



FACT SHEET

Criminal intelligence analysis

Criminal intelligence analysis is an essential component of effective policing, at both the operational and strategic levels. Analysts study criminal data to identify possible trends, relationships or connections between different crimes in different places, and use the analysis to support law enforcement activities. The added value of criminal analysis is increasing the understanding of crime at the local, national, and international levels. It can also assist governments in maximizing the deployment of human and financial resources.

► MAIN OBJECTIVES

The central tasks of criminal intelligence analysis are to:

- Help officials – senior law enforcers, policy makers and decision makers – deal more effectively with uncertainty and new challenges;
- Provide timely warning of threats;
- Support operational activities and complex investigations.

► TYPES OF ANALYSIS

Criminal intelligence analysis is divided into operational (or tactical) and strategic analysis. Though the basic skills required are similar, the two categories differ with regard to the level of detail and the type of client for whom the products are designed.

Operational analysis aims to achieve a specific law enforcement outcome. This might be an arrest, seizure, forfeiture of assets or money gained from criminal activities, or the disruption of a criminal group. Operational analytical support includes:

- Identifying links between suspects, and their involvement in crimes and criminal activity;
- Identifying key investigative or information gaps;
- Providing or preparing profiles of known or suspected criminals.

Strategic analysis is intended to inform higher level decision makers, and the benefits are realized over the long term. The intention is to provide early warning of threats and to support senior decision-makers in setting priorities to prepare their organizations to deal with emerging criminal issues. This might include allocating resources to different types of crime, or increasing training in a particular crime-fighting technique.

Strategic analysis includes the identification of:

- Modus operandi;
- Crime trends and patterns;
- Emerging threats;
- How external factors such as technology, demographics or economics could potentially impact criminal activity.

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► LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT

At INTERPOL, our team of criminal intelligence analysts provide both operational and strategic analytical support to crime-related projects, investigations and operations. This typically includes producing reports focusing on particular regions, crime types or a newly discovered modus operandi.

INTERPOL's criminal analysts also provide consultancy services and training for police in member countries, often as part of larger INTERPOL capacity building programmes on issues such as counter-terrorism or people smuggling. Additionally, analysts can be deployed in the field to directly assist police with ongoing criminal investigations or operations.

► ANALYTICAL PRODUCTS

In support of INTERPOL units and law enforcement authorities in member countries, INTERPOL can generate a diverse range of analytical products:

- Analytical reports;
- Threat assessments for regions or specific crimes;
- Risk assessments for a particular event;
- Intelligence publications (bulletins, monthly reports).



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► CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact us via our web site. For matters relating to specific crime cases, please contact your local police or the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in your country.

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