

INTERPOL and the Challenges of International Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime and Corruption

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Abstract:

This article examines the challenges of international police cooperation in combating transnational corruption, focusing on INTERPOL as a model. Using a descriptive-analytical approach, it evaluates INTERPOL's mechanisms for information exchange, capacity building, and operational support, alongside legal, technological, sovereign, and political obstacles. The findings reveal that while INTERPOL significantly coordinates global anti-corruption efforts, its effectiveness is limited by national legal disparities, asset recovery difficulties, rapid technological change, and risks of political misuse. The study contributes novel insights by offering a comprehensive assessment of these challenges and proposing practical strategies to enhance INTERPOL's operational impact.

Keywords: Police Cooperation; Transnational Corruption; INTERPOL

1. INTRODUCTION

International cooperation is a key requirement in international relations, given the multitude of challenges facing individual, state, and international levels of analysis. Despite universal consensus on its necessity across all actors and sectors, it continues to face implementation challenges due to states' self-serving interests and the difficulty of establishing trust, known as the security dilemma. This contrasts with attempts to institutionalize international relations through international organizations to curb chaos and its effects.

In this context, corruption is a transnational phenomenon, necessitating effective international cooperation to combat it. Among the most important international institutions in this field, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) emerges as a vital international mechanism, working to coordinate efforts among member states to confront corruption in all its diverse forms. INTERPOL strives to build the capacities of member states and activate mechanisms for combating transnational crimes, which include a wide range of criminal activities often overlapping with corruption issues.

However, despite INTERPOL's pivotal role in combating corruption, it faces significant challenges that hinder its effectiveness. These challenges include legal differences among states, increasing technological obstacles, the difficulty of recovering stolen assets, the challenge of national sovereignty, in addition to security challenges related to the misuse of INTERPOL's mechanisms for political purposes. This leads us to pose the following problem:

To what extent do legal discrepancies, technological capacities, the level of judicial cooperation (including asset recovery and extradition), and the degree of political neutrality within INTERPOL affect the organization's success rate in addressing transnational corruption cases?

In response to this problem, the following hypothesis was reached: The effectiveness of INTERPOL in addressing transnational corruption increases as legal gaps narrow, technological readiness among states improves, judicial cooperation rates rise, and instances of political misuse of INTERPOL's mechanisms decrease.

This study seeks to examine INTERPOL's mandate and strategic approach in combating transnational corruption by: (1) delineating its core responsibilities and mechanisms for coordinating cooperation among member states, (2) analyzing the legal and organizational frameworks that govern its operations, and (3) assessing the principal challenges that constrain its effectiveness. These challenges encompass legal discrepancies between states, technological gaps that hinder the ability to keep pace with rapid innovations, sovereignty-related limitations, and the potential misuse of INTERPOL's mechanisms for political purposes.

To achieve these objectives, the study employs a descriptive-analytical approach to explore the transnational nature of corruption and INTERPOL's corresponding strategies, a critical-analytical approach is utilized to systematically evaluate the practical and procedural obstacles that impact INTERPOL's capacity to effectively address corruption across borders.

2. Defining Concepts :

2.1 The Concept of Corruption and its Dimensions :

Corruption has been defined in many ways, reflecting both the diversity of scholarly perspectives on the issue and the complex, multidimensional nature of the phenomenon itself. (Kaabouch El-Hawas, 2017, p17). This diversity accounts for the multiplicity of definitions of corruption. Transparency International defines it as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain,” a practice that erodes trust, weakens democracy, hinders economic development, and exacerbates inequality, poverty, social division, and environmental crises.. (Transparency International' .What is corruptionhttps, s.d.) This definition does not limit corruption to the abuse of public authority for private gain, but also extends to the private sector, which has increasingly become a domain where corrupt practices can occur. (Jeff Lovitt, 2004, p14)

The World Bank also defines corruption as “the abuse of public office for private gain.” Both definitions emphasize the individual's behavior, but they differ in how they frame corruption: while the World Bank definition focuses specifically on the role of the public sector, Transparency International's definition, although broader, explicitly extends to include the private sector as well. (Aled Williams, 2021, p 58)

The United Nations Convention against Corruption does not offer a single definition of “corruption,” but instead lists specific acts as criminal offenses, including bribery, embezzlement, abuse of functions, trading in influence, illicit enrichment, and money laundering.. (United Nations Office, 2004)

2.2.The Conceptual and Theoretical Framework of International Cooperation:

It is a collective action undertaken by the relevant international actors, which implicitly creates a shared willingness among stakeholders to cooperate on international issues. (Ahmad, 2019, p39).financial crimes all have an international dimension, and national police forces need intelligence

and support from other countries to protect their citizens and bring criminals to justice. For example, organized crime groups take advantage of modern technologies and the increasing digitization to facilitate their illegal activities, Social media networks and technical platforms are also used to exploit vulnerable victims. (UN International Day of Police Cooperationhttps, 2025)

Human trafficking operations and smuggling of illegal goods often involve multiple countries as source, transit, and destination points, Intelligence sharing and exchange of best practices: Criminals exploit weaknesses in global security, so it is essential that all countries have access to the latest intelligence, police information, and databases, and receive training on how to use them. (UN International Day of Police Cooperationhttps, 2025)

2.3.Theoretical Framework of the Study :

Global Governance Theory : Global governance can be understood as a system of institutions, rules, norms, and procedures that facilitates international cooperation on issues that transcend national boundaries. This approach underscores the critical role of international institutions, such as Interpol, in promoting coordination and collective action among states. (Global Governance, 2025).From another perspective, the global governance framework provides a useful lens for examining how international cooperation operates in practice. It functions through networks of multiple actors, institutional mechanisms, and the harmonization of laws and procedures across states. (Dervis, Kemal, 2025)Within this context, transnational anti-corruption initiatives can be interpreted through Michael Zürn’s concept of reflexive authorities, which refers to the capacity of international institutions to continuously reassess their practices, ensure transparency, and uphold accountability. These mechanisms enhance trust among member states and facilitate cross-border collaboration. (Mende, 2021)

However, questions of legitimacy represent a major challenge to the effectiveness of international institutions. Some states or actors may doubt their impartiality or ability to enforce rules fairly, potentially undermining anti-corruption efforts. (Zürn, 2018)Conversely, contestation mechanisms offer an essential means for promoting institutional reform. Through pressure and accountability demands, the international community can encourage bodies such as Interpol, alongside relevant UN committees, to improve transparency and efficiency in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption .(Nations, 2025).

Realist Theory : holds that the state is the central actor in an anarchic international system, prioritizing the protection of sovereignty and national security (Korab-Karpowicz, 2025). From this perspective, national interests are shaped by a state’s capabilities and level of development, making power and sovereignty the core drivers of state behavior (Kechan, 2022). Consequently, states may reject decisions by international organizations such as Interpol when they perceive them as threats to their sovereignty or strategic interests (Antunes, 2025). Thus, international anti-corruption efforts face significant challenges, as conflicting state interests and sovereignty concerns often limit states’ willingness to cooperate with institutions like Interpol (Byungkyu Lee, 2018).

