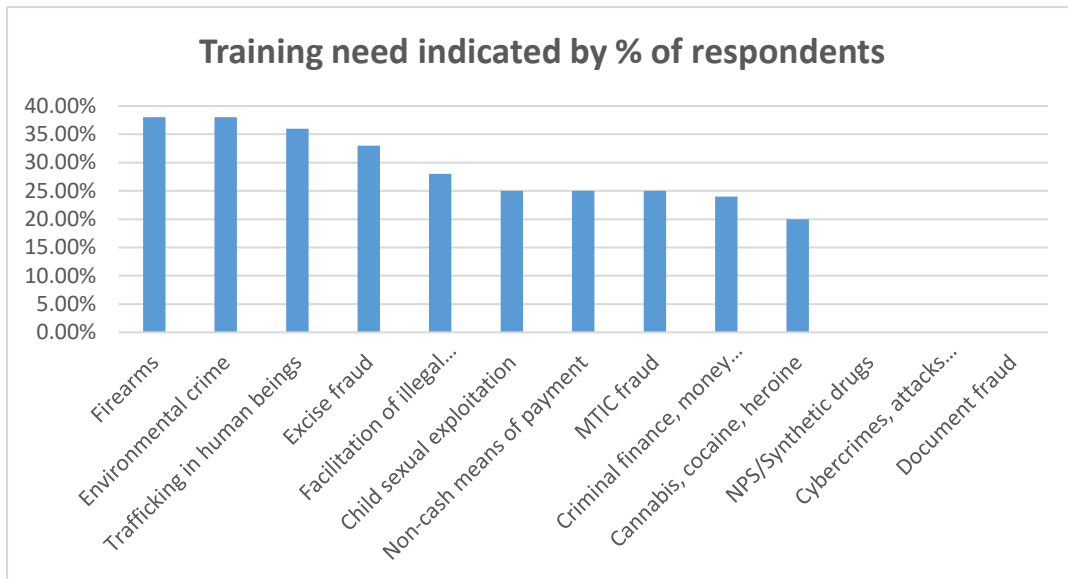
Many respondents emphasised that it might be early to assess the impact of COVID-19 before the pandemic is over, still responses to the survey indicate some clear trends.

Crime patterns have changed in all criminal areas with facilitation of illegal immigration being the most affected. On the operational level, COVID-19 had the most significant impact in the areas of facilitation of illegal immigration, investigations on firearms and trafficking in human beings. Highest ratio of respondents indicated training need in the areas of firearms, environmental crime and trafficking in human beings. Most of training should address online investigation methods, changes in crime patterns in respective fields and reorganisation of work due to the pandemic. Training on cybercrime is in high demand in all areas; however, professionals dealing with cyberattacks against information systems did not indicate that their knowledge should be improved. No training need was indicated in crime areas where *modi operandi* have not changed, such as document fraud and synthetic drugs, new psychoactive substances.

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<sup>1</sup> The questionnaire did not address the EMPACT group on Organised Property Crime as CEPOL gathered responses on training needs related to COVID-19 via e-mail previously. Summary of responses from group members is included in the analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Europol completed the serious and organised crime threat assessment (SOCTA) in 2017. SOCTA identifies and assesses threats to the EU and analyses points of vulnerability to crimes as well as the opportunities for criminals create to commit them. Based on the outcomes, the Council of the EU adopted priorities for the fight against organised and serious international crime between 2018 and 2021. CEPOL analysed the impact of COVID-19 on crime patterns, operations and training needs in these crime priorities.



### Changes in crime patterns<sup>3</sup>

COVID-19 resulted in reduced number of offences on general level and in altering *modi operandi* of criminals. However, offences related to cybercrime, online criminal activities, COVID-19 and health have increased significantly.

Trade of illicit goods and services has moved even more to Darknet, number of phishing attempts, cases in online fraud, investment fraud and cyberattacks have increased, especially against health institutions. As children spend more time on-line, number of child sexual exploitation cases has sharply risen in Europe. Internet related crimes have had more opportunities to hit and isolation has made people more vulnerable. Cases of fake web-shops; phishing; love scamming; malware; selling counterfeit goods online social media scams have increased. New patterns of crime include targeted government schemes to get grants and wages, new scam campaigns related to the sale of medical equipment such as protection masks. The collection of money destined to be laundered has become much more difficult during the quarantine, and physical money mules have been hampered. Crimes committed by fraudsters pretending police officers have decreased.

