



# I-FIU Connect: Extension of INTERPOL Databases to Financial Intelligence Units

## Background

Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) serve as a national centre for the receipt and analysis of Suspicious Transaction Reports and other information relevant to money laundering, terrorism financing and associated predicate offences. Every FIU plays a crucial role in the financial intelligence arena and is at the forefront in the fight against transnational financial crime.

However, FIUs face the constant challenge of receiving and having to process an overwhelming volume of suspicious transaction reports daily. In this regard, **INTERPOL encourages all our member countries to consider granting their national FIU access to INTERPOL databases.**

FIUs require immediate access to financial, administrative and law enforcement information to assist them in analyzing the information and intelligence it receives from reporting entities. Access to INTERPOL databases will enhance an FIU's ability to focus their activities to target people and bank accounts linked to INTERPOL Notices and databases. This access may then allow FIUs to prioritize or categorize their investigations.

## About the Initiative

Under this initiative, FIUs can gain access to the following INTERPOL Databases:

- **INTERPOL Notices** (international alerts for fugitives, suspected criminals, persons and entities subject to UN Security Council Sanctions, potential threats, missing persons, dead bodies and criminal methods) – as of March 2022, INTERPOL has more than 70 000 persons subject to an INTERPOL Red Notice
- **INTERPOL Nominal Database** (personal data and criminal history of people subject to international police cooperation requests)
- **INTERPOL SLTD Database** (contains almost 107 million records of travel and identity documents that have been reported as stolen, stolen blank, revoked, invalid or lost)

Implementing this initiative will provide FIUs with the valuable information necessary to fully support member countries to:

- Combat money laundering and terrorism financing;
- Allow FIUs to cross check intelligence and prioritize suspicious transactions;
- Prevent threats to national and international security;
- Build intelligence on suspects and suspicious entities;
- Detect illicit financial activity;
- Protect the integrity of financial markets;
- Bring criminals to justice;
- Greatly enhance the activities of the global FIU community

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: My national FIU wishes to gain access to INTERPOL's databases. What do I need to do?**

**A:** FIU access to INTERPOL databases falls under the mandate of each country's National Central Bureau (NCB). To kickstart the process, FIUs will need to direct their interest to their respective NCB. If the NCB agrees to grant this access, INTERPOL will then liaise with the NCB to establish this connectivity for the FIU.

**Q: My national FIU adopts a law enforcement model. How do I gain access to INTERPOL's databases?**

**A:** If your national FIU adopts a law enforcement model or is embedded within the law enforcement community, access to INTERPOL databases can be easily extended. To do so, there needs to be technical connectivity between your NCB and FIU.

**Q: My national FIU adopts an administrative/judicial model. Can I still gain access to INTERPOL's databases?**

**A:** National FIUs with an administrative/ judicial status can gain access INTERPOL databases, as long as both the NCB and FIU establishes a data sharing agreement.

**Q: Does my national FIU need to sign any agreement(s) in order to gain access to INTERPOL's databases?**

**A:** Yes. Both your FIU and your country's NCB will need to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). A template of this MoU can be obtained from INTERPOL.

**Q: Are there any additional costs that my FIU/ NCB will need to bear?**

**A:** INTERPOL does not charge any fee for accessing or performing searches on our databases. To gain access to INTERPOL's databases, all it requires are stable Internet connection and a standalone computer.

## Get in Touch

For collaboration, or to learn more about this initiative, please contact:

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