



# PROJECT MILLENNIUM

## FACILITATING INFORMATION EXCHANGE TO COMBAT TRANSNATIONAL EURASIAN ORGANIZED CRIME

The primary objective of Project Millennium is to identify and dismantle major criminal groups, their associated criminal networks, and their activities. This is achieved through enhanced collection, sharing and analysis of data; operational and investigative support; capacity building and training.

### **Transnatioanl Eurasian Organized Crime**

Eurasian crime groups generally come from East Europe and the Caucasus. Their activities span various crime areas and have been known to reach Western, Central and Northern Europe, North America and the Middle East.

All engage in highly-structured criminal enterprises. Some are protected from the law with the help of corrupt or criminally influenced officials.



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### “Thieves in Law”

“Thieves in Law” or “Thieves professing the code” are at the top of the criminal hierarchy, with influence and control that extends across groups engaging in crimes such as:

- Trafficking in drugs, human beings, motor vehicles and firearms;
- Contract murder;
- Extortion;
- Financial crime and money laundering.

“Thieves in Law” have been identified by Project Millennium countries as a priority area of investigation.

They contribute to a common criminal fund worth billions known as the “Obshak”. It is invested in shares, real estate and companies, and managed by the most influential and high-ranking members.

Money is invested in legitimate companies – with the “Thieves in Law” often having great influence in activities and control of a particular sector – as well as in shadow companies used for money laundering. This means that criminal funds are generated and distributed through both legal and illegal channels, with an impact on the global economy.

### Investigative Support

Project Millennium has developed tools to allow INTERPOL member countries safely share intelligence and operational information through their National Central Bureaus (NCB). The Millennium Project Team provides regular assessments and analysis reports of the Eurasian organized crime landscape, based on this data.

The team also participates in Incident Response Teams (IRT), deployed to support investigations concerning transnational Eurasian organized crime (TEOC), such as firearms and drug trafficking, burglary, aggravated theft, and other forms of serious and organized crime.

### Analysis File

The Millennium Criminal Analysis File enables the effective processing of a greater amount of information for crime analysis purposes. By proactively sharing and contributing intelligence to the analysis file, police are empowered to act locally, with the support of global data.

A list of “Thieves in law” is a core product for NCBs in the participating countries. The Analysis File compiles data on high-ranking members of Russian-speaking Organized Criminal Groups.

This unique product offers our member countries a wide range of additional technical features, updated to ensure its value and relevance. Functionality of the Millennium Criminal Analysis File has also been implemented according to INTERPOL’s Rules of Processing Data and the supporting legal framework.

In 2023, INTERPOL presented a new visual interface to member countries. This interface features functionalities such as responsive design and map visualization to display clear trends. It is more

powerful and user-friendly and includes the latest analytical tools and functions. Technical features such as search module, graphs and other additional fields have also been added, to ensure ongoing value and relevance.

### Key statistics

As of March 2024:

1,148 valid notices

1,661 valid diffusions

- 476 Red Notices, 376 Red Diffusions, to seek the arrest and location of wanted persons;
- 647 Green Notices, 120 Green Diffusions, to provide warnings and intelligence on possible threats;
- 24 Blue Notices, 1,165 Blue Diffusions, to collect additional information;
- 1 Yellow Notice to help locate missing persons.

610 Millennium messages sent via I-24/7 in 2023-2024.

### Working groups

The Project Millennium working group meets on a regular basis to allow law enforcement officers to share their experiences, exchange intelligence, and identify emerging trends and modus operandi of crime groups in the regions concerned.

Working Group Meetings have been held at the INTERPOL General Secretariat (April 2024 and April 2023), Brasilia, Brazil (May 2022), Madrid, Spain (December 2021), Salzburg, Austria (April 2019), Lviv, Ukraine (May 2018) and Moscow, Russia (June 2017).



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