Liberal Theory :Liberal theory offers a key framework for understanding why states cooperate in addressing transnational corruption. As Zürn (2018) notes, liberalism assumes that states pursue shared interests through cooperation, interdependence, and international institutions, since no single state can confront transnational corruption alone, making coordination through bodies such as Interpol essential. (Michael, 2018)

The theory also highlights motivations for voluntary state cooperation, including safeguarding the global economy, promoting political stability, and maintaining a positive international reputation factors increasingly important as corruption undermines diplomatic relations and investor confidence . (Transparency International, 2020)

Furthermore, the global governance perspective complements liberal theory by illustrating how cooperation materializes through multi-actor networks, institutional mechanisms, and legal harmonization. Institutions such as Interpol enhance this process by facilitating information exchange, supporting capacity-building, and strengthening cross-border anti-corruption efforts . (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2004)

3 . The Role of INTERPOL in Combating Corruption :

1.3 .The Origins of INTERPOL:

he origins of what is now known as INTERPOL date back to April 1914, when police and judicial officials from 24 countries convened at the First International Criminal Police Congress under the patronage of Prince Albert I of Monaco. Delegates discussed shared concerns—including arrest procedures, identification methods, and extradition—and introduced the then-innovative concept of centralizing criminal records. They drafted an initial blueprint for an international police body responsible for maintaining these records and agreed to meet again two years later to formalize its creation (Tsybulenko, Evhen & Suarez, Sebastian, 2022), However, most scholars specializing in this field trace the true beginning of the International Criminal Police Organization to 1923 (Savino, Mm 2011, p 601). Established in 1923 as a platform for international police cooperation, INTERPOL suspended its activities during World War II and was reconstituted in 1946. Renamed “INTERPOL” in 1956 and later headquartered in Lyon in 1989, the organization has expanded under a non-discriminatory charter to include 186 member states. (Tourkia REBHI, 2024)

2.3. Definition of INTERPOL :

INTERPOL, one of the oldest international mechanisms for combating organized crime and corruption. (Al-Toumi, 2022, p. 113). facilitates international police cooperation, with a global membership of 194 countries (Anderson, 1989), Initially operating with NGO-like characteristics, its status evolved over time and was formally recognized as an intergovernmental organization by ECOSOC in 1975 and confirmed by the UN Office of Legal Affairs in 1982. (Runjić, 2017). Operating under Article 3 of its Constitution, INTERPOL focuses solely on criminal—not political—matters, including terrorism, and supports information exchange and best practices through structures like the Joint Terrorism Task Force. (Olmsted, Kim, & Marcus, 2012). In addition, the organization is involved in:

-INTERPOL manages a range of global databases, including information on wanted persons (fingerprints, photographs, DNA profiles) and stolen or lost travel documents (SLTD), while coordinating the circulation of alerts and warnings concerning suspected or wanted terrorists. The organization supports the United Nations Security Council in implementing sanction regimes, notably the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Regime, by disseminating relevant information to law enforcement authorities worldwide, and assists member states in post-incident investigations through the deployment of Incident Response Teams IRTs.((Olmsted, Kim, & Marcus, 2012). Furthermore,

INTERPOL plays a pivotal role in developing international standards and sharing best practices in priority areas related to serious transnational crime. (Willy Deridder , 2000, p 401)

3. INTERPOLs Organizational Structure :

INTERPOL's primary objective is to promote international police cooperation while respecting the national laws of its member states to ensure security and combat crime. (Bouaicha Bougoufala, 2022, p. 34)• It also aims to strengthen institutions that effectively prevent and combat crime. (Interpol. 2023). INTERPOL combats diverse international crimes and promotes global security by facilitating information exchange, supporting investigations, and providing specialized law enforcement training. (Interpol, 2025, s.d.).INTERPOL maintains strict neutrality, focusing only on criminal matters and avoiding political, military, religious, or racial issues to respect member states' sovereignty. (CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION , 2023, s.d.).**Article Five of INTERPOL's Constitution stipulates that the organization consists of :**

The General Assembly: INTERPOL's highest authority, meets annually to set policies, adopt strategic decisions, approve international agreements, issue binding resolutions, and manage the organization's budget and resources. (Ferqaq, 2024)

The Executive Committee: composed of 13 members elected by the General Assembly to represent different regions, oversees the implementation of Assembly decisions, supervises the General Secretariat, and advises on international security policies. (Ferqaq, 2024)

The **Executive Committee** includes the President (elected for a four-year term with a two-thirds majority), three Vice-Presidents representing different world regions, and nine other members from the member states.

The General Secretariat The General Secretariat, headed by the Secretary General, manages administrative and public affairs through two sections: Documents and Languages, and Public and Social Affairs. (Interpol's Rules on the Processing of Data, 2024, s.d.)

National Central Bureaus (NCBs): in each member state coordinate with INTERPOL, share criminal information, implement international notices like Red Notices, and support cross-border investigations. (Hammoud, 2008, p. 50)

INTERPOL's Regional Offices: has established several regional offices in various countries to serve as a link between the General Secretariat and the National Central Bureaus. These offices support regional security coordination to combat common crimes such as terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cybercrime. They implement training programs, provide technical support to member states, and facilitate the exchange of intelligence among neighboring countries .(Raefa, 2019, p. 29).For example, human trafficking linked to forced online fraud has been identified since 2015, but INTERPOL's analyses have shown that it has expanded in scope and geographic scale since the COVID-19 pandemic19- (INTERPOL, 2024) 'Sometimes referred to as the "parallel pandemic," since 2021, INTERPOL has confirmed that this crime has a dual dimension: it targets victims who are lured through fake job advertisements and forced to commit online fraud, and it also targets the victims of these frauds themselves, who fall prey to investment scams, cryptocurrency fraud, or online gambling schemeS .(INTERPOL, 2025)

Figure1: Fraud Hubs Fueled by Human Trafficking

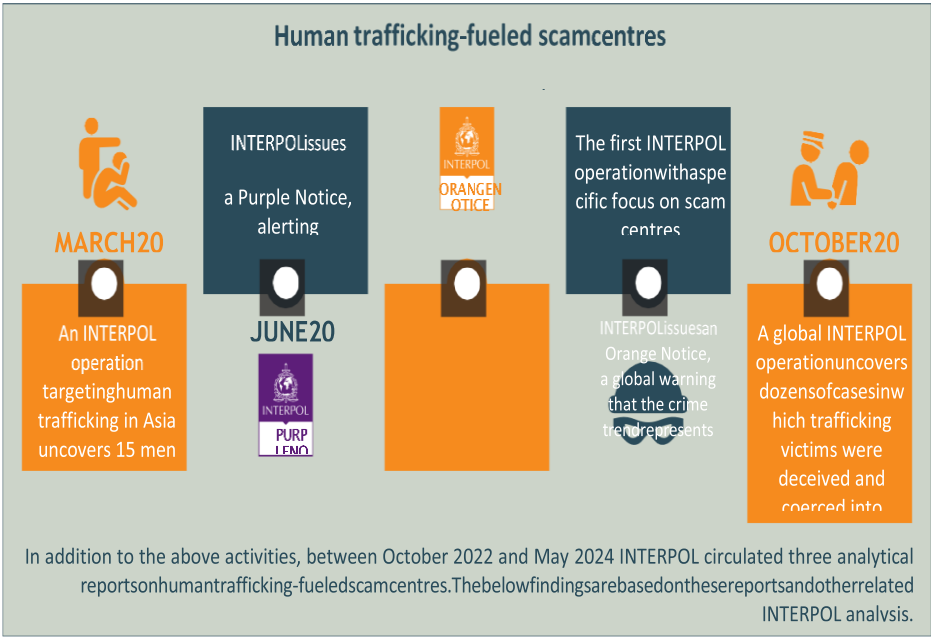
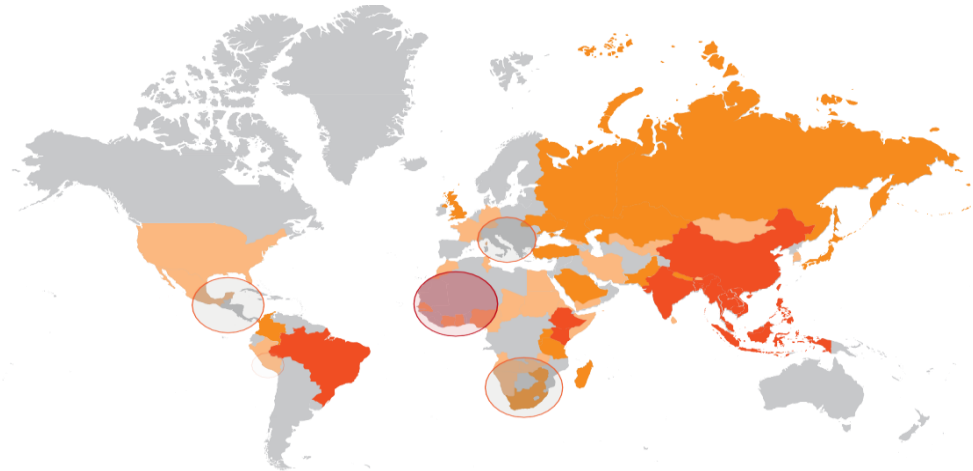


Figure2: Victims of human trafficking by country of origin, 2023 / 2025



Human trafficking victims by country of origin January 2023 - March 2025

As observed by January 2023

As observed by May 2023

As observed by March 2025

Geographical expansion of modus operandi

Similar MO reported

Potential emerging hub region

source : INTERPOL. (2025). *Crime Trend Update: Human trafficking-fueled scam centres*. INTERPOL.

