



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Framework Programme, H2020-SEC-2016-2017-1, under grant agreement no 740685.



I-LEAD

WP4 Report

Recommendations on Standardisation and Procurement in the Area of Firearms Trafficking

Report number	Firearms Trafficking WP4 report	
Version:	1.0	
Delivery date:	24/05/2021	
Dissemination level:	Public	
Classification level:	Unclassified	
Status	Final	
Nature:	Report	
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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Date	Author(s)	Change(s)
0.1	07.12.2020	Bartosz Kożuch	Polish Platform for Homeland Security
0.2	29.12.2020	Rashel Talukder	First review, added points to the report
1.0	24.05.2021	Bartosz Kożuch	Finalised version

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Document was prepared in cooperation with FORMOBILE Project – From Mobile Phones to Court (H2020-SU-SEC-2018, under grant agreement no. 832800)

WP4 report

Recommendations on Standardisation and Procurement in the field of Firearms Trafficking

1. I-LEAD abstract

The i-LEAD, (Innovation – Law Enforcement Agencies Dialogue) is a coordination and support action project funded by the European Commission through the Horizon 2020 Programme. The main aim of the project is to develop a Pan European Network of practitioners and other actors in the field of security, to:

- 1) Monitor research and innovation projects - with a view to recommending the uptake or the industrialisation of the results.
- 2) Express common requirements of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) with regards to capability gaps and determine innovative and fit for purpose solutions to address the gaps and improve future performance.
- 3) Indicate priorities regarding domains requiring more standardisation.

The official start of the 5-year project was September 2017 and is coordinated by the Dutch National Police and consists of a consortium of 19 partners.

The i-LEAD project will build LEA community networks, around 5 specific key Practitioner Groups; these being:

- Front Line Policing
- Cross Border Crime
- Cybercrime
- Crime & Intelligence
- Forensics

More information about the project at can be found at: www.i-lead.eu

2. WP4 description

Work Package 4 (WP4) is viewed as the supporting department for the i-LEAD project. It will liaise with practitioners of the community networks to determine the present situation with regards to standardisation, and if relevant and required, put forward recommendations for the development of existing standards or the creation of new standards.

This objective is to support LEAs within Europe to strengthen cross border cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism - via the standardisation of technologies, procedures and processes. This covers the activities of; criminal investigation, offender detection and the gathering and submission of evidence that is acceptable by courts of law.

Further, EU-wide standards will also enable economy of scale advantages for both LEAs and suppliers (industry and SME's) of technologies, tools, systems and services, as the same product will meet the requirements of each LEA (in most) of the EU Member States. For that reason, developing new tools and solutions will be more cost-effective. Finally, common standards will also accelerate pre-commercial procurement (PCP) and public procurement of novel solutions and products.

WP4 is designed to meet the following main objectives:

- Examine the opportunities for standardisation as the result of Practitioner Group workshops
- Build the European LEA capacity and knowledge for joint procurement actions
- Accelerate the process of joint PCP and PPI projects.

3. Firearms Trafficking - Introduction to the topic

The multiple terrorist attacks and the transactional organized crime involving the use of firearms underscore the urgency of tackling the problem of illicit firearms in Europe. The available information suggests that criminal and terrorist networks on the continent obtain firearms from the more recent trade in converted firearms. Ease of access to converted firearms and their cheap prices make them attractive alternatives to lethal-purpose firearms in all corners of Europe. Converted firearms are also challenging to investigate, which reinforces their appeal among criminals.

4. State of the art in the field of Firearms Trafficking in terms of standardisation and procurement

There have been no relevant standards or Technical Committees identified. Therefore, there is an opportunity to attract discussion on new standardisation and procurement fields for standardisation bodies.

5. Recommendations on standardisation and procurement in the field of Firearms Trafficking, concentrating on the 'THOR' dimensions (*technical, human, organisational and regulatory*)

	Practitioners' needs and requirements (based on PG meeting)	Standards recommendations	Legislative recommendations	Joint Procurement recommendations
1.	Harmonisation of gun buying and trafficking rules across EU	-	Conducting tasks aimed at deleting the loopholes in regulations between EU countries would make firearms trafficking prevention more effective.	-
2.	Focal Points establishment	-	Establishing/Strengthening the position and cooperation between Firearms Focal Points in all EU countries. This also requires establishing similar competences and procedures for the EU countries Focal Points Establishing similar Focal Points would also allow more effective exchange of information on firearms regulations among EU LEA.	-

3.	Establishing an effective EU-wide firearms trafficking procedure	-	Actions need to be taken aimed at harmonization and adjustment of current national procedures in order to create common effective regulations that would allow locating a firearm (or even it's parts) in each stage of investigation. A good start would be to ensure routine iARMS updates.	-
4.	Standardised training in firearms trafficking.	Unification of training (e.g. on methods of reactivating firearms and the possibility of reworking the alarm gun) and exchange of good practices among EU LEA is suggested.	-	-
5.	PanEuropean firearms trafficking data sharing platform	-	-	A platform connecting all EU LEA firearms related databases. Such platform should allow real time communication, data upload and information sharing (e.g. modus operandi descriptions).
6.	Technology to detect ammunition and firearms being trafficked	-	-	Medium distance detection tools (within a range of e.g. 50 metres) to alert border guards and officers whenever someone with a firearm is close to them.
7.	Set of firearms trafficking devices	-	-	The LEA specifically presented the requirements of the tool, which are to: - enable the firearms and its parts to be traced at any time (to identify the origin of the firearms); - detect firearms at borders; - enable packages parcels being scanned at any time of the tracing route; - enable quick communication between LEA.

6. Recommendations for Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) / Public Procurement of Innovative solutions (PPI) / Fast Track for Innovation (FTI), regards to Firearms Trafficking

There is a common agreement that an enhanced technology is needed for more efficient communication and firearms tracking (the data sharing platform), as well as tools to allow efficient firearms trafficking detection and investigation. Thus the outcomes of the Practitioners Meeting can be a basis for further work on a joint PCP/PPI for the LEAs.

7. Additional recommendations and remarks

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8. Identified WP4 stakeholders in the area of Firearms Trafficking

	LEA	Industry	Science Academia	EU/national bodies	Other
1.	Europol, Frontex, CEPOL, Interpol, European LEA	Firearms Trafficking technology vendors (<i>identified in i-Lead WP3</i>)	Academia working on Firearms Trafficking tools (<i>identified in i-Lead WP3</i>)	DG Home	

9. Planned additional dissemination actions

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Contact

Anyone who is interested in more information related with the report above , please contact the Polish Platform for Homeland Security (i-Lead's WP4 leader) sekretariat@ppbw.pl or project@i-lead.eu