JUSTICE & HOME AFFAIRS
AGENCIES' NETWORK
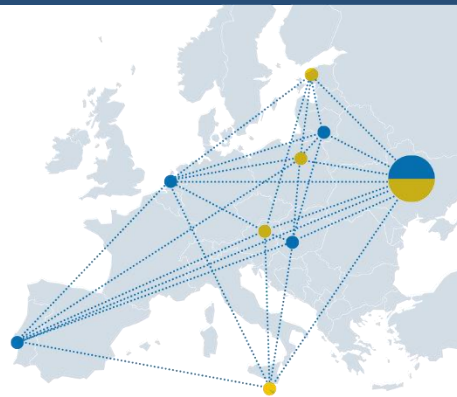
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JOINT PAPER

JUSTICE & HOME AFFAIRS
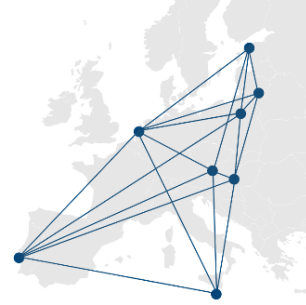### AGENCIES' NETWORK

Contributing to the EU's solidarity with Ukraine

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Introduction

Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine, which started on 24 February 2022, triggered a firm and overarching political response by the European Union. Actions in the justice and home affairs policy field are integral parts of this response, with a paramount importance for a successful implementation. The nine EU Agencies cooperating within the Justice and Home Affairs Agencies' Network (JHAAN) play a vital role in this process, by contributing to the implementation of the political decisions made on European level, assisting Member States and relevant other countries and providing support to people affected by the war; in particular persons displaced from Ukraine.

The JHAAN issued a **Joint Statement** on 7 March, declaring the nine Agencies' commitment to provide assistance, in line with the measures agreed at the Justice and Home Affairs Council of 3-4 March, and the outcomes of the extraordinary Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting on 27 February. Consequently, the later policy developments, e.g. the 10-Point Plan of the European Commission for stronger European coordination on welcoming people fleeing the war from Ukraine, have also been guiding the Agencies' response.

The contributions of the Agencies are determined by their respective mandates, and in many cases, they also build on synergies established by inter-agency cooperation. Despite the existing challenges in terms of resources, each of the nine Agencies have engaged in a substantial number of actions in a very short time, and Agencies have been able to provide tangible solutions and support. This would not have been possible without the commitment of the Agencies and their staff to do their utmost and to contribute to the EU solidarity in this historic period.
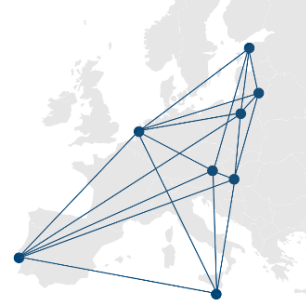
While the JHA Agencies' responses cover a broad spectrum of activities, ranging from actions on the ground to those in cyberspace, the following key areas where these responses are the most prevalent, may be identified:

- Production of specific analytical products and reports;
- Identifying key fundamental rights challenges and ways to overcome them;
- Operational support to the investigations of core international crimes allegedly committed in Ukraine;
- Information provision-related activities and support;
- Support, including operational support to Member States' authorities (with a particular emphasis to Member States bordering Ukraine and Moldova);
- Contribution to the enforcement of EU sanctions;
- Support to the authorities of Ukraine and Moldova.

The CEPOL's Chairmanship of the JHAAN compiled this overview with the intention to present the European Institutions and the general public a concise, yet comprehensive document, to be used as a source of reference, on how the nine JHA Agencies support the EU and Member States and several EU partners (third countries and international organisations) in view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As long as the current circumstances remain unchanged, it is considered as a living document to be regularly updated.

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European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL)

CEPOL hosted **a series of ad hoc webinars** to help brace for the impact of the Ukrainian conflict on the work of EU law enforcement officials. 5 webinars, with special attention to fundamental rights aspects, were implemented from 11 March to 25 April 2022 with a total outreach of 1023 participants.[2]

CEPOL is conducting **a training needs analysis** on the impact of the war in Ukraine. Data gathering took place via online survey between 30 April and 31 May from strategic and operational level actors. The report is being finalised and will be published during summer 2022.

CEPOL has been engaging with DG JUST, EUAM Ukraine and Ukrainian counterparts on various aspects of potential training for Ukrainian authorities upon a request by the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice for a number of specialized forensic trainings and with the Council of Europe for potential open-source intelligence training for Ukraine. Furthermore, CEPOL is examining the possibilities of launching a new project of learning communities to assist Ukraine, Moldova and adjacent Member States, with the objective of bringing Ukrainian and European Union law enforcement agencies closely together in fighting serious and organised crime and corruption while protecting victims and EU funds. By using the learning community methodology, law enforcement and justice sector practitioners will engage with civil society and non-state institutions such as non-governmental and international organisations or academia to learn from each other and share knowledge and good practices.

In the framework of the **capacity-building project TOPCOP**, implemented by CEPOL, Moldova and Ukraine have been beneficiary countries. The Russian aggression against Ukraine affected the TOPCOP project business continuity given that Ukraine cannot participate in the activities. Following the request of DG NEAR, CEPOL elaborated a scenario analysis that factored the time and the geographical scale of the war. In this regard, TOPCOP project team conducted a stakeholder analysis with the partners to identify alternative solutions for the continuation of the project. The

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[1] Contributions are included in alphabetical order of the acronyms of the individual agencies.

