



*‘Europol is the European Union at its best: cooperation, trust and sharing.’*

Dimitris Avramopoulos, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship and Julian King, Commissioner for the Security Union

## Online Module: Executive Summary

Europol is the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, based in The Hague in the Netherlands. Its main goal is to achieve a safer Europe for the benefit of all EU citizens.

Europol provides assistance to law enforcement authorities in the EU in the fight against serious international crime and terrorism, as laid out in the Europol Regulation (2016). Its main objective is to support actions by the competent authorities of the Member States in combating serious crime affecting two or more Member States, terrorism, and forms of crime, which affect a common interest covered by an EU policy. It also works with many EU institutions and agencies, non-EU partner countries and international organisations.

Europol supports the law enforcement activities of the Member States by providing:

- information exchange;
- operational support and expertise, including on-the-spot support and technical support;
- crime analysis, including both strategic analysis and operational analysis.

This e-learning module aims to raise awareness about Europol and what it does, and especially about the products and services it provides to support the law enforcement authorities in the Member States. It is targeted primarily at all law enforcement officers working in, or otherwise interested in, the area of international cooperation.

The module consists of an introduction, 13 topic chapters and a glossary of Europol-related terms and abbreviations. Users can also check their levels of understanding for each of the topics by considering a selection of quiz questions.

In more detail, the individual chapters are:

1. **Introduction**
2. **Governance and Management:** Europol's governance, data protection responsibilities and working relationships with its partners.
3. **Operational Support:** An introduction to the support and expertise that Europol provides to ongoing investigations and operations in the Member States.
- 4-9. **Crime Domain Support:** Seven chapters covering the knowledge and tools provided by Europol to combat particular crime domains, specifically: counterfeiting and forgery, cybercrime, drugs, weapons and hazardous substances, terrorism, operational financial intelligence and special tactics.
10. **Support On-The-Spot:** Europol deploys analysts and specialists to a crime scene or other locations to support ongoing investigations and operations in the Member States.
11. **Mechanisms (Additional Expertise):** The support provided by Europol at EU and international levels, including for the EU Policy Cycle and the EMPACT projects, as well as providing advice and developing relationships with non-EU countries.
12. **Information Exchange and Management:** Europol's infrastructure for effectively processing and storing information and intelligence, supported by several systems: EAS, SIENA, EIS and EPE.
13. **Strategic Analysis:** The wide range of reports provided by Europol to assist decision-makers to identify specific crime priorities and effective strategies, including the SOCTA, IOCTA and TE-SAT.
14. **Operational Analysis:** Intelligence analysis to support ongoing investigations and operations, within the framework of the analysis projects (APs).