

ILEAnet

Innovation by Law Enforcement Agencies networking

Deliverable 2.10:

Input to the Public Report on the ILEAnet Findings on Challenges & Needs – N°10

Grant Agreement number: 740714	H2020-SEC-2016-2017-1
Start date of project: 1 June 2017	Duration: 60 months
Lead beneficiary of this deliverable: PPA	Deliverable type: Report
Dissemination Level: Public	Release: R1
Due date of deliverable: 31/05/2022	Actual submission date: 07/06/2022

History			
Author	Date	Reason for change	Release
Project Office	8/03/2022	Template D2.10	V0.1
Raul Savimaa	27/05/2022	Initial draft to be reviewed by ENSP	V0.2
Eloïse Chassaing (ENSP)	30/05/2022	Review of the deliverable	V0.3
Raul Savimaa	31/05/2022	Corrections	V0.4



Eloïse Chassaing (ENSP)	31/05/2022	Adjustments	V0.5
Dominique Wasquel (ART)	02/06/2022	Sent out to the consortium and ILEAnet Security Advisor for their review before submission	V0.6
Dominique Wasquel (ART)	07/06/2022	Final version submitted to the EC	R1

1 Executive Summary

The aim of the ILEAnet project is to set up and develop a sustainable network of Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) practitioners' organisations from all over Europe. The mission of this network is to stimulate LEA capabilities to influence, develop and take up research, development and innovation (RDI) that is useful and usable for LEAs, and thereby help them to tackle the major challenges they face.

The deliverable D2.10 describes the activities performed under work package WP2 during the tenth (final) semester of the project, for the period December 2021 – May 2022, i.e. after the reporting date of the deliverable D2.9, and it summarises the results and outcomes during the whole project duration. Similarly to the two previous semesters, the observed period was also characterised by the management of the COVID-19 virus pandemic outbreak in most of European countries, which still influenced the usual processes and activities of LEAs. However, the mild stabilisation and implementation of continuous crisis management practices allowed to plan and execute more traditional activities than in the previous two semesters.

According to the project plan, the work package WP2 is designed to collect and analyse the needs and challenges for LEA practitioners in order to elaborate a strong basis to support work package WP3 in the identification of best practices. Therefore, WP2 is providing a state of the art that is a direct in-depth analysis and feasibility study of opportunities for WP4.

In more detail, the objective of WP2 (Law Enforcement Challenges & Needs) is to enable and crystallise the expression of challenges and needs by the LEA practitioners participating in the ILEAnet Network for which demand-driven RDI goals should be defined and achieved at national or EU level. The WP2 aims to develop the strategy for collecting and analysing the practitioners' needs via the following ways:

1. Top-down, by suggesting topics based on analysis of policy and strategic documents and strategic research agendas;
2. Bottom-up, by collecting input in open surveys and non-directed interviews;
3. Based on observation of the activities in the ILEAnet network (ILEAnet community+network and ILEAnet practitioners' network).

The activities in the work package WP2 encompass three tasks:

- # T2.1 Monitoring of policy development, leader PPA, duration M1 – M60;
- # T2.2 Collection of LEA practitioner challenges and needs, leader PPA, duration M3 – M60;
- # T2.3 Elaboration, classification and prioritization of the collected practitioner challenges and needs, leader PPA, duration M9 – M60.

The plans for WP2 for the final semester of the project concentrated on the **analysis of dynamics on LEAs challenges and needs during the project and in comparison, to ILEAnet Surveys #1-#8 and devising a publicly available version** of the description of the methodology and results of the WP2 during the project.

During the final semester, the following has been achieved under WP2:

- # Potential trends within 5 years in challenges and needs of LEA practitioners regarding migration, serious organised crime, cybercrime and terrorism were analysed. Based on that analysis the ILEAnet Survey No 9 was devised in order to collect practitioners' actual opinions of the contemporary challenges and needs.
- # The survey was conducted, responses collected and analysed. The survey indicated that most of the challenges in focus topics have remained in 4 years while some have been changed:
 - For Illegally Mediated migration, the trend indicates that two of the challenges identified in 2018 remained in top 3 in 2022: Fraudulent Documents and Information Sharing Between EU Agencies and LEAs. This can be reasoned that while in 2018 the migration pressure was higher than in 2022 and the intelligence gathering and situation awareness was more acute than aspects related to registration, in 2022 the process of correct registration enables later long-term better awareness and is therefore more important now.
 - For fighting Terrorism, the trend indicates that two of the challenges remained in top 3 (Information sharing and Improved Interoperability of Information Systems for Border Management and Internal Security) and a third (Strengthening Operational Cooperation) emerged from 2018 top 4. As a result, the challenges of LEAs are quite unchanged. Due to a reduced number of terrorist attacks in Europe in 2020-2021, the protection of citizens and 'soft' targets is less an acute challenge today. In addition, additional processes, equipment and exchange of best practices are in place in comparison with 2018.
 - For cybercrime, the topmost challenge remained the same in 4 years (Identifying the actors behind Cybercrime attack tools). However, for other challenges, the top 3 has been changed. Choices in 2018 indicated the need to be better prepared for anticipated technology threats for protection critical infrastructure and for being able to operate in Darknet. In 2022, the focus is on essential needs on strategic and prevention view as well as on protection of vulnerable groups.
 - For Serious and Organised Crime, the topmost challenge in 2018 (Conducting financial investigations) has changed (it was the primary focus for ILEAnet Public Workshop #2 in April 2019, and it is not anymore pointed out in top 3 in 2022). The challenge 'Cooperation & coordination to disrupt the trafficking in illicit drugs' was pointed out as #2 in 2018 and is now #1 in 2022. The important challenge of Information sharing (in 2018) is transferred to challenge of having joint investigation teams (in 2022). This indicates that besides information sharing, the actual cooperation and joint (cross-border) investigation to fight serious and organised crime is now more important.
 - For the focus of Conducting Financial Investigations to Support Investigations of Serious Organised Crime, Cybercrime, Terrorism and Illegally Mediated Migration, the comparison of lists of challenges indicated that the changes are minor and the most important challenges in conducting financial investigations have remained the same.
 - For Identifying the challenges and needs of Law Enforcement Agencies concerning Age Determination, the trends indicate that although the time between two surveys (2021 vs 2022) was relatively small, it can be observed that the focus has been changed to child-centric aspects and protection of children in that process in comparison to focus on techniques in 2021. One reason can also be that ILEAnet has conducted additional research

in 2021 to analyse and introduce review of age assessment technologies and their capabilities for LEAs.

In order to capture and analyse the challenges and needs of LEAs practitioners, the ILEAnet project started the desk reviews and surveys in the focus topics, outlined in the European Agenda on Security¹: terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime plus migration that was actual in 2017. During the ILEAnet project the additional focus topics were chosen based on the emerged security situation and additional trends for LEAs activities. The results of analyses on all these desk reviews and surveys indicated the actual challenges and needs of LEAs as well as the trends in the practical focus tasks. The findings are well adjusted with new EU Security Union Strategy for the period from 2020 to 2025. That strategy defines internal security key areas: organised crime, terrorism and the prevention of violent radicalisation, resilience of our critical infrastructures and public spaces, cybercrime, including fighting child sexual abuse, law enforcement cooperation and information exchange, research and innovation.²

The publicly available summary of LEAs challenges and needs are presented within D2.10 and will then also be given to iProcureNet team. The ILEAnet WP2 team also participated in ILEAnet Final Public Workshop (PW5) and answered to the questions related to the methodology for collecting LEAs challenges and needs and outlining respective important findings and results.

The monitoring of the activities and discussions of LEAs on the ILEAnet Online Platform has been conducted. WP2 team analysed the relevant information to the ILEAnet Knowledge Factory.

There is also a plan to prepare an article for publication of the ILEAnet methodology for collecting and analysing LEAs challenges and needs and to present publicly available results.

The overall conclusion of the current observable period (December 2021 – May 2022) is that the planned as well as previously postponed activities were implemented.

Fulfilment of tasks at the end of reporting period:

- ✚ T2.1 Monitoring of policy development. Completed 100%. Expected total resource usage volume from the beginning of the project 100%, actual total resource usage volume from the beginning of the project 85%
- ✚ T2.2 Collection of LEA practitioner challenges and needs. Completed 100%. Expected total resource usage volume from the beginning of the project 100%, actual total resource usage volume from the beginning of the project 90%
- ✚ T2.3 Elaboration, classification and prioritization of the collected practitioner challenges and needs. Completed 100%. All expressed needs were collected and analysed. Expected total resource

¹ European Commission 2015. The European Agenda on Security. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52015DC0185&qid=1648472050877>

² A new way forward on internal security. https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/internal-security/new-way-forward-internal-security_en

usage volume from the beginning of the project 100%, actual total resource usage volume from the beginning of the project is around 90%.

(The difference between expected and actual total resource usage is due to the fact that the project results were achieved with less workload and the actual average personnel costs were lower than expected initially. The reason for this is that the share of the personnel with lower salary was higher than was expected at the beginning of the project).

Allocated resources and costs incurred during the whole project is not summarised yet. Although, for background information, it can be outlined that the overall participation in WP2 during first four years of the project (2017-2021, i.e., during the project periods 1-3) was 14 person months. This included time allocated and used for planning, elaboration of desk reviews; designing, conduction and analysis of surveys; and monitoring of ILEAnet Online Portal for topics related to discussion and exchange of experiences of LEAs' practitioners.

During the ILEAnet project, desk reviews on eight topics were performed and nine surveys elaborated, conducted, analysed and results presented in ILEAnet Public Workshops. In addition, practitioners' activity and focus topics on ILEAnet Online Portal were monitored and analysed and used to derive suggestions for focus topics for ILEAnet desk reviews and surveys. The analysis of the current knowledge, that was obtained via desk reviews, ILEAnet Surveys #1—#8 and monitoring of knowledge exchange at ILEAnet Online Portal enabled to design and conduct the survey on trends of LEA practitioners' challenges and needs and enabled to collect and analyse this information.

Based on the activities and results, there can be concluded that the tasks of WP2 are fulfilled successfully, despite the challenges to collect data from surveys during COVID-19 pandemic period.