[2] The full list of the webinars is as follows:

Date	Course full name	Participants	Satisfaction Rate
11/03/2022	3078/2022/WEB 'Border Guard Management in the Context of the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis'	199	97.81%
25/03/2022	3079/2022/WEB 'Preventing and detecting trafficking in human beings affecting people fleeing from Ukraine'	304	94.42%
24/03/2022	3080/2022/WEB 'Fundamental rights and Vulnerabilities of Refugees in the Context of the Ukrainian War'	168	97.25%
06/04/2022	3082/2022/WEB 'INVISIBLE CHILDREN: Identifying and responding to children victims of trafficking in the context of the Ukrainian crisis'	223	97.84%
25/04/2022	3083/2022/WEB 'Key fundamental rights risks at the EU-Ukraine borders'	129	95.79%

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outcomes ensure the continued participation of Moldova and Ukraine in the project and address some special needs emerged since the start of the Russian aggression against Ukraine:

Moldova

- TOPCOP is supporting the assessment of the law enforcement educational system focused on enhancing institutional capacity, which later will be included in the Multiannual Institutional Agenda Development Strategy that will present an overview of the reformed agenda. This assessment will provide an overview of the current situation and will enable a set of recommendations to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to develop a roadmap with clear objectives in the area of law enforcement educational system. On the long term, an improved educational system will represent the baseline for Ministry of Internal Affairs to fight against organized crime. In this regard, CEPOL set up an expert team which conducted an analysis (including inception report, stakeholder analysis, mapping the challenges, recommendations, desk research, face to face meeting, online interviews) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs educational system. The final report was delivered to the partners from Moldova for endorsement.
- CEPOL organised a study visit in Lithuania with focus on cross-border cooperation and facilitation of illegal immigration. Also, Moldova participated in the sub-regional course Facilitation of illegal immigration – human rights compliant interview techniques (GE, MD, AZ).
- To support Moldova in the field of cyber-attacks, TOPCOP organised three webinars in the field of Cyber investigations utilising OSINT tools, Dark web and ATM hacking: investigation, synopsis, guidelines.

Ukraine

- CEPOL (TOPCOP project) in cooperation with Europol and Member States intends to organise a training course about war crime investigation by the end of 2022.

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**European Institute
for Gender Equality (EIGE)**

The Russian invasion in Ukraine brought further security, migration, social and economic challenges, with gender equality being an important factor of both emerging issues and solutions. It also led millions of Ukrainians, mainly women with children, to flee the country. Displaced women and children experience stress and trauma, health complications (particularly for pregnant women), injury, and the risk of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking. Women victims of sexual violence need access to sexual and reproductive health services. Women also typically take on caring roles for children and older relatives, which increases their need for support and protection.

Commission's response to support Ukraine is guiding EIGE's work, specifically in the areas of gender-based violence and gender mainstreaming. EIGE is also preparing to cover ad-hoc requests for support from EU institutions in the area of protecting victims of gender-based violence and providing access to services and justice.

Operational support

Access to specialised healthcare services, how refugees can realise their sexual and reproductive rights in the EU

EIGE is starting a project to map the healthcare services in place in the EU-27, which target the victims of conflict-related sexual violence, and to assess how the victims can realise their sexual and reproductive rights.

EIGE will gather country-level information on the healthcare services available to victims of sexual violence and the implementation of the EU legal provisions in this regard. The project will seek to assess the gaps and challenges in provision of reproductive and sexual healthcare services essential for victims of conflict related sexual violence e.g. psychological counselling, ob-gyn care, emergency contraception and safe abortion (4 selected Member States). A primary focus will be to refugee women (girls) arriving in the EU due to situation in Ukraine.

As a result, EIGE will provide a list of physical and mental health support services available at MS level across EU-27 and a report mapping and analysing the challenges faced by women in accessing the available services and in exercising their sexual and reproductive rights. These will be communicated via most appropriate channels to reach the intended audiences.

EIGE's support to FRA's work on human rights abuses against women fleeing the war in Ukraine, including violence

EIGE will be supporting FRA in its project to collect data on women's experiences of human rights abuses and violence as a result of the war in Ukraine, in war territories, in transit and upon arrival in
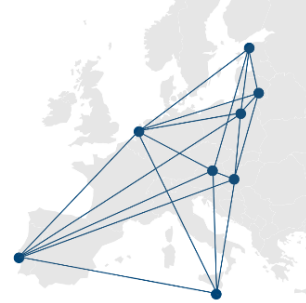
the EU. In order to reflect human rights abuses experienced by women displaced from Ukraine, in particular different forms of violence against women, EIGE will cooperate with FRA in conducting a survey in four Member States that host the largest number of war refugee women.

The survey will be launched at the end of 2022 and the data will be collected in 2023. EIGE will contribute to the implementation of this project as a member of the steering committee alongside with other international and EU organisations, institutions and agencies. The new survey will contribute to evidence-based responses to violence and related human rights abuses experienced by women displaced from Ukraine.

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European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

**European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction
(EMCDDA)**

Since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24 2022, the EMCDDA has undertaken several actions to support the EU institutions and the Member States in their effort to respond to the crisis situation. The activities were conducted in several areas related to the EMCDDA work and covered:

- Initial assessment and coordination;
- Real-time monitoring and preparedness;
- Rapid assessment and reporting;
- Communication and information dissemination.

Initial assessment and coordination

- Since 2019 within the framework of the EU-funded project EU4Monitoring Drugs (EU4MD[3]), the EMCDDA has been cooperating with Ukrainian institutions and experts in order to strengthen their capacity to identify and respond to drug-related security and health threats. As a result, on 22 February, the EMCDDA Director organised an internal assessment meeting with the EU4MD project team to discuss the potential impact of the escalation of the conflict in eastern Ukraine on drug services in the country.
- Consequently, on 9 March, a follow-up meeting was organised with senior specialists and management of the EMCDDA to further analyse the impact of the war on the drug-related situation. The key objective of the meeting was to prepare **a briefing note for the EU institutions and the Member States on the drug-related situation in Ukraine and its impact on the health and security of the European Union.**
- A separate meeting was organised on 14 March with the Heads of the EMCDDA Reitox National Focal Points (NFPs) bordering Ukraine (Poland, Romania, Slovakia & Hungary) **to assess the situation and possible support needed given the high influx of migrants from Ukraine to those countries**.
- Simultaneously, the European Commission, EU agencies (e.g. ECDC, EMCDDA) and other international actors (e.g. WHO, Eurasia Harm Reduction Association) **set up coordination platforms to organise and manage actions, prioritise resources, and facilitate networking between relevant stakeholders in Europe and Ukraine.** Regular online coordination meetings have been organised to discuss ongoing activities and address particular challenges in the access to drug treatment, testing and treatment of infectious diseases and other harm reduction interventions for those displaced in need of these services. Since the beginning, the EMCDDA has contributed to the weekly meetings of the group and the continuous exchange of relevant information regarding health responses. One of the priorities in the drugs and infectious disease area was to ensure continued access to Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) and HIV medicines to those in need, especially those already receiving these treatments in Ukraine. In mid-March, **a list of OAT and Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) sites and national contact points for refugees was compiled through the EMCDDA NFPs and shared with WHO.** The EMCDDA also shared a list of its NFPs to facilitate communication between different organisations and institutions

