

# EMPACT & wildlife crimes



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The Hague, 29 June 2022

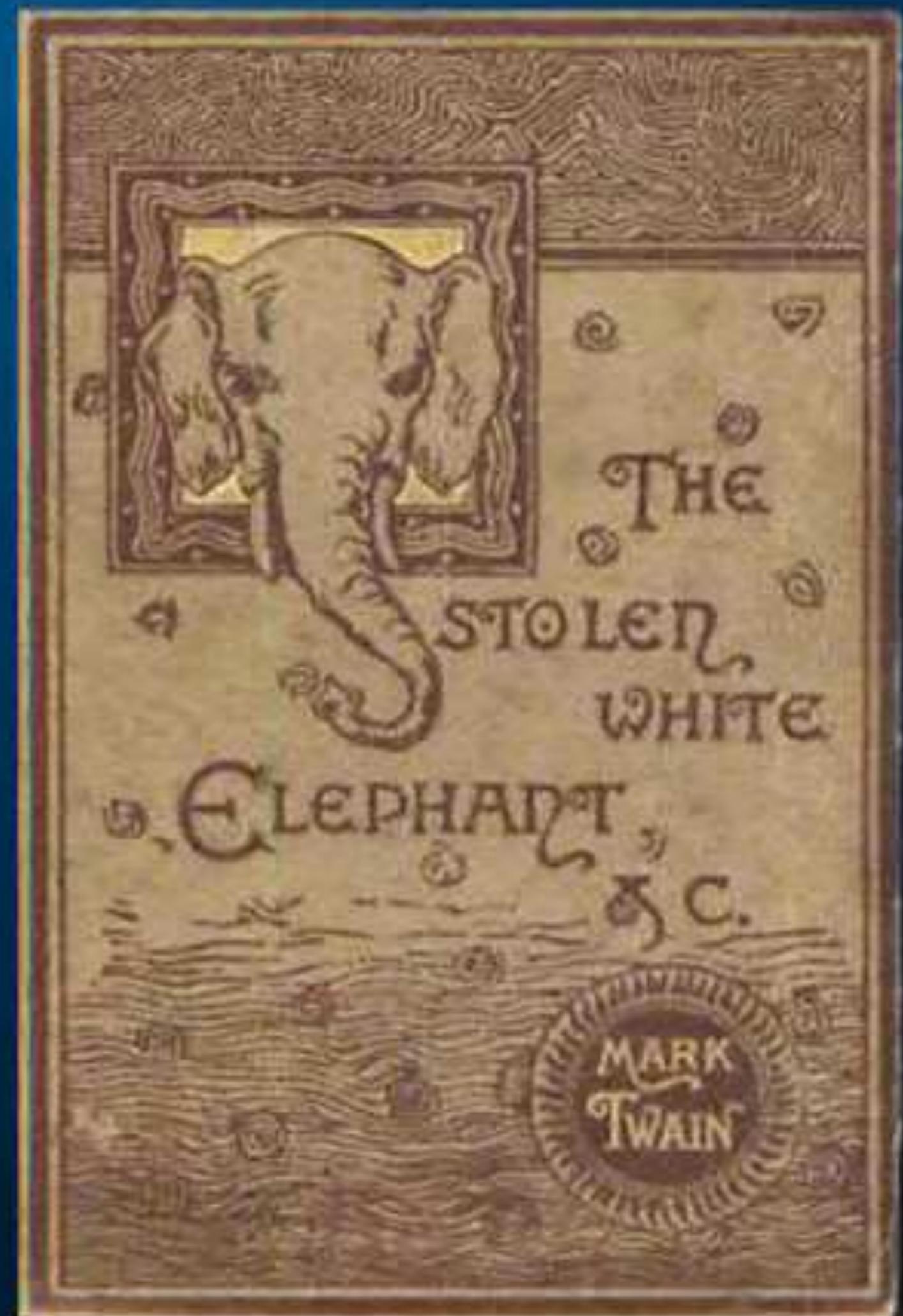
Europol Unclassified – Training material

# What is Environmental Crime?

- *Elephant in the room*
- is an English metaphorical idiom for an obvious truth that is going unaddressed.
- The idiomatic expression also applies to an obvious problem or risk no one wants to discuss.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME:

Environmental crime covers acts that breach environmental legislation and cause significant harm or risk to the environment and human health.

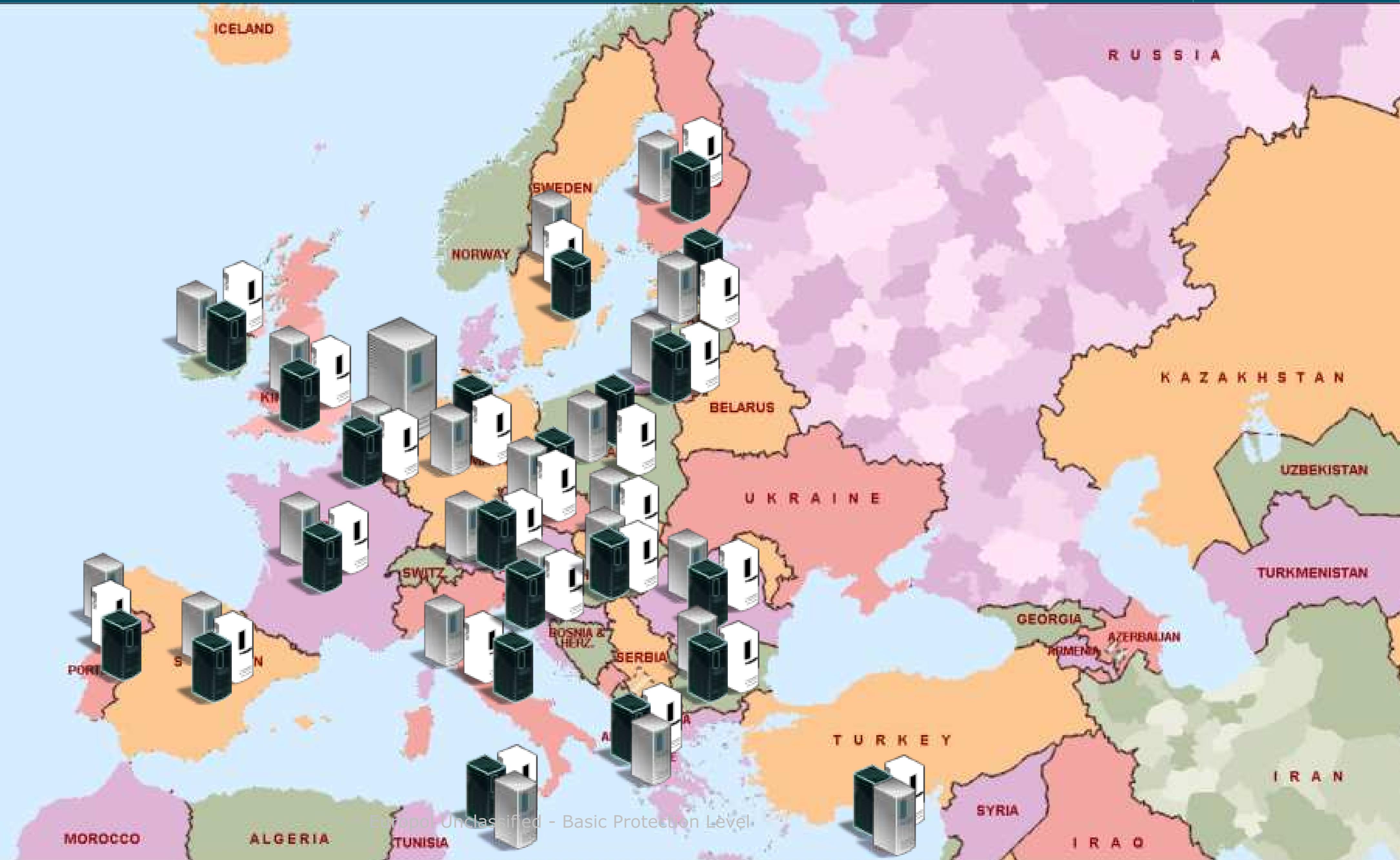


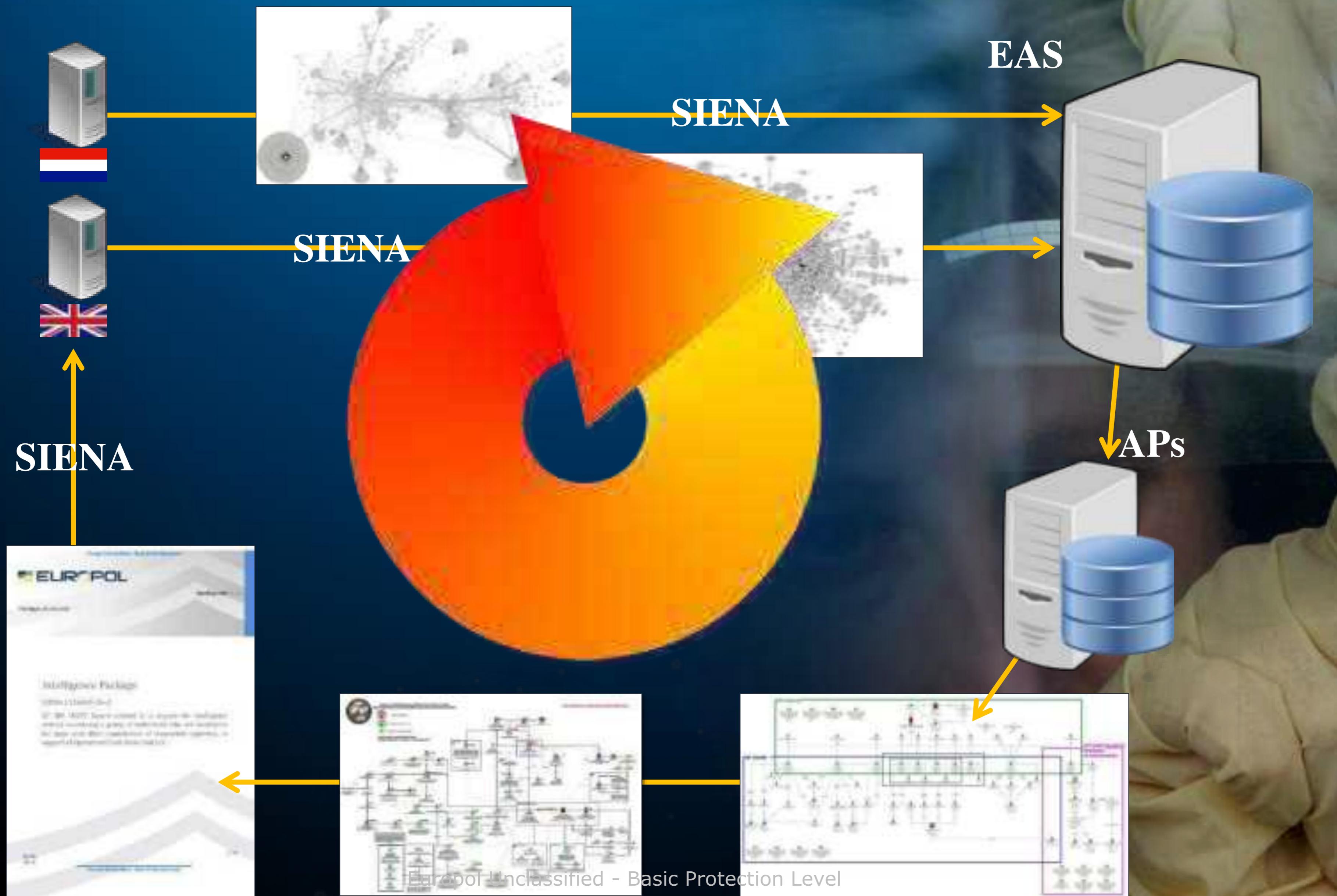


# Core Activities - Intelligence



The logo for Europol, featuring the word "EUROPOL" in white capital letters on a dark blue background. The letter "O" is stylized with a yellow and green gradient. To the left is a vertical bar with three horizontal stripes in yellow, white, and light blue.