Besides enlarged number of cyberattacks in the health area, theft of protective medical equipment, trade of fake medical products, fraud of protective gear, COVID-19 tests as well as illegal disposal of sanitary waste are also on the rise. Vulnerable people are being abused with a shift from forced begging to prostitution and from burglaries to benefit fraud, trafficking and distribution of drugs and of other illicit products. Responses report about an increase in abuse of public funds via non-transparent distribution of grants, subsidies, and accelerated procurement procedures of medical products.

Even though domestic violence, including child abuse, is a crime area that falls outside the crime priorities as identified by the Council of the European Union and the scope of this analysis, it has to be noted that respondents indicated increased number of cases with fewer possibilities of reporting them as offenders would not move from home.

Crime has reduced in many areas due to limited mobility of offenders and victims. Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings, firearms and drugs, smuggling of designer fuel, organised property crimes, firearms-related incidents, and illegal waste management, illegal trade of endangered species as well as attacks against ATMs, cases of counterfeit cards and skimming have reduced substantially since the lockdown. The collection of money destined to be laundered has become much more difficult during the quarantine and physical money mules have been hampered. Number of offences in cigarette smuggling has declined too, with bigger shipments delivered mostly during nights and Sundays. Travel restrictions complicate the seasonal work in the agriculture sector –they are not able to take trafficked victims to the Western European countries like before. This trend will possibly increase the demand for trafficked third-country migrants in this area.

Location of committing crime has shifted from transport to parcel delivery in case of trafficking of drugs and firearms, from hotels to private apartments in case of sexual exploitation. The remaining physical exchanges of illegal goods have moved from the streets to private apartments.

Respondents expect a sudden increase in crime cases after lifting travel restrictions. The pandemic crisis is likely to lead to an economic crisis on a longer or shorter period and increase the number of vulnerable people. Criminals target precisely such vulnerable people who are struggling with temporary or permanent financial problems. Once the border closures will be lifted, vulnerable EU

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<sup>3</sup> This analysis is complementary to the ones published by Europol on the impact of COVID-19 as it links changes in crime patterns and operational level challenges to training needs.

citizens suffering from economic distress, along with irregular migrants present in the EU territory, may be increasingly targeted by traffickers.

### Impact on operational level

COVID-19 had mostly negative impact on operational level. Capacities of law enforcement reduced due to many officials teleworking and assigned to other COVID-related priorities. Investigators could not hold face-to-face meetings to discuss cases; keeping in touch with prosecutors and the judiciary has become more complicated.

Law enforcement had to adjust their working methods to the new situation by organising on-line meetings and interrogations. To comply with safety measures certain investigation methods, such as face-to-face interviews, interrogations, surveillance, arrests, house and on-site searches and audits could not be applied.

The above circumstances led to less valuable evidence, to slower information exchange and to postponing of several ongoing cases.

Open source intelligence, use of social media and cyber patrolling got even higher importance in investigations; the pandemic has proved that investigators and the judiciary need to improve knowledge in cyber investigations in all crime areas.

On the positive side, some respondents report about being easier to find victims and perpetrators as less people move around and the pandemic has allowed more time to officers to evaluate intelligence.

### Training needs

Training needs arise from the altered *modi operandi* of criminals and from the changed work patterns of law enforcement. Training is requested in the following topics, in all crime areas:

- changed *modi operandi*; how criminals have adapted to the new situation and how they use Internet as a crime enabler;
- cyber patrolling, OSINT, digital investigations, use of social media;
- use of postal services and fast parcel delivery;
- prepare officials for what to expect after lockdown is over, the sudden increase in cases;
- share experience on measures introduced by other countries as a response to the pandemic;
- how to reorganise police work on operational level, enhance cooperation of colleagues and cooperation with prosecutors and the judiciary;
- how to protect police from contamination; protective measures.

To cater the training needs of law enforcement officials 33 respondents offered to contribute to CEPOL's webinar series by sharing their experience on the impact of COVID-19.