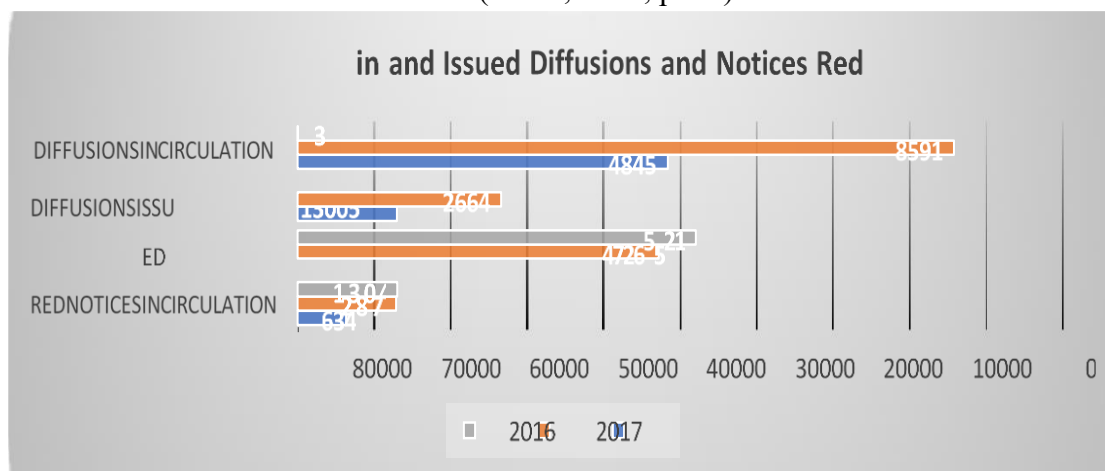
The figure illustrates INTERPOL analyses indicate that the phenomenon of human trafficking for the purpose of online financial fraud, first identified in 2015, has experienced significant expansion in both scale and geographic scope since the COVID-19 pandemic. According to

INTERPOL's 2025 report, the number of active centers engaged in such activities increased from 12 in 2019 to 27 by 2024, targeting victims from distant regions including South America, Western Europe, and East Africa, rather than being previously concentrated in Southeast Asia and focused primarily on Chinese-speaking victims. (INTERPO,2025, s.d.)

The data also reveal the emergence of new fraud hubs in the Middle East, West Africa, and Central America, driven by transnational organized crime networks. INTERPOL's operation in Namibia in early 2024, which dismantled a center that coerced 88 young individuals into financial fraud, serves as a concrete example of this expansion and demonstrates the tangible success of operational efforts to address the phenomenon. (INTERPOL, 2025)

-Notice System: One of INTERPOL's core functions is to assist police forces in member states in exchanging crucial crime-related information through its Notice System. Police authorities can use these notices to alert law enforcement agencies in other countries about potential threats or to request assistance in solving crimes . (European Parliament. 2019. p 11)

Red Notice: A Red Notice is an international request to locate and provisionally arrest a wanted person based on a valid national warrant, which INTERPOL may reject if information is insufficient or if it violates Article 3 of its Constitution. (Raefa, 2019, p. 29)



Source4 : **European Parliament. (2019). *Misuse of Interpol's Red Notices and impact on human rights – recent developments*. Policy Department for External Relations, Directorate General for External Policies of the Union (PE 603.472).**

The figure shows that the high number of Red Notices and circulars requires substantial resources and robust legal management systems. The continuous increase in the number of notices and circulars issued and circulated over the years indicates a corresponding need for expanded resources and strengthened legal management frameworks. (European Parliament. 2019. p 11)

Blue Notice: is issued to track individuals and gather information about them, and it can be upgraded to a Red Notice if an arrest warrant is later issued. (Englehart, 2022)

Green Notice : warns member states about individuals likely to reoffend abroad and requires updates from the requesting country if no information is received within five years.. (Green Notices, INTERPOL, 2022)

Yellow Notice: is intended to help locate missing persons, especially minors, or to assist in identifying persons who are unable to identify themselves(individuals suffering from memory loss). (Yellow Notices, INTERPOL,2022)

Black Notice and Orange Notice: Black Notices identify unknown deceased persons, while Orange Notices issue warnings about potential terrorist threats, including dangerous individuals or suspicious objects. (Englehart, 2022)

4. INTERPOL's Anti-Corruption Strategy

INTERPOL plays a vital role in combating global corruption through the following measures:

- Facilitating International Cooperation:

INTERPOL serves as a global platform for cooperation among police forces from 195 member countries, enabling the exchange of information and coordination of investigations into cross-border corruption cases. This cooperation is carried out through the **INTERPOL Global Police Communications System (I-24/7)**, which allows countries to access INTERPOL's databases and communicate securely with the General Secretariat and other countries. (Interpol Global Communication System, 2002)

- Providing Operational Support: INTERPOL provides support to national police forces in complex investigations by offering global databases, analytical tools, and technical expertise. It helps issue **Red Notices** to track down fugitives wanted for corruption cases and **Blue Notices** to gather information about suspects. Red Notices are considered the strongest tool for international pursuit of dangerous criminals wanted by member states, issued by INTERPOL's General Secretariat at the request of a member country's National Central Bureau. (Kacima, 2020, p. 131)

- Capacity Building: Through the **INTERPOL Global Programme on Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery**, 2012, INTERPOL builds capacities by organizing regional and international workshops that train national authorities on how to combat corruption and recover stolen assets (Boubi, 2019 p120) 'The program aims to enhance international cooperation in fighting corruption and recovering stolen funds. It relies on a network of contact points in each member country, which facilitates the secure exchange of sensitive information to ensure stolen assets are located, frozen, and confiscated. (INTERPOL, 2017)

- Combating Financial Crimes: INTERPOL plays a key role in tackling financial crimes linked to corruption, such as money laundering and financial fraud. Notable operations include the **Lyon Operation (France)** (Chang, 2024, s.d.) ' INTERPOL conducted major global operations against organized crime and financial fraud, including the Lyon Operation in West Africa (targeting groups like Black Axe) with hundreds of arrests and \$3 million in asset seizures, and Operation Jackal III across 21 countries, focusing on online fraud and West African gangs., (INTERPOL, 2024, s.d.) The annual operation led to the arrest of nearly 300 individuals, the identification of over 400 other suspects, and the freezing of more than 720 bank accounts. (Associated Press, 2024, s.d.)

In 2020, INTERPOL staff developed a new global mechanism to stop illicit payments as part of **Operation HAECHE-II**, known as the **Anti-Money Laundering Rapid Response Protocol (ARRP)**. enables more member countries to submit and process requests to trace, intercept, or temporarily freeze criminal proceeds. (INTERPOL, 2025, s.d.)

- Cooperation with International Organizations: The organization works closely with several global partners in combating corruption, including the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, and the **World Bank**. (Al-Hamdani, 2025, s.d.)

Accordingly, INTERPOL aids member countries in combating cross-border crime by building capacity to address organized criminal networks, covering offenses from tracking fugitives and vehicle theft to terrorism, human trafficking, drug and illicit goods trafficking, maritime piracy, and

environmental crimes. .(Rahhal, 2020, p. 182).Other focus areas include firearms and cultural property trafficking, intellectual property crimes, cybercrimes, and financial crimes such as fraud, hacking, money laundering, currency counterfeiting, payment card fraud, and corruption .(Rahhal, 2020, p. 182)

2.4. INTERPOL's Anti-Corruption Projects :

Financial and cyber crimes are top global priorities for INTERPOL, with over 60% of its 195 member countries rating money laundering, ransomware, phishing, and online fraud as high or very high threats. (INTERPOL. 2023.).In parallel, In 1998, INTERPOL created an expert team to tackle police corruption and, in 2003, co-organized an international conference in Hong Kong on implementing new ethical standards for police officers worldwide. (INTERPOL Resolution AG-2001-RES-04, 2004)

At INTERPOL's 71st General Assembly, held in October 2002 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, delegates from the majority of INTERPOL's then 181 member states, including Canada, adopted global standards for combating corruption in police forces/services. These standards were drafted by a leading group of global experts in police disciplinary law and justice, chaired by Judge Barry O'Keefe of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. (INTERPOL, 2002, s.d.)

