


## WEBSITE

 [www.medi-theft.eu](http://www.medi-theft.eu)

## E-MAIL

 [info@medi-theft.eu](mailto:info@medi-theft.eu)

## SOCIAL

 [MEDI-THEFT Project](https://www.linkedin.com/company/medi-theft-project)

 [@MediTheft](https://twitter.com/MediTheft)



# MEDI THEFT

## Newsletter N.3 May, 2023

### Partners:



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## MEDI-THEFT PROJECT NEWS AND UPDATES

As we approach the later stages of the project, we are proud of the outputs we achieved, and the resonance MEDI-THEFT has acquired.

Partners of the Consortium gathered for the MEDI-THEFT Platform Validation Conference in Brussels. A demo of the Platform has been performed by IPSZ, all participants offered their insights and feedback and discuss possible improvements in the Platform.

Furthermore, dissemination of the project results has been strongly supported by the organisation of national-level events in Serbia and Montenegro.

We are excitedly looking forward to MEDI-THEFT upcoming activities, including the organisation of ad-hoc Platform trainings for DRAs, LEAs and private stakeholders, as well as the organisation of the MEDI-THEFT Final Conference that will mark the successful ending of the project.

### WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER ISSUE:

- Project Partners ALIMS and CInMED double interview
- Update on project events
- Upcoming Final Conference



### NEXT KEY OUTLINES:



**MAY 2023**  
 Promotional events at national-level in Serbia and Montenegro

**MAY 2023**  
 Platform training sessions for DRAs, LEAs and private stakeholders

**JUNE 2023**  
 Platform training sessions for DRAs, LEAs and private stakeholders

**JUNE 2023**  
 MEDI-THEFT Promotional Events

**SEPTEMBER 2023**  
 Project Final Conference in Rome

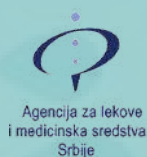
## MEDI-THEFT INTERVIEW: PROJECT IMPACT AND COUNTRY-LEVEL RESULTS

*Project Partners ALIMs and CInMED offer their insights on medicine trafficking, their contribution and the results achieved by MEDI-THEFT.*

How can MEDI-THEFT help fight the illicit trafficking of medicines and medical devices at a national level?

We asked our Project Partners ALIMs and CInMED in this double interview on the positive results that the participation to this project has brought in their countries.

Illegal medicine trafficking is a critical issue for both the health and the economy of a country. What is your experience in this context?



Republic of Serbia and all its relevant authorities has fortunately few cases and mostly anecdotal evidence in this area, but we are well aware that theft and misuse of medicines is happening in our country. We have a huge responsibility for maintaining the health and wellbeing of our population but also protecting the trust in us as regulators and guardians of the quality of medicines in our market.

Therefore, we have started to create networks and build relationships so we can address this so far mostly hidden problem, and tackle it with might and mind. Furthermore, cheap medicines manufactured and stolen in Serbia can reach unknowing patients both in the region and even in EU countries: an issue that we are committed to fight.

Illicit trade of medicines is indeed a threat with numerous, high-impact risks associated with such a problem. In Montenegro the phenomena of intra-community trade is nonexistent as we are not a member of the EU, and online sales of medicines and medical devices are forbidden by law, this makes our market quite isolated and easier to control.



Luckily, Montenegro has not encountered a grander case of theft of medicines. Yet quite recently, there has been a minor case of theft from an apothecary in our capital, which warns us that this risk is ever present and should be monitored closely.

Montenegro is a small country and not a member of European Union but as a candidate country, therefore, it is quite beneficial for us to be prepared for these instances.

Project MEDI-THEFT is creating effective tools to counter medicine trafficking – what do you think is going to have the greatest positive impact at your country level?



We believe that a fast, easy-to-access network and database will be crucial. The ability to create rapid alerts and get intelligence data from within Serbia but also from the EU and even on a pan-European level is essential in countering these mostly over-the-border criminal schemes.

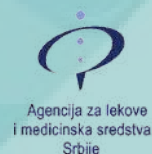
Finally, the ability to be constantly trained and updated on the latest developments in the field will be something to look for in the future, to strengthen of our national task force on the matter.

Thanks to the MEDI-THEFT platform, all of the partners allowed to use such software will, without a doubt, be able to make better decisions in relation to the illicit trade of medicines, as well as be informed of the magnitude of such a problem. Montenegro is certainly no exception to this.



With the availability of such a tool as the platform, we can expect benefits in the domain of reporting and communicating of these cases, as well as a possible increase in their reports.

Why do you think a national-level organisation such as yours should participate to a project like MEDI-THEFT?



First of all, it is a prime example of the EU supporting countries and institutions that are acceding towards it in the most practical and easy to understand way. MEDI THEFT is aiming at protecting, even saving lives and this is something we must do not because it is our job, but because it is a noble commitment.

Still, we are often limited in experience, knowledge and resources to perform these tasks – MEDI THEFT is addressing all of these issues and many more obstacles we are facing in dealing with pharmaceutical crime and for that we are more than thankful.

Montenegro is a small country which enables better market surveillance, so the use of the MEDI-THEFT platform will benefit our market greatly. We benefitted from mentorship and networking with the EU, which proves exceptionally useful for project activities and other activities of national-level organisations.