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[3] https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/eu4md_en

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actively involved in providing drug-related support to people displaced from Ukraine at the EU and national levels.

Real-time monitoring and preparedness

- EMCDDA created **a public health task force** to monitor the situation in Ukraine and EU countries most affected by the influx of people displaced from Ukraine. Weekly meetings were established to discuss the epidemiological situation, responsiveness and preparedness in addressing drug-related needs in the EU MS.
- EMCDDA provided updates on the situation during regular meetings with the Civil Society Forum, DG Santé, and ECDC on a continuum of OST and ART for people who use drugs.
- EU4MD Ukraine's focal point participates in weekly **online Support to Ukraine Regional coordination calls** convened by the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA). They aim to keep abreast of the latest situation on access to OST, harm reduction, testing and treatment of internally displaced Ukrainians and Ukrainians displaced in the EU.

Rapid assessment and reporting

- In mid- March, **the EMCDDA launched a rapid assessment study ('Trendspotter study') to assess the initial response of the drug services to the needs of displaced Ukrainians who use drugs and to investigate the preparedness of the EU MS in the drugs area.** The rapid data collection drew on various data sources, including:
    - An analysis of grey and open-source literature,
    - an online survey of focal points in 24 Member States,
    - focus groups with representatives from bordering countries, international organisations and Polish health workers,
    - a statistical modelling exercise, and
    - presentations from two European drug expert meetings.
- The key findings from the study were presented and discussed with the MSs representatives at the EMCDDA Management Board Meeting in June and should be publicly available early August 2022.
- Analysis of the situation was also undertaken in the EMCDDA expert meetings with professionals from Ukraine and the EU countries reporting on drug-related situations and responses, such us:
    - The 10th Extended Reitox Network meeting, involving the 29 Reitox NFPs and representatives of the agency's key partner countries, organised in May 2022 to discuss 'Contemporary drug issues among youth — European Year of Youth'. A dedicated session with partners from Ukraine focused on young people in crisis situations, the possible impact on drug use and existing interventions.
    - The regular Heads of Reitox NFPs meeting in May featured a special session to exchange of information on the countries' preparedness to respond to the needs of displaced Ukrainians.
    - The expert meetings, such as Problem Drug Use in April and Treatment Demand Indicator in June, examined the current situation and needs in the drug area.

Communication and Information dissemination

- Online **Information Hub on EMCDDA website for drug professionals and people displaced from Ukraine is under development.** The Hub will aim to share drug-related
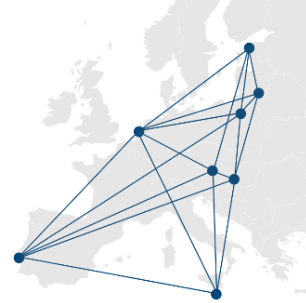
information produced by EMCDDA and other stakeholders in the drugs field, such as existing online platforms (webpages, applications) and information materials (posters and leaflets) to raise awareness and promote available drug services in the EU MS among displaced populations. These will be available in Ukraine or Russia when accessible. Moreover, it will contain contacts to international and local partners who can provide drug-related support, epidemiological information and guidance for professionals working with displaced populations in the drugs area.

- Within the EU4MD project, translation of multiple project outputs into Ukrainian is being planned; these will include, among others, translation of a Factsheet of the European Web-survey on Drugs in Ukraine and EU4MD briefing on prevention systems in ENP countries. The European Prevention Curriculum training modules will also be translated to Ukrainian to enable launching the on/line training for Ukrainian experts through the dedicated EMCDDA platform 'PLATO'.
- At the request of the EU MSs the agency will provide further assistance where needed and possible, for example, translation and production support of some of the drug prevention, treatment and harm reduction material to Ukrainian.

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European Union Agency For Asylum (EUAA)

The EUAA has joined the global community in condemning the unprovoked armed invasion of Ukraine. In the weeks preceding the invasion, the EUAA worked very closely with the European Commission, other EU Agencies, as well as Member States, in order to be prepared for any scenario whereby armed conflict in Ukraine leading to a sudden increase in individuals seeking international protection in the EU.

On 4 March 2022, the Council unanimously adopted an Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 introducing temporary protection due to the mass influx of persons fleeing Ukraine as a consequence of the war. The EUAA is supporting Member State in the implementation of the Council Decision. As per Article 3 thereof, the role of the EUAA is to contribute to keeping the situation under constant monitoring and review and to provide operational support to the Member States who request the Agency's assistance to help them cope with the situation including for the purpose of applying the Council Implementing Decision.

The EUAA established a Ukraine Emergency Response Board by an Executive Director Decision (57/2022) on 4 March 2022 to coordinate and monitor the Agency's response to all matters relating to the war in Ukraine. The Board meets on a regular basis to make strategic decisions and adapt the Agency's response, as required.