International Group of Experts on Corruption (IGEC): In April 1998, INTERPOL established the IGEC as a result of the first International Conference on Crimes Related to Corruption held at INTERPOL's General Secretariat in Lyon. The group comprises law enforcement officials representing Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas (Transparency International, 2024) along with an advisory group including representatives from **Transparency International**, the **United Nations**, the **World Bank**, an Information Coordination Group, the Chair of the International Anti-Corruption Conference Organizing Committee, academics, and an internationally recognized judge, believing that law enforcement agencies must tackle corruption as a phenomenon, in cooperation with all key stakeholders and society as a whole. (Willy Deridder , 2000, p 401)

ENACT Project: This is the first project of its kind covering the entire African continent. It aims to analyze the scope of organized crime and its impact on security, governance, and development while supporting a more effective response to transnational organized crime (European Commission,2021), that is, it seeks to mitigate the impact of transnational organized crime and provide policymakers with analysis and insights that strengthen police cooperation regionally and internationally . (INTERPOL,ENACT Project, 2020)

The **ENACT Organized Crime Index for Africa 2023** shows an increase since 2018, driven by geopolitical, economic, and social shifts, especially crises, conflicts, and political instability (Metekia & Herbert, 2024, pp. 10, 20) ‘

Illicit economies such as smuggling, cocaine trafficking, and financial crimes have expanded, undermining African states' capacities to counter them effectively .(ENACT, 2023, p 10)

A brief example within this context is the gold trade in African countries, especially **Nigeria** and **Niger**, and its implications for regional security. .(ENACT, 2024, p. 14)

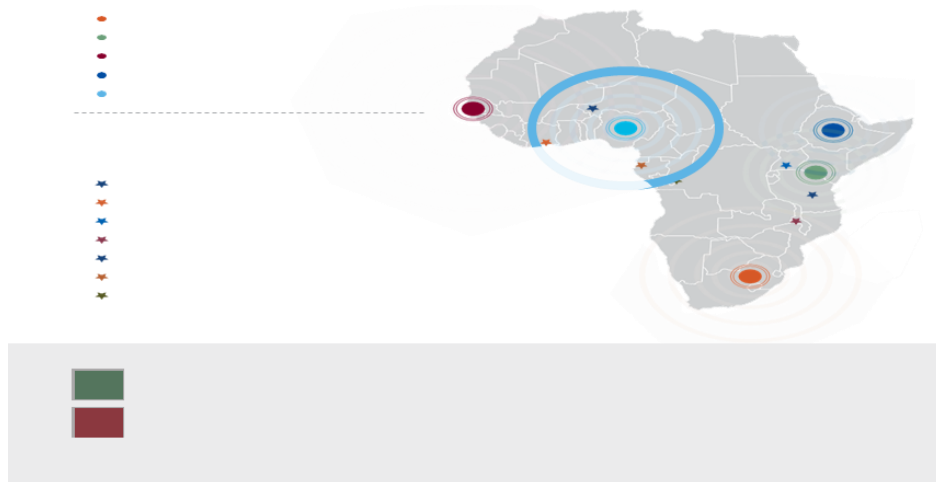
As part of the **ENACT Project**, INTERPOL helps African police forces adopt proactive strategies to counter organized crime threats, facilitates information exchange, and enhances investigative skills through specialized forensic analysis training and capacity building enabling officers to become national trainers in criminal intelligence data analysis .(European Commission,2021)

It provides equipment, analysis software, access to INTERPOL's databases, and ongoing guidance to support targeted countries in establishing units for criminal intelligence data analysis. Most

importantly, it supports **regional organized crime observatories**, which provide research and awareness capabilities across Africa.

It also provides a safe environment for African women working in law enforcement to exchange knowledge on preventing and combating transnational organized crime, with the goal of empowering them and promoting best practices and career development (INTERPOL, ENACT Project, 2020)

Figure3: Regional Observatories for Combating Organized Crime in Africa under the ENACT Project



PRETORIA (for Southern Africa)

NAIROBI (East Africa and the Horn of Africa)

DAKAR (West, Central and North Africa)

DAKAR (West, Central and North Africa)

ABUJA

DODOMA, TANZANIA

ABIDJAN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

KAMPALA, UGANDA

LILONGWE, MALAWI

NIAMEY, NIGER

LIBREVILLE, GABON

BRAZZAVILLE, CONGO

The first phase of the ENACT project developed an Africa-wide analytical evidence base that increased key stakeholder awareness and led to innovative policy and operation responses to TOC on the continent

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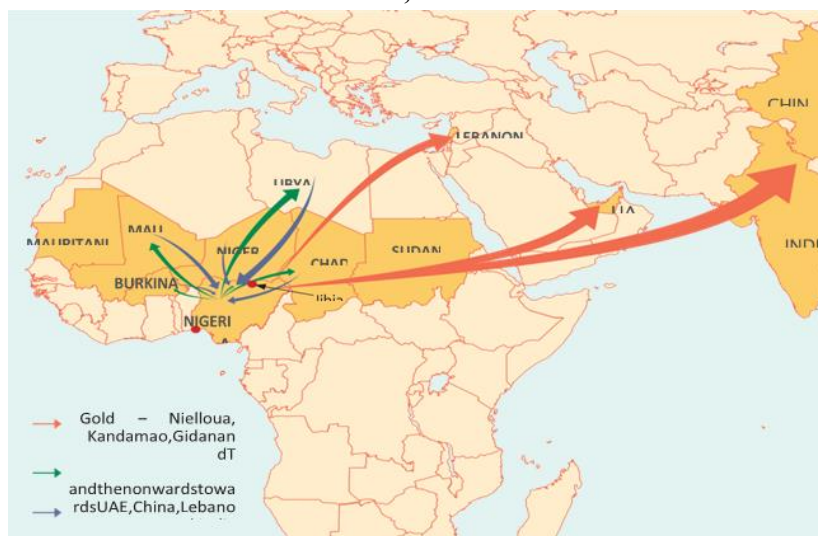
Source: ENACT & INTERPOL. (2023). *Enhancing Africa's response to transnational organised crime* Project ENACT, Institute for Security Studies; INTERPOL. Funded by the European Union.

The figure shows the regional observatories for organized crime under the ENACT Project in cities such as Abidjan, Kampala, Lilongwe, Niamey, Libreville, and Brazzaville, which provide research and awareness capacities across the continent, supported by INTERPOL analysts based in Abidjan and Nairobi, The first phase of the project included the development of an African analytical database that strengthened awareness and innovative policy and operational

responses. The current second phase (1 February 2022 – 31 December 2025) focuses on technical assistance and capacity development to support the formulation and implementation of policies with governmental and non-governmental institutions, and to expand criminal intelligence analysis in Africa. (ENACT & INTERPOL, 2023)

To achieve this, seven Criminal Analysis Units (CAUs) have been established, equipped with infrastructure, devices, software, and training, with continuous access to INTERPOL's databases. These units are located in places such as Dodoma, Pretoria, Nairobi, Dakar, Addis Ababa, and Abuja, with the aim of supporting the investigation and resolution of criminal cases. (ENACT & INTERPOL, 2023)

Figure4: Flow chart showing the smuggling of gold from Nigeria to Chad, Niger, China, Lebanon, and India.



Source : ENACT. (2024, November). *Armed groups and illicit economies in Nigeria:*

Insights from Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara mining communities (Issue 47). Institute for Security Studies. Funded by the European Union. Retrieved from <https://enactafrica.org>

The figure illustrates key factors sustaining cross-border criminal activities between Nigeria and Niger, especially along the “Katsina–Kebbi–Zamfara” corridor. This situation is exploited by criminal networks and armed groups to smuggle illicit gold and weapons, leading to repeated attacks on local communities. This border area has been characterized by intense informal movement for centuries, driven by cultural proximity and ethnic ties between the populations of both countries, which makes it extremely difficult to formalize this movement and allows for the smuggling of various illicit goods (ENACT, 2024, p. 14).