Table of content

- 1 Executive Summary 2**
- Table of content 6**
- List of tables..... 8**
- Table of figures 9**
- 2 Introduction..... 10
- 3 Accomplished actions since last report 13
- 4 ILEAnet Desk Reviews and Surveys 15
 - 4.1 Illegally Mediated Migration 15
 - 4.2 Terrorism..... 15
 - 4.3 Cybercrime 16
 - 4.4 Serious and Organised Crime 16
 - 4.5 Cyber-related and Cyber-enabled crime..... 16
 - 4.6 Conducting Financial Investigations to Support Investigations of Serious Organised Crime, Cybercrime, Terrorism and Illegally Mediated Migration..... 17
 - 4.7 Support the Identification and Control of Irregular Migration through Modern Technologies . 18
 - 4.8 Identifying the Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies Concerning Age Determination..... 18
 - 4.9 Trends in Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies 19
- 5 Potential Trends in LEAs challenges and needs 20**
 - 5.1 Trends in Migration..... 20
 - 5.2 Trends in Serious Organized Crime 21
 - 5.3 Trends in Cybercrime 22
 - 5.4 Trends in Terrorism..... 22
 - 5.5 Trends in Age Determination Capabilities 23
- 6 ILEAnet Survey on Trends in Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies 24**
 - 6.1 Methodology..... 24
 - 6.2 Participation..... 25
 - 6.3 Challenges and Needs in Focus Topics..... 26
 - 6.3.1 Illegally Mediated Migration 26
 - 6.3.2 Terrorism 27
 - 6.3.3 Cybercrime 27
 - 6.3.4 Organised and Serious Crime 28

- 6.3.5 Efficient Conducting of Financial Investigations..... 28
- 6.3.6 Identifying the challenges of Law Enforcement Agencies concerning Age Determination29
- 6.4 Trends in Challenges and Needs 30
 - 6.4.1 Illegally Mediated Migration 30
 - 6.4.2 Terrorism 31
 - 6.4.3 Cybercrime 31
 - 6.4.4 Serious and Organised Crime 32
 - 6.4.5 Efficient Conducting of Financial Investigations..... 33
 - 6.4.6 Age Determination 34
- 6.5 Conclusions Based on the Survey..... 35
- 6.6 Planned use and publication of the results of the survey..... 36
- 7 Interest Topics for LEA Practitioners Networking 37**
- 8 Key Performance Indicators 38**
- 9 Conclusions 39**
 - 9.1 Summary of Findings..... 39
 - 9.2 Activities of the reporting period and of the whole project. 41
- 10 Annex – ILEAnet Survey on Trends in Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies.... 42**

List of tables

TABLE 3.1. FULFILMENT OF ACTIVITY PLANS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD 14

TABLE 7.1. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR WORK PACKAGE WP2 38

Table of figures

FIGURE 2.1. THE ROLE OF WP2 IN THE COOPERATION WITH OTHER WPs AND INFORMATION TRANSFER BETWEEN WP2, WP3 AND WP4 10

FIGURE 2.2. THE SOURCES FOR COLLECTING AND DETERMINATION OF THE CHALLENGES AND NEEDS OF LEA PRACTITIONERS. 10

FIGURE 2.3. THE PROCESS OF COLLECTING AND DETERMINATION OF THE CHALLENGES AND NEEDS OF LEA PRACTITIONERS. 11

FIGURE 5.1. THE COMPONENTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE ILEANET SURVEY..... 24

2 Introduction

The work package WP2 aims at collecting contemporary challenges and needs for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) at national and EU level in order to support their solving by research and development activities. The WP2 serves as an input for work packages WP3 and WP4, providing them with the necessary findings to focus on specific thematic areas. In the Figure 2.1 is presented the schematic view of information transfer in relation to collecting the challenges and needs on various prioritized topics from internal security and public safety. The figure does not present the whole scope nor tasks and activities of WP3 and WP4.

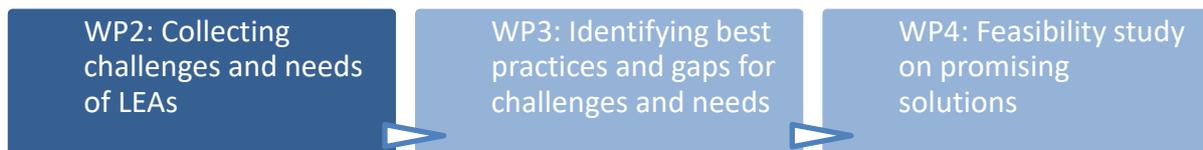


Figure 2.1. The role of WP2 in the cooperation with other WPs and information transfer between WP2, WP3 and WP4.

As stated in the project documentation, the general objective of WP2 is to enable and crystallise the expression of challenges and needs by the LEA practitioners participating in the ILEAnet Network for which demand driven RDI goals should be defined and achieved at national or EU level. WP2 aims at developing the practitioners' needs analysis (illustrated in the Figure 2.2):

- # Top-down, by suggesting topics based on analysis of policy documents and strategic research agendas;
- # Bottom-up, by collecting input in open surveys, non-directed interviews and other means;
- # Based on observation of the activities in the network.

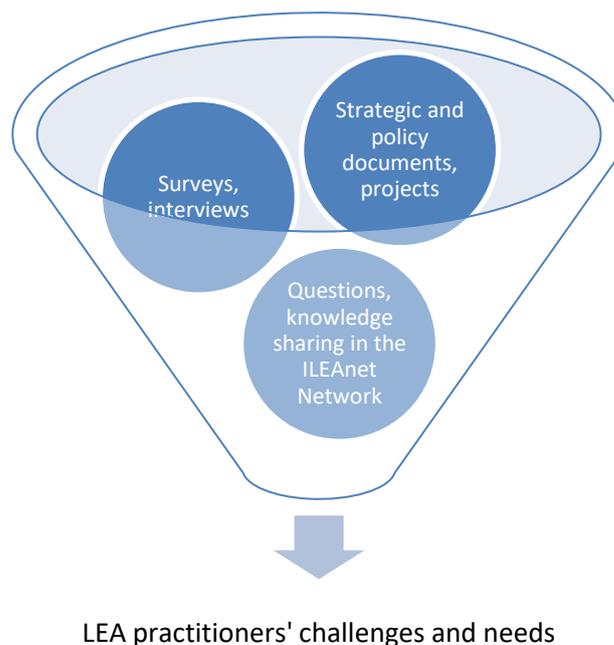


Figure 2.2. The sources for collecting and determination of the challenges and needs of LEA practitioners.

It is planned, that as a second step, work package WP2 will assess the collected challenges and needs and define a priority list, that will be passed on to the subsequent WPs.

As a summary, the role of WP2 in the Annual Cycle is to collect and systemize the needs and challenges of LEAs in order to provide this information to other WPs. The general methodology for collecting and analysing the challenges and needs for LEAs is the following (Figure 2.3):

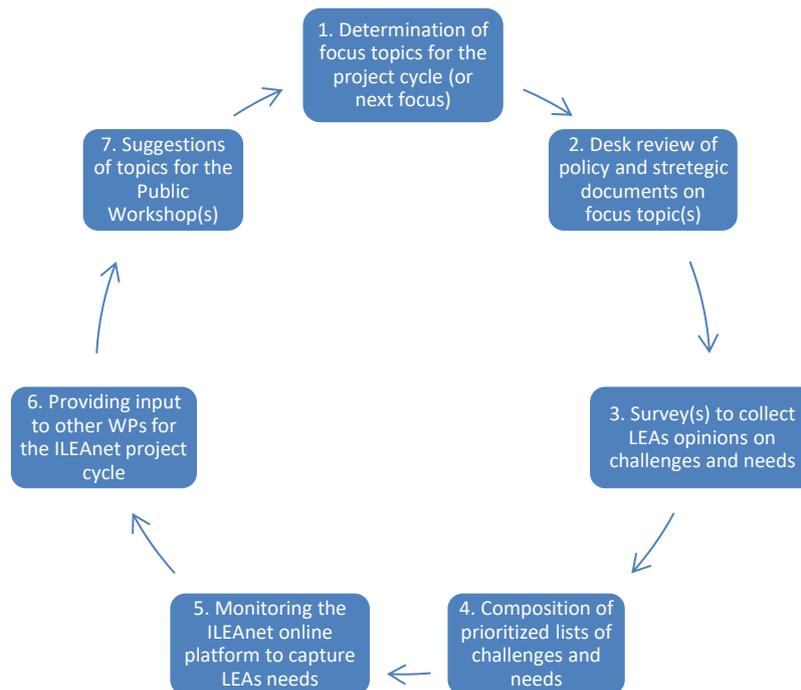


Figure 2.3. The process of collecting and determination of the challenges and needs of LEA practitioners.

The deliverable D2.10 describes the activities performed under work package WP2 during the period December 2021 – May 2022, i.e. after the reporting date of the previous periodic deliverable D2.9. As this is the last period of the ILEAnet project, the comparison with the previous periods and general review of WP2 results is presented as well.

The tasks outlined for work package WP2 are fulfilled for the observed period of the tenth semester as the following:

- ✳ Task T2.1 (reviewing the situation) is done for the focus topics and brief results as trends outlined in current in deliverable D2.10 in Section 5.
- ✳ Task T2.2 (Collection of LEA practitioner challenges and needs) for the observable period is fulfilled as the results of the Survey #9 is outline in the Section 6.
- ✳ Task T2.3 (Elaboration, classification and prioritization of the collected practitioner challenges and needs) is done, and brief summary is presented in the Section 7 of the current document.

The overall conclusion of the current observable period (December 2021 – May 2022) is that the planned activities are fulfilled, and actual activities supported the preparation for the final semester of the project.

The rest of the document is organised as follows:

- # Accomplishment of the plans presented in November 2021 for the tenth semester of the project is outlined in Section 3.
- # The review of ILEAnet desk reviews and surveys is presented in Section 4.
- # The brief summary of potential trends in migration, serious organised crime, cybercrime, terrorism and age determination in comparison with the situation at the beginning of the ILEAnet project is presented in Section 5.
- # The results of the survey on the trends on LEAs challenges and needs (ILEAnet Survey #9) is described and outlined in Section 6.
- # The interest topics for LEA Practitioners and for possible networking is presented in Section 7 of the deliverable.
- # Key performance indicators (KPIs) are presented in Section 8.
- # Overall conclusions are outlined in Section 9.

3 Accomplished actions since last report

Deliverable D2.9 stated the plans for the observable period:

- # ILEAnet WP2 team will complete the analysis about the dynamics on LEAs external environment regarding the trends and potential new challenges and needs for LEAs in comparison with the time at initial desk reviews and surveys (ILEAnet Surveys #1—#8).
- # There will be conducted conclusive survey (ILEAnet Survey #9) to obtain the actual opinions of LEAs regarding the trends on challenges and needs and the actual challenges and needs as of 2022.
- # Based on the obtained information and performed analysis there will be devised deliverable D2.10 the will include the information regarding the trends and potential new challenges and needs for LEAs in comparison with the project starting time.
- # Together with deliverable D2.10 there will be presented publicly available version of the WP2 methodology and LEAs challenges and needs.
- # The ILEAnet WP2 team will also participation in ILEAnet Final Public Workshop (PW5) and will present one of ILEAnet assets regarding the methodology for collecting LEAs challenges and needs and outlining respective important findings and results.
- # WP2 team will analyse and feed the relevant information to the ILEAnet Knowledge Factory.
- # There is also a plan to prepare an article for publication of the ILEAnet methodology for collecting and analysing LEAs challenges and needs and to present publicly available results.