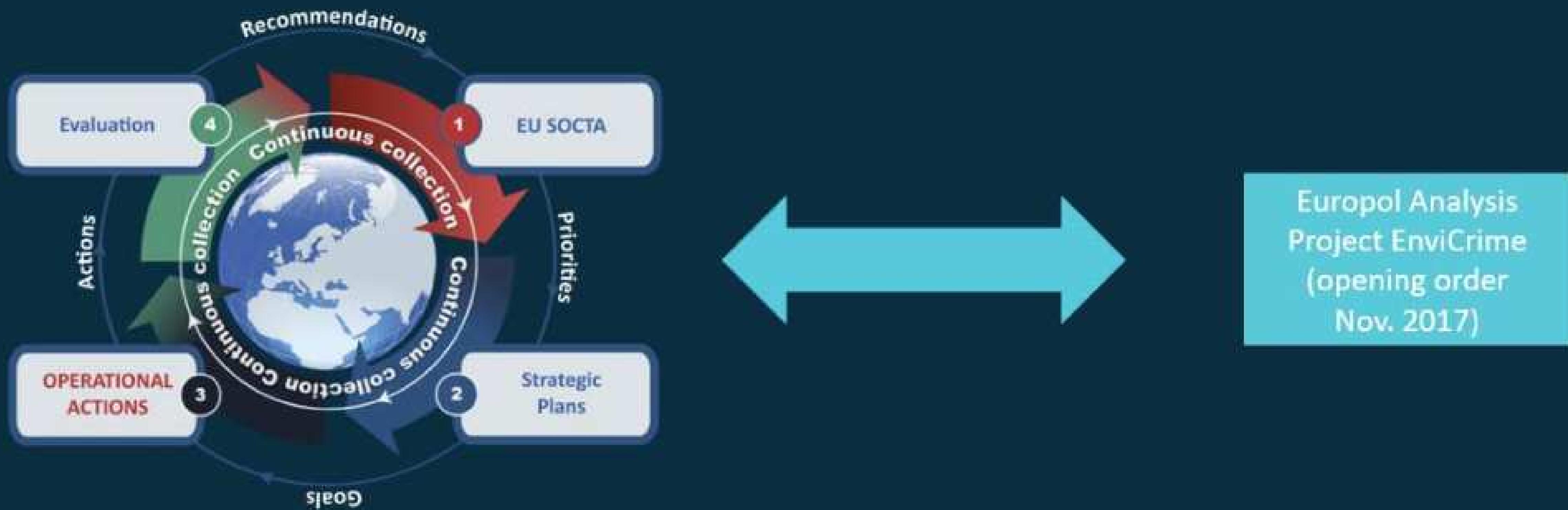
## ► Data bases

- *Information & intel exchange facilitation: SIENA*
- *Operational analysis*
- *Strategic analysis: SOCTA, Early Warning Notifications, Intelligence Notice...*

## ► Support to operations and investigations

- Coordination, analysis and elaboration and spreading of intelligence
- Facilitation and funding of investigations
- Joint Actions: identification of needs (RETROVIRUS, LAKE), coordination of operational activities, **EMPACT Support Manager** (RED JAGUAR, Cyber Crime Week).
- Forensic digital support, virtual and on the hotspot: 24/7 Operational Centre, UFED, Mobile Office, VCP, Italian and Greek hotspots, EUNAVFOR MED Op. SOPHIA, etc.

# AP EnviCrime

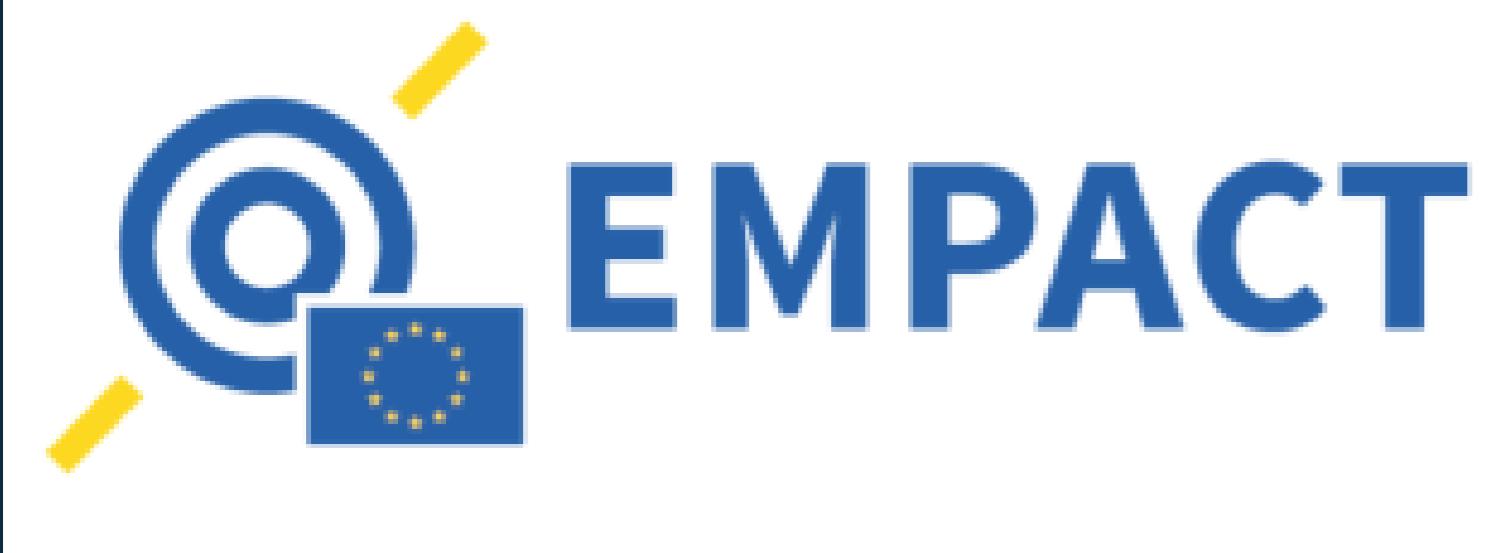


# AP EnviCrime & EMPACT priority 2022+ (2022-2025)

- SOCTA 2021
- EU strategy against OC
- Environmental Crime a priority for **EMPACT 2018-2021**