INTERPOL Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre (IFCACC):

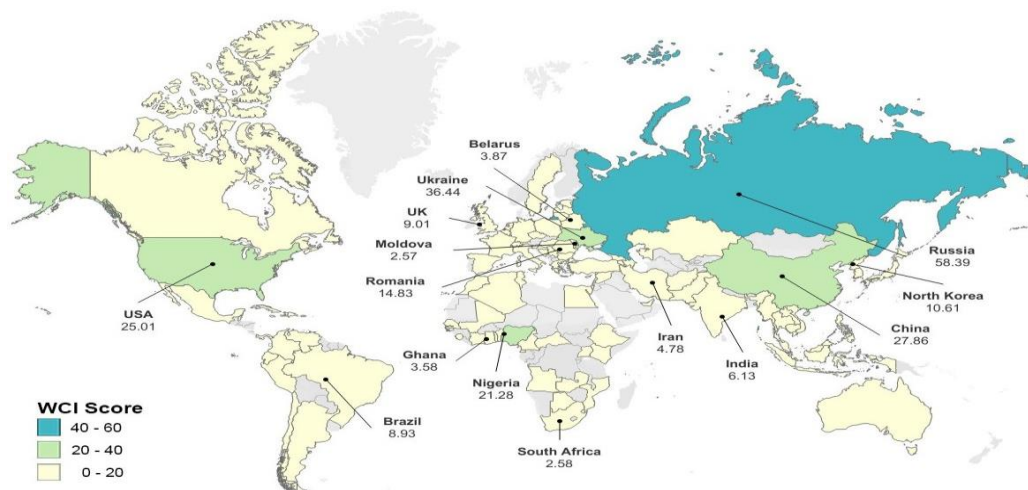
The global police agency launched the INTERPOL Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre (IFCACC) to provide a coordinated global response to the massive growth in cross-border financial crimes. The centre is specifically designed to detect illicit international financial flows, uncover new money laundering schemes, and locate suspects or witnesses in international financial crime cases. Countries, as they regularly do, can request INTERPOL to issue various notices to locate and detain relevant persons for questioning or extradition. (Celik, 2024, s.d.)

Cross-border financial crimes have grown enormously in recent years, undermining global financial systems, hindering economic growth, and causing massive losses to businesses and individuals worldwide. Corruption further complicates these issues, providing fertile ground for organized criminal activities. By exploiting globalization and digitalization, criminals can commit financial crimes with increasing efficiency and sophistication. (INTERPOL General Secretariat, 2022)

Corruption also exacerbates the complexity of the criminal landscape, creating a fertile environment for organized criminal activities. These two types of crime are closely linked, as both often rely on similar mechanisms for moving and laundering illicit funds, and increasingly involve transnational organized crime groups (INTERPOL, 2022, s.d.)

Financial fraud is a widespread global form of corruption that deliberately deceives victims for profit, causing major losses and weakening trust in local and global economies.. (INTERPOL General Secretariat, 2024)

Figure5: *Global Cybercrime Index World Map – highlighting the top 15 countries.*



Money Laundering:

The volume of money laundered annually worldwide is estimated to range between USD 800 billion and USD 2 trillion. According to INTERPOL, money laundering can be defined as “*the concealment or disguise of the origins of proceeds obtained illegally so that they appear to come from legitimate sources.*” These proceeds typically stem from unlawful activities such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, embezzlement, corruption, or gambling (INTERPOL, 2022, s.d.)

As part of INTERPOL’s overarching approach, which relies on international police cooperation, the organization places great emphasis on supporting local police forces with both local and international policing assistance aligned with combating the financial aspects of crime. In 1984, the INTERPOL General Secretariat established a specialized unit tasked with developing programs related to the financial dimensions of organized crime and drug trafficking. This unit, staffed by police officers as well as customs and tax officials, is known as **FOPAC** .(Chaikin, 1991, p. 508)

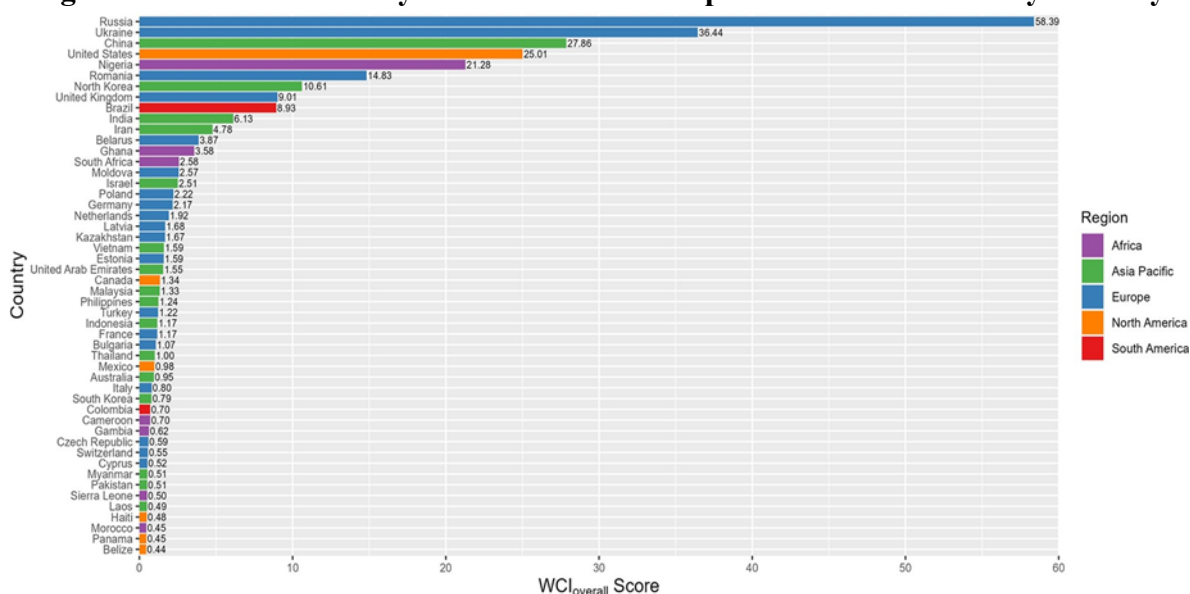
Project CCISOM 2022/2024 to Combat Irregular Migration Using Technological Means:

Project CCISOM was launched to combat the criminal use of new technologies in migrant smuggling and human trafficking from Asia to Canada (INTERPOL, n.d, s.d.) ‘Human traffickers and migrant smugglers have increasingly exploited modern technologies such as social networks, instant messaging, geolocation services, and the dark web to recruit their victims and launder money. This

has added to the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies due to encryption and anonymity.

To address this, Project CCISOM was launched with the participation of Bangladesh, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, aiming to enhance understanding of the electronic services used in these crimes. It also includes gathering intelligence, publishing analytical reports, providing training on the dark web and virtual assets, and improving operational capacities.. (INTERPOL: Project CCISOM,2024)

Figure 6 : Distribution of Cybercrime Hubs and Specialization Patterns by Country



Source : Holt, T. J., Leukfeldt, E. R., Hlavach, L., & Van Der Hulst, R. C. (2024). *Mapping the global geography of cybercrime with the World Cybercrime Index*. PLOS ONE, 19(4).

The chart shows that Russia and Ukraine serve as hubs for highly sophisticated cybercrimes, while Nigerian cybercriminals tend to specialize in less technically advanced forms. Meanwhile, countries with overall scores close to zero, such as India (-6.02), which is specialized but balanced in fraud, and Romania (10.41) and the United States (-2.62), which balance technical and non-technical crimes, have a more complex story of specialization, indicating that each country has a unique profile when it comes to cybercrime.. (Holt, T. J. and al, 2024, p 8), the main mission of FOPAC was to compile an encyclopedia of financial assets, consisting of a summary of the financial laws and procedures in force in approximately sixty countries. Among its other functions was the development and promotion of an INTERPOL model law on tracing, seizure, and confiscation. (Chaikin, 1991, p. 508)

Project ROCK: Targeted at the Horn of Africa region, which is a hub for migration as well as a source, transit, and destination for these crimes (see figure). The region suffers from weak legal frameworks (European Union Trust Fund for Africa, 2021) ‘Project ROCK, funded by the European Union with a budget of €642,000 and running from 2022 to 2024, aims to strengthen regional and international cooperation ‘(Interpo: PROJECT ROCK, 2023) The project involves ten countries, including Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt, and supports police forces in dismantling criminal networks through information sharing, capacity building, and coordination of transnational operations.. (Civipol, 2025, s.d.)