The EUAA also provides regular updates to the EU Migration Preparedness and Crisis Management Blueprint Network and the EU Integrated Political Crisis Response arrangements (IPCR) on the situation in Ukraine. It also contributes to the Solidarity Platform launched by the European Commission.
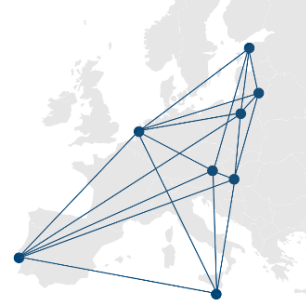
Operational support

In order for the EUAA to provide Member States with operational support in relation to the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive as per the Council Decision, it was first necessary for the requesting Member States to have transposed the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) into their national legislation. Once this was done, Member States made an official request to the EUAA for additional support, and a Rapid Needs assessment (RNA) was performed to identify these needs. Depending on the needs identified in the RNA, an Operational Plan (OP) or an amendment to the existing OP was prepared for signature. The amended operating plans included a specific measure on TPD and re-prioritised current measures in the existing OPs.

- EUAA currently provides operational support to 11 EU Member States (BE, CZ, CY, EL, ES, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, RO). And of those, the Agency provides specific operational support **regarding Ukraine/Temporary Protection Directive (TPD)** to **8 Member States (BE, CZ, CY, EL, ES, IT, MT and RO).**
- Operational support provided in the context of the UA situation inter alia consists of:
  - screening and registration
  - Information provision
  - interpretation services
  - early identification of persons with special needs

> o   support to flow management

Support to partner/third countries

For the first time, the EUAA has also deployed its personnel to non-EU country – **Moldova**, in the context of voluntary transfers of displaced persons falling under temporary protection from Moldova to the territory of pledging EU Member States. The EUAA focuses its support on information provision directly in Moldova.

The EUAA is also supporting **Western Balkan** (WB) partners with the challenges resulting from the Russian aggression against Ukraine, particularly those that activated legislation/systems similar to the TPD. The Agency organised online meetings on topics related to temporary protection to exchange best practices and experience, involving WB partners and some Member States experts.

Analytical support

- EUAA regularly performs analysis **and reports** on asylum temporary protection in the EU+ in the context of the Ukraine crisis to ensure **constant situational monitoring and preparedness.**
- EUAA Situational Update series presents the latest emergency measures which have been adopted by EU+ countries to address the influx of displaced persons from Ukraine.
- The EUAA has swiftly set up a systematic daily data collection on TP registrations allowing for an up-to-date situational picture.
- The Agency also undertakes **joint analysis providing a prognosis of the Ukrainian flows to EU** and launched the **Survey of Arriving Migrants from Ukraine (SAM-UKR)** to gather qualitative information on displaced populations from Ukraine (demography, family composition, expectations, destinations, profiles, migration experience, etc). Based on the replies received so far (the survey is still open), the Agency has prepared a factsheet.
- The Agency has created Who-is-Who platform (Who is who in International Protection - Temporary Protection for Displaced Persons from Ukraine), which provides a current and comprehensive overview to keep track of who is doing what and where, mapping many new and different authorities working on TPD registrations (key stakeholders and their role).

Training, tools and other support

- The Agency has developed **training on temporary protection** covering the general framework regarding the Temporary Protection Directive, Council Decision 2022/382 and the recent Communications of the Commission establishing guidelines regarding the former (C/2022/1806). This training is available in webinar format and is primarily dedicated to staff of asylum and reception authorities, dealing with the application of the TPD.
- Specialised training is provided to personnel involved in information provision covering topics such as the legal framework and context of TP, identification of vulnerabilities superficially children and potential victims of human trafficking and soft skills related to communication and information provision workflows.
- **The training package** includes:
  - o   Provision of information and communication to displaced people from Ukraine, including orientation on the use of information provision tools and products produced by EUAA
  - o   Introduction to legal framework on fundamental rights and international protection

- o Introduction to Temporary Protection and understanding the current framework in the context of the war in Ukraine
  - o Introduction the ethical and professional standards
  - o Introduction to vulnerability
  - o Trafficking in Human Beings (level 1 dealing with general awareness raising)
  - o Thematic session on communication with displaced children
  - o Thematic session on communication with persons witnessing traumatic events
- Furthermore, the European Asylum Curriculum offers several training courses and modules, which could support officials and other actors acting on behalf of national authorities in assisting, in various capacities, people fleeing war in Ukraine.
- A Catalogue and Planner for training support has been distributed to Member States.
- **In terms of tools**, EUAA's various **thematic networks** (e.g. COI Network, Reception Network, Asylum processes Network, Country Guidance Network, Vulnerability Expert Network, Exclusion network) have held dedicated meetings on Ukraine. Some of the topics involved: Mental health support of children and women during high influx, impact of the conflict in Ukraine on reception, private housing, coordination and response to gender-based violence.
- The agency has developed **guidance,** a recent example is a set of practical recommendations on the provision of emergency placement in private accommodation.
- **In terms of information provision,** EUAA developed general **leaflets**, including a special **leaflet for children** on TP to inform beneficiaries on what it is about, in an understandable manner. These leaflets are available in Ukrainian, Russian and in 12 EU languages[4].
- The Agency is developing **MS-specific electronic information booklets**[5] to provide additional information aiming to support displaced persons fleeing Ukraine to take informed decisions with regard to the EU+ countries where they could register for Temporary Protection and thus the booklets include practical information on how to access rights and services in EU+ countries. All booklets are being produced in EN and after finalisation, they are being translated into UA and RU). The booklets can be accessed here.
- A **poster** on the self-identification of special needs and vulnerabilities among people fleeing Ukraine will be available in English, Russian and Ukrainian around end of June.
- The Agency is also working with DG Home to implement **the Communication Strategy**, aimed at encouraging Ukrainians to register for TPD and to move beyond frontline MS. The Agency has already produced **three** video testimonials on social media giving authentic examples of Ukrainians who have found safety in the EU and assuring Ukrainians on all aspects of temporary protection.
- **A dedicated section on the EUAA website** focused on the agency's response to the UA situation was created.