In comparison with the plans for the observable period, described in the D2.9, the plans for the current semester are fulfilled as following:

- # The focus was on preparation of the analysis and survey that will research the trends in LEA challenges and needs during the project activities. The survey was conducted and analysed and presented in D2.10.
- # The monitoring of the activities and discussions of LEAs on the ILEAnet Online Platform was performed as well.

The plans for WP2 for the final semester of the project concentrated on the analysis of dynamics on LEAs challenges and needs during the project and in comparison to ILEAnet Surveys #1-#8 and devising publicly available version of the description of the methodology and results of the WP2 during the project. The tasks were fulfilled: the ILEAnet Survey #9 on Survey on Trends in Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies was elaborated and conducted and the results analysed and presented. The analysis of the current knowledge, that was obtained via desk reviews, ILEAnet Surveys #1—#8 and monitoring of knowledge exchange at ILEAnet Online Portal, enabled to design and conduct the survey on trends of LEA practitioners' challenges and needs and enabled to collect and analyse this information.

The fulfilment of activity plans during the reporting period is summarised in the **Table 3.1** hereunder.

Table 3.1. Fulfilment of activity plans during the reporting period

Planned six month earlier	Achieved at M60 (31 May 2022)
1. ILEAnet WP2 team will complete the analysis about the dynamics on LEAs external environment regarding the trends and potential new challenges and needs for LEAs in comparison with the time at initial desk reviews and surveys (ILEAnet Surveys #1—#8).	The focus was on preparation of the analysis and survey that will research the trends in LEA challenges and needs during the project activities.
2. There will be conducted conclusive survey (ILEAnet Survey #9) to obtain the actual opinions of LEAs regarding the trends on challenges and needs and the actual challenges and needs as of 2022.	The survey was conducted and analysed and presented in D2.10.
3. Based on the obtained information and performed analysis there will be devised deliverable D2.10 the will include the information regarding the trends and potential new challenges and needs for LEAs in comparison with the project starting time.	D2.10 includes the trends in challenges and needs of LEAs.
4. Together with deliverable D2.10 there will be presented publicly available version of the WP2 methodology and LEAs challenges and needs.	The deliverable D2.10 is public.
5. The ILEAnet WP2 team will also participation in ILEAnet Public Workshop PW5 and will present one of ILEAnet asset regarding the methodology for collecting LEAs challenges and needs and outlining respective important findings and results.	ILEAnet WP2 participated in the ILEAnet Final Public Workshop (Public Workshop #5) and provided readiness to explain the used methodology for gathering and analysing challenges and needs of LEAs.
6. WP 2 team will analyse and feed the relevant information to the ILEAnet Knowledge Factory.	The information provided in the Knowledge Factory was analysed.
7. There is also a plan to prepare an article for publication of the ILEAnet methodology for collecting and analysing LEAs challenges and needs and to present publicly available results.	The outline of the article is prepared and will be further refined and elaborated in the near future.

The overall conclusion of the current observable period (December 2021 – May 2021) is that the planned were implemented.

4 ILEAnet Desk Reviews and Surveys

The collection of data related to LEAs challenges and needs was done in work package WP2 using an integrated method. The knowledge was gathered:

- # Top-down, by suggesting topics based on analysis of policy documents and strategic research agendas;
- # Bottom-up, by collecting input in open surveys, non-directed interviews and other means.

During the ILEAnet project, the following topics were analysed:

- # Illegally Mediated Migration
- # Terrorism
- # Cybercrime
- # Serious Organised Crime
- # Cyber-related and Cyber-enabled crime
- # Conducting Financial Investigations to Support Investigations of Serious Organised Crime, Cybercrime, Terrorism and Illegally Mediated Migration
- # Support the Identification and Control of Irregular Migration through Modern Technologies
- # Identifying the Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies Concerning Age Determination
- # Trends in Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies

4.1 Illegally Mediated Migration

The desk review was completed in 2017 and was presented in the deliverable D2.1 (November 2017 - January 2018). In total there was reviewed and analysed 23 strategic, policy and other documents and information sources for desk review.

The ILEAnet Survey on Illegally Mediated Migration (ILEAnet Survey #1) was conducted in January – February 2018. It was sent to the ILEAnet national contacts (INCs) of each participating country and also posted to ILEAnet community portal. The results of the survey were analysed in Deliverable D2.2 (May 2018) and summarised in the deliverable D2.4 (May 2019). The results were introduced during ILEAnet Public Workshop #1, in June 2018.

4.2 Terrorism

The desk review was completed in 2017 and was presented in the deliverable D2.1 (November 2017 - January 2018). In total there was reviewed and analysed 23 strategic, policy and other documents and information sources for desk review.

The ILEAnet Survey on Terrorism (ILEAnet Survey #2) was conducted in January – March 2018. It was sent to the ILEAnet national contacts (INCs) of each participating country and also posted to ILEAnet community portal. The results of the survey were analysed in Deliverable D2.2 (May 2018) and

summarised in the deliverable D2.4 (May 2019). The results were introduced during ILEAnet Public Workshop #1, in June 2018.

4.3 Cybercrime

The desk review was completed in 2017—2018 and was presented in the deliverable D2.2 (May 2018) and in more detail in the deliverable D2.3 (November 2018). In total there was reviewed and analysed 26 strategic, policy and other documents and information sources for desk review.

The ILEAnet Survey on Cybercrime (ILEAnet Survey #3) was conducted in March – April 2018. It was sent to the ILEAnet national contacts (INCs) of each participating country and also posted to ILEAnet community portal. The results of the survey were analysed in Deliverable D2.2 (May 2018) and outlined in the deliverable D2.4 (May 2019). The results were introduced during ILEAnet Public Workshop #1, in June 2018.

4.4 Serious and Organised Crime

The desk review was completed in 2017—2018 and was presented in the deliverable D2.2 (May 2018) In total there was reviewed and analysed 26 strategic, policy and other documents and information sources for desk review.

The ILEAnet Survey on Serious and Organised Crime (ILEAnet Survey #4) was conducted in March – April 2018. It was sent to the ILEAnet national contacts (INCs) of each participating country and also posted to ILEAnet community portal. The results of the survey were analysed and outlined in the deliverable D2.2 (May 2018) and summarised in D2.4 (May 2019). The results were introduced during ILEAnet Public Workshop #1, in June 2018.

4.5 Cyber-related and Cyber-enabled crime

ILEAnet Deliverable D.2.1 provided a desk study to identify LEA practitioner challenges and needs concerning cybercrime. The new desk study on cyber-related and cyber-enabled crime was built on that deliverable by identifying trends and new threats concerning cyber-related and cyber-enabled crime in more detail.

The desk review was completed in 2018 and was presented in the deliverable D2.4 (May 2019). In order to enhance the coverage of the desk review, the used documents belonged to the three categories: for this desk study ILEAnet (WP2) assembled relevant literature for review on trends and new threats that may be variously described as high, medium and low-level documents as follows:

- ✳ High-level strategic and policy documents (similarly to the first desk review) – mainly European strategic level documents on relevant topics;

- # Medium level documents – mainly documents produced by Member States together and European collaborative projects on relevant topics, e.g. as elaborated during EU-financed and other projects;
- # Low-level specific documents – mainly individual publications and articles by European academics and practitioners on relevant topics.

The ILEAnet Survey on Cyber-Enabled and Cyber-Related Crime (ILEAnet Survey #5, also called Survey on cybercrime #2) was conducted in December 2018 – February 2019. It was sent to the ILEAnet national contacts (INCs) of each participating country and posted to ILEAnet community portal. It was also sent to other LEA network partners. The results of the survey were analysed and outlined in the deliverable D2.4 (May 2019).

4.6 Conducting Financial Investigations to Support Investigations of Serious Organised Crime, Cybercrime, Terrorism and Illegally Mediated Migration

ILEAnet Deliverable D.2.1 provided desk studies on a variety of key topics including serious organised crime, cybercrime, terrorism and illegally mediated migration to identify LEA practitioner challenges and needs. The new desk study on conducting financial investigations built on all these previous studies by identifying relevant LEA challenges and needs concerning the cross-cutting theme of ‘financial investigation’ which was relevant to all those topics and it also included a section to highlight examples of good practices. These topics also corresponded well with the European Agenda on Security which focussed on three linked and core priorities: terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime.³

The desk review was completed in 2018-2019 and was presented in the deliverable D2.4 (May 2019). In total there was reviewed and analysed 35 strategic, policy and other documents and information sources for desk review.

The ILEAnet Survey #6 on Conducting Financial Investigations to Support Investigations of Serious Organised Crime, Cybercrime, Terrorism and Illegally Mediated Migration was conducted in December 2018 – April 2019. It was sent to the ILEAnet national contacts (INCs) of each participating country and also posted to ILEAnet community portal. The results of the survey were analysed and outlined in the deliverable D2.4 (May 2019).

³ European Commission 2015. The European Agenda on Security. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52015DC0185&qid=1648472050877>

4.7 Support the Identification and Control of Irregular Migration through Modern Technologies

This focus topic emerged as resulting from the discussions during the ILEAnet Public Workshop #1. One conclusion from the public workshop was that LEA challenges and needs regarding the migration topic should be better understood concerning the supporting technologies that may require development towards the identification and control of irregular migration. The aim of this focus topic was therefore to analyse and present the possibilities of modern technologies and solutions for identifying and controlling irregular migration.

ILEAnet Deliverable D.2.1 provided desk studies on a variety of key topics, and the main themes identified with implications for LEAs were Irregular Migrants, Migrant Smuggling and External Border Controls. Thus, the second cycle of ILEAnet topics built on the previous desk studies and was informed by the results from the first ILEAnet Public Workshop #1 held in Dublin (in June 2018).

The first desk review was initially performed in 2018 and was presented in the deliverable D2.3 (November 2018). There was listed 28 strategic, policy and other documents and information sources for desk review. The additional desk review was completed in 2019 and was presented in the deliverable D2.5 (November 2019). There was reviewed and analysed 24 strategic, policy and other documents and information sources for desk review.

The ILEAnet Survey #7 on Support the Identification and Control of Irregular Migration Through Modern Technologies was conducted in June-October 2019. It was sent to the ILEAnet national contacts (INCs) of each participating country and also posted to ILEAnet community portal. The results of the survey were analysed and outlined in the deliverable D2.5 (November 2019).