## Firearms

32 responses from 14 Member States (AT, BE, LU, BG, CY CZ, IE, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SI, ES) and UK, Europol, Frontex, Eurojust, Interpol, European Commission DG HOME and DG TAXUD, UNDP SEESAC, OSCE, EUBAM and GIZ. 53% of respondents represent Police, 16% Customs, 6% Border Police/Border Guard, 6% Staff of Union bodies and 19% comes from other organisations.

Trafficking of firearms and firearms parts on Darkweb by use of postal and fast parcel services, as well as on-line fairs of military equipment, have shown increase. At the same time, traditional ways of trafficking have declined. Use of firearms has risen in the domestic environment while firearms related incidents (e.g. shootings, homicides with firearms, armed robberies) have reduced. Number of converted gas weapons and misused hunting permits have also risen.

COVID-19 restricted movements and exchanges has forced law enforcement agencies to prioritise investigations differently. Carrying out surveillance, field investigations have been more complicated, some house searches and arrests had to be postponed. Police has experienced looser cooperation with the judiciary and less engagement from prosecutors. At the same time, the pandemic has allowed officers more time to evaluate intelligence and to target the recovery of firearms proactively.

38% of respondents indicated training need in the following topics:

- online investigations;
- case studies on new *modus operandi*;
- new techniques in transporting firearms: using fast parcels, post services;
- security measures in the context of epidemiological safety, health protection, suspects measures against COVID;
- prepare officers for increased levels of trafficking immediately following the opening of border;
- contingency planning;
- guidelines in handling the detected firearms.

## Environmental crime

16 responses from 14 Member States (MT, AT, FR, EE, HR, SE, ES, BE, IE, BG, FI, NL, HU, CZ) and Frontex. 75% of respondents represent Police; 6.25% customs, the remaining two are EU body and Environmental Inspectorate.

In general, the breaches of laws and regulations in the area of environmental crime have decreased, but some countries report about no significant changes. Illegal disposal of sanitary waste and illegal trapping have increased.

Capacities of police were reduced due to COVID-related priorities, which resulted in lower number of investigations. Police had to introduce protective measures against COVID-19.

38% of respondents indicated training need in the following topics:

- cyber patrolling, mainly in the framework of the deep web;
- new criminal patterns and how Member States tackle them;
- detailed knowledge of the waste streams for COVID-19 related waste;
- combating marine pollution and illegal fishing;
- improve skills in nRBC risks related to environmental crimes;
- LEA protection against the contamination;

- cooperation between different LEAs, creation of a common culture and collaboration with health authorities.

### Trafficking in human beings

23 responses from 16 Member States (BE, DE, IE, HR, FR, SK, CZ, ES, HU, PT, NL, LT, BG, SI, CY, IT), Switzerland, Norway, Frontex and Europol. 86% of respondents represent Police, 4% Border Police/Border Guards and 10% EU bodies.

Number of cases in trafficking in human beings has declined and *modi operandi* have changed as crimes are committed in a more clandestine context. New technologies have played a key role in sexual exploitation. Travel restrictions have complicated the seasonal work in the agriculture sector: criminals are not able to take victims to the Western European countries like before. This trend will possibly increase the demand for trafficked third-country migrants in this area. Stagnant tourism has had an impact on forced begging and forced criminality. Victims who were forced to beg are most probably being abused in other ways, such as sexual and labour exploitation, and more increasingly forced to commit criminal acts, such as benefit fraud, trafficking and distribution of drugs and of other illicit products.

A pandemic crisis is likely to lead to an economic crisis on a longer or shorter period with increasing number of vulnerable people. Criminals target precisely such vulnerable people who are struggling with temporary or permanent financial problems. Once the border closures will be lifted, vulnerable EU citizens suffering from economic distress, along with irregular migrants present in the EU territory, may be increasingly targeted by traffickers.

Capacities of Member States to devote to investigations have diminished as law enforcement acquired other extra tasks. Investigations have reduced to a minimum, being most of them developed from citizens' reports to the police. Law enforcement faced the challenge of adapting new working conditions, both organisationally and individually. Internet searches have turned out to be the key factor in police searches as information gathering in the field have become more complicated. On the positive side, it has been easier to find victims and perpetrators as less people move around.