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[4] Bulgarian, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, Spanish
[5] AT, CH, DE, DK, EL, FR, IT, LT, LV, NO, ES, NL, CZ, PT, IE, BE, BG, PL, SK, MT, CY. These booklets are at different stages of development.

eU-LISA

**European Union Agency
for the Operational Management
of Large-Scale IT Systems (eu-LISA)**

From the onset of the conflict, eu-LISA has been actively involved in supporting Member States ensuring the uninterrupted availability of the border management systems. The Agency enhanced its vigilance on the large scale IT systems and on the corporate infrastructure in view of increased cyber risks. In addition to that:

- eu-LISA contributes to in the **Integrated Political Crisis Response (ICPR)** working group that facilitates rapid and coordinated decision-making at an EU political level for major and complex crises, supporting the European Commission on matters related to large-scale IT systems in the JHA domain. In addition, at an operational level, the Agency also attends the meetings of the Blueprint migration network and contributes with regular reporting to inform the European Commission on the use of the systems and cyber threat levels, for related policy making.
- The use of several of the IT systems under eu-LISA´s responsibility has increased over the past months. Member States reported an increase in Schengen Information System (SIS) queries and an increase in Eurodac usage.
- eu-LISA has been vigilantly monitoring cyber threats to the Central Systems managed by the Agency: the **Schengen Information System (SIS), the Visa Information System (VIS) and Eurodac**. Permanent monitoring is ongoing and pertinent information is communicated to relevant parties.
- Moreover, eu-LISA has provided expert support to the European Commission in the development of the Registration Platform for the registration of migrants from Ukraine under within the scope of the Temporary Protection Directive. eu-LISA is ready to further extend its support, where necessary, to ensure that there are tools in place for the effective exchange of data between Member States concerning people arriving from and leaving for Ukraine.
- Furthermore, several initiatives have been launched within eu-LISA to provide support to the refugees through charity actions.

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EUROJUST

**European Union Agency
for Criminal Justice
Cooperation (Eurojust)**

Eurojust's work related to the Russian aggression against Ukraine is focused on both core international crimes allegedly committed in Ukraine and the financial sanctions imposed by the EU on Russian and Belarussian individuals and companies.

Core International Crimes

Operational support to the Joint Investigation Team

Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine have set up a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to investigate core international crimes allegedly committed in Ukraine. They were later joined by Estonia, Latvia and Slovakia. The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) joined the JIT as a participant. Eurojust, in cooperation with the JITs Network Secretariat, hosted by Eurojust, provides a wide range of operational support to this JIT, including:

- Legal, by drafting the JIT agreement and subsequent amendments;
- Analytical, by structuring the available information and evidence;
- Technical and logistical, by providing e.g. phones, laptops, scanners and printers;
- Financial, by reimbursing for example the costs of travel, accommodation, interpretation, and the translation of evidence and forensic reports.

Coordination with other Ukraine related cases

There are more and more EU Member States opening their own, national investigation related to the aggression against Ukraine. Some do this because one of their citizens has fallen victim to a crime committed in the context of the war, while others base themselves on the principle of universal jurisdiction. They might join the JIT at a later stage or open a separate case at Eurojust. In the meantime, Eurojust is making sure that all these investigative efforts are coordinated.

Central preservation, analysis and storage of core international crime evidence

Evidence of core international crimes is located in many different jurisdictions and there are many different stakeholders involved in the collection process, including states, the ICC, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). Meanwhile, refugees who can provide crucial witness or victim statements continue to spread globally. It is against this background that on 1 June 2022, after a legislative procedure of unprecedented speed and unity, an amendment to the Eurojust Regulation entered into force that allows Eurojust to centrally preserve, analyse and store evidence relating to genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and related criminal offences, including photographs, satellite images, videos and audio recordings. With this new mandate, Eurojust will move from a scattered to a structured approach, providing prosecutors with a detailed analysis of the available evidence that will directly assist them in building their case. This will serve both the JIT supported by Eurojust, criminal cases before national jurisdictions and the possible prosecution by the ICC.

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Strategic initiatives

Eurojust hosts the Secretariat of the European Network for investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes ('Genocide Network'): a unique knowledge hub with robust experience in the investigation and prosecution of core international crimes. Eurojust and the Genocide Network Secretariat are delivering targeted, practical workshops for national practitioners from Member States and Ukraine with active cases related to the Russian aggression against Ukraine. These workshops address *inter alia* best practices regarding witness interviewing and cooperation with NGOs and CSOs. In close cooperation with the ICC, Eurojust and the Genocide Network Secretariat are also providing information and guidance to those collecting potential evidence in order to ensure that it is properly channelled to official authorities and admissible in upcoming judicial proceedings.

The Secretariat of the JITs Network, hosted by Eurojust, also contributes to the sharing of best practice and experience in the setting up and operation of JITs that can be used to enhance cooperation with countries affected by an armed conflict (JITs in times of conflict).

Financial sanctions
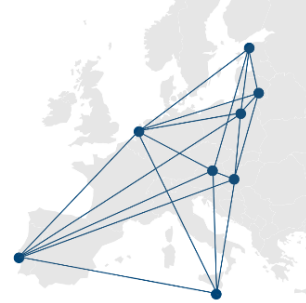
Freeze & Seize Task Force

Eurojust is a member of the Freeze & Seize Task Force established by the Commission. The list of individuals and companies sanctioned by the EU is currently being cross-checked against the data in Eurojust's Case Management System, while the Member States have been requested to provide additional information on their national proceedings. This allows Eurojust to identify links, provide support to any cross-border cases Eurojust is competent to deal with, including economic crime cases (e.g. money laundering and violation of sanctions), and facilitate the seizure and confiscation of assets. In addition, the presence of the Ukrainian and the U.S. Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust enables Eurojust to coordinate with the Task Force initiated by the UA and the US ('KleptoCapture') and a similar initiative in the context of the G7.

Operation OSCAR

Eurojust participates in Operation Oscar led by Europol, targeting criminal assets owned by individuals and legal entities sanctioned in relation to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In the context of this operation, Eurojust and Europol exchange strategic and operational information. Eurojust's main role is to provide legal assistance and support the cooperation between national investigating and judicial authorities.