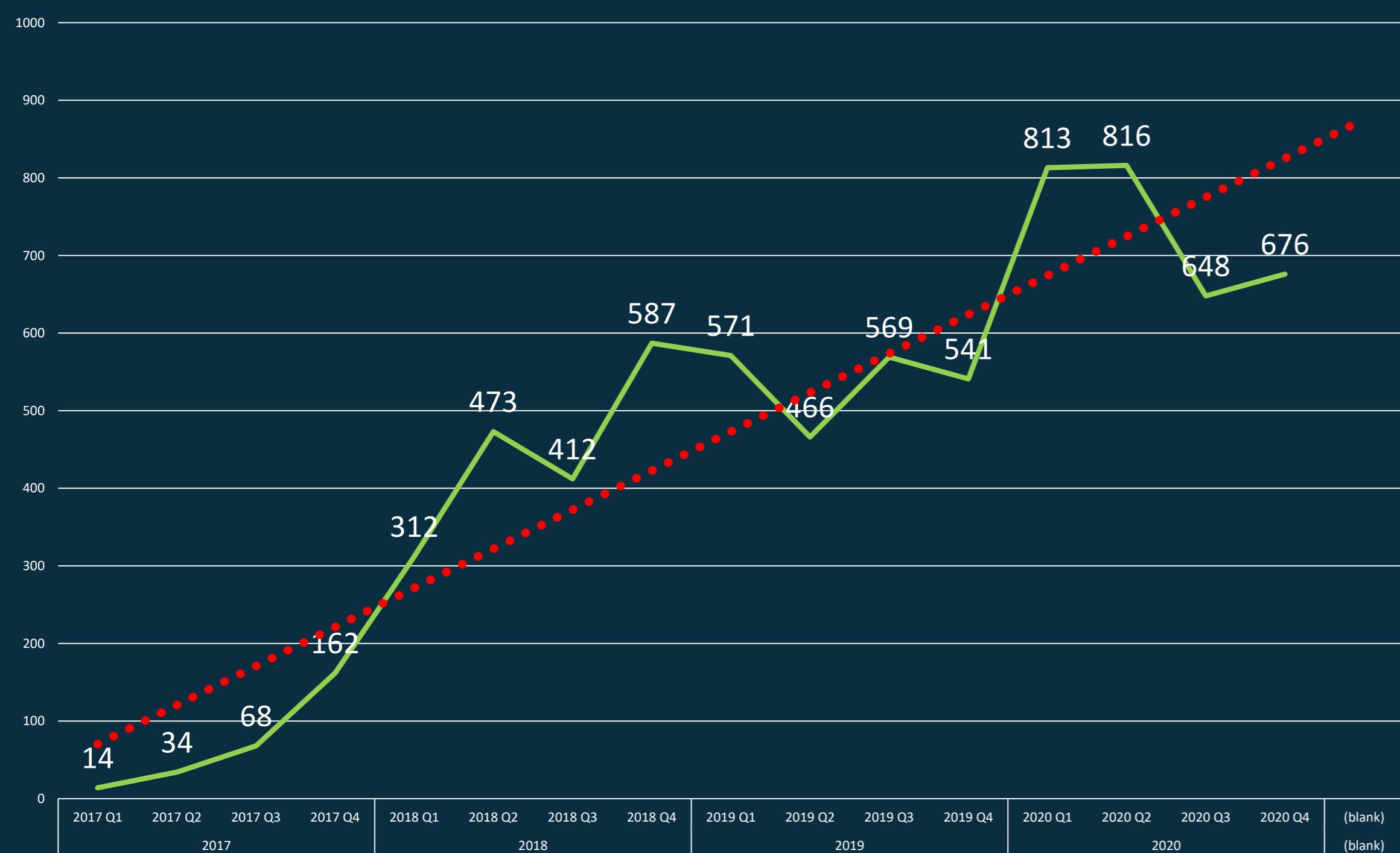


# ANTECEDENTES

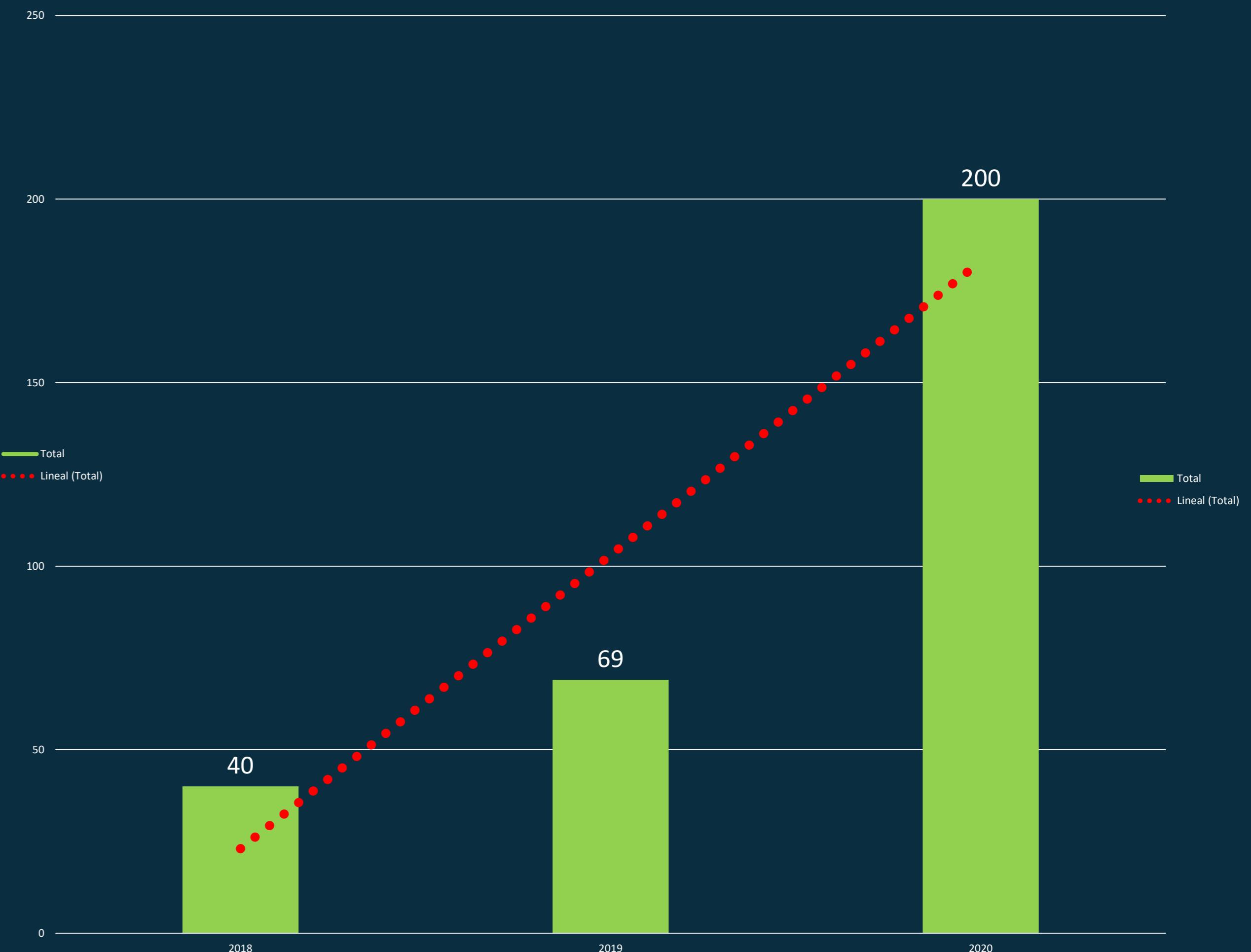


# AP EnviCrime outcomes

## CONTRIBUTIONS



## OPERATIONAL PRODUCTS



Publicado 19/06/2020 09:

# La Guardia Civil realiza más de 500 inspecciones en gestoras de residuos sanitarios para evitar la dispersión del virus



La Guardia Civil realiza más de 500 inspecciones en empresas gestoras de residuos sanitarios - Guardia Civil

MAI (Facebook) (Twitter) (LinkedIn) (YouTube) (Instagram)

## Educación COVID



### AASAE - Autoridade de Segurança Alimentar e Económica

**COVID19 - AASAE fiscaliza 750 operadores económicos durante estado de emergência**  
A Autoridade de Segurança Alimentar e Económica (AASAE) em permanente supervisão e vigilância do mercado, após ter sido declarado estado de emergência em Portugal devido à Covid-19, que vigorou de 19 de março a 02 de maio, realizou diversas ações de fiscalização, a nível nacional, direcionadas para a verificação da prática de eventuais riscos relacionados com as medidas impostas pela nova doença.

[Continuar a ler](#)



### PT "RETROVIRUS" Operation

AASAE - Autoridade de Segurança Alimentar e Económica  
21 de junho de 2020

#### Operação "RETROVIRUS"

AASAE participou durante o período dia 15 de abril a até 31 de maio, na operação internacional "RETROVIRUS", que em Portugal é liderada pela Guarda Nacional Republicana. Trata-se da primeira operação internacional da EUROPOL, cujo objetivo principal é o desenvolvimento de ações de prevenção, investigação e fiscalização, que contribuem para evitar a disseminação de COVID-19, especialmente através do desmantelamento das formas como os resíduos sanitários (ex.: AASAE e parceiros) são recolhidos, transportados e no descarte.

Nova vertida e no descarte de lixo superássalto (leia aqui).  
RETRORVIRUS, que decorreu de 21 a 31 de maio, a AASAE não viu a realizar ações de fiscalização em estabelecimentos físicos e através da internet, no âmbito da verificação dos requisitos de conformidade dos equipamentos de proteção individual (EPI), designadamente máscara de proteção. As verificações do cumprimento das especificações técnicas das máscaras contempladas no seu social e ainda verificação dos requisitos de conformidade dos produtos higienizantes (alcool, álcool gel e desinfetantes), que estão essenciais na prevenção e proteção da pandemia Covid-19.

AASAE, enquanto Órgão de Policia Científica e Autoviação de Fiscalização do Mercado, irá manter-se vigilante no mercado resultando ações para verificação do cumprimento da regulamentação relativa ao exercício das atividades económicas, rebáltoque, reforço das ações de fiscalização mantendo-se a necessariamente intensificada nas medidas recomendadas com a situação inerente à pandemia COVID-19.



# Motivations for wildlife crimes

## Wildlife trade – Economic sectors

Housing & furniture

Mahogany,  
ramin, cedar ...



Pharmaceuticals



Vaccines,  
herbal, research

Cosmetics

Wax, oils



Food



Caviar, fish, wild  
meat, plants

Leather & fashion

Bags, watches,  
fur, fibers



## Wildlife trade – Economic sectors

Pets &  
ornamentals



Birds, reptiles,  
fish, plants...

Tourism

Zoos, museums,  
botanical  
gardens, circus



CITES



Hunting safaris,  
falconry, trophies,  
souvenirs (shells,  
corals)

# Impact example: donkey skins



## mercado en auge en China que provoca prácticas crueles

Las pieles de asno se han convertido en una mercancía muy buscada en el mercado negro debido a su uso en la medicina tradicional china.

POR KIMON DE GREEF  
PUBLISHED 9 NOV 2017 4:29 CET  
UPDATED 5 NOV 2020 7:19 CET



- Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.es/medio-ambiente/2017/09/el-trafico-illegal-de-pieles-de-asno-un-mercado-en-auge-en-china-que-provoca>



Los trabajadores amontonan pieles de asno tratadas en un matadero con licencia en Kenia. En los últimos años, África ha empezado a enviar cada vez más pieles a China.

# Key points for the involvement of OC in wildlife crimes

- Other priorities for national authorities (low prosecution risk)
- Minor (even none) penal sanctions: no consideration as serious crime
- Facilitation smuggling from countries of origin of species
- International cooperation on environmental crimes: no fully implemented yet
- Different national legal frameworks increase difficulties in prosecution of transboundary crimes: what happens out of CITES framework?
- Investigations mostly finish with a seizure; not going beyond the OCG, just the «mule»
- Facilitation for document fraud of administrative documentation (not only CITES)
- Above all: lack of specialized units

# Wildlife crimes: connections?

**Semana** Iniciar sesión

## Las dudas que quedan del asesinato del ciudadano ruso secuestrado

El ELN reconoció ser responsable de la muerte de Voskanyan Arcen Levoni, secuestrado hace seis meses. El grupo armado afirma que lo tomó como rehén porque recolectaba ranas venenosas para traficarlas en el mercado internacional.

9/9/2017

LAVANGUARDIA

## Así es como la muerte de miles de animales financia el terrorismo

- Exterminan colonias enteras de animales protegidos para mejorar sus arsenales, financiar cursos de adiestramientos militares o planear ataques en el extranjero

Un soldado de Mali muestra martí lince incautado durante una redada (Getty)

Source: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/eln-asesino-a-un-ciudadano-ruso/539479/>

<https://www.lavanguardia.com/natural/20160303/40169644665/terrorismo-animales-protegidos.html>

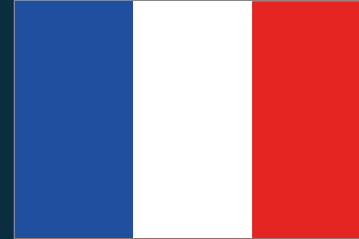
# Glass eels trafficking: Operation LAKE

