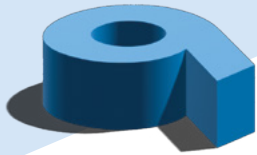


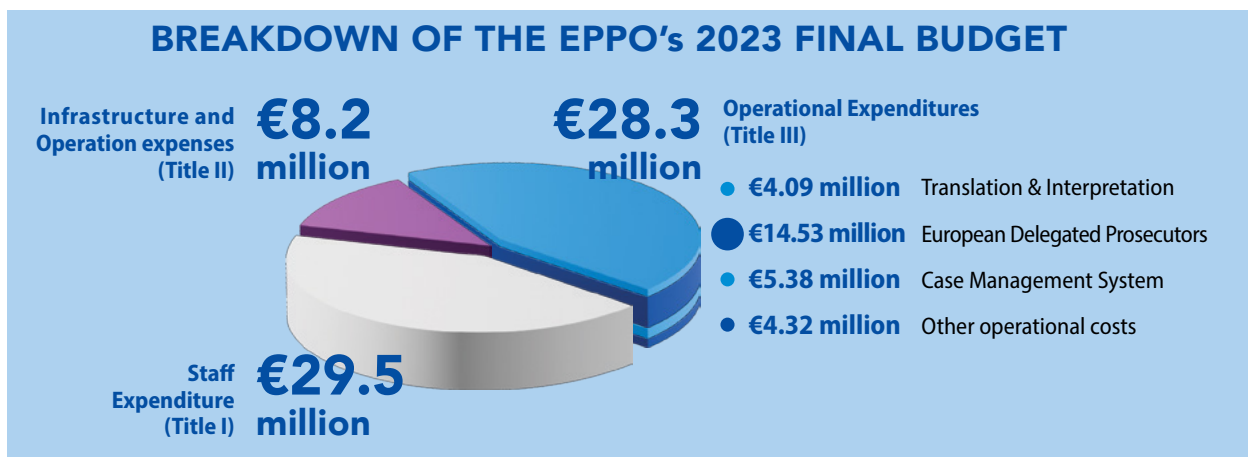


FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT



Financial resources and their management

The EPPO's budget is fully financed by the General Budget of the EU in the form of a subsidy. In 2023, **€66 million** was budgeted for the delivery of the EPPO's mission, compared to **€51.2 million** in 2022 (+29%). The main drivers in this budget evolution were a **strong dynamic in staff costs**, due to progress towards full occupancy of Central Office statutory staff posts and Seconded National Expert posts. A larger number of European Delegated Prosecutors were deployed, compared to 2022, and the consolidation and further developments of the Case Management System (CMS) ecosystem were continued. By the year's end, **99.6%** of the 2023 budget was committed, and **85.3%** paid. **14.3%** of 2023 payment appropriations were carried over to 2024.



PROCUREMENT

In 2023 the EPPO signed 234 specific contracts under existing framework contracts, for a total of more than €11 million, with a significant increase in the use of EPPO framework contracts (82 specific contracts for a value of more than €6.5 million). This is due, to a great extent, to the increasing use of the EPPO's framework contract for the Provision of Services in the Field of Information Systems.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Pursuant to the EPPO's financial regulations, the Internal Audit Service (IAS) is the internal auditor of the EPPO for non-operational matters. To complement the work performed by the IAS, the College established an Internal Audit Capability (IAC), designed to help the EPPO accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of governance, risk management and control processes. In accordance with its mission charter and risk-based Strategic Internal Audit Plan for 2022–2024, the IAS initiated, in 2023, a limited review of the EPPO's building blocks of assurance. This engagement is scheduled to be finalised during the course of 2024. The IAC continued its efforts to reinforce the internal oversight environment at the EPPO.

INTERNAL CONTROL

On 2 June 2023, the Administrative Director, as part of his duties as the EPPO's Authorising Officer, formally established the minimum standards necessary to provide his assurance on the execution of the EPPO budget's assessment criteria for each of the 17 internal control principles established by the EPPO Internal Control Framework (ICF). The Internal Control Officer gathered relevant evidence (e.g. policies, procedures and records) and performed a detailed review to determine whether the assessment criteria are respected (preliminary assessment of the implementation of the ICF on 31/08/2023). For the identified deviations, the Internal Control Officer corroborated further with the concerned stakeholders, in order to identify the underlying root causes, and proposed specific recommendations for addressing the issues identified.