Figure7: Main migration routes in East Africa and the Horn of Africa, 2022.



Source : **International Organization for Migration (IOM).** (2023). *A Region on the Move 2022: East and Horn of Africa*. IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa.

The map illustrates the East Africa and Horn of Africa region and the main migration flows along three corridors: the first heading toward the Arabian Peninsula (particularly Saudi Arabia); the second, a northern route passing through Sudan and Libya to Europe (especially Italy via the Mediterranean); and the third, a southern route extending toward South Africa.

After a sharp drop in total movements to 482,000 in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, numbers began to rise again, reaching 674,000 in 2021. In 2022, the three routes saw a significant 41% increase, bringing the total to 950,000—28% higher than pre-pandemic levels in 2019 (744,000) (International Organization for Migration, 2023, p 134)

INTERPOL’s Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2022–2025 aims to: Disrupt threats through data-driven information exchange, Build an accurate threat picture based on intelligence, Provide targeted, needs-based support, Represent the interests and needs of law enforcement agencies worldwide.

To achieve this, INTERPOL’s Counter-Terrorism Directorate has developed its well-known “**3Bs**” **approach**, focusing on border security, biometric data collection, and battlefield information exchange. The goal is to strengthen complex counter-terrorism operations and responses to CBRNE threats (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives). In 2023, the General Secretariat coordinated **12 counter-terrorism operations** with 56 member countries worldwide, relying on an intelligence-led, risk-based approach. (INTERPOL, 2024)

In 2023, two INTERPOL operations focused on countering the movement of terrorist fighters and criminals across borders, **Operation NEPTUNE V**, funded by Global Affairs Canada (Operation NEPTUNE V, 2024) ,targeted the movement of foreign terrorist fighters via the Mediterranean and strengthened border control in countries such as Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Tunisia, Jordan, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Italy, and Spain, **Operation HOTSPOT** used biometric data to detect terrorist fighters and criminals crossing borders illegally and to disrupt facilitation networks. It was carried

out in countries including Iraq, Moldova, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and the Western Balkans (HOTSPOT, 2022).

Figure8: Terrorist attacks and arrests per EU member state in 2023.

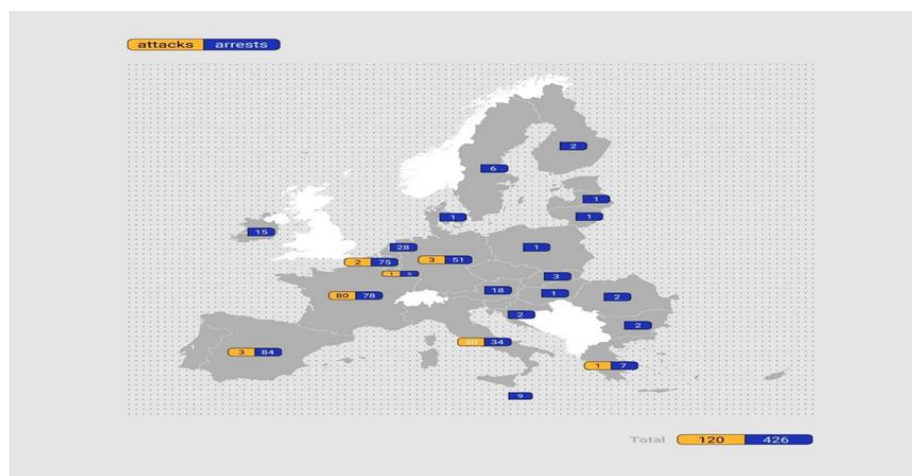
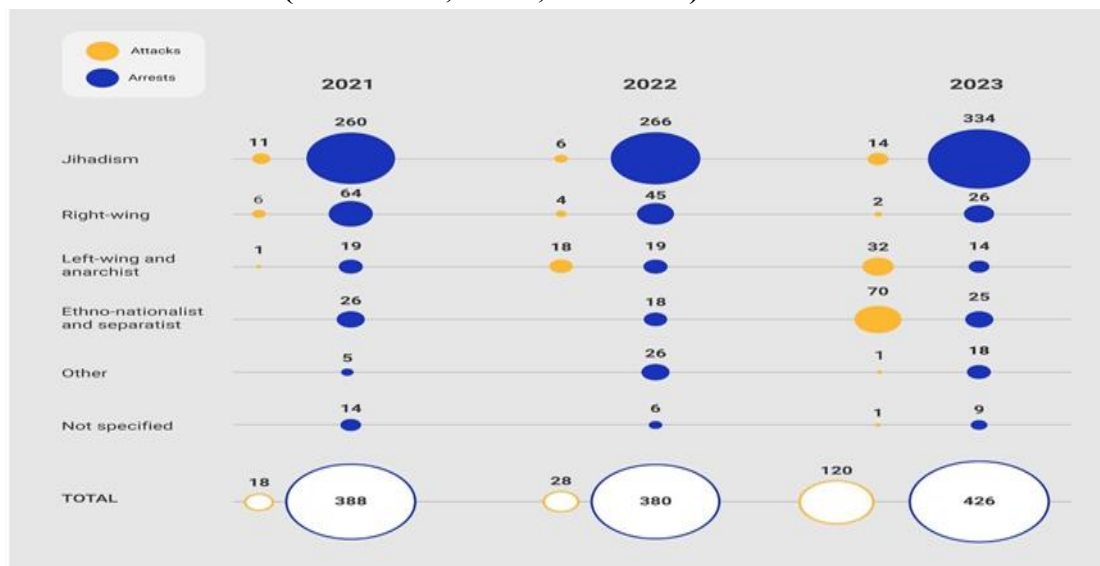


Figure9: Terrorist attacks (carried out, failed, and foiled) and terrorism-related arrests in the



Source : Europol. (2025). *European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2024*.

Publications Office of the EU. Retrieved from <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/052be61e-d3bc-11ef-be2a-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

The figure shows: In 2023, 426 people were arrested on terrorism charges in 22 EU countries, an increase from 380 in 2022 and 388 in 2021. These arrests were mainly concentrated in Spain (84), France (78), Belgium (75), and Germany (51). Most arrests (334) were related to jihadist terrorism, up from 266 in 2022. In contrast, arrests for right-wing terrorism dropped to 26 (compared to 45 in 2022), left-wing and anarchist terrorism arrests dropped to 14 (compared to 19 in 2022), and other types of terrorism decreased to 18 (compared to 26 in 2022). Meanwhile, arrests related to ethno-nationalist and separatist terrorism rose to 25 (from 18 in 2022). The main reasons for arrest were membership in a terrorist organization (120), planning an attack (65), and terrorism financing (42). Of those arrested, 221 were EU citizens and 147 were non-EU nationals.. (Europol, 2025)

4. Measuring INTERPOL's Effectiveness in Combating Transnational Corruption and the Associated Challenges :

4.1. Analysis of INTERPOL's Notice System and Assessment of Its Effectiveness in Combating Transnational Crimes :

Official data from INTERPOL's 2024 report on the use of notices indicate that the number of Red Notices issued in 2024 reached 15,548, representing a 27% increase compared to the previous year and marking the highest annual total on record. Other types of notices showed more modest changes: Yellow Notices increased slightly from 2,687 to 3,345, while Green Notices remained relatively low and stable at 561.