Abkhazia

Netherlands



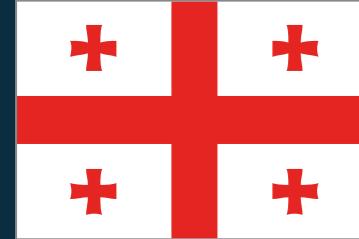
Belgium



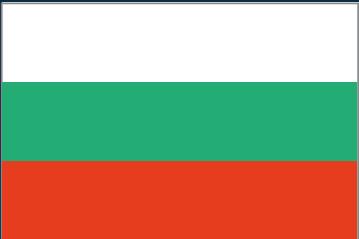
France



Bosnia and Herzegovina



Georgia



Bulgaria



Germany

10



11



Spain

12



Sweden

13



Switzerland

14



Italy

15



Czech Republic

16



Ukraine

17



United Kingdom

18

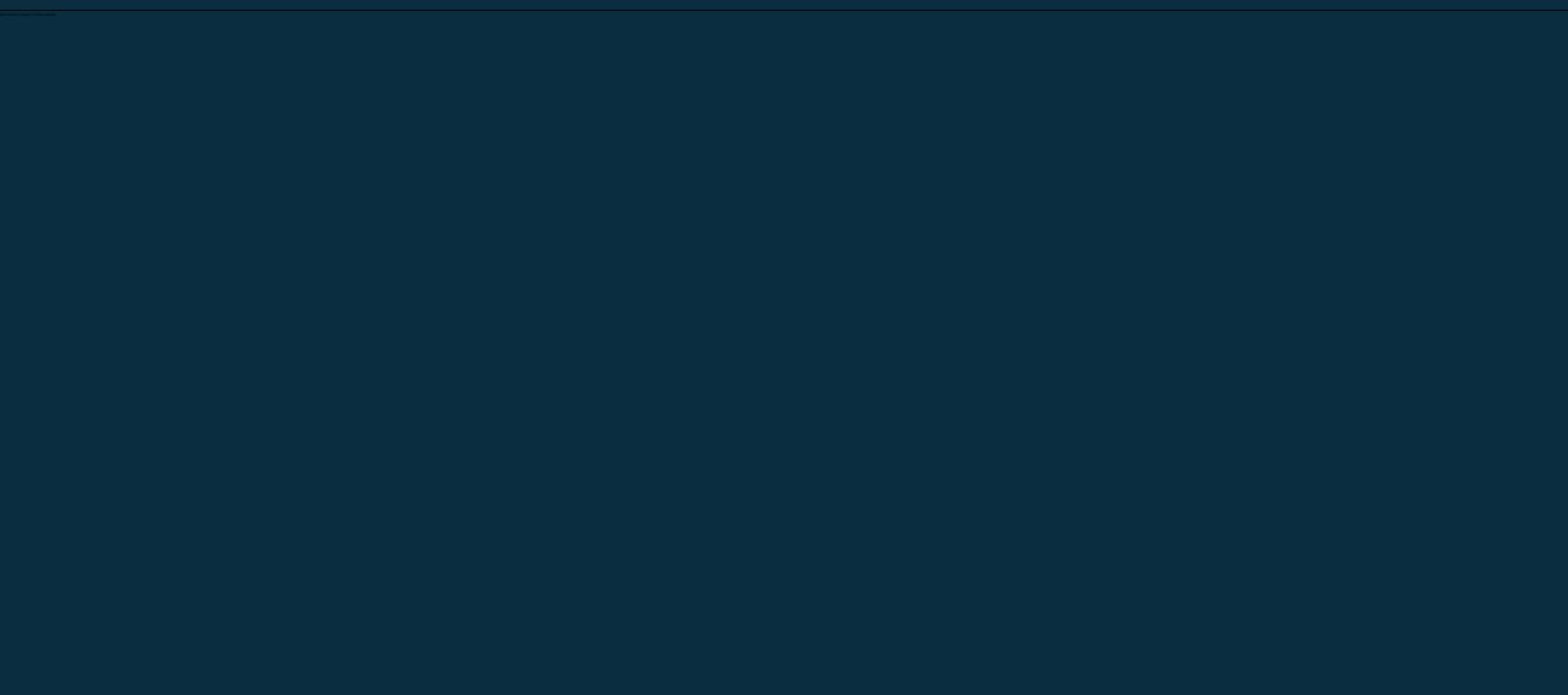


Latvia

19



Canada



Serbia



es of America

# Operation LAKE

2016 – 2021

## OUTCOMES

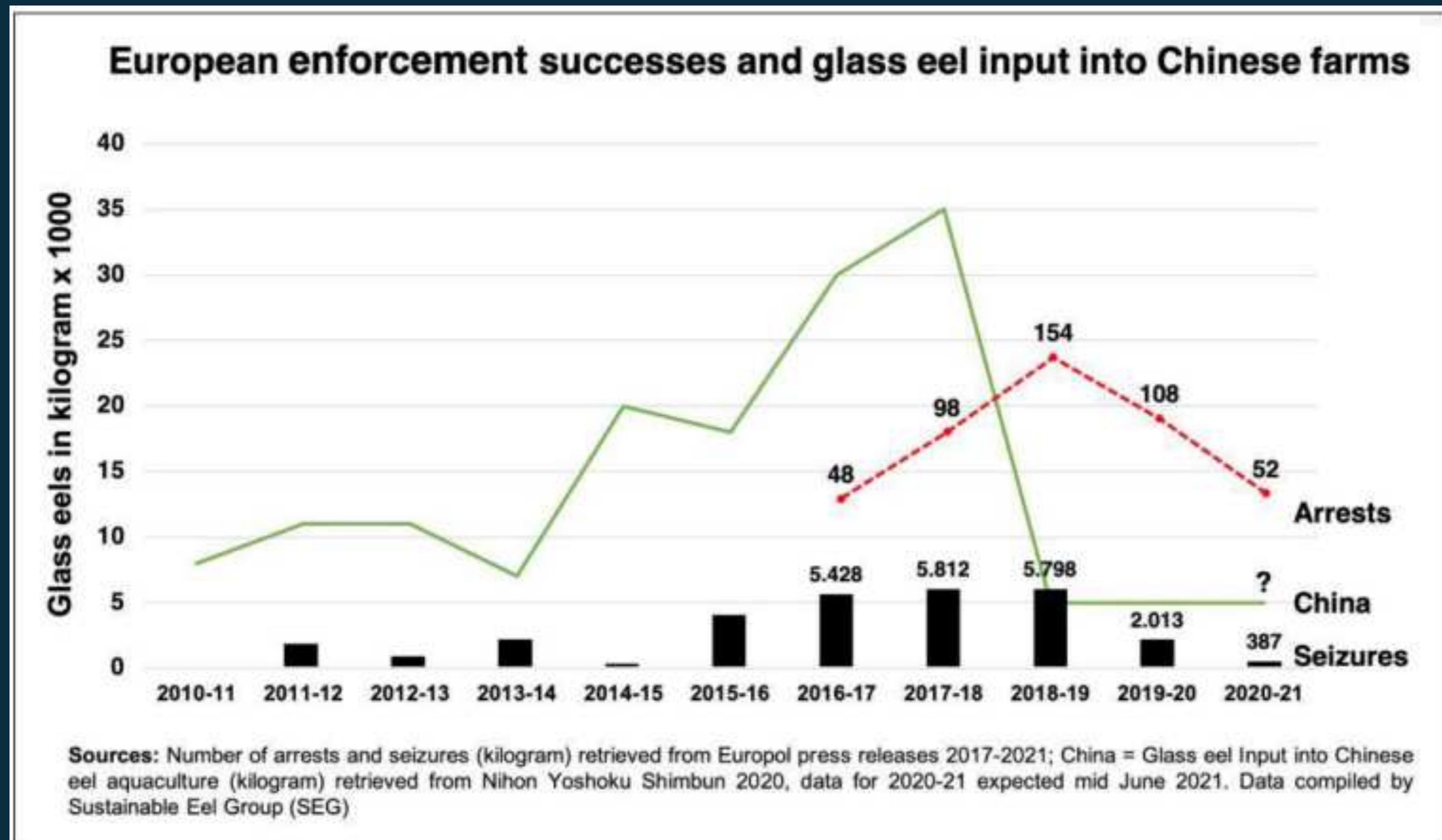
452  
suspects  
arrested



16,1 t glass  
eels seized  
(alive)  
400 t eel meat  
products seized

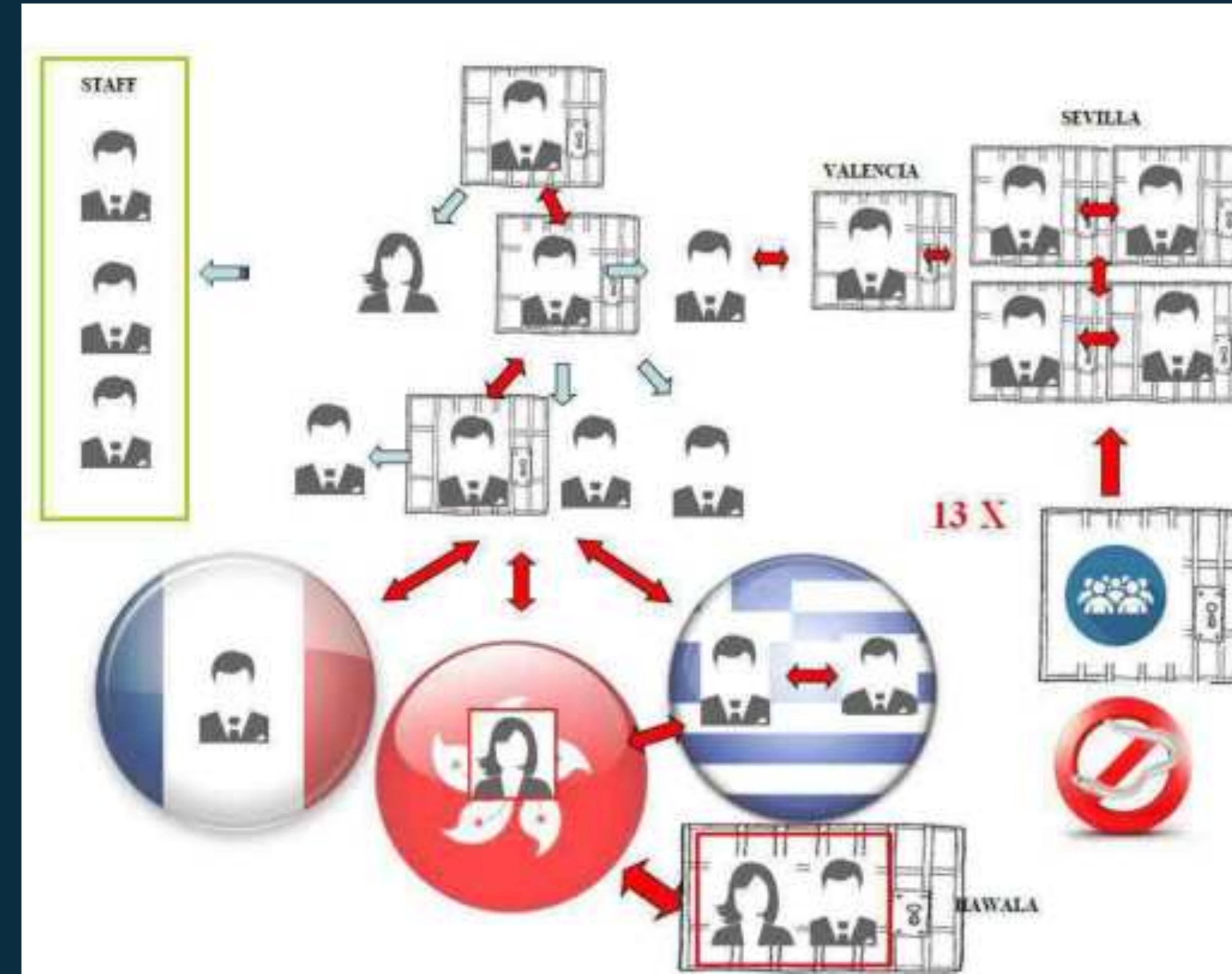
100 t  
smuggling glass  
eels per year (€  
2,5-3 billion)

# Operation LAKE: consequences?



Fuente: Sustainable Eel Group

# Glass eels trafficking: typical OC network



# Trafficking of songbirds & human consumption: Free wildlife (Italy)

- Poaching and wildlife trafficking
- OCG (10 persons)
- Financial crime: 80,000 specimens / year x  
25-50 € / alive specimen
- International connections: IT – MT
- Corruption and document fraud



# Birds trafficking: FENNEC / ORATRIX

- Birds trafficking and drugs
- OCG
- Document fraud / Swindle
- Money laundering
- International connection: ES-Morocco



