



DOTCOM Waste News



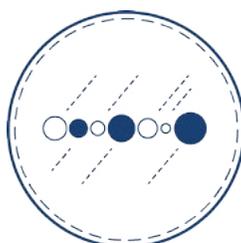
Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter from the DOTCOM Waste project!

We are all aware of the growing phenomenon of illegal management and trade of waste, how it damages the environment and its adverse effect on the health of our nations and our future.

The DOTCOM Waste project has been launched to help increase the capabilities of those directly involved in the fight against cross-border waste crime, by providing them with best practices for detection, investigation and prosecution, as well as multidisciplinary training and tools, and encouraging greater collaboration between stakeholders.

Funded by the European Commission Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs, the project started in January this year, and brings together multidisciplinary partners from EU and non-EU countries impacted by the illicit management and illegal trade of waste. Project partners are also supported by a high-level advisory board consisting of eight external stakeholders who provide advice on the specific needs of the end user community, offer technical insights, and assist in the dissemination of the project's results.



Project timeline p.2

What's been happening?

Following a kick-off meeting in Bonn, Germany, the project partners have been busy collecting documents for the DOTCOM Waste Library. This publically available asset is a compilation of information, data and tools related to the challenges encountered by authorities when investigating, prosecuting and detecting illegal waste cases, and on good practices in use around the world to fight this phenomenon. It will continue to grow during the entire life-cycle of the project, and will also leverage solutions from external stakeholders.



Target audience p.3

To compliment the intelligence gathered via the library, the project partners are also conducting interviews with those on the front line of waste crime. Based on both the information collected via the DOTCOM Library and interviews with those on the front line of waste crime, a comprehensive risk analysis will be performed to identify the key activities that need to be prioritised to tackle this problem more effectively.



Stakeholder mtg. p.3

Our next major event will take place again in Bonn, during the second week of November. This International Workshop will bring together representatives from INTERPOL and other law enforcement agencies, customs and environmental agencies; prosecutors and judges; as well as port authorities. The preliminary results of the intelligence gathering will be discussed in-depth and further expanded to support the compilation of the Compendium of Good

Welcome (contd.)

Practices. The event will coincide with our project partner and High Level Advisory Board (H-LAB) meeting.

The organisations involved with this project are determined not to reinvent the wheel, but to pull together all the hard work already done on this topic by other groups, analyse what has worked and what can be improved on, and then disseminate the information to relevant stakeholders, while also encouraging greater communication and collaboration.

If you are interested in getting involved or finding out more, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Federico Magalini
Project Manager, United Nations University

Library

The [DOTCOM Waste Library](#) is a publicly available resource, comprised of information, data and tools, related to the challenges encountered by authorities when investigating, prosecuting and detecting illegal waste cases, and on good practices in use around the world to fight this phenomenon.

Interested in adding some information to our library?
[Add content](#)

Project Outputs

- A risk analysis and a Compendium of Good Practices in the detection, investigation and prosecution of illegal management and trade of waste in Europe, as well as to China and West Africa
- Information sharing and capacity building activities to help manage waste crime
- A training toolkit including educational materials and practical operational tools
- Multidisciplinary training sessions in Europe and China on specific aspects of illegal waste-related activities

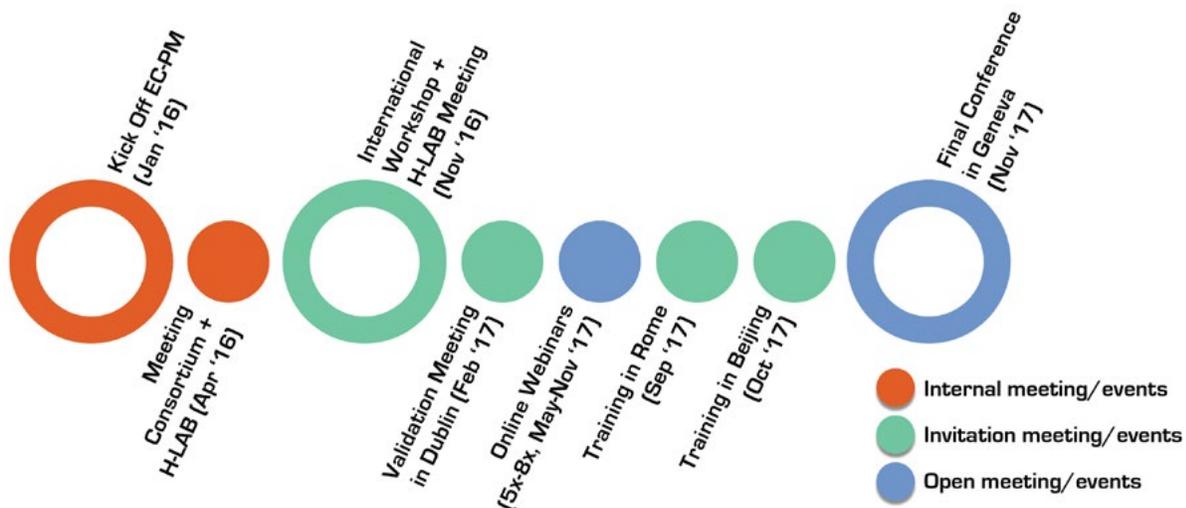
Contribute

Have You Got Something to Say?