4.8 Identifying the Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies Concerning Age Determination

This focus topic emerged as resulting from the real needs of Law Enforcement Agencies' practitioners and was decided within ILEAnet Steering Committee. It was connected to the previous studies related to migration: focus topic #1: Migration (described in D2.1, Survey presented in D2.2 and D2.4) and to focus topic #7: Support the control of irregular migration through modern technologies (described in D2.3 and D.2.5, Survey presented in D2.4 and D2.5). The topic was also chosen for the main topic at the ILEAnet Public Workshop #3 as was described in the Deliverable D2.5.

The current topic was wider than just for migration control purposes and is aimed to support LEAs in different police activities.

The desk review was completed in 2020 and was presented in the deliverables D2.6 (May 2020) and D2.7 (November 2020) and summarised together with the ILEAnet Survey #8 in D2.8 (May 2021). There

were analysed 23 strategic, policy and other documents and information sources and two projects for desk review.

The survey was conducted in April-May 2021. It was sent to the ILEAnet national contacts (INCs) of each participating country and also posted to ILEAnet community portal. It was also expected that there would be also participants from respective international professional organisations. Each INC determined the respondents of the survey according to specifics and to the structure of LEAs in that country. The results were analysed and outlined in the deliverable D2.8 (May 2021).

4.9 Trends in Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies

Trends in Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies is the research object of the current deliverable and will be described in more detail in sections 5 and 6 of the document.

5 Potential Trends in LEAs challenges and needs

Already presented in D2.9, the chapter outlines potential dynamics in trends for challenges and needs for Law Enforcement Agencies concerning fighting (cyber)crimes, terrorism and illegally mediated migration. The review sets up the background for expected results of the ILEAnet Survey #9 regarding the opinions of LEAs about actual trends and current challenges and needs. The Survey is outlined in the next chapter of the current deliverable.

5.1 Trends in Migration

The pressure for migration to the EU has remained in recent years. Globally, migration flows dropped by at least 30% in 2020 (to about 3.7 million, which is the lowest level since 2003), due to the COVID-19 pandemic⁴. Asylum seeking is still at a high level, despite a massive drop – the number of new asylum applications in OECD countries fell by 31% in 2020. Globally, Venezuela was asylum seekers' main country of origin, followed by Afghanistan and Syria. Migration from Afghanistan and Syria influences the migration pressure to the EU significantly.

Migration policy changes in 2020 were mostly driven by the pandemic. In 2020 and also in 2021, most of the OECD countries had travel restrictions due to COVID-19 and the drop in permanent immigrant flows is therefore a result of border closures and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite an estimated 15% decrease in permanent migration flows from EU countries, Germany remained the main destination country for migrants from the EU in 2020.⁵

However, non-legal routes and actions are often still used to reach the EU or a specific destination country. The continuous routes are across the Mediterranean to South Europe. New routes emerged, for example from Iraq via Byelorussia to the EU border in Poland and Lithuania. A few years ago, there was also a short-time migration route via Russia to Finish border. This indicates that the need to ensure physical security and safety at the border in the case of attempts for mass immigration may be continuously relevant for all sections of EU borders.

Sometimes the migration activities are illegally mediated and can be considered as smuggling of people. Such cases can be related to all routes and countries of origin or destination. For example, research shows that Afghan migrants are reporting an increasing reliance on smugglers and paying higher fees for their services.⁶

⁴ OECD, 2021a. International Migration Outlook 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/migration/international-migration-outlook-1999124x.htm>, Accessed 10 November 2021.

⁵ Global Migration Data Portal, 2021a. Germany remained top destination for EU migrants in 2020. <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/blog/germany-remained-top-destination-eu-migrants-2020>. Accessed

⁶ Global migration Data Portal, 2021b. Data show Afghans are increasingly relying on smuggling. <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/blog/data-show-afghans-are-increasingly-relying-smuggling>. Accessed 2 December 2021.

Although the ongoing pandemic has cut off mobility pathways, illegal border crossings into the EU reduced by only 7.8% in 2020 comparing with 2019.⁷ In addition, it can be assumed that both the long-term drivers of migration and the short- to medium-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will increase migration pressure. Sometimes the mediation of migration is used for global geopolitical interests of mediating organisations or even countries.⁸

The additional challenge for LEAs is that it is often difficult to distinguish justified asylum seeking (because of physical danger in the country of origin) from economic migration and emerging potential threat to public safety and security.

5.2 Trends in Serious Organized Crime

Serious and organised crime remains a key threat to the internal security of the EU.⁹ The current situation in serious organised crime indicates that approximately 40% of the criminal networks in the EU are involved in the trade in illegal drugs. At the same time, more than 80 % of the criminal networks use legal business structures. The use of corruption and the abuse of legal business structures are key features of serious and organised crime in Europe. Two thirds of criminals use corruption on a regular basis. Around 60 % of the criminal networks active in the EU use violence as part of their criminal businesses.¹⁰

EUROPOL outlines three future areas where organised crime may have interest to infiltrate and become more active. These areas are:

- # Digitalisation
- # Geopolitical factors and
- # Green transition.¹¹

⁷ International Centre for Migration Policy development, 2021. ICMPD Migration Outlook 2021: A first look at key trends and post COVID-19 scenarios. 26 January 2021.

https://www.icmpd.org/file/download/50542/file/ICMPD_Migration_Outlook_2021_final.pdf. Accessed 12 November 2021.

⁸ Migration Policy Institute, 2021. Top 10 Migration Issues of 2021.

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/migration-information-source/top-10-migration-issues-2021>. Accessed 10 November 2021.

⁹ Europol, 2021a. European Union serious and organised crime threat assessment, A corrupting influence: the infiltration and undermining of Europe's economy and society by organised crime, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, p 10.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, pp 10—11.

¹¹ *Ibid*, pp 92—93.

5.3 Trends in Cybercrime

Criminal activity in cybercrime has increased in recent years, partially because the global pandemic has brought new circumstances and quickly adapting criminal groups were able to use this for their purposes.

Ransomware groups continue to be a key threat. They use teleworking by scanning potential targets' networks for security gaps. As during pandemic lockdowns children spend increasing share of time online, online grooming has increased. At the same time, cybercriminals continue to move towards a more calculated target selection. Personal information and credentials are in high demand as they are instrumental in improving the success rate of all types of social engineering attacks.¹²

Illegal markets have expanded to different encrypted communication channels due to increased legal action taken by law enforcement. Methods and tools used by cybercriminals are increasingly adopted in other crime areas and the digital criminal ecosystem continues to evolve.¹³

The pandemic has increased also many related online threats. For example, criminals have continued utilising COVID-19 narratives for the online sale of counterfeit medical products and for stealing login credentials. It is estimated, that around 25% of COVID-related domains are malicious. Also, phishing attacks that mimic the emails of health authorities have been noticed. Emails may also pose as links to official government stimulus schemes, engaging readers to click links to sign up for government aid. Google found there were around 18 million COVID-related phishing and malware emails sent every day.¹⁴ Another example is the case where elderly people received emails and calls that promised them Covid-19 vaccination as long as they provide the data that the email sender or caller asked or, as an example, email recipients would be led to click on links that supposedly offered health advice or policies for remote workers.¹⁵

5.4 Trends in Terrorism

Although the number of terrorist attacks is continuously stable in recent years, there are some trends that should be taken into account when ensuring security and safety. However, the number of completed jihadist attacks in Europe (EU, Switzerland, and the UK) in 2020 doubled in comparison with 2019. At the same time, all completed jihadist terrorist attacks were carried out by lone actors by in

¹² Europol, 2021b. Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) 2021, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, p 8.

¹³ *Ibid*, pp8—9.

¹⁴ Piers Kelly, 2021. Trends in Cybercrime in 2021 and Beyond. <https://blog.govnet.co.uk/technology/trends-in-cybercrime-in-and-beyond>.

¹⁵ Finances Online, 2021. 16 Latest Cybercrime Trends & Predictions for 2021/2022 and Beyond. <https://financesonline.com/cybercrime-trends/>.

most cases using unsophisticated attack methods.¹⁶ The attackers had different background that makes the prevention more difficult. Terrorists continue to radicalise are recruited in prisons.¹⁷

It can be noted that the pandemic did not modify the modus operandi of terrorist behaviours. Restrictions on travel and physical meetings probably led to increased online consumption of terrorist and extremist content and networking. As pandemic increased polarisation in society, it may be better soil for acceptance of violent measures among larger sections of the population.¹⁸

5.5 Trends in Age Determination Capabilities

The possibility for age determination is in more detail researched in the ILEAnet project using sub-contracting mechanism and report on results and findings are provided separately under the observation and guidance of ENSP and other members of the consortium. The results of the in-depth sub-contracted study is available on the [ILEAnet website](#) in the Project Document section, where a final brief and a database can be downloaded.

¹⁶ Europol, 2021c, European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, p7.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, p8.

¹⁸ *Ibid*, p9.

6 ILEAnet Survey on Trends in Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies

6.1 Methodology

The aim of this questionnaire was to capture the dynamics on LEAs external environment regarding the trends and potential new challenges and needs for LEAs in comparison with the time at initial desk reviews and surveys (ILEAnet Surveys #1—#8). The conclusive survey (ILEAnet Survey #9) was conducted in Spring 2022 to obtain the actual opinions of LEAs.

The questionnaire for the survey was composed based on the result of the previous surveys (ILEAnet Surveys #1—#8) on migration, serious organised crime, cybercrime, terrorism, financial investigations and age determination.

The questionnaire has three major components (as illustrated on the Figure 5.1):

- # General and sociodemographic component that consisted of questions for determining the background of the respondents. A distinction was made between the organisation's type (LEA operational, LE academic, ministry or other), position (managerial, strategic, tactical or other), country, gender and length of experience of a respondent. Even if the survey was anonymous, it was possible to guess the authority.
- # The specific component that included questions related to evaluation of the importance of the challenges that were previously detected by the desk reviews of strategic and policy documents and ILEAnet surveys #1—#8. There were three set of questions in this section, in total 61 (sub)questions.
- # In the last section, a question was asked to point out additional challenges and needs, not detected by the desk review.



Figure 6.1. The structure of the ILEAnet Survey #9

The survey was developed using the EU Survey website as the previous ILEAnet surveys. The survey is presented in the Annexe.

The results, presented in the Deliverable, are based on the current responses as of 29 March 2022.

6.2 Participation

The invitation to participate in the survey was sent to the ILEAnet national contacts (INCs) of each participating country by e-mail on 19 January 2022 and to all members of ILEAnet network. The news was relayed on ILEAnet LinkedIn account on 24 January 2022 and the information was also given during INC meeting on 3 February 2022. It was also expected that there would be also participants from respective international professional organisations. Each INC determined the respondents of the survey according to specifics and to the structure of LEAs in their countries.