This sustained growth underscores the increasing reliance on Red Notices as a tool for cross-border law enforcement. (Otherside Law., 2025). INTERPOL also witnessed a significant increase in the rejection and cancellation of Red Notices. In 2024, the Notices and Diffusions Task Force (NDTF) rejected 2,462 notices and diffusions for failing to comply with its legal standards (ICPO–INTERPOL, 2025), representing a substantial rise of 54% compared to 2023 and marking the highest number ever recorded. (Ruiz., 2025)¹

Consequently, the rise in the number of Red Notices, which alert member states to arrest individuals for extradition, underscores their pivotal role in combating transnational crimes such as cybercrime, terrorism, and human trafficking in an increasingly interconnected world. (Ruiz., 2025). On the other hand, INTERPOL's 2024 data indicate that 111 notices were rejected under Article 2 (human rights violations), and 194 notices under Article 3 (political, military, religious, or racial motives), while 2,157 notices were classified under the broad "Other Reasons" category accounting for nearly 88% of all rejections. This category is the most ambiguous, encompassing a wide range of procedural and substantive shortcomings, such as missing essential documentation, failure to meet crime severity criteria, or lack of cooperation from national central bureaus. INTERPOL notes that some decisions may involve more than one legal basis, meaning a request could combine a procedural defect with a political motive, leading to its classification under "Other Reasons." This obscures the actual reasons for rejection and reduces transparency in assessing the nature of rejected requests, as well as the potential for misuse of the system. (Otherside Law., 2025)

However, the statistics remain incomplete, as the results of INTERPOL's Commission for the Control of Files (CCF)² which reviews requests from individuals contesting red notices or other data processed in INTERPOL's system, are not reflected in the official INTERPOL figures. Instead, CCF decisions are published separately in its annual report. (Commission I, 2025)

¹ The rejection process at INTERPOL is based on three main legal criteria. Article 2 of the INTERPOL Constitution is applied to protect individuals from any notice that may endanger their fundamental rights, including the right to a fair trial and protection against torture or persecution. Article 3 imposes an absolute prohibition on issuing any notice with a political, military, religious, or racial motive, even if it is framed in apparent criminal terms. In addition to these constitutional provisions, requests undergo a broader procedural and substantive review, assessing the sufficiency of evidence, the seriousness of the offense, and the state's compliance with administrative rules—reasons often categorized under "other grounds." This legal framework aims to prevent the misuse of INTERPOL's system while ensuring that international criminal cooperation remains aligned with principles of justice and individual protection.

² The Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files (CCF) is the internal body responsible for reviewing individuals' requests to access, correct, or delete their data in INTERPOL's databases. It also examines appeals submitted against notices, including Red Notices and other notices/circulars.

In 2023, the CCF received a total of 2,793 requests, marking the highest number in its history, and effectively closed 2,238 of them. Among these requests, 1,115 were access requests to individuals' data, 876 were complaints challenging the recorded data, and the remainder comprised review requests and other types of submissions (Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files (CCF), 2023). there were 651 complaints related to individuals' requests for data deletion or correction (YILDIZ, 2022). Among the complaints accepted for review, the CCF found that 500 cases involved data pertaining to individuals actually registered in the system. It subsequently decided in 342 cases (68% of the accepted complaints) that the data were "non-compliant" with INTERPOL's rules, requiring their deletion or correction. (Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files (CCF), 2023)

Table 10 : CCF Requests and Complaints, 2023.

Outcome of the Appeal	Percentage of Total	Number of Requests	Type of Request / Complaint
Access to data only	40%	1,115	Access requests
342 cases (68% of accepted complaints) corrected or deleted	31%	876	Complaints against data
Various – may include data updates or clarifications	29%	802	Other review requests
	100%	2,793	Total

Source : Prepared by the author based on INTERPOL statistics

These figures highlight that a significant number of individuals listed in INTERPOL's notices or international databases contest their records, and a substantial portion of these challenges are upheld, resulting in the deletion or correction of data. This underscores the possibility that some names or entries may have been included in violation of data protection standards or INTERPOL's notice rules. Nevertheless, a lack of transparency persists regarding the information available: although the CCF publishes annual figures on requests and activities, it generally does not provide details revealing the countries that issued the rejected notices or those that were the source of the contested data .(Ruiz., 2025)

Table 11: Top 10 Countries Requesting Red Notices

Country	Total Red Notices Requested	Notices for Nationals	Notices for Other Nationalities
Russia	3,220	3,022	198
El Salvador	1,095	1,070	25
USA	263	93	170
Argentina	659	369	290
India	271	195	76
Pakistan	170	168	2
Guatemala	125	114	11
Brazil	112	68	44
Bosnia and Herzegovina	96	88	8
Jamalca	60	52	8

Source : Prepared by the author based on INTERPOL statistics

The submission of requests is concentrated among a limited number of countries, with Russia, El Salvador, and the United States representing the top three nations issuing Red Notices. Russia alone accounts for 60% of the total requests. Notably, the majority of these requests target nationals of the requesting country itself—for example, 3,022 out of 3,220 requests from Russia and 1,070 out of 1,095 from El Salvador. (Al Jazeera. , 2022)

The scope of publicly available data remains limited. Most official INTERPOL statistics and general reports provide aggregate figures or broad groupings, without specifying the individual countries behind each request, particularly in the case of Blue Notices. (NTERPOL. Notices, 2022) Even for Red Notices, although general information exists regarding the countries submitting the highest number of requests, detailed case-level information.such as the individual’s name, the alleged offense, or the country involved.is not disclosed publicly, in order to safeguard the privacy of individuals and the integrity of ongoing legal proceedings. (European Parliament., 2019).

As for Blue Notices, which are used to gather information on individuals and serve as a valuable tool for police cooperation in combating transnational crime, they experienced a slight increase, rising from 3,546 in 2023 to 4,078 in 2024. (Ruiz., 2025).

Table12 :Blue Notices Statistics: 2023–2024.

Notes	Accepted Appeals	Cases Converted to Red Notices	Number of Blue Notices	Year
Approximate data from external reports	85	220	3,546	2023
Clear increase in notices and conversions	97	310	4,078	2024

Source : Washington Guardian. “INTERPOL Blue Notices: Tracking Suspects Across Borders and Their Legal Implications.”<https://www.washingtonguardian.com>.

The data revealed a notable increase in the number of Blue Notices, reflecting a growing reliance on this tool to track individuals across borders. Additionally, the number of cases upgraded from Blue Notices to Red Notices rose from 220 to 310, highlighting the Blue Notice’s role as an initial stage in international investigations. Despite this growth, the number of accepted challenges remained relatively low, increasing only from 85 to 97, which underscores the difficulty of contesting Blue Notices and the limited transparency regarding the individuals involved and the issuing countries. These figures illustrate the legal and oversight challenges associated with Blue Notices, including the absence of direct judicial supervision and the potential for misuse for political or other purposes. (Washington Guardian., 2025)As for the Green Notices, assessing their effectiveness in achieving preventive objectives remains limited due to the available data. Although INTERPOL began publishing annual transparency statistics in 2022, the number of Green Notices remains relatively low and stable compared to Red Notices. In 2024 (according to figures published in July 2025), the total number of Green Notices reached 561, compared to 15,548 Red Noticesa 27% increase over 2023. This low figure indicates a narrower scope of use, yet it does not provide insight into their qualitative effectiveness in crime prevention .(Otherside Law., 2025)

Case No. 2025-3 highlights one of the principal challenges facing the Green Notice system, namely how INTERPOL balances an individual’s past criminal behavior with their subsequent conduct. In this case, the applicant argued that their 2015 criminal record no longer reflected their current situation, as they had since led a stable and lawful life. The appeal demonstrated that the individual had suffered clear humanitarian harm, including travel restrictions, visa refusals, and disruption of

family and social life (Red Notice Monitor, 2025) . This dispute underscores a methodological issue with the Green Notice system: maintaining an entry in the international database based on outdated information can transform the notice from a preventive tool into a perpetual burden, potentially conflicting with the principle of proportionality emphasized in INTERPOL's regulatory guidelines when assessing the continued processing of personal data over time. (INTERPOL, 2022). Despite acknowledging the applicant's arguments, the CCF did not immediately revoke the Green Notice, noting that the six convictions constituted a substantial criminal record, the 2018 arrest indicated ongoing risk, and the conduct had an international dimension, increasing potential danger. However, the issuing state did not confirm whether its national laws permitted continued retention of the data in INTERPOL's database¹. This highlights weak coordination between some states and INTERPOL, the risk of Green Notices remaining "stuck" without clear legal basis, and the persistence of personal harm due solely to administrative delays. (INTERPOL, 2022). The Committee's decision was a compromise: the Green Notice would remain active for only one month, and if the issuing state failed to provide a clear legal justification within this period, the data would be automatically deleted. This represents a significant development in the CCF's approach, placing the burden of proof on the issuing state rather than the affected individual.