35% of respondents indicated training need in the following topics:

- cyber investigations of THB cases: internet as a crime enabler, evidence collection, open source and social media investigations. Lambda investigators, who do not necessarily have a profile adapted to new technologies and digital technology, will most certainly need to "update" themselves on the level of digital research. Exchange and sharing of knowledge and good practice in digital investigation on international level in order to try to standardize, as far as possible, the techniques of research on the Internet.
- new and different *modi operandi*;
- introduction to, and training on, the use of technological tools for investigation purposes;
- border control;
- labour requirements
- share current experiences and learn about the difficulties that this period has caused.

### Excise fraud

15 responses from 11 Member States (AT, HR, EE, FR, EL, IE, LT, MT, SK, SE, CZ), Europol and Frontex. 80% of respondents represent Customs, 7% Police and 13% Union bodies.



*Modi operandi* of criminals have changed with decreased smuggling via air and ant-smuggling. Size of shipments has got bigger though, and shipments have been delivered more frequently during nights and on Sundays. Use of cargo and mail shipments is expected to increase. Fraud with COVID-protection equipment and COVID-tests has emerged as new pattern of crime.

During the pandemic, law enforcement reduced capacities to investigations, to monitor, track and investigate OCGs of interest, vehicles and premises as officers mostly carried out COVID-related tasks. Investigators did not have the chance to meet and discuss trends and exchange intelligence. Home searches, physical contacts with persons and representatives of companies for interviews, collection of evidence and other procedural activities have become problematic. At the same time, more digital IT tools were used during the criminal process, such as distant interviews, interrogations and interpreting services.

33% of respondents indicated training needs in the following topics:

- use of digital tools in criminal procedure process and international cooperation;
- *modus operandi* according to types of borders and procedures used to smuggle excise goods like Transit;
- analysis of how/ if the purchase of components needed is affected. Maybe there are some effects in other crime areas due to Covid 19 that affects the output and/ or demand related to excise fraud;
- how to follow the money;
- impact of COVID for future law enforcement cooperation;
- enforcement, investigations and risk management.

#### Facilitation of illegal immigration

12 responses from 11 Member States (AT, CZ, FI, FR, DE, GR, IT, SK, ES, PT, SE) and Frontex. 64% of respondents represent Police, 36% Border Police/Border Guards.

Smuggling activities have reduced especially via air and sea as movements of migrants has been very limited. At the same time, new *modus operandi* to smuggle migrants on land borders in trucks and containers has risen as crossing borders on foot too. Smugglers have started to use new routes, the green border.

Quarantine did not allow investigators to perform interviews of migrants as fast as in the past. Possibilities to conduct interrogation and home searches have become limited. These circumstances, accompanied with capacity constraints of law enforcement, led to slower and less efficient investigations in most of the countries. Some countries report about increased capacities of investigators to focus on previous cases and on specific issues.

28% of respondents indicated training need in the following topics:

- cyber investigations;
- improve the use of and access to video conferencing equipment and similar tools and to use more remote access to home offices if necessary, work from home.

#### Cybercrime – child sexual exploitation

8 responses from 6 Member States (BE, CZ, IE, RO, SI, SE), Norway and Europol. 87.5% of respondents represent Police, and 12.5%, EU agency.

Chats and number of users have significantly increased on Darknet and on child sexual exploitation sites, so have risen the online attempts to lure children into sexual acts, coerced or self-initiated self-produced material, and distribution of child abuse images. *Zoombombing* has appeared as a new way of getting access to children on the Internet, while attempts of grooming, *sextortion*, possession and distribution of CAM, possibly live streaming, have increased. At the same time, travelling of sex offenders has declined sharply.

On the operational level, the inability of national level teams to travel has meant time-critical searches had to be carried out using remote local resources. Police business such as investigations, field activities, contacts with different persons, interviews have become limited.

25% of respondents indicated training need in the following topics:

- OSINT tools and methods of investigations;
- investigation on dark web;
- prevention and awareness purposes for young people;
- cooperation with specialized non law enforcement institutions.

#### Cybercrime – non-cash means of payment

8 responses from 6 Member States (PT, RO, ES, FI, EL, SK) and from Europol. 87.50% of respondents represent Police, while 12.50%, Staff of Union Bodies.