One of the KPIs for the work package WP2 is on taking measures to increase the participation in the survey by 20% in comparison with the average participation in the previous surveys. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic disease in the world in spring 2020 and the second wave of the outbreak in autumn 2020 and winter 2021, law enforcement practitioners had to deal with unforeseen important tasks related to public order and support the control over pandemic. Therefore, even if the survey was postponed, the participation was lower than usual and the KPI could not be considered as implementable here.

26 answers from 12 countries were obtained to the questionnaire. The numbers of respondents from ILEAnet countries as of 29 March 2022 were the following:

- # Austria: 1
- # Bulgaria: 0
- # Cyprus: 0
- # Czech Republic: 1
- # Estonia: 3
- # France: 2
- # Germany: 1
- # Hungary: 1
- # Ireland: 0
- # Israel: 0
- # Italy: 1
- # Latvia: 5
- # Poland: 4
- # Romania: 4
- # Slovakia: 2
- # Spain: 1

There were:

- # 17 respondents from law enforcement operational agencies

- # 1 from a specialised law enforcement service
- # 2 respondents from Ministries of Interior and
- # 6 from Academies or Universities.

There were:

- # five respondents from managerial level
- # seven from strategic level
- # seven from tactical level
- # seven respondents specified their level of activity as “other”, including training instructor, University staff, expert, etc.

One person has been in service less than two years while three persons between 2–5 years, two persons between 6–10 years, 11 persons between 11–20 years and nine persons with more than 20 years in service. This indicates that 76% of the respondents have each more than a decade of practical experience in internal security and public safety.

In the group of respondents, there were six female persons, and 20 male persons.

6.3 Challenges and Needs in Focus Topics

There was asked the opinions of responders regarding six focus topics:

- # Illegally Mediated Migration
- # Organised and Serious Crime
- # Cybercrime
- # Terrorism
- # Efficient Conducting of Financial Investigations
- # Law Enforcement Agencies concerning Age Determination

In the following sub-sections, the challenges and needs in focus topics are presented in detail, responders’ opinions are presented in the next Section (6.4).

According to the definition, used in the desk review and survey, a **challenge** is an important topic for LEAs requiring a strengthened capability. A **need** is the particular capability to be developed or strengthened. In the survey respondents were asked to **order the three most important challenges**.

6.3.1 Illegally Mediated Migration

The challenges were initially pointed out as a result of ILEAnet desk reviews in 2017—2018 and LEAs opinion was asked in ILEAnet Survey #1. Here the aim was to point out again the most important challenges and compare their importance for LEAs now, in 2022. These challenges are presented hereunder. In total, trends in 12 challenges were investigated:

- # Intelligence Gathering from Irregular Migrants

- # Irregular Migrant Returns Procedures
- # Information Sharing Between EU Agencies and LEAs
- # Registration of Illegally Entering Third Country Nationals
- # Cooperation with Third Countries
- # Exploiting Public Information Systems
- # Forming Joint Investigation Teams
- # Multi-Agency / Multidisciplinary Training
- # Monitoring Pre-frontier Areas
- # Cutting Access to Sea Crossing Vessels
- # Financial Investigations
- # Fraudulent Documents

6.3.2 Terrorism

The challenges were initially pointed out as a result of ILEAnet desk reviews in 2017—2018 and LEAs opinion was asked in ILEAnet Surveys #2. Here the aim was to point out again the most important challenges and compare their importance for LEAs now, in 2022. These challenges are presented hereunder. In total, trends in 12 challenges were investigated:

- # Monitoring Foreign Terrorist Fighters
- # Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters
- # Sanctioning Terrorist Backers
- # Identifying Terrorist Financers
- # Cutting Terrorist Access to Funds
- # Cutting Terrorist Access to Firearms and Explosives
- # Movement of Illicit Goods (incl. CBRNE)
- # Improved Interoperability of Information Systems for Border Management & Internal Security
- # Strengthening Operational Cooperation
- # Information Sharing
- # Protection of critical infrastructure
- # Protection of citizens and 'soft' targets

6.3.3 Cybercrime

The challenges were initially pointed out as a result of ILEAnet desk reviews in 2017—2018 and LEAs opinion was asked in ILEAnet Surveys #3. Here the aim was to point out again the most important challenges and compare their importance for LEAs now, in 2022. These challenges are presented hereunder. In total, trends in 12 challenges were investigated:

- # Identifying the actors behind Cybercrime attack tools
- # Forming LEA & Private Sector Partnerships
- # International Preparedness for Cyberattacks on Critical National Infrastructure
- # Sharing Malware Samples between LEAs & Europol
- # Improving LEA Response, Prevention and Awareness Strategies

- # Promoting initiatives to divert young people away from cybercrime
- # Better use of existing investigative tools for investigations of on-line Child Sexual Exploitation
- # Improved recording and analysis of Child Sexual Exploitation offences
- # Partnerships between LEAs & the private sector to combat payment fraud
- # Improved systems for Analysis and Intelligence of payment fraud offences
- # Improved monitoring, understanding and response to Darknet threats and markets
- # Combatting the criminal use of cryptocurrencies

6.3.4 Organised and Serious Crime

The challenges were initially pointed out as a result of ILEAnet desk reviews in 2017—2018 and LEAs opinion was asked in ILEAnet Surveys #4. Here the aim was to point out again the most important challenges and compare their importance for LEAs now, in 2022. These challenges are presented hereunder. In total, trends in 11 challenges were investigated:

- # Conducting Financial Investigations
- # Forming Joint Investigation Teams
- # Information Sharing between EU Agencies and between LEAs
- # Investigating Fraudulent Documents
- # Reducing the diversion of firearms into criminal hands
- # Training to combat the illicit trafficking of firearms
- # Cooperation & coordination to disrupt the trafficking in illicit drugs
- # Monitoring on-line markets for the trade of illicit drugs
- # Training for the fight against human trafficking
- # Data collection concerning cases of human trafficking
- # Establishing specialised police units to investigate environmental crimes

6.3.5 Efficient Conducting of Financial Investigations

The efficient conducting of financial investigations will support better and more efficient fight against terrorism, serious and organised crime, cybercrime and illegally mediated migration. As the challenges for those focus topics were defined and researched in the previous sections of the survey, the further research went more deeper into the needs regarding efficient conducting of financial investigations. In the second set of questions, responders were asked about 15 needs related to the better ability of LEAs to conduct financial investigations. In the context of the ILEAnet project a need is defined as the particular capability to be developed or strengthened. There are a number of elements that must operate together to develop and deliver effective LEA capabilities to meet 'challenges'. The needs were initially pointed out as a result of ILEAnet desk review in 2020-2021 and LEAs opinion was asked in ILEAnet Surveys #6. Here the aim was to point out again the most important needs and compare their importance for LEAs now, in 2022. These needs are:

- # Recognition of the full scope, potential and relevance of financial investigations in combatting serious organised crime and terrorism and NOT limit the scope of financial investigations to financial crimes only

- # Existence of efficient mechanisms in order to enable cooperation with policy makers and Financial Intelligence Units
- # Improved financial investigation competencies
- # Data collection for determination of the effectiveness of financial investigations
- # Effective powers to conduct successful financial investigations using a wide variety of techniques; such as undercover operations, intercepting communications, accessing computer systems and 'controlled delivery'
- # Powers to trace, freeze and confiscate criminal proceeds and instrumentalities, including the ability to quickly seize assets of the defendant (or associated third parties)
- # Protection of human rights of the targets of financial investigations
- # Enhancement of general investigative training courses to improve investigators' understanding of the value of financial evidence
- # Specialist training of investigators who should be experienced in financial investigation matters involving both domestic laws and international conventions and standards
- # LEAs should open a parallel financial investigation when commencing any investigation into money laundering, associated predicate offences and terrorist financing
- # Financial Intelligence Units should expect improved legislation and regulation of financial institutions to lead to increased reports of suspicious transactions and banking activity
- # The structure and methods of Financial Intelligence Units would be harmonized across the EU
- # Special investigative techniques are required for LEAs using new technology innovations and tools (with interoperability); particularly including data analysis, decryption and communication interception technologies
- # 'Front line' LEA practitioners need enhanced awareness training concerning the identification and seizure of relevant evidence and how to maintain the chain of custody for electronic, digital and volatile data
- # LEAs need to have the possibility for quicker international activities to secure evidence or to initiate proceedings to freeze and seize illegally obtained assets.

6.3.6 Identifying the challenges of Law Enforcement Agencies concerning Age Determination

In the third set of questions, the respondents were asked their opinion on their needs with regard to the nine challenges related to Identifying the challenges and needs of Law Enforcement Agencies concerning Age Determination. The challenges were initially pointed out as a result of ILEAnet desk review in 2021 and LEAs opinion was asked in ILEAnet Survey #8. Here the aim was to point out again the most important challenges and compare their importance for LEAs now, in 2022. The challenges were:

- # Lack of awareness concerning child migrants' rights
- # Potential misidentifications of children as adults (or adults as children) by LEAs in 'first line' contact situations
- # Identifying and supporting migrant children who come to the attention of LEAs that are 'missing' or victims of migrant smuggling or human trafficking

- ✿ A child-centric, child-sensitive and child-rights approach to age assessments and age determination
 - ✿ Lack of effective, consistent and timely procedures for age determination and age assessments within and between Member States
 - ✿ Accuracy and reliability of age assessment techniques
 - ✿ Availability of qualified, trained and independent guardians to be swiftly appointed for unaccompanied and separated children to represent them throughout the age determination process
 - ✿ Duplication of effort by Member States in repeating age determination procedures with the same individual
- Matrix: better and more accommodation and reception facilities for all migrant children.

6.4 Trends in Challenges and Needs

This Section presents the results of the survey and describes the empirically detected trends in challenges and needs of LEAs in the above-described focus topics.

6.4.1 Illegally Mediated Migration

The most important challenge in the topic of Illegally Mediated Migration is **Fraudulent Documents** (16 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and four pointed out as quite important). The second most important challenge in this topic is **Information Sharing Between EU Agencies and LEAs** (15 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and five pointed out as quite important). The third place of importance that was pointed out is the challenge of **Registration of Illegally Entering Third Country Nationals** (14 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and six pointed out as quite important).

So in 2022, the three most important challenges are:

- ✿ Fraudulent documents
- ✿ Information sharing between EU agencies and LEAs
- ✿ Registration of illegally entering third country nationals

In 2018 the three most important challenges were:

- ✿ Intelligence gathering from irregular migrants
- ✿ Information sharing between EU agencies and LEAs
- ✿ Fraudulent documents

The trend indicates that two of the challenges remained in top 3 (**Fraudulent Documents** and **Information Sharing Between EU Agencies and LEAs**). The challenge **Registration of Illegally Entering Third Country Nationals** was on 11th place in the Survey #1 in 2018. This can be reasoned that while in 2018 the migration pressure was higher than in 2022 and the intelligence gathering and situation

awareness was more acute than aspects related to registration, in 2022 the process of correct registration enables later long term better awareness and is therefore more important now.