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EUROPOL

**European Union Agency
for Law Enforcement
Cooperation (Europol)**

Europol activated all its support capabilities, through its five operational centres (Operational & Analysis Centre; Serious Organised Crime Centre, Cybercrime Centre; Counter Terrorism Centre and the Financial and Economic Crime Centre) and is actively engaging with Ukrainian law enforcement through the Ukrainian Liaison Officer at Europol.

- Operational and strategic analysis of key organised crime and terrorists threats related to the situation in Ukraine, including two dedicated Threat Assessments, an Early Warning Notification on THB, and an Intelligence Notification on Firearms and explosives trafficking.
- Deployment of Europol staff and Guest Officers to conduct secondary security checks (21, as of 12/07/22) to Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova.
- Link frontline information (from Member States and other sources) with Europol's analysis.
- Improve intelligence picture through the collection and assessment of information to detect terrorist and criminal threats and identification of individuals posing a risk.
- Activate networking possibilities through Liaison Bureaux community to support specific requests from the Ukrainian Liaison Bureau.
- Intelligence gathering and operational monitoring (including through the EU Internet Referral Unit) of violent extremists travelling to Ukraine and streams of communication, financing or recruitment.
- Responding to operational requests (including from Ukraine and Moldova) to take down specific Telegram channels used for pro-Russian disinformation and fake news (EC3 and EU Internet Referral Unit).
- Set up of a dedicated Virtual Command Post for THB (SPRING) to facilitate real-time operational exchange between Ukraine, Romania, Austria, Hungary, Germany, Slovak Republic, Moldova and Poland.
- Temporary THB Task Management Group to discuss operational matters at the earliest stage.
- Efforts to strengthen cooperation with NGOs in the field (compiling a list of trusted NGOs).
- Activation of the Law Enforcement Emergency Response Protocol (LE ERP) for Major Cross-Border Cyber-Attacks.
- Enhanced monitoring of the cyber threats through constant contact with Member States, the Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT) and open source monitoring.
- Support investigations on war crimes through the Analysis Project Core International Crimes (AP CIC).
- Online monitoring in search of material potentially connected to war crimes.
- Launch of Operation OSCAR to crosscheck EU sanctions lists against available operational data; identify links to organised crime and Money Laundering; and support the tracing and seizure of criminal assets.
- Support to European Commission led initiatives e.g. Freeze and Seize Task Force, Common Anti-trafficking Plan, Solidarity Platform, Blueprint meetings.
- Supporting the mobilisation of the EMPACT framework through intelligence led approach and hosting EMPACT community on 7 April and 9 June to tailor operational actions to evolving threats.

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JUSTICE &
HOME AFFAIRS
AGENCIES' NETWORK

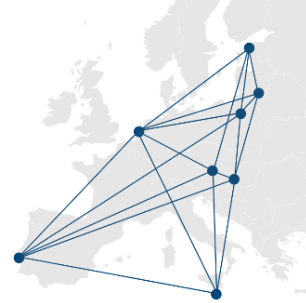**European Union Agency
for Fundamental
Rights (FRA)**

- FRA has set up a taskforce to coordinate activities within the limits of its mandate and capacity to address the fundamental rights challenges for the EU since the beginning of the war in Ukraine on the basis of the following principles:
  - The war in Ukraine is the gravest threat to human rights in Europe of this generation. It has grave implications for respect for fundamental rights in the EU.
  - The dominant fundamental rights issues which FRA will focus on relate to the situation of the millions of people displaced into the EU and the challenges for local communities that host them. In this regard, FRA will engage with a range of issues affecting fundamental rights, including the reception and integration of people fleeing the war, rights of the child and child protection, social and economic rights, protection of women against violence and exploitation, patterns of hate speech and responses thereto, and the risk of attention being deflected from existing fundamental rights concerns.
- FRA is a **member of the EU Mechanism for Preparedness and Crises Management on Migration (_Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint_)**. FRA shares information with the network about fundamental rights concerns.
- FRA contributes to discussions involving the European Commission and relevant international organisations – including the Council of Europe, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, etc. – informing them of the situation and providing FRA's expertise as appropriate.

FRA related activities so far

- **EU-Ukrainian border check points: First field observations (23 March 2022):** One week after the start of the Russian aggression, from 3-14 March 2022, FRA visited the borders of the four EU Member States bordering Ukraine (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania) to observe the fast-developing situation. FRA met with police and/or border authorities, local authorities, civil society actors active in the areas covered, volunteers, FRONTEX staff and international governmental organisations (UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM). FRA also spoke with several Ukrainian nationals fleeing war, including Roma, and other non-Ukrainian third country nationals. On 23 March, FRA published its observations; highlighting in particular the risk of trafficking in human beings.
- **Ukraine Bulletin 1 (19 May 2022):** FRA published its first Ukraine Bulletin, covering four EU Member States neighbouring Ukraine (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania). The findings focus on the application of the EU Temporary Protection Directive (hereinafter TPD).
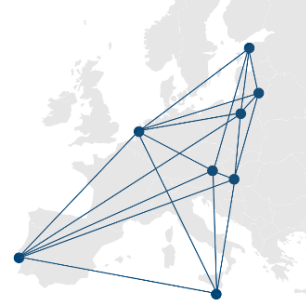
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Next steps – current & upcoming projects from 2022

- **Bulletins**: FRA plans to publish two more bulletins in 2022, one in the autumn and one in December, providing an overview of the impact of the war in Ukraine on fundamental rights within the EU. The bulletins will provide an EU-wide overview of legal and policy measures in place responding both to the unprecedented displacement of people fleeing the war, their implementation on the ground and reactions by civil society and other actors, as well as fundamental rights issues arising from the changing security architecture in Europe.

- **Online survey of displaced persons fleeing Ukraine**. The survey will examine the experiences of displaced persons fleeing the war in accessing, for example, employment, education, healthcare, housing, childcare and language learning. It will also look at experiences of violence or discrimination. The survey will cover selected Member States, including those with the largest shares of displaced persons from Ukraine, such as Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Spain.

