



OPFA WASTE

OPERATIONAL FACILITY FOR FIGHTING ILLICIT WASTE TRAFFICKING

1st Newsletter

Project Partners



Supported by



This project was funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund - Police





OPERATIONAL FACILITY FOR **FIGHTING ILLICIT WASTE TRAFFICKING**

WHAT IS OPFA WASTE?

OPFA WASTE is a EU flagship operational project targeting Illicit Waste -in particular hazardous- Trafficking

WHAT DOES IT AIM TO ACHIEVE?

Reinforce cooperation between specialized Law Enforcement Agencies and Europol in the implementation of illicit waste trafficking investigations

Develop standardised investigative methodology in the field of Illicit Waste Trafficking

Facilitate information sharing among police officers and strengthen operational networks

Raise awareness on the seriousness of Illicit Waste Trafficking

HOW IS IT STRUCTURED?

3 Work Packages:

- Management and coordination
- Integrated investigative methodologies
- Operational Facility - OPFA

24 Months duration – from February 2020

HOW IS IT FUNDED?

OPFA WASTE total budget: 607,141.54 €
90% of which funded through a grant from the European Union's Internal Security Fund - Police



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UPDATES

OPFA WASTE Kick Off and first project Management Board meeting

Opportunity to officially engage partners and re-confirm DG Home expectations on project activities and results. **Day 1** was dedicated to the official presentation of the Consortium Agreement, confirmation of project Board Members responsibilities and planning of project's upcoming activities. Terms of Reference for the Operational Facility were presented, discussed and ratified by all the participants. **Day 2** was dedicated to the presentation of the main project monitoring tools, including financial, administrative planning and timeline for project implementation.

2-3 April 2020 – Video Conference

State of Play in the European Scenario Report



A two days virtual meeting of the OPFA WASTE Team of Experts kick-started Work Package 2 implementation. Environmental, financial and organised crime experts were provided with existing intelligence, legislative and investigative methodologies in the field of environmental crime, as a baseline to be updated throughout project duration. An initial set of guidelines for updating investigative methodologies on Illicit Waste Trafficking was sketched and a Report on the State of Play in the European scenario was developed.

23-24 April 2020 – Video Conference

OPFA Preparatory Phase launched

The OPERational FACility (OPFA) Preparatory Phase of the OPFA-WASTE project is ready to support on-going transnational investigations on Illicit Waste Trafficking.

The OPFA Waste support scheme provides financial assistance on the implementation and successful completion of police operations. The Preparatory Phase, open to project partners, is designed to technically test the Facility in view of the Action Phase - open from March 2021 to all Law Enforcement Agencies fighting illicit waste trafficking.

The cases selected for funding within the Preparatory Phase encompass different aspects of environmental crime and are oriented to effectively combat the current threats within the European Region, targeting EU and extra-EU waste traffickers nowadays operative.



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INSIGHTS



DG Home ISF Police projects 2018 Kick Off

Carabinieri Corps and SAFE attended the official presentation of awarded projects funded by the EU Commission, DG Home, in the scope of the ISF – Police Action Grant, among which the OPFA-WASTE.

(Bruxelles, Belgium, 18 February 2020)



OPFA-WASTE Project Leader Carabinieri Corps took part to the EnviCrimeNet Annual General Meeting

Hosted in 2020 by the Spanish Guardia Civil for the environment SEPRONA, the plenary session was an opportunity to outline new scenarios, seek areas for improvement in combating serious and organised crime affecting the European Union, support the EU stakeholders' decisions at strategic level and encouraging MSs in the fight against environmental crime.

(Madrid, Spain, 2-4 March 2020)

ISF-Police funded OPFA-WASTE and STRiKe Projects creating synergies

OPFA WASTE and STRIKE project teams created synergies to maximise projects' potential and avoid duplications. Both aimed at fighting environmental crimes, OPFA-WASTE targets illicit waste trafficking in general, while STRIKE focuses on illegal trade and management of problematic waste streams. With OPFA-WASTE implemented by a consortium of specialized Law Enforcement Agencies and STRIKE by a consortium of professionals ranging from UN and police universities, research centres and public institutions, the two complementary approaches benefit each other's. OPFA-WASTE Organised Crime expert is part of the High Level Advisory Board (H-LAB) set up under STRIKE to provide advice and technical insight in matters of competence, and assist in the dissemination of project's results.

We thank STRIKE partners for the fruitful collaboration so far, and for the inputs on problematic waste streams!

(5 June 2020 – Video Conference)



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UPCOMING EVENTS

2021 Operational Action Plan (OAP) design to combat Environmental Crime - EMPACT priority within the EU Policy Cycle

In 2021 part of the OPFA WASTE supported joint investigations will be carried out in the framework of EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats), launched to coordinate actions by Member States and EU organisations against Environmental Crime. The Carabinieri Corps, OPFA WASTE project leader, will take part to the meetings cycle taking place in late 2020 for the definition of the 2021 Operational Action Plan (OAP) to combat Environmental Crime.

OPFA-WASTE Meet the Experts event

Side public debate to Work Package 2 First Operational Workshop, originally planned for July 2020 in Bucharest and delayed due to Covid19 emergency measures. Open to students, CSOs and journalists to discuss about environmental crime and IWT risks, as well as positive developments in their fight thanks to joint work of EU LEAs.

4 Networks Conference “Towards a more effective environmental enforcement”

Originally planned on 24-25 September 2020 in Florence, the 4 Networks Joint Conference is postponed to 2021 due to Covid19 emergency. A range of topics have been announced and include keynote speeches about the Green Deal, the GENVAL report of the Council of the EU, the evaluation of ecological damage, and recent developments on capacity building and training. 5 parallel workshops will include presentations of real cases followed by interactive debates on relevant issues for actors in the enforcement chain:

- Confiscation of illegal environmental crime benefits;
- Better coordination and exchange of information between administrative and criminal investigation and sanctioning;
- Innovative investigation techniques (e.g. use of drone and satellites);
- BIOVAL / evaluation of ecological damage in wildlife cases;
- Climate change emergency.

For more information contact us at info@opfawaste-project.eu