The challenge **Intelligence Gathering from Irregular Migrants** is on the fourth place in 2022. This indicates that the importance is still very high.

6.4.2 Terrorism

The most important challenge in the topic of fighting Terrorism is **Information Sharing** (19 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and two pointed out as quite important). The second most important challenge in this topic is **Improved Interoperability of Information Systems for Border Management & Internal Security** (17 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and three pointed out as quite important). The third place of importance that was pointed out is the challenge of **Strengthening Operational Cooperation** (16 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and five pointed out as quite important).

So in 2022, the three most important challenges are:

- # Information Sharing
- # Improved Interoperability of Information Systems for Border Management and Internal Security
- # Strengthening operational cooperation

In 2018 the three most important challenges were:

- # Information Sharing
- # Protection of citizens and 'soft' targets
- # Improved Interoperability of Information Systems for Border Management and Internal Security

The challenge **Strengthening Operational Cooperation** was pointed out as #4 in 2018.

The challenge Protection of citizens and 'soft' targets was evaluated as #7 in 2022.

The trend indicates that as two of the challenges remained in top 3 (Information sharing and Improved Interoperability of Information Systems for Border Management and Internal Security) and a third emerged from 2018 top 4 (Strengthening operation cooperation), the challenges of LEAs are quite unchanged. Due to reduced number of terrorist attacks in Europe in 2020-2021, the protection of citizens and 'soft' targets is not acute challenge now. In addition, additional processes, equipment and exchange of best practices are in place in comparison with 2018.

6.4.3 Cybercrime

The most important challenge in the topic of fighting Cybercrime is **Identifying the actors behind Cybercrime attack tools** (17 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and three

pointed out as quite important). The second most important challenge in this topic is **Improved recording and analysis of Child Sexual Exploitation offences** (16 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and three pointed out as quite important). The third place of importance that was pointed out is the challenge of **Improving LEA Response, Prevention and Awareness Strategies** (13 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and six pointed out as quite important).

So in 2022, the three most important challenges are:

- # Identifying the actors behind cybercrime attack tools
- # Improved recording and analysis of child sexual exploitation offences
- # Improving LEA response, prevention and awareness strategies

In 2018 the three most important challenges were:

- # Identifying the actors behind cybercrime attack tools
- # Improved monitoring, understanding and response to Darknet threats and markets
- # International preparedness for cyberattacks on critical national infrastructure

The topmost challenge remained the same in 4 years (Identifying the actors behind cybercrime attack tools). However, for other challenges, the top 3 has been changed. Choices in 2018 indicated the need to be better prepared for anticipated technology threats for protection critical infrastructure and for being able to operate in Darknet. In 2022, the focus is on essential needs on strategic and prevention view as well as on protection of vulnerable groups.

6.4.4 Serious and Organised Crime

The most important challenge in the topic of fighting Serious and Organised Crime is **Cooperation & coordination to disrupt the trafficking in illicit drugs** (18 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and four pointed out as quite important). The second most important challenge in this topic is **Information Sharing between EU Agencies and between LEAs** (15 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and eight pointed out as quite important). The third place of importance that was pointed out were two challenges: **Forming Joint Investigation Teams** and **Investigating Fraudulent Documents** (14 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and seven pointed out as quite important).

So in 2022, the three most important challenges are:

- # Cooperation & coordination to disrupt the trafficking in illicit drugs
- # Information sharing between EU agencies and LEAs
- # Forming joint investigation teams & Investigating fraudulent documents

In 2018 the three most important challenges were:

- # Conducting financial investigations
- # Cooperation & coordination to disrupt the trafficking in illicit drugs
- # Information sharing between EU agencies and LEAs

The topmost challenge in 2018 (Conducting financial investigations) was taken as the primary focus for ILEAnet Public Workshop #2 in April 2019 and it is not anymore pointed out in top 3 in 2022.

The challenge **Cooperation & coordination to disrupt the trafficking in illicit drugs** was pointed out as #2 in 2018 and is #1 in 2022. The important challenge of Information sharing (in 2018) is transferred to challenge of **having joint investigation teams** (2022). This indicates that besides information sharing the actual cooperation and joint (cross-border) investigation to fight serious and organised crime is more important now.

6.4.5 Efficient Conducting of Financial Investigations

There are three equally most important needs in the topic of Efficient Conducting of Financial Investigations. These are:

- # Effective powers to conduct successful financial investigations using a wide variety of techniques; such as undercover operations, intercepting communications, accessing computer systems and 'controlled delivery'
- # Powers to trace, freeze and confiscate criminal proceeds and instrumentalities, including the ability to quickly seize assets of the defendant (or associated third parties)
- # Special investigative techniques are required for LEAs using new technology innovations and tools (with interoperability); particularly including data analysis, decryption and communication interception technologies.

12 respondents pointed out these challenges as very important and five pointed out as quite important.

In 2019 the four most important needs were:

- # Recognition of the full scope, potential and relevance of financial investigations in combatting serious organised crime and terrorism and NOT limit the scope of financial investigations to financial crimes only
- # Powers to trace, freeze and confiscate criminal proceeds and instrumentalities, including the ability to quickly seize assets of the defendant (or associated third parties)
- # LEAs need have possibility for quicker international activities to secure evidence or to initiate proceedings to freeze and seize illegally obtained assets
- # Special investigative techniques are required for LEAs using new technology innovations and tools (with interoperability); particularly including data analysis, decryption and communication interception technologies

- ✚ Effective powers to conduct successful financial investigations using a wide variety of techniques; such as undercover operations, intercepting communications, accessing computer systems and 'controlled delivery'

The third and fourth needs received equal scores in 2019.

The comparison of lists indicated that the changes are minor and the most important needs in conducting financial investigations have remained the same.

6.4.6 Age Determination

The most important challenge in the topic of Age Determination is **Potential misidentifications of children as adults (or adults as children) by LEAs in 'first line' contact situations** (11 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and 10 pointed out as quite important). The second most important challenge in this topic is **A child-centric, child-sensitive and child-rights approach to age assessments and age determination** (10 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and nine pointed out as quite important). The third place of importance that was pointed out were two challenges:

- ✚ Identifying and supporting migrant children who come to the attention of LEAs that are 'missing' or victims of migrant smuggling or human trafficking (10 respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and seven pointed out as quite important)
- ✚ Accuracy and reliability of age assessment techniques (nine respondents pointed out this challenge as very important and 10 pointed out as quite important).

In 2021 the three most important challenges were:

- ✚ Accuracy and reliability of age assessment techniques
- ✚ Lack of effective, consistent and timely procedures for age determination and age assessments within and between Member States
- ✚ Potential misidentifications of children as adults (or adults as children) by LEAs in 'first line' contact situations

Although the time between two surveys (2021 vs 2022) was relatively small, it can be observed that the focus has been changed to child-centric aspects and protection of children in that process in comparison to focus on techniques in 2021. One reason can also be that ILEAnet has conducted additional research in 2021 to analyse and introduce review of age assessment technologies and their capabilities for LEAs.

6.5 Conclusions Based on the Survey

The survey indicated that most of the challenges and needs in focus topics have remained in 4 years while some has been changed:

- # For Illegally Mediated migration, the trend indicates that two of the challenges remained in top 3 (Fraudulent Documents and Information Sharing Between EU Agencies and LEAs). This can be reasoned that while in 2018 the migration pressure was higher than in 2022 and the intelligence gathering and situation awareness was more acute than aspects related to registration, in 2022 the process of correct registration enables later long term better awareness and is therefore more important now. The challenge Registration of Illegally Entering Third Country Nationals was on 11th place in 2018 and is now #3 in 2022.
- # For fighting Terrorism, the trend indicates that two of the challenges remained in top 3 (Information sharing and Improved Interoperability of Information Systems for Border Management and Internal Security) and a third emerged from 2018 top 4 (Strengthening Operational Cooperation). As the result, the challenges of LEAs are quite unchanged. Due to reduced number of terrorist attacks in Europe in 2020-2021, the protection of citizens and 'soft' targets is not acute challenge now. In addition, additional processes, equipment and exchange of best practices are in place in comparison with 2018.
- # For cybercrime, the topmost challenge remained the same in 4 years (Identifying the actors behind Cybercrime attack tools). However, for other challenges, the top 3 has been changed. Choices in 2018 indicated the need to be better prepared for anticipated technology threats for protection critical infrastructure and for being able to operate in Darknet. In 2022, the focus is on essential needs on strategic and prevention view as well as on protection of vulnerable groups.
- # For Serious and Organised Crime, the trends are caused by the influence that topmost challenge in 2018 (Conducting financial investigations) was taken as the primary focus for the ILEAnet Public Workshop #2 in April 2019 and it was not anymore pointed out in top 3 in 2022. The challenge Cooperation & coordination to disrupt the trafficking in illicit drugs was pointed out as #2 in 2018 and is #1 in 2022. The important challenge of Information sharing (in 2018) is transferred to challenge of having joint investigation teams (2022). This indicates that besides information sharing, the actual cooperation and joint (cross-border) investigation to fight serious and organised crime is now more important.
- # For the focus of Conducting Financial Investigations to Support Investigations of Serious Organised Crime, Cybercrime, Terrorism and Illegally Mediated Migration, the comparison of lists of needs indicated that the changes are minor and the most important needs in conducting financial investigations have remained the same.
- # For Identifying the challenges and needs of Law Enforcement Agencies concerning Age Determination, the trends indicate that although the time between two surveys (2021 vs 2022) was relatively small, it can be observed that the focus has been changed to child-centric aspects and protection of children in that process in comparison to focus on techniques in 2021. One reason can also be that ILEAnet has conducted additional research in 2021 to analyse and introduce review of age assessment technologies and their capabilities for LEAs.

6.6 Planned use and publication of the results of the survey

The summarised results will be publicly available as ILEAnet project results.

In addition, they will be elaborated into the form of scientific article and other articles, to be published in respective media.

7 Interest Topics for LEA Practitioners Networking

Task T2.3 (Elaboration, classification and prioritization of the collected practitioner challenges and needs) in the work package WP2 focusses on the topics that have been interesting for practitioners and have had active conversation in ILEAnet Online Platform. During the monitored period, May – November 2021, the activity was very moderate and no new questions relevant to WP2 were raised.

8 Key Performance Indicators

The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for work package WP2 is related to the average response rate to questionnaires. WP2 leader sent many reminders to the ILEAnet Community to increase the participation of its members to the surveys (e-mails, during the INCs teleconferences, via the SC members).

The measures and targets are presented in the **Table 8.1** hereunder.