# Reptiles trafficking: Op. JUNGLA V, germen NAULTINUS

- Wildlife trafficking
- Smuggling
- OCG
- Document fraud

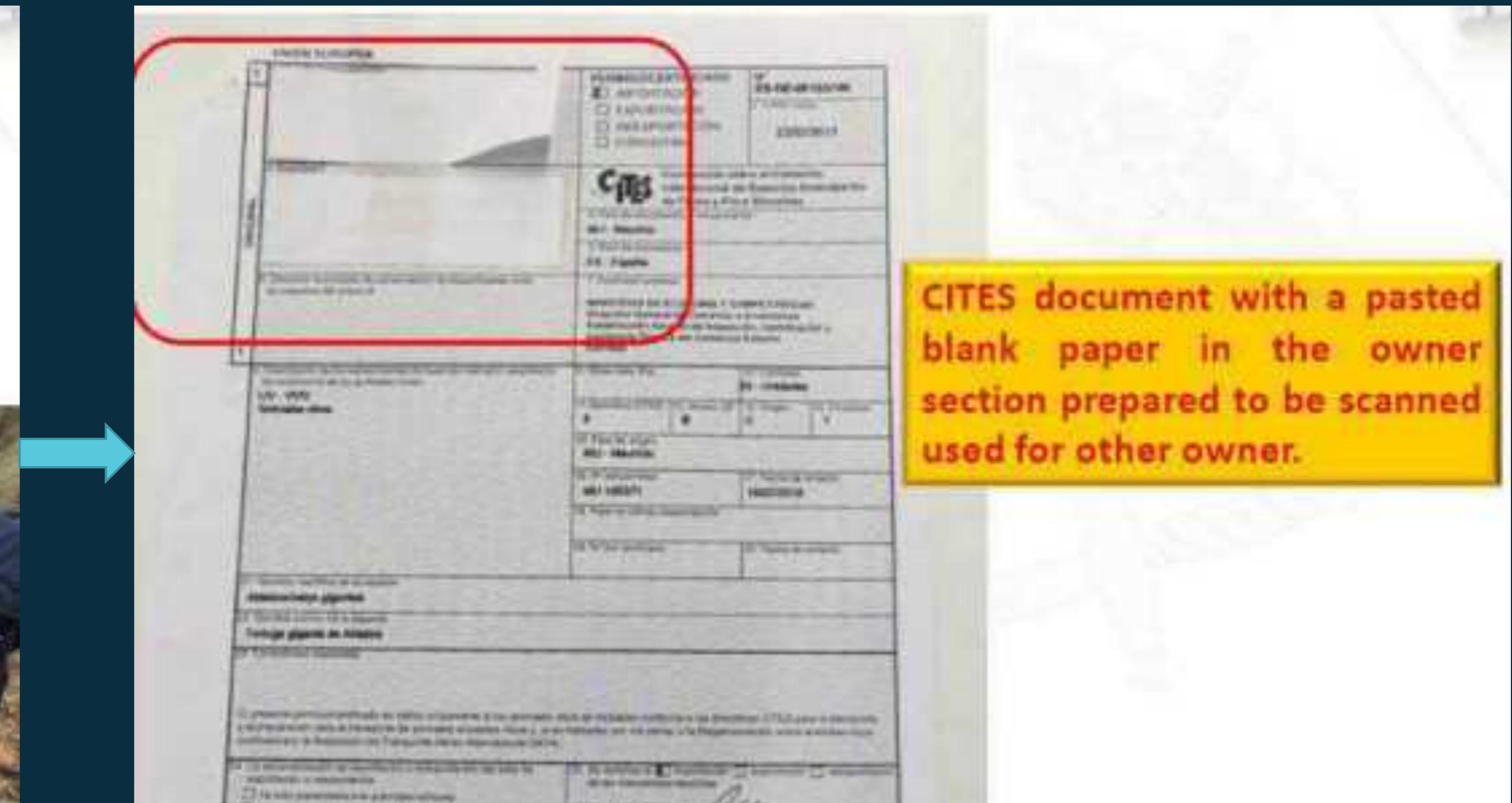
FAMILY	ALIVE	DEATH	PARTS	SEIZURE	ADDRESS	TOTAL
ANFIBIOS	10	2	0	2	10	12
CAMALEONES	0	10	0	10	0	10
GECKOS	4	8	0	8	4	12
IGUANAS	82	4	0	77	9	86
SAURIOS	248	65	9	160	162	322
SERPIENTES	31	77	0	78	30	108
TORTUGAS	44	9	3	43	13	56
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>606</b>



# Reptiles trafficking: Op. JUNGLA V, germen NAULTINUS



# Reptiles trafficking: Op. JUNGLA V, germen NAULTINUS



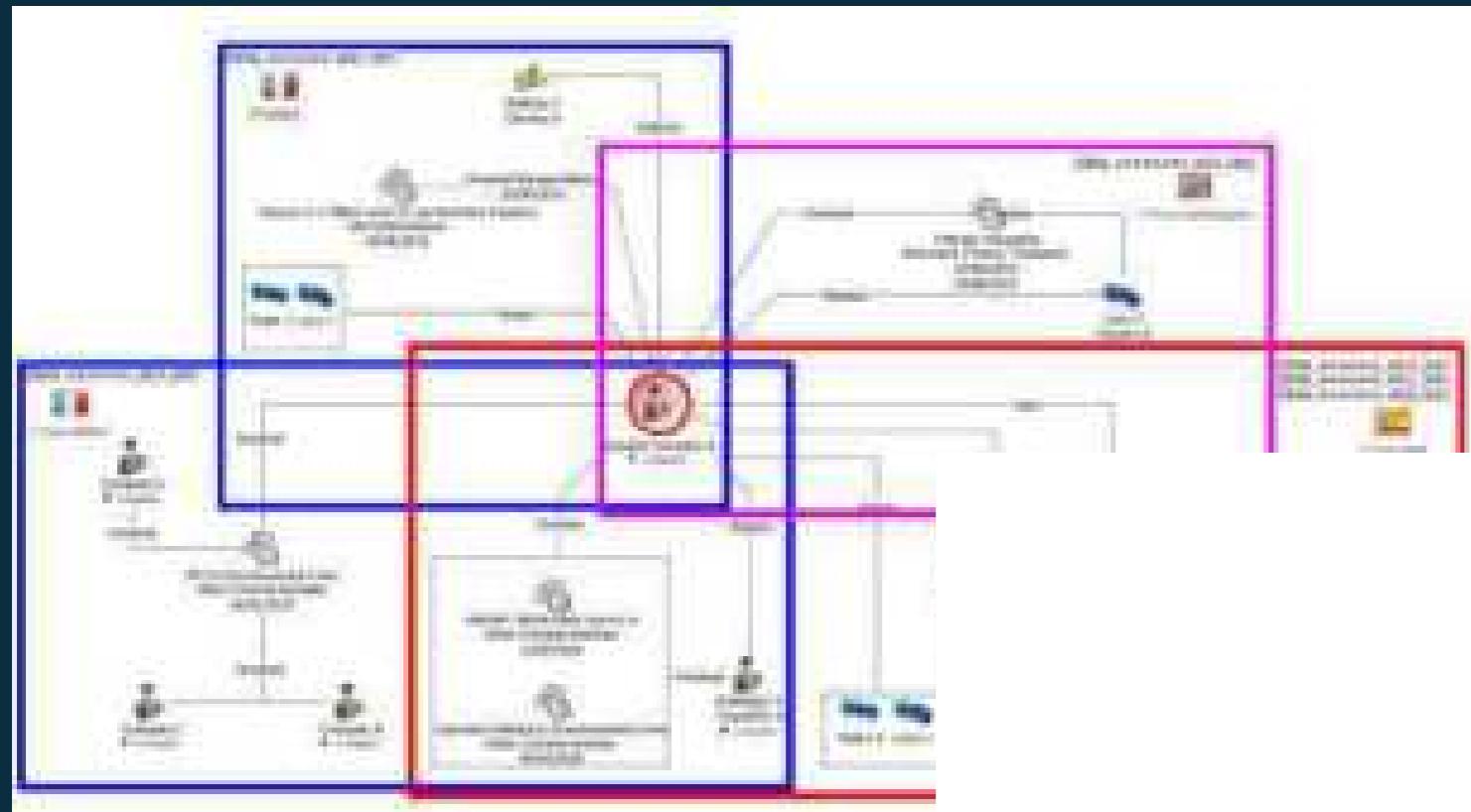
- Price per head: 25,000 to 40,000 euros.
- Status among traders ("this is the mighty boy")
- Free vacations at the haven of Galapago's Islands.