- **Overview and assessment of the situation at local level:** Based on interviews with local authorities responsible for implementing the TPD on the ground, FRA will explore how local authorities are managing and will highlight innovative and promising practices.

- **Online table on national legal and administrative measures implementing the Temporary Protection Directive:** FRA will publish an online table with up-to-date country-level information on the relevant legal and administrative measures taken by EU Member States, which will be regularly updated.

- **Violence and related human rights abuses against women fleeing the war in Ukraine**: This project will deliver robust statistical data for selected Member States on the extent and nature of women's experiences of violence and related human rights abuses as a result of the war, covering their experiences in Ukraine, in transit and on arrival in the EU. The survey will also collect data on the extent and nature of violence, as well as information on perpetrators, whether incidents were reported and access to victim support services.

FRONTEX

**European Border and
Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)**

Situation awareness and monitoring

With the start of the war, Frontex activated a crisis response mechanism and established a dedicated crisis response team which operates 24/7. Through this mechanism, Frontex provides regular updates to the Member States and the EU institutions on the situation at border crossing points and monitors refugee flows to support awareness, border control activities, including facilitation of border crossings, and evacuation corridors. Twice a week the Agency provides situational reports with overview of the key developments in Ukraine from the recent period. The Agency is also producing weekly reports on the situation along the EU-Russian borders and the migratory situation in the Baltic states. Furthermore, Frontex has prepared several specific assessments of the impact of the war in the context of the European integrated border management and coast guard functions, such as: Scenarios on the situation in Ukraine and repercussions for the border management, Report on Food security and migration, Threat Assessment on cross-border criminal activities and implications of the war in the maritime domain. Additionally, the Agency reports on the consequences of the war in its risk analysis products issued on monthly, quarterly, and annual basis. Frontex analytical products feed into to the Blueprint reports of the European Commission on migratory implications of the Russian invasion of Ukraine as well as inform the public about the migratory movements toward and outwards the EU.

Operational support to the Member States

Frontex stepped up its operational support on the ground following the requests of the Member States. In particular, the Agency reinforced the operational activities within the framework of the ongoing Joint Operation Terra 2022 in:

- **Romania**, by deploying additional 150 standing corps officers, patrol cars and other equipment to Romania's border with Moldova and Ukraine at the beginning of March 2022. Also, aerial assets have been deployed along the Romania-Ukrainian border. As of July, the Agency is supporting Romania with around 250 standing corps officers and other staff (host Member State's officers, interpreters, crew members) deployed to perform border checks, border surveillance, cross border crime detection as well as migration management support tasks – 2/3 of them are deployed at the Romania-Moldovan and Romania-Ukrainian borders whereas 1/3 are deployed at the Romania-Serbian border.
- **Slovakia**, by deploying 30 additional standing corps officers, 9 patrol cars as well as aerial surveillance equipment for border checks and border surveillance tasks along the Slovak-Ukrainian border. As of July, Frontex support to Slovakia amounts to over 40 standing corps officers deployed to perform border checks, border surveillance and cross border crime detection tasks. The Agency also provides interpreter/cultural mediators for Arabic, French, Kurdish, Pashto and Urdu. In terms of equipment, Frontex contributes with CO2 detector, patrol cars, and a transportation vehicle.
- **Estonia**, by deploying additional resources for border checks and border surveillance activities at the border between Estonia and Russia. As of July, Frontex supports Estonia with around 30 standing corps officers deployed to perform border checks, border surveillance and cross border crime detection tasks, and with patrol cars.

JUSTICE & HOME AFFAIRS
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Tackling cross-border crime

Frontex supports the Member States in prevention, detection and fight against a variety of cross-border crimes such as trafficking in human beings (THB), with specific focus on child trafficking, firearms smuggling, drugs, stolen vehicles, as well as excise goods trafficking and other illegal transborder activities.

Frontex deployed standing corps officers specialised in THB to Romania and Moldova. Together with Europol and Interpol, the Agency supports local authorities in detecting suspicious THB activities. In particular, Frontex provides awareness sessions on THB indicators, adapted to the specific context of the war against Ukraine, to the first- and second-line officers.

Furthermore, Frontex actively contributes to the **EMPACT** activities. For example, Frontex coordinated (Portugal and Spain as co-leaders) the implementation of the Joint Action Day (JAD) on child trafficking that took place on 6 - 13 June 2022. The JAD gathered all Member States, Europol, INTERPOL, Moldova, Ukraine, Western Balkans countries and the United Kingdom with a coordination centre being established in Frontex headquarters. A representative of the Ukrainian National Police/Migration Department was present in the coordination centre, which greatly facilitated the verification of collected intelligence. The JAD focused on migratory movements towards Europe, at all type of borders, with an aim to detect minors, potentially being trafficked towards and between European countries, and also secondary and tertiary migratory movements of children across Europe. The action resulted into 134 arrests, including 29 for THB for sexual exploitation and 4 for labour exploitation, identification of 226 fraudulent documents, 64 suspected traffickers, 134 potential victims, including 15 minors, and opening of 104 new criminal cases.

Another JAD that has been coordinated by Frontex (Austria as a co-leader) is JAD Danube 7 that took place on 24 June - 4 July 2022. It focused on the South-Eastern external land borders, and the Western Balkans. The JAD coordination centre was established at the premises of the joint operational office in Vienna. The action gathered 7 Member States, 5 third countries, Europol, INTERPOL, Eurojust. Preliminary results of the operation are as follows: apprehension of 82 people smugglers, 2 traffickers of human beings, 4082 irregular migrants, and detection of 83 forged and falsified documents, 91 cases of smuggling of other illegal goods.

In the framework of EMPACT Firearms Priority OA 3.3, Frontex, in cooperation with the European Commission, European Firearms Expert Group, Europol, EUBAM Moldova Ukraine as well as the Member States and international partners such INTERPOL, UNODC, WCO, OSCE, SEESAC, developed a Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs (EU version – land border edition). The Agency is preparing an international version of the Handbook to be distributed among third countries, including Ukraine and Moldova. To facilitate practical implementation of the Handbook in the field, a special programme called "Train the Trainers" has been initiated. Its purpose is to train the experts of relevant national authorities to pass on the knowledge to other national border guards/police and customs officers at the regional level.