Table 8.1. Key Performance Indicators for work package WP2

WP	Leader of the KPI	(Quantified) measures	Measure on 30/04/2022	Target	Explanation
2	PPA	Average response to the questionnaires in WP2 (number of respondents)	For the Survey #9, 26 responses comparing to previous average 26,86 from the Surveys #1-#7 (survey #8 is not taken into account as it was run in deep Covid pandemic time. If taken into account, the average response rate for the Surveys #1-#8 is 24.88).	20% augmentation per year	Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic disease in the world in spring 2020 and the second wave of the outbreak in autumn 2020 and winter 2021, law enforcement practitioners had to deal with unforeseen important tasks related to public order and supporting the control over pandemic, and this has an impact on the survey response rate (for example, participation in the Survey #8, run during the Covid pandemic, was 11). Therefore, even if the survey #9 was postponed, the participation was lower than usual and the KPI cannot be considered as implementable here. Still, there were taken efforts to boost the response rate for the Survey #9 and the number of respondents is comparable to the first surveys.

9 Conclusions

The deliverable D2.10 describes the activities performed under work package WP2 during the period December 2021 – May 2022, i.e. after the reporting date of the previous periodic deliverable D2.9. As this is the last period of the ILEAnet project, the comparison with the previous periods and general review of WP2 results is presented as well.

9.1 Summary of Findings

As the work package WP2 is designed to collect and analyse the needs and challenges for LEA practitioners, the collection was performed using three approaches:

- # Top-down, by suggesting topics based on analysis of policy and strategic documents and strategic research agendas;
- # Bottom-up, by collecting input in open surveys and non-directed interviews;
- # Based on analysis of surveys and observation of the activities in the ILEAnet network (ILEAnet community+network and ILEAnet practitioners network).

The brief review of trends for migration, serious organised crime, cybercrime and terrorism indicated:

- # The pressure for migration to EU has remained in recent years, although migration flows dropped by around one-third in 2020.
- # Migration policy changes in 2020 were mostly driven by the pandemic.
- # Often non-legal routes and actions are still used to reach the EU or a specific destination country. The continuous routes are across the Mediterranean to South Europe and also new routes emerged, for example to East border of EU. This indicates that the need to ensure physical security and safety at the border in the case of attempts for mass immigration may be continuously relevant for all sections of EU borders.
- # Serious and organised crime remains a key threat to the internal security of the EU. Approximately 40% of the criminal networks in the EU are involved in the trade in illegal drugs.
- # More than 80 % of the criminal networks use legal business structures.
- # 3 future areas of where organised crime may have interest to infiltrate and become more active can be pointed out: digitalisation, geopolitical factors and green transition.
- # Criminal activity in cybercrime has increased in recent years. The global pandemic has brought new circumstances and quickly adapting criminal groups were able to use this for their purposes.
- # Ransomware groups continue to be a key threat.
- # Pandemic has increased also many related online threats. Criminals have continued utilising COVID-19 narratives for the online sale of counterfeit medical products and for stealing login credentials. Also, phishing attacks that mimic the emails of health authorities, remote working options or governmental suggestions have been observed. The actual aim is to collect the sensitive data from the potential victims.

- ✦ While the number of terrorist attacks is continuously stable in recent years, the number of completed jihadist attacks in Europe in 2020 doubled in comparison with 2019. At the same time, all completed jihadist terrorist attacks were carried out by lone actors by in most cases using unsophisticated attack methods.
- ✦ The attackers had different background that makes the prevention more difficult. Terrorists continue to radicalise are recruited in prisons.

The Survey #9 indicated that most of the challenges in focus topics have remained in 4 years while some has been changed:

- ✦ For Illegally Mediated migration, the trend indicates that two of the challenges remained in top 3 (Fraudulent Documents and Information Sharing Between EU Agencies and LEAs). This can be reasoned that while in 2018 the migration pressure was higher than in 2022 and the intelligence gathering and situation awareness was more acute than aspects related to registration, in 2022 the process of correct registration enables later long-term better awareness and is therefore more important now.
- ✦ For fighting Terrorism, the trend indicates that as two of the challenges remained in top 3 (Information sharing and Improved Interoperability of Information Systems for Border Management and Internal Security) and a third (Strengthening Operational Cooperation) emerged from 2018 top 4. As the result, the challenges of LEAs are quite unchanged. Due to reduced number of terrorist attacks in Europe in 2020-2021, the protection of citizens and 'soft' targets is not an acute challenge now. In addition, additional processes, equipment and exchange of best practices are in place in comparison with 2018.
- ✦ For cybercrime, the topmost challenge remained the same in 4 years (Identifying the actors behind Cybercrime attack tools). However, for other challenges, the top 3 has been changed. Choices in 2018 indicated the need to be better prepared for anticipated technology threats for protection critical infrastructure and for being able to operate in Darknet. In 2022, the focus is on essential needs on strategic and prevention view as well as on protection of vulnerable groups.
- ✦ For Serious and Organised Crime, the trends are caused by the influence that topmost challenge in 2018 (Conducting financial investigations) was taken as the primary focus for ILEAnet Public Workshop #2 in April 2019 and it is not anymore pointed out in top 3 in 2022. The challenge Cooperation & coordination to disrupt the trafficking in illicit drugs was pointed out as #2 in 2018 and is #1 in 2022. The important challenge of Information sharing (in 2018) is transferred to challenge of having joint investigation teams (2022). This indicates that besides information sharing, the actual cooperation and joint (cross-border) investigation to fight serious and organised crime is now more important.
- ✦ For the focus of Conducting Financial Investigations to Support Investigations of Serious Organised Crime, Cybercrime, Terrorism and Illegally Mediated Migration, the comparison of lists of challenges indicated that the changes are minor and the most important challenges in conducting financial investigations have remained the same.
- ✦ For Identifying the challenges and needs of Law Enforcement Agencies concerning Age Determination, the trends indicate that although the time between two surveys (2021 vs 2022) was relatively small, it can be observed that the focus has been changed to child-centric aspects

and protection of children in that process in comparison to focus on techniques in 2021. One reason can also be that ILEAnet has conducted additional research in 2021 to analyse and introduce review of age assessment technologies and their capabilities for LEAs.

During the current period, the activity of questions and discussions in ILEAnet Online Platform for LEA practitioners was very moderate and no new questions relevant to WP2 were raised.

9.2 Activities of the reporting period and of the whole project.

The plans for WP2 for the final semester of the project concentrated on the analysis of dynamics on LEAs challenges and needs during the project and in comparison to ILEAnet Surveys #1-#8 and devising publicly available version of the description of the methodology and results of the WP2 during the project. The tasks were fulfilled and the ILEAnet Survey #9 on Survey on Trends in Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies was elaborated and conducted and the results analysed and presented.

In total, desk reviews on eight topics were performed, as shown in the Section 4 and nine surveys elaborated, conducted, analysed and results presented in ILEAnet Public Workshops. Also, practitioners' activity and focus topics on ILEAnet Online Portal were monitored and analysed and used to derive suggestions for focus topics for ILEAnet desk reviews and surveys.

Based on the activities and results, there can be concluded that the tasks of WP2 are fulfilled successfully, despite the challenges to collect data from surveys during COVID-19 pandemic period. There is a plan to publish the results of the surveys also in a scientific paper.

10 Annex – ILEAnet Survey on Trends in Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies

The ILEAnet Survey on Trends on LEAs Challenges and Needs in Fighting Crime, Terrorism, and Illegally Mediated Migration.

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



Thank you for helping us with this survey!

The ILEAnet project invites you to take part in this survey by answering the following questionnaire on **trends related to LEAs challenges and needs on fighting crime, terrorism and illegally mediated migration**. With this survey we collect LEAs practitioners' opinions on the recent trends on these phenomena. The anonymous results will be generalized and analyzed in order to capture the trends on those topics during last five years.

We ask your opinion based on your personal experience as a law enforcement practitioner. It should take around 20-30 minutes to complete this survey.

By participating in the survey you help to gain more qualified understanding of these important phenomena and support finding compatible solutions. The analysis results will be presented in the specific report in April-May 2022 and will be sent to all LEA members of ILEAnet practitioners' network via ILEAnet National Contacts.

To understand the purpose of your involvement and learn about the data handling measures, please read carefully through the text below.

Project Information

ILEAnet is a 'coordination and support action' funded by the European Commission in the Security Research Programme under the H2020 Framework Programme. The project has a duration of 60 months and a total budget of € 3,45M. It is coordinated by the French Ministry of the Interior, Place Beauvau, 75800 Paris, France.

ILEAnet aims to build a sustainable organisational Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) practitioners network focused on research and innovation, and addressing LEA challenges, together with a community of individuals interested in exchanging and collaborating in this area. This ILEAnet Network+Community will allow for collaboration and exchanges between practitioner organisations and individuals, and, when relevant, with carefully selected people from academia, industry and other areas. It seeks stimulate the capacity of LEAs to influence, develop and take up research, development and innovation (RDI) that is useful and usable for LEAs, and help them to tackle the major challenges they face.

This survey is conducted by the partners of the ILEAnet project as set below. If you have any questions regarding this document or any aspect of the survey, please feel free to contact the Project Manager using the email or telephone number specified at the end of the text.

The ILEAnet partners are the following: French Ministry of Interior (FR), Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Police (FR), The Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior (AT), Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei (DE), Hungarian National Police (HU), Italian Ministry of Interior, Department of Public Security (IT), Police Service of Northern Ireland (UK), International Security and Emergency Management Institute, n.p.o., The Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Presidium of the Police Force (SK), Ministerio del Interior – Policía Nacional (ES), ARTTIC (FR), University College Dublin (IE), The State Police of Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia (LV), European Forensic Initiatives Centre, Police Academy in Szczytno (PL), Ministry of Public Security – Israel National Police (IL), Estonian Police and Border Guard Board (EE), Bulgarian Ministry of Interior (BG), Cyprus Police (CY), National Organized Crime Headquarters (CZ), Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs (RO).

If you wish to know more about ILEAnet, please visit www.ileanet.eu.

Data protection measures

The information collected in this survey will be used as part of the ongoing ILEAnet project. The collected data will be anonymous. The data will be analyzed and documented in reports and/or publications, which will be disseminated to a wider audience. In some cases, the reports and/or publications (including media publications) might make use of excerpts from responses. The data will be available to the ILEAnet stakeholders and might be used in stakeholder workshops. Participants in such workshops may include, but not be restricted to, LEA practitioners, academics, industrial partners and policy makers. The raw data will also be available to the ILEAnet Network + Community members via the Community Management Tool (CMT), an online platform supporting multiple professional communities and networks in their collaborative undertakings, such as the ILEAnet Network + Community. More information concerning the CMT can be found at <https://cmt.eurtd.com/> as well as in the CMT Terms of Service, which can be found at <https://cmt.eurtd.com/terms>.