$$11 \times 25,000 = 275,000$$
$$\times 40,000 = 440,000$$

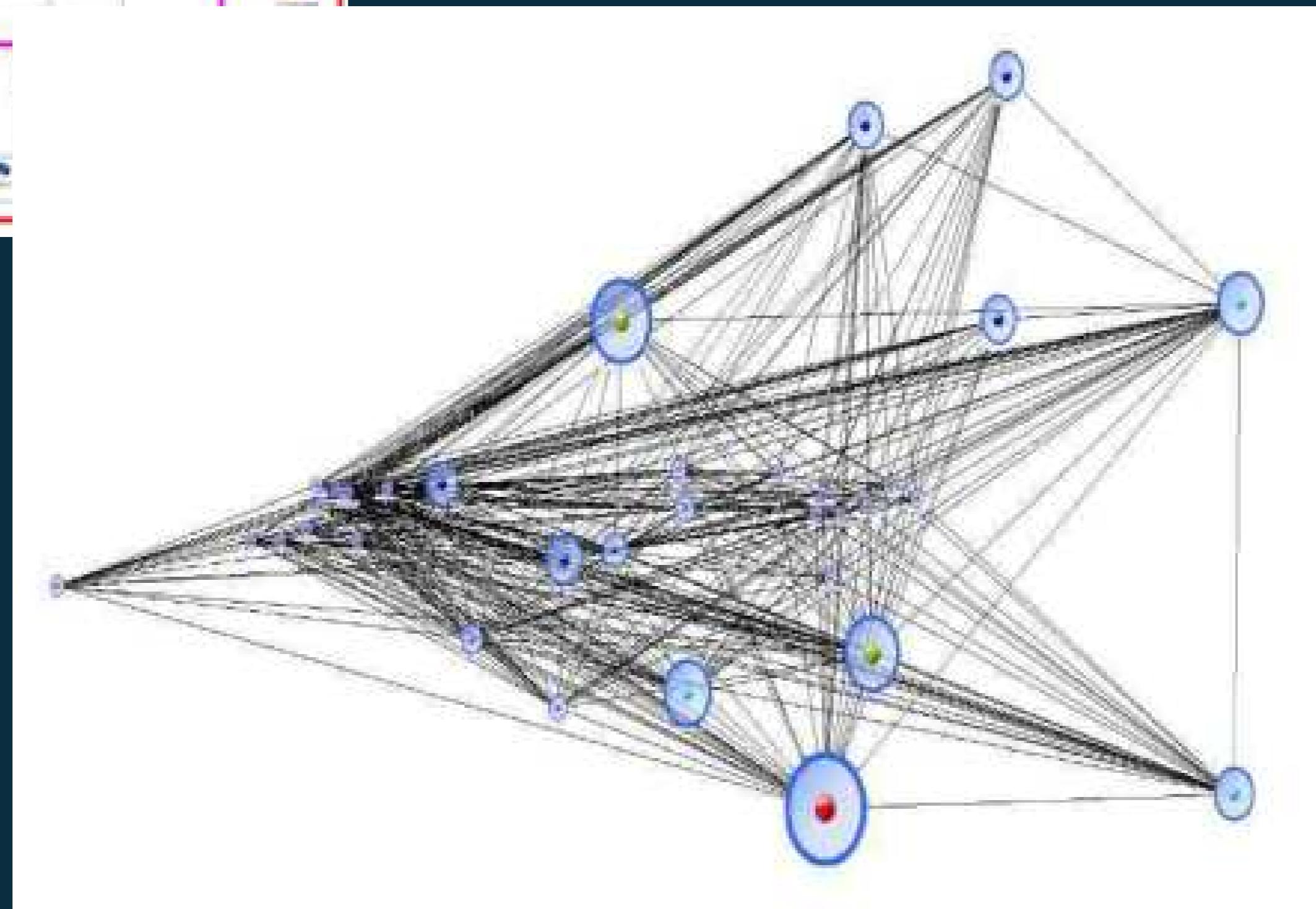


# OTF NAULTINUS

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ...100



Core with 40  
nodes

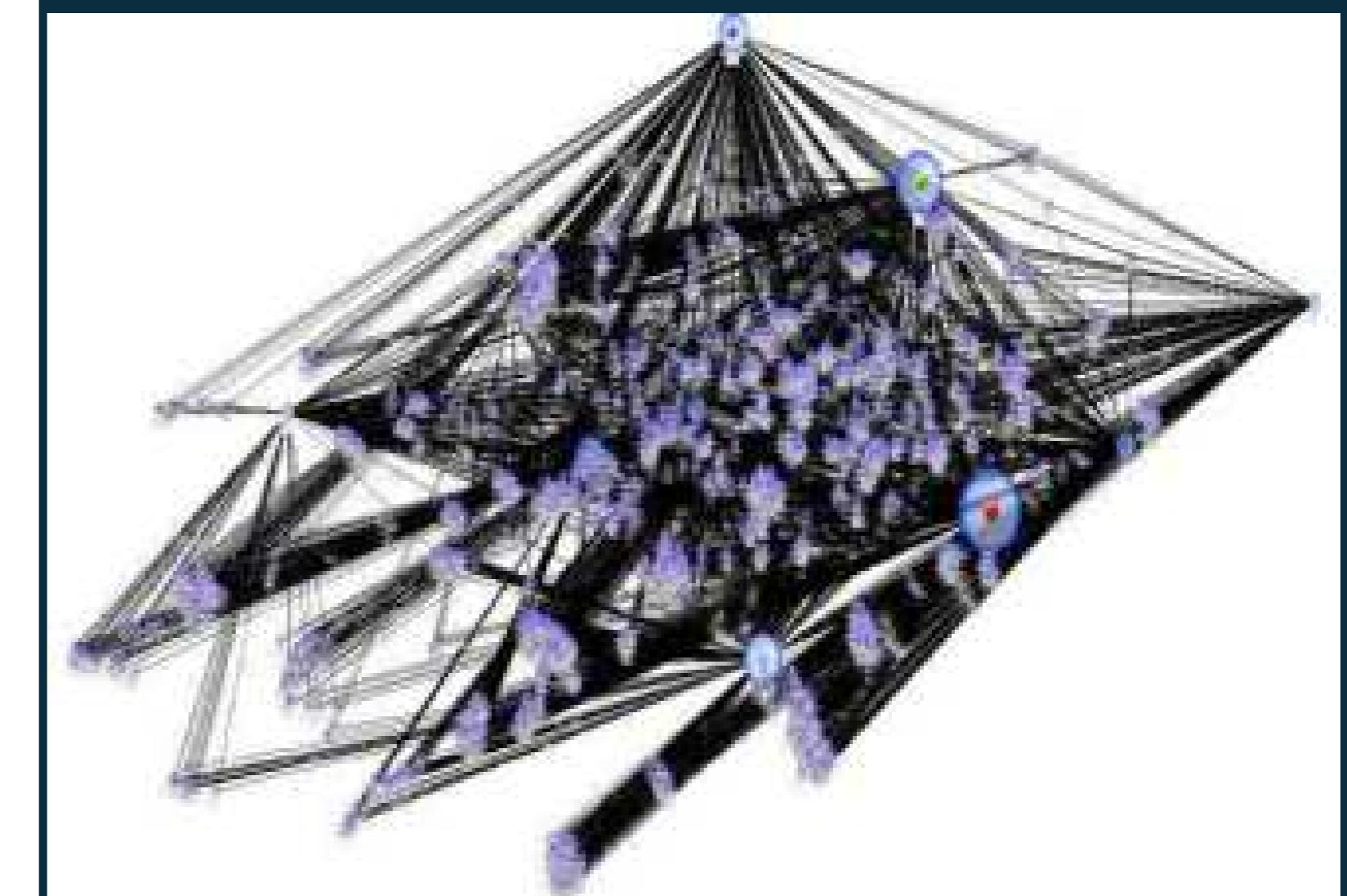
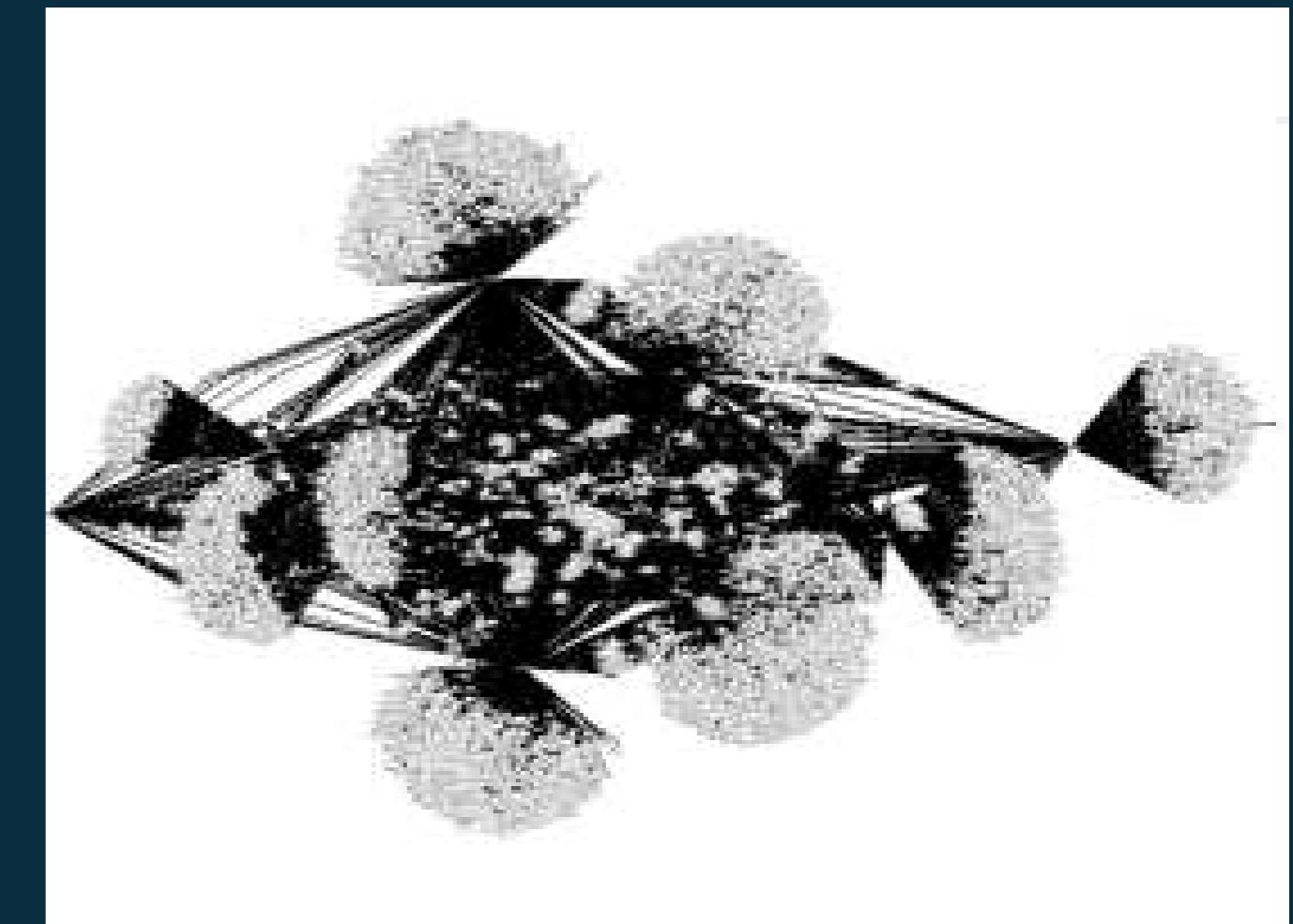


ALGORITHMS

Betweenness  
Eigenvector  
Closeness  
Degree

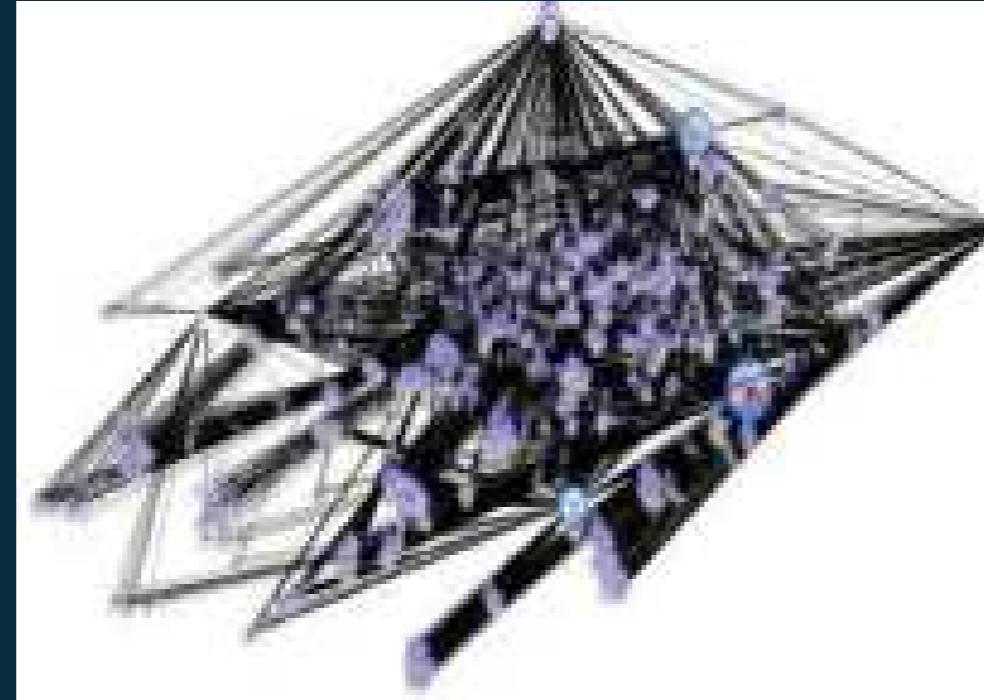
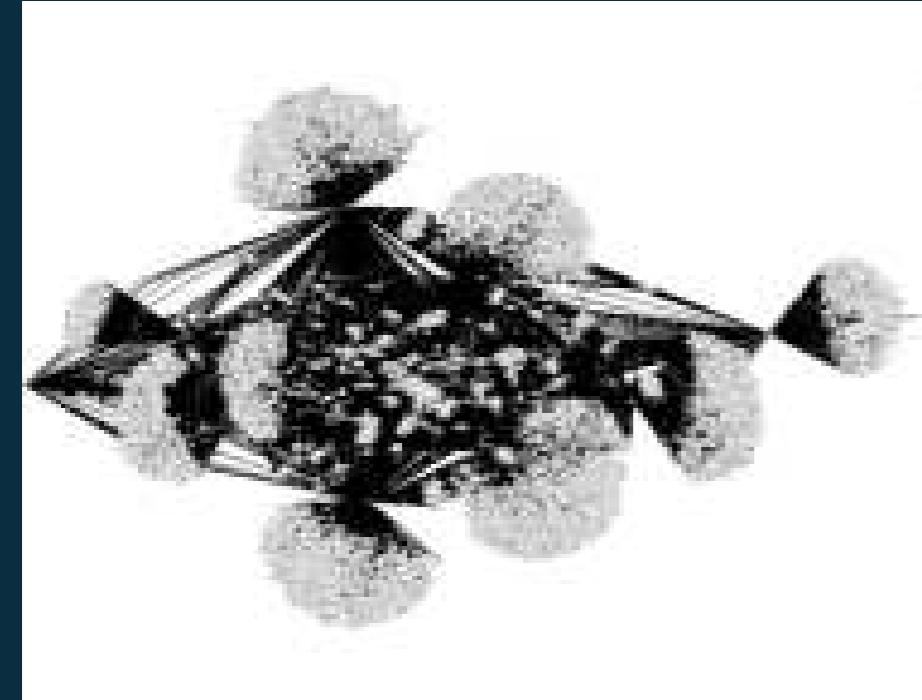
40.000 entities ...?

SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS

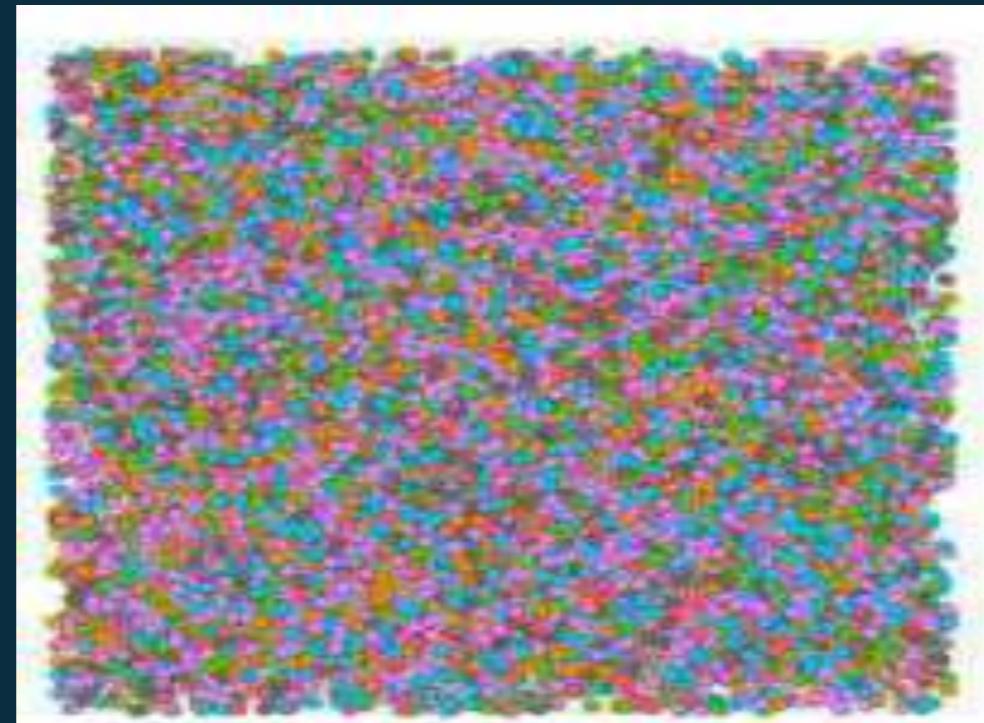
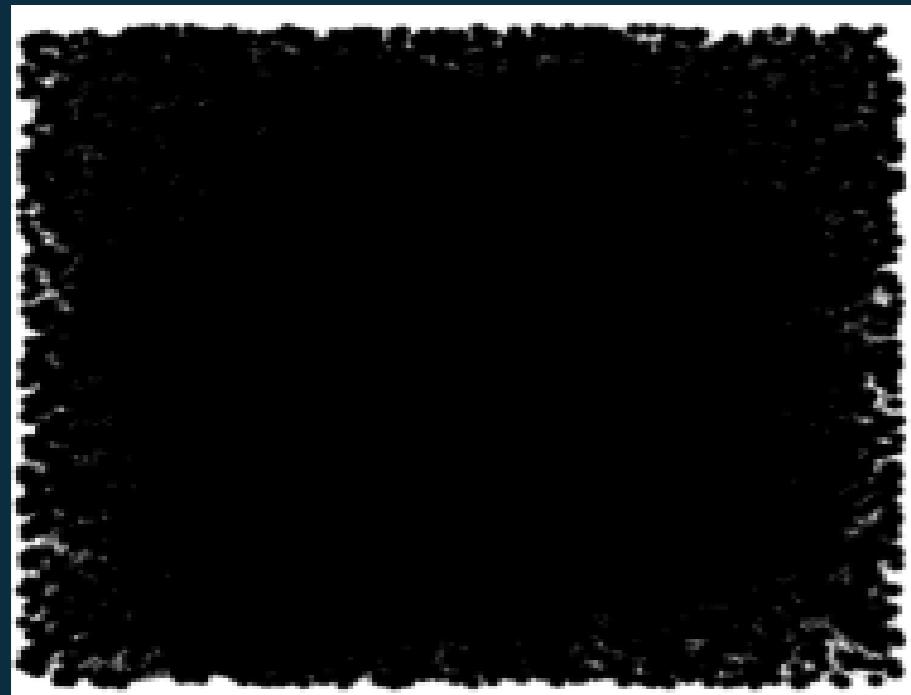


20.000 Entities

# OTF NAULTINUS



Scientific Analysis.....