(Red Notice Monitor, 2025).

4.2.Challenges Facing INTERPOL :

Legal discrepancies: Corruption is among the most severe structural variables capable of generating transnational threats. It not only compromises internal institutional integrity but also undermines the state's capacity for governance, transforming public institutions into instruments that serve organized crime networks and terrorist groups. This environment diminishes legal deterrence and weakens the effectiveness of international security cooperation. (INTERPOL General Secretariat, 2020). United Nations reports have highlighted corruption as a key enabler of transnational organized crime, facilitating illicit trafficking, money laundering, and terrorism financing by allowing offenders greater freedom of movement and concealment . (UNODC, 2004.)For instance, in East Africa, an INTERPOL report demonstrates how corruption enabled human trafficking and drug smuggling networks to bypass monitoring and customs controls through bribery and exploitation of governance weaknesses, thereby facilitating cross-border criminal operations. (UNODC, 2004.)

As a practical example, a joint operation between AFRIPOL and INTERPOL targeting human trafficking and irregular migration-conducted under Operation FLASH-WEKA-resulted in over 1,062 arrests. Additionally, authorities identified 2,731 irregular migrants and 823 victims of human trafficking, illustrating the tangible impact of coordinated anti-corruption and law enforcement efforts .(INTERPOL & AFRIPOL., 2025).

The crisis is further exacerbated by wide legislative discrepancies among national legal systems, as countries differ in defining and criminalizing corruption, in the scope of liability, as well as in investigative methods, anti-money laundering measures, and mechanisms for recovering embezzled assets. These differences hinder the application of the principle of criminal law harmonization,¹ which forms one of the foundations INTERPOL relies upon for issuing international arrest notices (Red Notices). (World Bank & UNODC, 2011)

The principle of double criminality³ stipulates that the offense underlying a request for extradition or international judicial cooperation must be criminalized in both the requesting and requested states. Consequently, if the requested state does not criminalize the act, extradition requests are often denied, making differences in national legislation a significant obstacle to international cooperation. (OECD.,

2016). The 2015 FIFA case provides a clear example: INTERPOL issued Red Notices against officials of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) on charges of bribery and corruption. However, enforcement was delayed in countries such as Switzerland and the United States due to gaps in domestic legislation regarding transnational financial crimes, which subsequently led to a restructuring of INTERPOL's funding to enhance its independence. (U.S. Department of Justice, 2015)

Technological barriers: INTERPOL faces challenges in keeping up with rapid technological advances. New technologies, such as blockchain and the metaverse, have brought with them new criminal practices, posing significant challenges for INTERPOL in the digital world and making it necessary to keep pace with technological change. (Venfort, 2023). In March 2022, Ronin Bridge (a bridge within a blockchain/gaming ecosystem) suffered a major hack, resulting in the theft of cryptocurrency valued at approximately \$540–\$650 million. (SharkTeam, 2022)

The **Vienna Declaration 2024** confirms that criminals outpace global law enforcement agencies in technology and innovation, showing the need to invest in research, development, and capacity building to ensure that police worldwide have the tools to defeat transnational organized crime. (Stock, 2023). In January 2023, the developer of the Mutant Ape Planet NFT project was arrested in the United States on charges of fraud and money laundering, after deceiving investors with false promises about the project's future and misappropriating approximately \$2.9 million of their funds. (United States Attorney's Office, 2023).

This demonstrates that the nature of the metaverse-characterized by encrypted transactions, unclear digital identities, and an ambiguous legal framework-makes the application of criminal law particularly difficult. It underscores the need to develop international legislative frameworks and to strengthen the technical and operational capacities of law enforcement agencies, including INTERPOL, to effectively address these emerging crimes. (Alsharif, 2025)

International asset recovery: Depositing embezzled funds outside the country's borders requires a network of colluding parties to hide the funds. Even when stolen assets are located, the recovery process often fails due to limited political will, weak capabilities, and high costs. This process requires concerted international efforts and a comprehensive international system for asset recovery in countries. (Khudhair & Fazaeli, 2023, p. 383)

Sovereignty and jurisdiction challenges: INTERPOL does not have direct arrest powers and relies on cooperation with national police forces in its member states. INTERPOL is not a supranational police force but rather a coordinating organization, meaning the primary rule for INTERPOL members is that "INTERPOL may do nothing within a country against its will. (Lippert, 2024, s.d.)

This results in **an inability to extradite international criminals:** Extradition is inevitable for an organization whose primary goal is to combat crime at all levels. However, investigative, communication, tracking, and arrest efforts become ineffective when a state refuses to extradite a criminal who has been flagged through a Red Notice. (Fooner, 1989, p92) 'This fuels criticism of INTERPOL's rigid stance, which holds that extradition is outside its mandate and does not seek to pressure states to complete the extradition process. (Watson, 2007)

Security challenges linked to its core responsibilities as a global police agency include bias, politically motivated arrests and harassment of dissidents, corruption, and unfair trials (Abiodun & Abioro, 2020, p. 19) 'Danylyshyn. In the same context, a report by the Stockholm Center for Freedom in September 2017 revealed that Turkish authorities extensively exploited INTERPOL's mechanisms to target all its critics and legitimate opponents. ((Apuzzo, 2019, para. 7, s.d.)

British human rights activist **Bruno Min**, who works for the NGO Fair Trials, explains: “If a country wants to misuse the Red Notice system for persecution, it won’t declare its political motives in the request. Such crimes are often disguised as non-political offenses, such as fraud or the like. (Steffen, 2023, s.d.)

4. Conclusion :

The findings of this study indicate that combating corruption and transnational crime requires a multi-layered collaborative effort that integrates both theoretical and practical dimensions. Theoretically, it draws on global governance approaches and traditional international relations theories-realism and liberalism-while practically relying on institutional mechanisms such as INTERPOL’s notice system. Red and Blue Notices, in particular, serve as key tools for enhancing international cooperation; however, they continue to face significant constraints related to transparency, legitimacy, divergent national laws, and emerging technological challenges in the digital sphere and the metaverse. Moreover, data from the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL’s Files (CCF) show that a substantial proportion of appeals are accepted, underscoring the need for rigorous review mechanisms to safeguard individual rights and prevent misuse of the international criminal justice system.

The analysis further highlights that corruption constitutes a fundamental threat not only to domestic institutional stability but also to global security, as it enables organized transnational crime by facilitating human trafficking, money laundering, and terrorism financing. This reinforces the necessity of strengthening international coordination and global governance initiatives to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption interventions.

Study Recommendations :

Enhancing transparency and legitimacy within the notice system: including the publication of more detailed data regarding states whose requests are rejected, while ensuring the legal privacy of individuals involved.

Addressing the misuse of notices for political or personal purposes:through reforming the review and oversight mechanisms responsible for handling requests.

Mitigating legislative inconsistencies among states:by promoting greater criminal law harmonization-particularly in defining corruption, money laundering, and public-official liability-to reduce extradition refusals due to divergent legal standards or the principle of double criminality.

Strengthening INTERPOL’s technical and institutional capacities: Investing in security agencies’ capabilities to address digital crimes, including the use of artificial intelligence and digital forensic technologies.

-Keeping pace with developments in the metaverse and cryptocurrencies to detect emerging cross-border criminal patterns.

Advancing international cooperation: with emphasis on building mutual trust, interdependence, and encouraging adherence to treaties such as UNCAC through both incentive-based and accountability-oriented mechanisms.

Reassessing the use of Green Notices: to ensure a proper balance between preventive objectives and the protection of individual rights, including establishing clearer time limits in line with the principle of proportionality.

Recommendations for future research:Developing quantitative and qualitative tools to measure the effectiveness of international notices in reducing transnational crime, including analyses of accepted appeals and the preventive value of Green and Blue Notices.

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