Frontex has also reinforced the VEGA children project and delivered awareness sessions on VEGA children to the authorities at the EU-Ukrainian borders. The purpose of this project is to raise awareness of the deployed standing corps officers and local staff working at border crossing points to children at risk on the move and in particular to tackle the phenomenon of child trafficking at land borders. Dedicated VEGA handbooks such "Children at land borders" and "Children at air borders" provide information on how to apply standard operational procedures to refer those children to the welfare and protection institutions. Frontex is planning more sessions this year for 7 Member States and 4 third countries

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Apart from this, Frontex provides dedicated sessions on counterterrorism and firearms trafficking counteraction to officers at the EU-Ukrainian borders. For example, Frontex organised a training on counterterrorism and firearms counteraction for Polish border guard and customs authorities. The training covered a broad scope of topics related to travelling terrorists, their associates, and other persons of interests as well as cross border crime linked to counterterrorism. It also included interactive sessions on profiling and second-line examination.

Humanitarian voluntary returns

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion in Ukraine, Frontex has been supporting the Member States in organising humanitarian voluntary returns. Initially, the solution was available to countries bordering Ukraine. However, following a large influx of non-Ukrainian citizens fleeing the warzone, the solution was made available to all Member States. The mechanism is dedicated to all non-Ukrainian nationals and Ukrainian family members of nationals fleeing the conflict zone, who explicitly request to return voluntarily to their countries of origin, or other third countries, despite being eligible to stay in the Member States.

By July 2022, Poland returned 739 nationals using the humanitarian voluntary return mechanism from 24 February to 30 June 2022. These return flights were carried out from Poland to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in cooperation with the relevant embassies.

The first humanitarian voluntary return by Austria (BBU) is scheduled for 11 July. France also expressed interest in humanitarian voluntary returns, since they have detected some third country nationals coming from Ukraine.

Support to Moldova

Following the conclusion of the EU-Moldova Status Agreement on 17 March 2022, the Agency launched Joint Operation (JO) Moldova 2022 with executive powers on 19 March 2022. The Status Agreement enables Frontex to extend fully fledged and comprehensive support to Moldova and provides the deployed standing corps officers with the necessary protection, immunities and security coverage. It is the first Status Agreement and the first joint operation with executive powers in the Eastern Partnership region.

The operational aim of the JO Moldova 2022 is to provide increased technical and operational assistance to the host third country by coordinating operational activities on its territory under the control of Moldovan authorities. The JO aims to aid border management, combat cross-border crime, and to strengthen European cooperation and law enforcement activities.

Frontex deploys standing corps officers to assist the Moldovan authorities in various border management functions and to enhance European cooperation and law enforcement activities. The profiles of the deployed standing corps officers are border guard officer, advanced level document officer, cross border crime detection officer, debriefer and motor vehicle crime detection officer. The JO is implemented in 10 border crossing points and 2 local coordination centres both at the borders with Ukraine (North and South) and at the borders with Romania (West). In addition, Frontex co-finances the internal redeployment of Moldovan border police officers to the Moldova-Ukrainian border.

On 28 June 2022, Frontex and Moldovan Ministry of Interior as well as its Border Police held an international conference "Support measures in response to the crisis: experiences and first lessons learned" in Chisinau, Moldova. The conference was organised as a sign of solidarity of the European Border and Coast Guard with Ukraine in the face of the unjustified and unprovoked Russian aggression and a clear example of the deepening cooperation between the EU and Moldova. The event brought together senior border and migration management authorities from the Member States, Schengen Associated Countries, Moldova, Ukraine, EU institutions and agencies, and international organisations. It served as a good platform to take stock of the ongoing cooperation and inform concerted efforts of the EU and international actors supporting border and migration management in Ukraine and Moldova.

Frontex will become one of the main contributors to the EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management in Moldova. As an operational platform, the EU Support Hub will support cooperation on internal security and border management between the EU, its agencies, the Member States and the Moldovan authorities. The hub will be established in Chisinau and coordinated by the Delegation of the European Union to Moldova.

Contribution to the coordinating platforms and other forms of cooperation

The Agency contributes to the EU Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) Roundtable weekly meeting activated by the Council in relation to the situation in Ukraine by sharing the situational picture, including monitoring of migratory flows, and reporting on operational presence of the Frontex deployed standing corps officers at the external borders of the EU.

Frontex is part of the current EU contingency planning concept developed by the European Commission (DG HOME) and is coordinating its presence in the parameters provided. For example, Frontex is an important actor for the identified border capacity measures (additional equipment and personnel, and request where appropriate support is needed) and has the possibility to evaluate the joint operations deployed at the external borders.

At the same time, the Agency attends the Solidarity Platform meetings addressing the implementation of the 10-Point Plan on stronger European coordination on welcoming people fleeing the war against Ukraine, as adopted by the European Commission and the JHA Council in March 2022. Specific points refer to the special protection for the people fleeing the war (Temporary Protection Directive) and the green corridors along the external borders.

Apart from the Blueprint Network, Frontex participates in the Solidarity Platform that coordinates operational support for the Member States and Moldova in view of the Temporary Protection Directive.

Frontex has stepped up its cooperation with Justice and Home Affairs agencies. For example, Europol, Eurojust, Frontex and the Member States launched operation Oscar to support the freezing of criminal assets owned by individuals and legal entities sanctioned in relations to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Frontex maintains regular contacts with EU partners on the ground, in particular the European Union Advisory Mission Ukraine and the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine to ensure coherence of EU's support, especially in light of the expanding mandate of both partners. Frontex is in close contact with its UN partners who are actively present on the ground.

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AGENCIES' NETWORK

The Agency exchanges situational information with UN Refugee Agency, International Organisation for Migration and analytical products with other UN actors. Moreover, Frontex shares its situational reports with Interpol.

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