Through this project we have raised awareness and educated the public on thefts of medicines, illicit trades and falsified medicines on both national and regional levels. During the duration of MEDI-THEFT, CInMED has reorganized and activated a multi-institutional body Team for monitoring and implementation to suppress the circulation of falsified medicines, focused on managing and fighting the illicit trade of medicines. Finally, this project will be of great help in the harmonization of our legislation with the Directive 2011/62/EU of the European Parliament.

## COMPLETED PROJECT EVENTS

MEDI-THEFT concluded national-level events in Serbia and Montenegro both in 2022 and 2023, which received great interest and engagement from stakeholders from the public and private sectors. Moreover, the Consortium had the chance to meet for a Validation Platform Meeting, as well as for the 3rd Transnational Interim Meeting. Here are the main events and their outcomes of the last 6 months:

### *CInMED Annual Event, Montenegro*



The CINMED event took place from 1-3 December 2022 in Podgorica, Montenegro. The event covered several topics, such as new competencies of the Institute, current development in the field of medical devices legislation and also a training session in the area of Good Distribution Practice Guidelines (GDP), Good Pharmacovigilance Practice Guidelines (GVP) and the protection system against falsified and substandard medicines. A dedicated session focused on MEDI-THEFT presenting the main outcomes of the project.

### *Platform Validation Workshop, Brussels*



MEDI-THEFT partners gathered 28 March 2023 for a Platform Validation Meeting. This meeting was a great opportunity to take a first look at MEDI-THEFT platform, which is being developed by Poligrafico's IT department together with UCSC-TC and AIFA. The Partners had the chance to see a live demo showing the main features of the platform, and offer their insights and feedbacks.

## IV Congress of Pharmacists, Montenegro



During the IV Congress of Pharmacists of Montenegro, organised by CInMEDOn 11-14 May 2023 the MEDI-THEFT project was presented. The project was featured in a dedicated session, titled "Improving the safety of medicines – MEDI-THEFT project". During the session, which was led by CInMED representative David Kocovic and AIFA Project Coordinator Domenico Di Giorgio, a demonstration of the intelligence-based platform took place.

## 3rd MEDI-THEFT Transnational Interim Meeting, Belgrade



On 22 May 2023, MEDI-THEFT partners gathered in Belgrade for the third MEDI-THEFT Transnational Interim Meeting. Partners of the MEDI-THEFT Consortium were hosted at ALIMS Headquarters, in Belgrade. The meeting was a great occasion to discuss MEDI-THEFT's upcoming activities as well as relevant achievements in the dissemination of the project.

## "Fighting the organized theft of medicines in the Balkans and in the European Union through the MEDI-THEFT project", Belgrade



On 23 May 2023, in Belgrade at the HQ of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, ALIMS organised the "Fighting the organized theft of medicines in the Balkans and in the European Union through the MEDI-THEFT project" conference, which gathered more than 150 participants to attend the first-ever conference on the topic of theft of medicines in the Balkan region.

## UPCOMING PROJECT EVENTS

### PLATFORM TRAININGS

MEDI-THEFT platform training aim to train operators in the use of the intelligence-based platform according to the specific roles identified to boost the fight against the illicit trafficking of medicines.

To better suit each type of operator, different formats and training materials have been designed to ensure the visibility of the project and to raise awareness on the importance of the use of the tools developed in the fight against pharmaceutical crime in general and the theft of medicines in particular.

Trainings are held both online and in presence during specialized events dedicated to:

- DRAs
- LEAs
- Private stakeholders

The first session was delivered on the occasion of the WGEO meeting in Uppsala (Sweden) on May 17.

A second session took place on the occasion of the promotional event on May 23 in Belgrade. All the other training sessions will be delivered in June both online and in presence in Rome.

### MEDI-THEFT FINAL CONFERENCE

Partners are preparing for the project Final Conference: an exceptional opportunity to learn about the project's achievements, the development of its intelligence-based platform and how to support the fight against illicit medicine trafficking.

The Final Conference has been planned for 29th September 2023 in Rome, Italy.

The poster features the MEDI-THEFT logo at the top left, followed by 'Final Conference' and '29th SEPTEMBER 2023' in large, bold text. To the right, it says 'SAVE THE DATE' in a large, bold font. Below this, a paragraph of text reads: 'As the project reaches its conclusion, join us at the MEDI-THEFT Final Conference to learn about the project's achievements, the development of its intelligence-based platform and how to support the fight against illegal medicine trafficking.' Underneath, it specifies 'WHEN? 29th September 2023' and 'WHERE? Rome, Italy'. At the bottom, there are sections for 'WEBSITE' (www.medi-theft.eu), 'E-MAIL' (info@medi-theft.eu), and 'SOCIAL' (MEDI-THEFT Project and @MediTheft). The poster also includes logos of various partner organizations and the European Union flag.

## PUBLICATIONS



"The theft of medicines in the EU" (UCSC - Transcrime, 2022)

Download the PDF version of the report:



"Best Practices to manage cases of thefts of medicines in the EU" (AIFA/IPZS, 2023)

Download the PDF version of the report:



"The Organised Theft of Medicines: a Study of the Methods for Stealing and Reselling Medicines and Medical Devices in the EU and Beyond" (UCSC - Transcrime, 2023)

Download the PDF version of the report:







## ***Follow us on our channels:***

 [www.medi-theft.eu](http://www.medi-theft.eu)

 [MEDI-THEFT Project](https://www.linkedin.com/company/medi-theft-project)

 [@MediTheft](https://twitter.com/MediTheft)

*This newsletter was funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund – Police G.A. 101037959  
The content of this newsletter represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.*