

OPERATIONS

The Operations unit provides a range of legal, investigative and administrative services that sustain the EPPO's operational activity. It supports the operational workflows of the organisation and provides high-level expertise, leveraging on its specific position to provide added value to investigations.

The unit's main areas of activity are: supporting the decision-making processes in operational matters; processing information concerning offences under the competence of the EPPO; providing investigative expertise to ongoing cases; and developing support services for the operational activity.

The unit is composed of four sectors:

Registry and Operational Stakeholders

Operational Legal Support

Investigations and Analysis Support

Operational Support Services



REGISTRY AND OPERATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

The Registry and Operational Stakeholders sector is responsible for processing all information reported to the EPPO pursuant to article 24 of the Regulation and managing stakeholders at operational level in order to enable the EPPO to cooperate with competent national authorities, private parties, institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the EU, non-participating Member States, third countries and international organisations.

In 2024, it processed **1 760 crime reports from national authorities** and **113 crime reports from institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the EU (IBOAs)**. Sources of the reports include all participating Member States and ten IBOAs⁹⁹.

The Central Office also processed **4 580 reports** from **private parties**, while a total of **43 reports** were submitted to the **decentralised offices** in the Member States.

The reporting of information by national authorities and EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies is done via a direct and secure connection – **EPPOBox** – managed by the EPPO, while private parties have access to a reporting tool on the EPPO website. The EPPO is also a user of the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA), managed by Europol.

The pilot project launched in 2023, which granted access to some of the EPPO's digital tools to the National European Delegated Prosecutors' Assistants (NEDPAs), was extended in 2024. This expansion enhanced information exchange and improved the quality of data in the EPPO's Case Management System, now benefiting a total of 97 NEDPAs.

OPERATIONAL LEGAL SUPPORT

The Operational Legal Support sector is responsible for providing operational legal support to the Central Office – namely the European Chief Prosecutor, the Permanent Chambers and the European Prosecutors.

In 2024, this sector supported the Permanent Chambers in monitoring and directing **2678 active investigations** and organised **491 meetings of the Permanent Chambers**. A dedicated team of national legal system experts provided targeted support to the European Prosecutors, acted as contact points for the European Delegated Prosecutors and provided legal advice on matters relating to national law.

This sector also contributed to the **information exchange with IBOAs**, to ensure that appropriate measures could be taken. In addition, this sector provided key legal and operational services, including

the running of the EPPO case law database, regular circulation of information about new developments in case law and legal literature, as well as the management of legal research databases.



INVESTIGATIONS AND ANALYSIS SUPPORT

The Investigations and Analysis Support sector provides expert investigative and analytical support to investigations, via case analysts and financial investigators operating as Case Support Officers, in a structure corresponding to the most prevalent types of fraud.



The sector is composed of three dedicated specialised teams (VAT fraud, customs fraud, and expenditure fraud and corruption), as well as a fourth team focused on core horizontal offences and topics (money laundering, organised crime and asset recovery), which enables it to significantly strengthen its capabilities and fine-tune its support, particularly regarding cases where significant added value may be achieved through the support activities performed at the Central Office level.

Notably, these efforts contributed to further developing innovative methodologies for detecting links between investigations conducted in different Member States, thereby helping to coordinate various operational actors involved, and ultimately, to investigate cases more effectively. Additionally, the sector continued documenting best practices for investigative approaches in relation to each relevant crime area and identifying relevant patterns and trends.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The Operational Support Services sector is responsible for identifying the operational needs of the EPPO, and participates in all projects aiming to develop the digital investigative tools and environments required to bolster the effectiveness of its investigations and prosecutions.

This sector manages the linguistic services specific to the work of a transnational prosecution office and coordinates the organisation of operational and outreach meetings. This sector also organises the inductions and training programs for the new operational staff, and the national investigators through the EPPO Academy training programme¹⁰⁰.

During 2024, the Operational Support Services sector supported around one hundred events, meetings, and workshops, including the EDPs workshops.



The **Digital Operations Team** initiated the Operational Digital Infrastructure Network (ODIN) programme, which aims to develop digital tools that increase the analytical capabilities of our investigators. This team is involved in the work of the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security, with focus on initiatives related to the use of innovative technologies, particularly artificial intelligence and big data analysis and visualisation.

PROCESSING OF REPORTED INFORMATION

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND IBOAs

In 2024, the EPPO processed **1 760 crime reports from national authorities and 113 crime reports from IBOAs**.

The reporting of information is done via **EPPOBox**, and **SIENA**, for secure communication with Europol.

The EPPO has continued to work closely with the relevant national authorities in the development of the reporting network and in the designation of the competent authorities pursuant to Article 117 of the EPPO Regulation. By the end of 2024, the reporting

network of the EPPO had expanded to **766 EPPOBox users** – which is 67 more than last year. This includes 15 of the designated authorities from the Member States connected directly with the Central Office in Luxembourg. Direct connection with key EPPO partners at EU level now exists with Europol, Eurojust, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Commission, the European Court of Auditors, the European Investment Bank, the European Central Bank, Frontex, Eurofisc, the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) and European Research Executive Agency (REA).

PRIVATE PARTIES AND LEGAL ENTITIES

In 2024, the EPPO received a total of **4 623 reports** from private individuals and legal entities. Out of these reports, **4 580** were submitted to the Central Office, while **43** were received by European Delegated Prosecutors at decentralised offices.

Among the reports from private parties, **871** were deemed relevant to EPPO's jurisdiction and were registered to the Case Management System (CMS) for verification. This total includes **258** new cases that were registered and **154** additional submissions related to existing verification or investigation cases.

Additionally, **4 212 reports that were clearly outside of the EPPO's jurisdiction were recorded in the private parties' dossier application**; these were either referred to the competent national authorities, referred to OLAF, or dismissed.

The countries with the highest numbers of reports by private parties were **Germany (719)**, **Croatia (458)**, **Poland (291)**, **Greece (250)**, **Bulgaria (238)**, **Romania (196)**, and **Spain (179)**.