Phishing attempts, cases of online fraud, investment fraud and cash-not-present fraud have increased while criminal cases of counterfeit cards, skimming, logical attacks against ATMs, CNP fraud have shown a slight decrease.

On the operational level, many of the ongoing investigations have suffered a delay or have been postponed especially in countries where the cybercrime unit resources are limited and have been used for other more urgent issues. Furthermore, possibilities to apply certain investigation methods, such as face-to-face interviews, field activities, contacts with different persons have become limited resulting in slower investigations.

25% of respondents indicated training need in the following fields:

- new modus operandi;
- investigation on dark web.

#### Cybercrime – attacks against information systems

4 responses from 4 Member States (CZ, DE, IE, SK). 100% of respondents represent Police.

Cyberattacks have increased substantially: phishing attempts, CEO fraud, attempts to intercept or fraudulently join video conferencing have been on the rise. Systems of healthcare institutions have become the primary target of cyberattacks. Offenders request ransom for decryption, but also for not publishing the gained data.

COVID-19 has caused delays in investigations.

None of the respondents indicated training needs.

## MTIC Fraud

16 responses from 14 Member States (AT, HR, CY, CZ, EE, FI, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, NL, PT, SI) and Norway. 56% of respondents represent tax authorities, 25% Police, and 19% Customs.

VAT fraud and establishment of new business to be used as shell companies have increased. The type of goods subject to fraud has shifted from electronic products to protective equipment. State institutions could perform purchases without official public procurement procedures. Public funds have been allocated in a hurry, via unconsidered decisions, in some cases distributed to scammers. Cases of embezzlement and abuse of office have risen.

The speed of investigations has dropped and some investigations have been postponed. Investigations were restructured to meet safety regulations: visit to companies, audits, house-searches and on-the-spot controls could not be performed. Therefore, it has become more difficult to detect and deregister missing traders. International cooperation and communication has become less smooth with delayed responses to queries.

25% of respondents indicated training needs in the following topics:

- e-skills development;
- knowledge of new markets and new *modus operandi* linked to COVID-19 and MTIC fraud, if those are known in EU, changes in patterns;
- share experience on detection and analysis of new types of cases;
- measures taken by authorities to address the threats posed by the new trends.

## Criminal finance, money laundering and asset recovery

25 responses out of which 17 Member States (AT, BE, BG, HR, CZ, FI, FR, DE, EL, HU, IE, LV, LT, NL, SK, ES, SE) and UK, IS, CH. 84% of respondents represent Police, 16% Border Police/Border Guards.

Internet related crimes have had more opportunities to hit, and isolation has made people more vulnerable (cybercrime/fake web-shops; phishing; love scamming; malware; selling counterfeit goods online, social media scams). New patterns of crime include targeted government schemes to get grants and wages, new scam campaigns related to the sale of medical equipment such as protection masks. The collection of money destined to be laundered has become much more difficult during the quarantine and physical money mules have been hampered. Crimes committed by fraudsters pretending police officers have decreased.

On the operational level, there has been more difficulties to develop investigations, implement investigative measures like surveillances and to obtain relevant information from public and private sources. Execution of search warrants, auditions, observations, arrests and meetings have been postponed. The information exchange between national AROs slowed down, which affected the timeliness of asset recovery processes. Furthermore, due to different working hours between members of investigation teams, it has become more difficult to gather information and data. Investigation teams have transformed their operation to online platforms, including team meetings and overseeing tasks and progress.

24% of respondents indicated training need in the following topics:

- IT and OSINT tools;
- understanding of International funding and chains of deliveries;
- training for combating counterfeited medical supplies for COVID-19;

- communication between law enforcement and other authorities;
- focus on "COVID-19" subsidies.

### Organised property crime

13 responses from (BE, DK, DE, MT, IE, NL, FR,ES), Europol and EUCPN.

Number of organised property crime cases such as burglaries, vehicle theft, ATM attacks, pickpocketing, shoplifting and robberies has sharply declined on general level, however, cases related to medical and protective equipment have increased. Hospitals, medical facilities and the delivery routes used have become an attractive target for criminals. Many cases of large-scale thefts of respiratory protective masks or disinfectants from hospitals have been reported. Theft at home by impersonating officials (especially targeting the elderly) has risen, as there has been a rise in thefts of facemasks and burglaries in pharmacies. There has been a clear shift from domestic burglary to commercial burglar, but the number of burglaries might increase after the containment. Some victims who confined in their holiday houses might report burglaries in their main houses when they will come back. Fraud cases on the internet have increased.