All collected data will be treated confidentially. Personal data will be stored on a secured server at the ARTTIC company, a partner of the ILEAnet project. The Project Manager will be responsible for handling /processing this survey. Reports and publications will not contain any information which can identify any individuals. The data will be kept for a period of time of 5 years after the end of the project's timeframe (the project runs from 01/06/2017 until 31/05/2022).

As a participant you have the right to withdraw from the study at any time, without providing any reason for your withdrawal. The participants are also able to request the deletion of their data and to ban further use of their data within 7 days after having taken part.

If you have any further questions about this survey, please contact:

Raul Savimaa
Work Package WP2 Leader
Estonian Police and Border Guard Board
raul.savimaa@politsei.ee

I hereby confirm the following:

I have read and understood the ILEAnet project summary and objectives and wish to participate in the described survey;

I understand that this survey is voluntary and that I can withdraw from the survey at any time without consequences and without being required to provide any explanations;

I understand the procedures according to which my data will be handled;

I consent to sharing my data based on this information;

I do not expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation.

General information

* Indicate the country of your activity (EU28 only)

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia

- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

* Select the type of your organisation from the list:

- Ministry
- Law enforcement operational agency
- Law enforcement academy
- Other

* Select the closest match for your role:

- 1) Managerial – I have a managerial role and responsibility, I am a Leader in my organisation and I am responsible for staff and resources.
- 2) Strategic – I have a corporate role and responsibility, I am a Policy Maker in my organisation, I have responsibility for the direction and management of my organisation.
- 3) Tactical – I am a team member with a law enforcement responsibility, I am mainly responsible for delivering a service to the public or to my colleagues.

- Managerial
- Strategic
- Tactical
- Other

* Gender

- Male
- Female
- I do not want to disclose my gender

* Years in service

- 0-1
- 2-5
- 6-10
- 11-20
- 21 and more

1. Challenges Related to Irregular Migration

ILEAnet has identified 12 challenges for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) practitioners across Europe on Migration based on the data already existing in official European Union documents. We are now seeking your help to tell us how important these challenges are for your organisation and for you ranging from “Very important” to “Absolutely not important” (in the table below).

Matrix

	Very important	Quite important	Not really important	Absolutely not important	Not relevant for my organisation

* Intelligence Gathering from Irregular Migrants	<input type="radio"/>				
* Irregular Migrant Returns Procedures	<input type="radio"/>				
* Information Sharing Between EU Agencies and LEAs	<input type="radio"/>				
* Registration of Illegally Entering Third Country Nationals	<input type="radio"/>				
* Cooperation with Third Countries	<input type="radio"/>				
* Exploiting Public Information Systems	<input type="radio"/>				
* Forming Joint Investigation Teams	<input type="radio"/>				
* Multi-Agency / MultiDisciplinary Training	<input type="radio"/>				
* Monitoring Pre-frontier Areas	<input type="radio"/>				
* Cutting Access to Sea Crossing Vessels	<input type="radio"/>				
* Financial Investigations	<input type="radio"/>				
* Fraudulent Documents	<input type="radio"/>				

2. Challenges Related to Serious Organised Crime

ILEAnet has identified 11 challenges for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) practitioners across Europe on combatting serious organised crime based on the data already existing in official European Union documents. We

are now seeking your help to tell us how important these challenges are for your organisation and for you ranging

from “Very important” to “Absolutely not important” (in the table below).

Matrix

	Very important	Quite important	Not really important	Absolutely not important	Not relevant for my organisation
* Conducting Financial Investigations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Forming Joint Investigation Teams	<input type="radio"/>				
* Information Sharing between EU Agencies and between LEAs	<input type="radio"/>				
* Investigating Fraudulent Documents	<input type="radio"/>				
* Reducing the diversion of firearms into criminal hands	<input type="radio"/>				
* Training to combat the illicit trafficking of firearms	<input type="radio"/>				
* Cooperation & coordination to disrupt the trafficking in illicit drugs	<input type="radio"/>				
* Monitoring on-line markets for the trade of illicit drugs	<input type="radio"/>				
* Training for the fight against human trafficking	<input type="radio"/>				
* Data collection concerning cases of human trafficking	<input type="radio"/>				
* Establishing specialised police units to investigate environmental crimes	<input type="radio"/>				

3. Challenges Related to Cybercrime

ILEAnet has identified 12 challenges for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) practitioners across Europe on cybercrime based on the data already existing in official European Union documents. We are now seeking your

help to tell us how important these challenges are for your organisation and for you ranging from “Very important”

to “Absolutely not important” (in the table below).

Matrix

	Very important	Quite important	Not really important	Absolutely not important	Not relevant for my organisation
* Identifying the actors behind Cybercrime attack tools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Forming LEA & Private Sector Partnerships	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* International Preparedness for Cyberattacks on Critical National Infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>				
* Sharing Malware Samples between LEAs & Europol	<input type="radio"/>				
* Improving LEA Response, Prevention and Awareness Strategies	<input type="radio"/>				
* Promoting initiatives to divert young people away from cybercrime	<input type="radio"/>				
* Better use of existing investigative tools for investigations of on-line Child Sexual Exploitation	<input type="radio"/>				
* Improved recording and analysis of Child Sexual Exploitation offences	<input type="radio"/>				
* Partnerships between LEAs & the private sector to combat payment fraud	<input type="radio"/>				
* Improved systems for Analysis and Intelligence of payment fraud offences	<input type="radio"/>				
* Improved monitoring, understanding and response to Darknet threats and markets	<input type="radio"/>				
* Combatting the criminal use of cryptocurrencies	<input type="radio"/>				

4. Challenges Related to Terrorism

ILEAnet has identified 12 challenges for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) practitioners across Europe on Fighting Terrorism based on the data already existing in official European Union documents. We are now seeking your help to tell us how important these challenges are for your organisation and for you ranging from “Very important” to “Absolutely not important” (in the table below).

Matrix

	Very important	Quite important	Not really important	Absolutely not important	Not relevant for my organisation
--	----------------	-----------------	----------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------

* Monitoring Foreign Terrorist Fighters	<input type="radio"/>				
* Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters	<input type="radio"/>				
* Sanctioning Terrorist Backers	<input type="radio"/>				
* Identifying Terrorist Financers	<input type="radio"/>				
* Cutting Terrorist Access to Funds	<input type="radio"/>				
* Cutting Terrorist Access to Firearms and Explosives	<input type="radio"/>				
* Movement of Illicit Goods (incl CBRNE)	<input type="radio"/>				
* Improved Interoperability of Information Systems for Border Management & Internal Security	<input type="radio"/>				
* Strengthening Operational Cooperation	<input type="radio"/>				
* Information Sharing	<input type="radio"/>				
* Protection of critical infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>				
* Protection of citizens and 'soft' targets	<input type="radio"/>				

5. Challenges Related to Financial Investigations

ILEAnet has identified 15 challenges for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) practitioners across Europe based on the data already existing in official European Union documents. We are now seeking your help to tell us how important these challenges are for your organisation and for you ranging from “Very important” to “Absolutely not important” (in the table below).

	Very important ++	Quite important +	Not really important -	Absolutely not important - -	Not relevant for my organisation *
* Recognition of the full scope, potential and relevance of financial investigations in combatting serious organised crime and terrorism and NOT limit the scope of financial investigations to financial crimes only	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Existence of efficient mechanisms in order to enable cooperation with policy makers and Financial Intelligence Units	<input type="radio"/>				
* Improved financial investigation competencies	<input type="radio"/>				
* Data collection for determination of the effectiveness of financial investigations.	<input type="radio"/>				
* Effective powers to conduct successful financial investigations using a wide variety of techniques ; such as undercover operations, intercepting communications, accessing computer systems and 'controlled delivery'.	<input type="radio"/>				
* Powers to trace, freeze and confiscate criminal proceeds and instrumentalities , including the ability to quickly seize assets of the defendant (or associated third parties).	<input type="radio"/>				
* Protection of human rights of the targets of financial investigations.	<input type="radio"/>				
* Enhancement of general investigative training courses to improve investigators' understanding of the value of financial evidence.	<input type="radio"/>				

<p>* Specialist training of investigators who should be experienced in financial investigation matters involving both domestic laws and international conventions and standards.</p>	○	○	○	○	○
<p>* LEAs should open a parallel financial investigation when commencing any investigation into money laundering, associated predicate offences and terrorist financing.</p>	○	○	○	○	○
<p>* Financial Intelligence Units should expect improved legislation and regulation of financial institutions to lead to increased reports of suspicious transactions and banking activity.</p>	○	○	○	○	○
<p>* The structure and methods of Financial Intelligence Units would be harmonized across the EU.</p>	○	○	○	○	○
<p>* Special investigative techniques are required for LEAs using new technology innovations and tools (with interoperability); particularly including data analysis, decryption and communication interception technologies.</p>	○	○	○	○	○
<p>* 'Front line' LEA practitioners need enhanced awareness training concerning the identification and seizure of relevant evidence and how to maintain the chain of custody for electronic, digital and volatile data.</p>	○	○	○	○	○

* LEAs need have possibility for quicker international activities to secure evidence or to initiate proceedings to freeze and seize illegally obtained assets.	<input type="radio"/>				
---	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

6. Challenges Related to Age Determination

ILEAnet has identified 9 challenges for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) practitioners across Europe based on the data already existing in official European Union documents. Some challenges are related to all processes of public safety and internal security whereas some (e.g. challenges 1-3) are more specifically related to topics of irregular migration.

Matrix

	Very important	Quite important	Not really important	Absolutely not important	Not relevant for my organisation
* Lack of awareness concerning child migrants' rights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Potential misidentifications of children as adults (or adults as children) by LEAs in 'first line' contact situations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Identifying and supporting migrant children who come to the attention of LEAs that are 'missing' or victims of migrant smuggling or human trafficking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* A child-centric, child-sensitive and child-rights approach to age assessments and age determination	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Lack of effective, consistent and timely procedures for age determination and age assessments within and between Member States	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Accuracy and reliability of age assessment techniques	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Availability of qualified, trained and independent guardians to be swiftly appointed for unaccompanied and separated children to represent them throughout the age determination process	<input type="radio"/>				
* Duplication of effort by Member States in repeating age determination procedures with the same individual	<input type="radio"/>				
* Better and more accommodation and reception facilities for all migrant children	<input type="radio"/>				

Indication of Additional Challenges and Needs

We are further interested to know about **any other important challenges and needs** according to your experience. Please feel free to give your personal opinion in the open text.

For ILEAnet a 'challenge' is 'an important topic for LEAs requiring a strengthened capability' and a 'need' is 'the particular capability to be developed or strengthened'.

1500 character(s) maximum

Do you want to add anything to the previous answers? If yes, please feel free to add a comment.

1000 character(s) maximum

Thank you for the participation!

Contact

[Contact Form](#)