Arrests

56

HVT

5

Searches

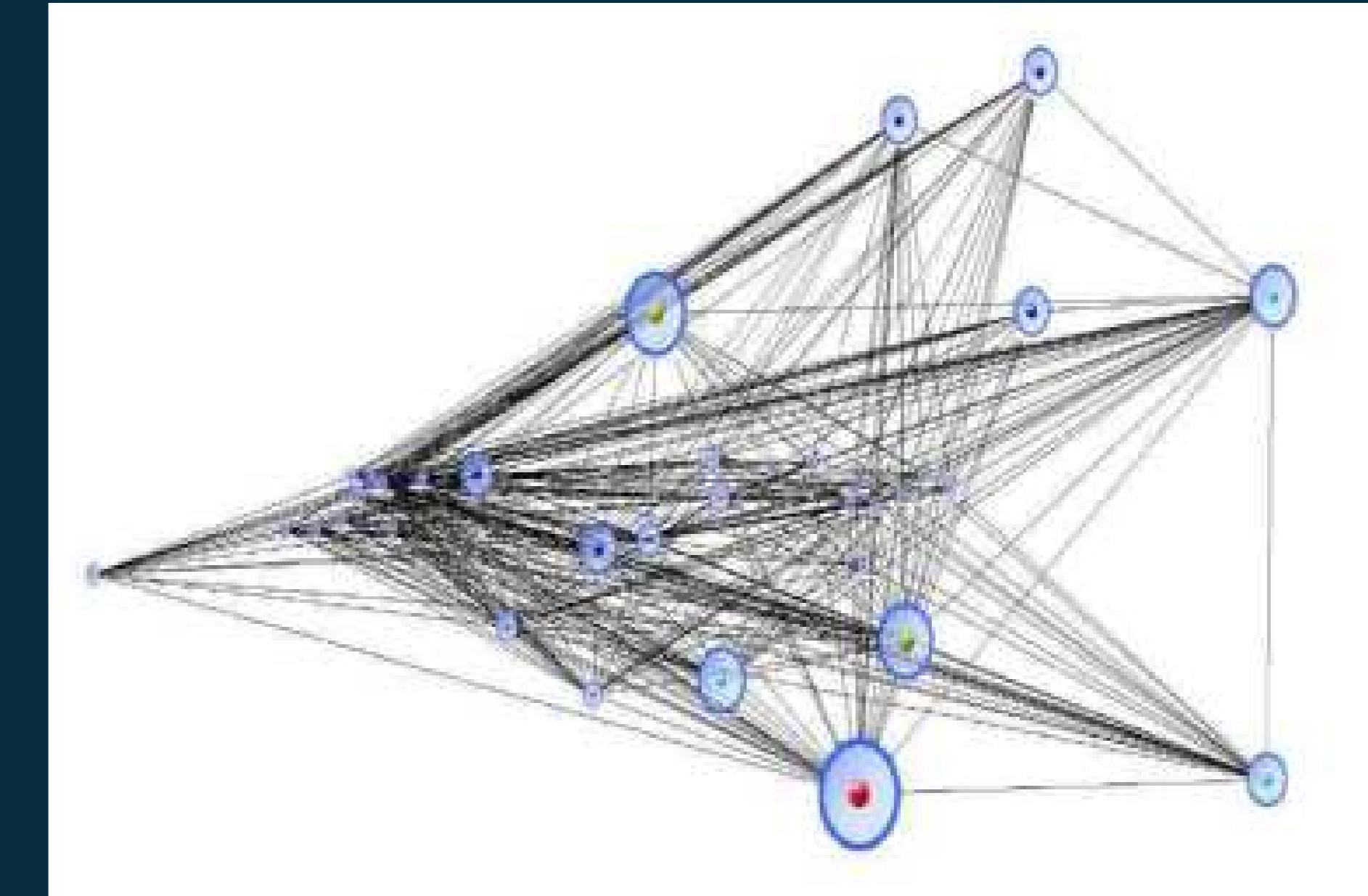
34

Protected  
Specimens  
seized

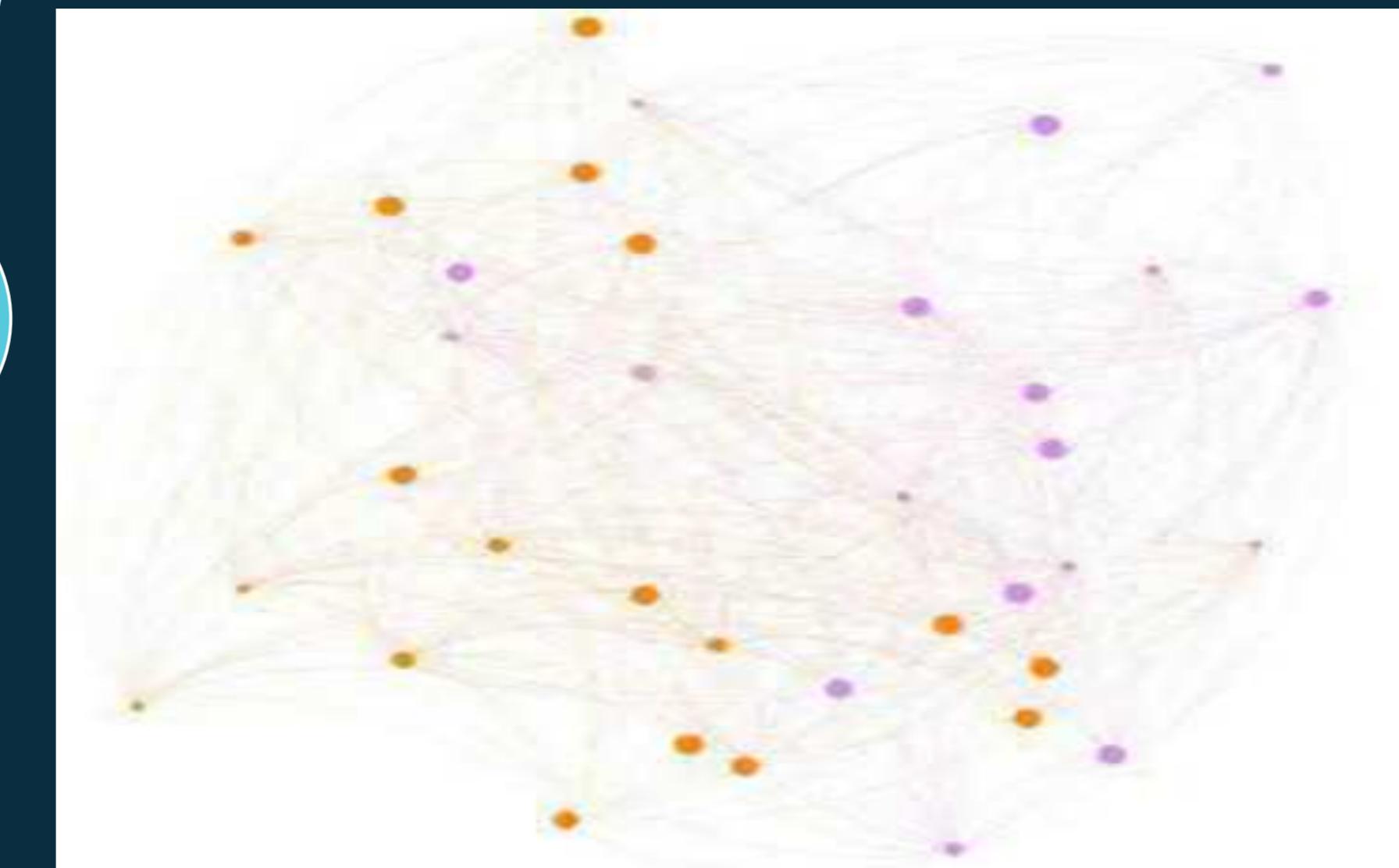
3000

Value

3.500.000 €



ALGORITHMS



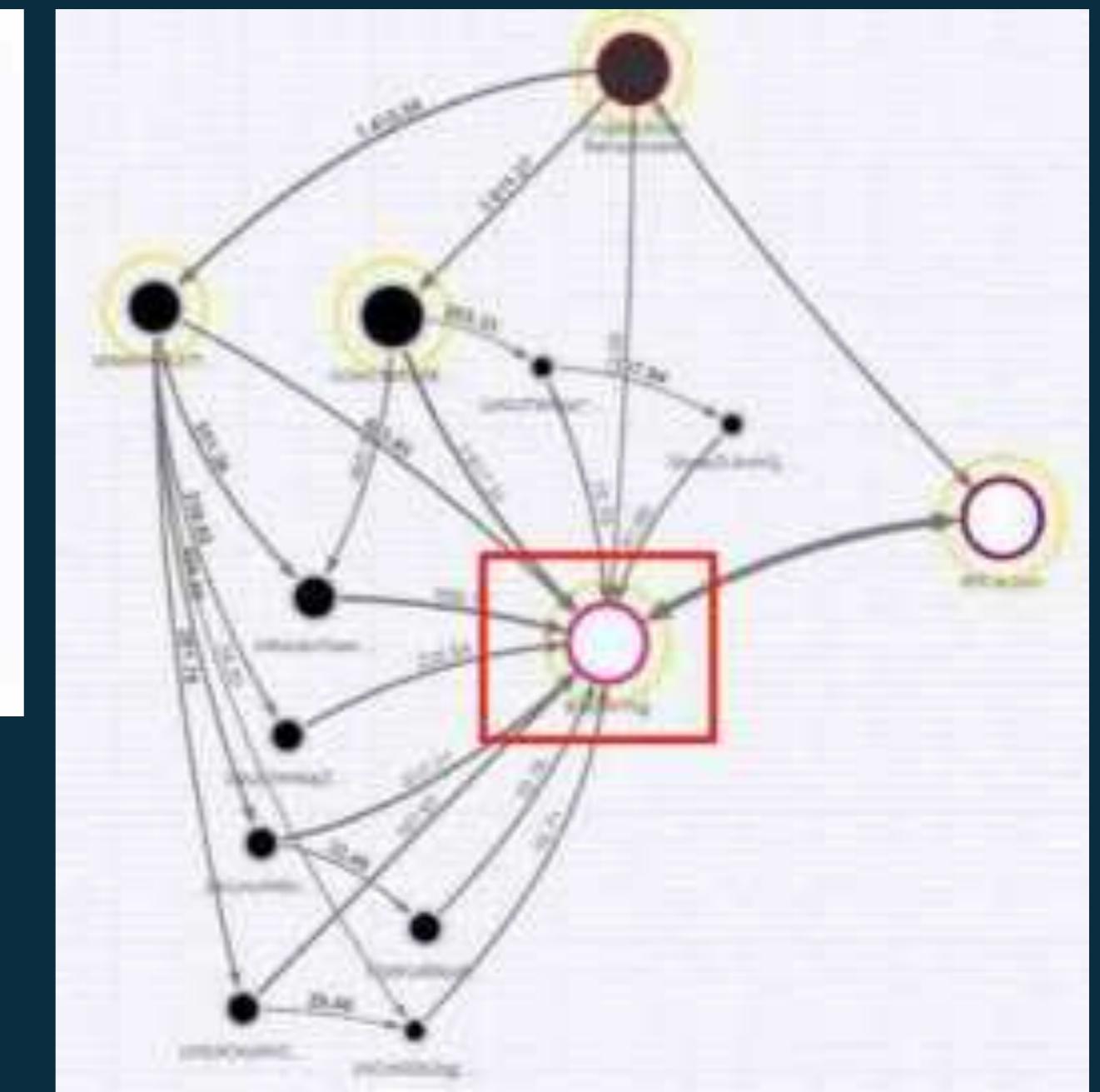
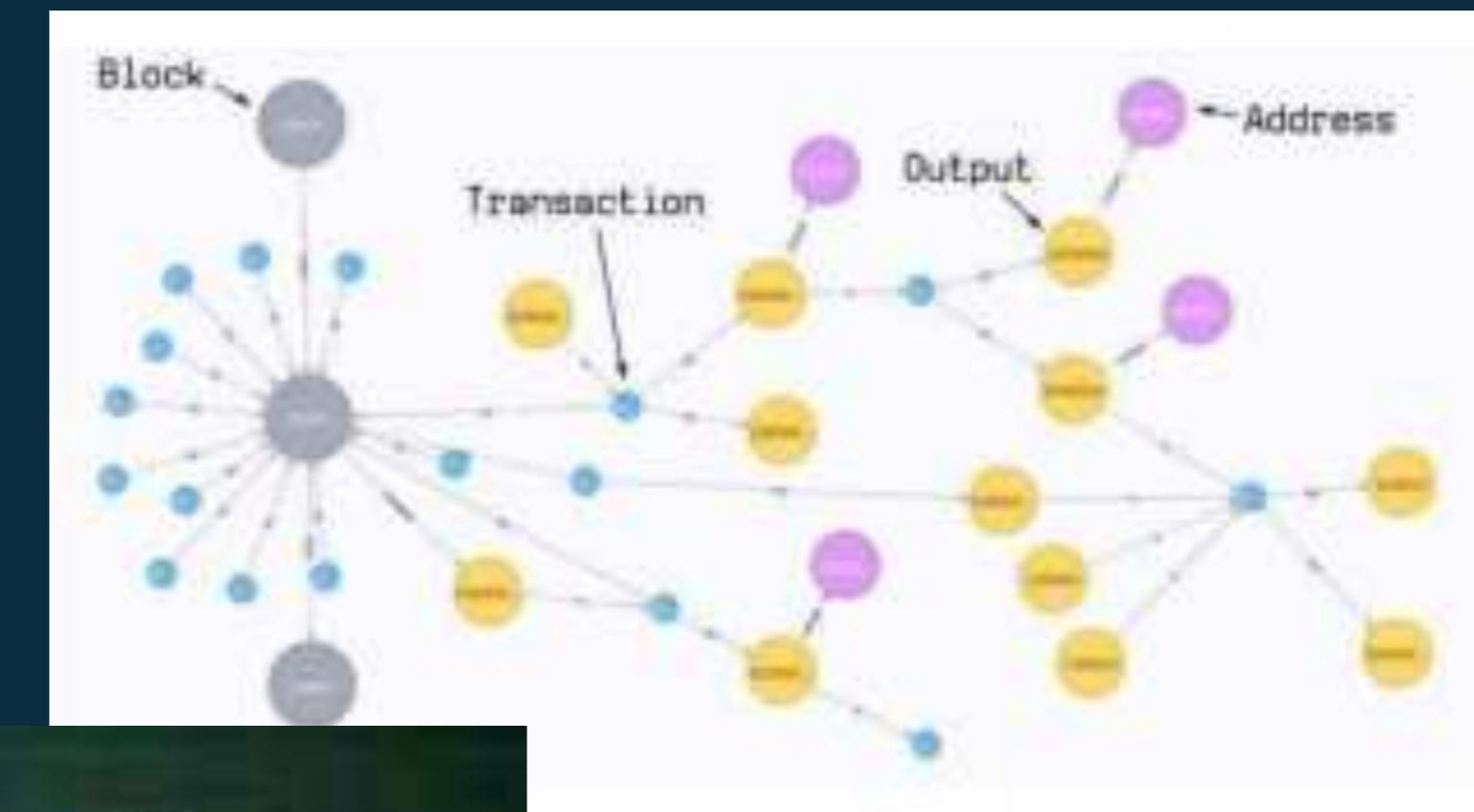
# Cyber Wildlife Crime

Information exchanged EMPACT OA 3.1  
2022



ISF UNITE project

## EAD Environmental Cyber Patrol Action Week



# Thank you very much for your time

Glad to answer your questions and comments



<https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/environmental-crime>  
[www.europol.europa.eu](http://www.europol.europa.eu)