Number of arrests of OPC suspects has declined. Police in some countries has taken part in awareness raising campaign on how to act in situations if unknown people, especially vulnerable persons, are contacting for help or other reasons.

### Cannabis, cocaine, heroine

20 responses from 14 Member States (AT, BE, CZ, HR, FR, DE, HU, IE, IT, LT, PL, PT, SK, SE) and Colombia, North Macedonia, and Frontex. 80% of respondents represent Police, 15% Customs, 5 % EU agency.

*Modus operandi* of trafficking has changed. There has been a rise in using the Internet and social networks for purchase and distribution of drugs and in drug related crimes concerning DarkNet and postal services. There has been a decrease of drug smuggling via train, flight, vehicles; however, drug taxis have been more frequently used in Germany. More cases of smuggling narcotics in food containers, transports with medical supplies, have been detected. Criminals have used courier companies, food deliveries and car-sharing services to distribute drugs. Retail of illicit products has shifted from streets to rented accommodations. Cannabis indoor cultivation and cannabis consumption have increased.

Investigations have slowed down, and some operations have been cancelled. Investigations have had to adapt to the new behaviour of drug trafficking organizations to establish more effective judicial and cooperation channels.

20% of respondents indicated training needs in the following topics:

- strengthen the online investigative capacities that have been addressed for the development of criminal businesses linked to drugs trafficking, such as money laundering, illegal transactions/coordination or pays;
- how the criminals are adapting to the Pandemic situation and are using digital solutions for communication and money transfers;
- specific training about the awareness raising of social networks misuse in the framework of drug trafficking;

- new trend and routes invented by criminals (identify all the factors beyond the travel restrictions).

#### Synthetic drugs, new psychoactive substances

11 responses from 9 Member States (BE, BG, CZ, DE, NL PL, PT, RO, SK), UK and Europol. 82% of respondents represent Police, 18% other institutions such as higher level organisation than police and EU agency.

The impact of COVID-19 is probably not massive on the long run, still, availability of synthetic drugs and precursors has reduced. Number of cases on retail level criminal activities has become lower in most of the responding countries and production of synthetic drugs has declined in Belgium.

Law enforcement has worked with reduced capacities as personnel has been assigned to other priorities. Police lacks possibilities to meet partners abroad. This has resulted in delays in investigations as well as postponing of final operations and arrests.

None of the respondents indicated training need.

#### Document fraud

7 responses from 3 Member States (FR, DE, ES). 43% of respondents represent Police, 57% Border Police/Border Guards.

Respondents reported of dramatic decrease in detections and seizures.

Most of the ongoing criminal activities have been halted due to the movement restrictions.

None of the respondents indicated training needs.

## Conclusions

COVID-19 had significantly changed crime patterns all crime areas analysed in this report. Criminals have adapted to the new situation by changing *modi operandi* and shifting activities to the Internet with increased use of Darknet and social media as well as delivering illegal products by means of postal and parcel services. COVID-related crime activities have been on the rise in all areas while those requiring travel, transportation and physical contacts have declined.

Law enforcement faces multiple challenges on the operational level as a consequence of the pandemic. Investigative capacities have been reduced as officials have been assigned to other crime priorities. Leadership confronted the challenge of reorganising the work by applying telework regimes, ensuring secure on-line communication and physical protection of officials. Some investigative methods, such as face-to-face investigations, surveillance, home searches and audits, have been suspended. These changes resulted in delays of information exchange, slower and suspended, or halted, investigations. Last, but not least, law enforcement officials had to improve their knowledge in online investigations, open source intelligence and cyber patrolling in an extremely short period of time.

Training of officials as a response to the pandemic shall address changed crime patterns and *modi operandi* in all criminal areas on the short term. On a mid-term perspective, training shall enhance the knowledge of officials in cyber investigations, use of open source intelligence and e-evidence on general level and in crime specific way. On the longer run, training should share best practices on how to reorganise the work on operational level to ensure smooth operations and high level of protection of officials.

