



## PROJECT I-SOP (INTERPOL – STOP ONLINE PIRACY)

Coordinating a global cross-sector response to digital piracy

### THE SITUATION

Online piracy impacts a broad range of digital content, including software, music, television, films and literature. It causes significant financial losses across these industries, with downstream effects on employment, innovation and government revenue. Additionally, pirated content often exposes users to harmful material and cybersecurity risks such as malware and viruses. Many consumers are unaware that piracy profits can be tied to other serious criminal activities, including money laundering, financial fraud and cybercrime. These organized crime groups often pose as legitimate businesses, using flexible and adaptable structures to avoid detection.



## PROJECT I-SOP

### PROJECT SUMMARY

Since 2021, INTERPOL, in collaboration with Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) and the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA), has led an initiative to combat online piracy and intellectual property crimes. The project supports law enforcement cases and operations, data analysis, capacity building, and public awareness to dismantle illegal piracy services and strengthen international cooperation and information sharing.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Project I-SOP draws on a range of expertise from specialized units at the INTERPOL General Secretariat, to coordinate operations, regional investigative and analytical case meetings, and other relevant events.

#### The range of activities includes:

- Increasing capacity in relevant law enforcement authorities to tackle digital piracy;
- Improving information exchange between public and private sectors;
- Collecting and analysing intelligence;
- Identifying and taking down websites and servers that facilitate digital piracy;
- Dismantling criminal networks involved in digital piracy and targeting their assets.

**Timeframe:** 2021 to 2029

**Budget:** EUR 5.5 million

**Donor:** Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, Republic of Korea



### INTERPOL'S ADVISORY GROUP ON DIGITAL PIRACY

The group includes experts from the public and private sector. It provides strategic support for the I-SOP Project by advising on threats, trends, innovative tactics, and contributing to the development of INTERPOL notices.

### SUCCESS STORIES

#### Global Piracy Network Dismantled

Authorities in Korea and Indonesia, with the support of INTERPOL, dismantled a criminal group that illegally streamed 72 TV channels and distributed 110,000 videos, causing losses of over USD 1.2 million. The group had operated for nine years, targeting Korean expatriates by rebroadcasting cable content through custom TV boxes, apps, and browsers. Triggered by a copyright complaint, the investigation led to the arrest of three suspects through coordinated efforts under I-SOP.

#### Shutdown of EVO Release Group

Project I-SOP provided technical and analytical support to Portugal's Polícia Judiciária in dismantling the EVO Release Group, an international network accused of illegally sharing copyrighted content for over 10 years, resulting in losses of over USD 1.1 million. The operation led to the identification of the group's servers, the seizure of equipment, and the arrest of its leader. I-SOP's support included case coordination, operational support, forensic and intelligence analysis.



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