Summary table of training needs

Topic	Training needs
Firearms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online investigations</li> <li>• New techniques in transporting firearms: using fast parcels, post services</li> <li>• Prepare officers for increased levels of trafficking immediately following the opening of border</li> <li>• Guidelines in handling the detected firearms</li> <li>• Study cases on new modus operandi</li> </ul>
Environmental crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New criminal patterns and how Member States tackle them</li> <li>• Combating marine pollution and illegal fishing</li> <li>• Cyber patrolling, mainly in the framework of the deep Web</li> <li>• Improve skills in nRBC risks related to environmental crimes.</li> <li>• Detailed knowledge of the waste streams for COVID-19 related waste</li> </ul>
Trafficking in human beings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New and different <i>modi operandi</i></li> <li>• Cyber investigations of THB cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Internet as a crime enabler</li> <li>○ Evidence collection</li> <li>○ Open source and social media investigations</li> <li>○ Lambda investigators, who do not necessarily have a profile adapted to new technologies and digital technology, will most certainly need to "update" themselves on the level of digital research.</li> <li>○ Exchange and sharing of knowledge and good practice in digital investigation on international level in order to try to standardize, as far as possible, the techniques of research on the Internet.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Introduction to and training on the use of technological tools for investigation purposes</li> <li>• Border control</li> <li>• Labour requirements</li> </ul>
Excise fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of digital tools in criminal procedure process and international cooperation</li> <li>• Excise fraud (<i>modus operandi</i> according to types of borders and procedures used to smuggle excise goods like Transit)</li> <li>• Analysis of how/ if the purchase of components needed is affected. Maybe there are some effects in other crime areas due to COVID-19 that affect the output and/or demand related to excise fraud</li> </ul>

	<p>as well. In short, analysis provided would be of interest (AP Smoke).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to follow the money?</li> </ul>
Facilitation of illegal immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the use of, and access to, video conferencing equipment and similar tools, and to use more remote access to home offices, if necessary, work from home</li> <li>• Cyber</li> </ul>
Child sexual exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention and awareness purposes for young people</li> <li>• Cooperation with specialized non - LEA</li> <li>• Investigation on dark web</li> <li>• Tools and methods of investigation /OSINT</li> </ul>
Non-cash means of payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New modus operandi</li> <li>• Investigation on dark web</li> </ul>
MTIC fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• e-skills development although courts in many cases request paper documents</li> <li>• Knowledge of new markets and new <i>modus operandi</i> linked to COVID 19 and MTIC fraud, if those are known in EU, changes in patterns.</li> <li>• Share experience on detection and analysis of new types of cases</li> </ul>
Criminal finance, money laundering and asset recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT and OSINT tools</li> <li>• Understanding of International Funding and chains of deliveries</li> <li>• Training for combating counterfeited medical supplies for COVID-19</li> <li>• Focus on "COVID-19" subsidies</li> </ul>
Organised Property Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New <i>modi operandi</i></li> </ul>
Cannabis, cocaine, heroine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the online investigative capacities that have been addressed for the development of criminal businesses linked to drugs trafficking, such as money laundering, illegal transactions/coordination or pays</li> <li>• How the criminals are adapting to the Pandemic situation and are using digital solutions for communication and money transfers</li> <li>• Awareness raising of social networks misuse in the framework of drug trafficking</li> <li>• New trend and routes invented by criminals (identify all the factors beyond the travel restrictions)</li> </ul>
NPS/Synthetic drugs	No training need indicated
Cybercrimes, attacks against information systems	No training need indicated
Document fraud	No training need indicated
Reorganisation of work and operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of COVID for future law enforcement cooperation</li> <li>• Share current experiences and to learn about the difficulties that this period has caused</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Measures taken by authorities to address the threats posed by the new trends</li><li>• Security measures in the context of epidemiological safety, health protection, suspects measures against COVID-19</li><li>• Contingency planning</li><li>• Cooperation between different LEAs, creation of a common culture and collaboration with health authorities</li><li>• Enforcement, investigations and risk management</li><li>• Communication between law enforcement and other authorities</li></ul>
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