DOTCOM Waste has launched an online questionnaire to help identify needs and good practices for detecting, investigating and prosecuting waste crime activities. If you think you have something of value to add, we'd be delighted to hear from you!

[Click here](#) to access our online questionnaire or email info@dotcomwaste.eu to set up your telephone interview now.

Project Timeline and Deliverables



Stakeholder Meeting

DOTCOM Waste Meets Stakeholders at the Port of Bari



Bari, in the South of Italy, was the destination for a recent DOTCOM Waste delegation, organised in co-operation with the Prosecutor's Office in Bari – associate partner to the project. The location was chosen because it has become the 'Eastern door' for the export and import of waste towards Greece, Turkey and the Balkans and then over to South-East Asia.

The trip included an inspection visit at the Port of Bari and a set of roundtable discussions with the main actors involved in the fight against transboundary movement of illicit waste in the Adriatic region in Italy.

The delegation has been welcomed by the Head Prosecutor in Bari and the Financial Police, the Forestry Police and the Customs Agency (Anti-fraud Office) all participated in the discussions. The institutions involved all recognise the importance of the DOTCOM Waste project in view of creating synergies with both EU and non-EU countries in the fight against this threatening phenomenon.

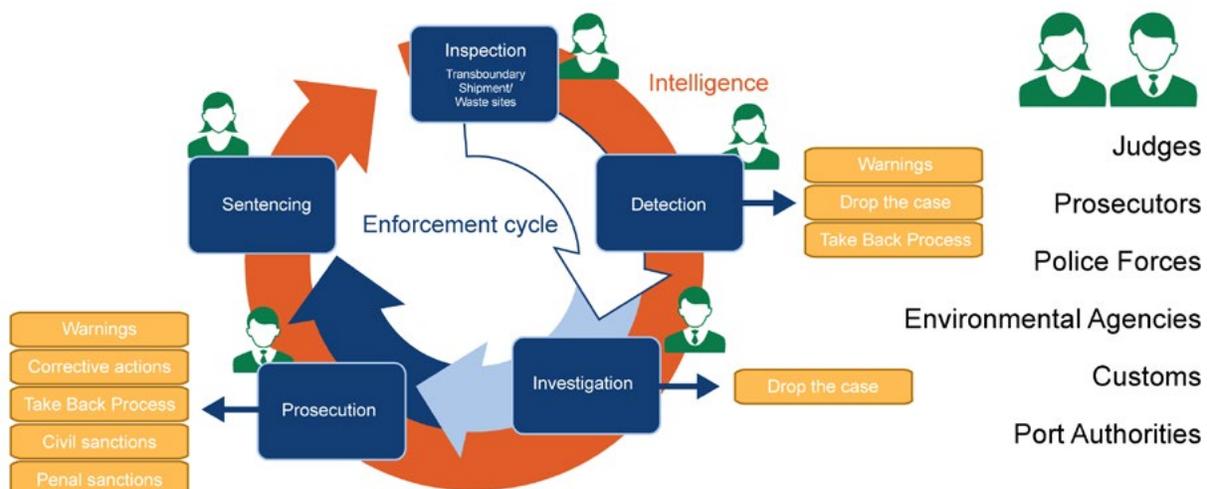
A good level of cooperation and information sharing already exists in Italy among the actors involved in the different phases of the fight against waste trafficking – detection, investigation, prosecution and sentencing. But more needs to be done!

The stakeholders highlighted the need, in the Italian context, to adopt more homogeneous procedures in ports, as well as the importance of focusing on the pre-investigative stage and risk analysis to optimise the efforts during inspection phases.

As well as the clarification on priorities, practical proposals also emerged as a result of the meetings and these will be taken into careful consideration as the DOTCOM Waste project evolves.

Considering the very nature of cross-border waste trafficking, all parties at an international level need to cooperate and exchange information in the shortest time possible. DOTCOM Waste can play an important role in facilitating this process.

Target Audiences





Marc Clément

Administrative Judge, Administrative Court of Appeal of Lyon, France

What do you feel are the biggest challenges when it comes to tackling cross-border waste crime?

As with many environmental issues, the first thing is to realise the seriousness of this problem. The impact of environmental crime, and particularly waste crime, is very often underestimated. This could be the case for prosecutors and judges. As the judiciary is confronted on a daily basis with very difficult situations, environmental issues could be perceived as ranging among relatively minor offences.

We also need to recognise that only in rare cases do Member States have specialised prosecutors and judges to deal with environmental issues. Therefore, environmental cases will mostly be managed by judges dealing with many other domains. Difficult concepts such as the very definition of waste itself for instance, are complex to handle and require time to be mastered. In the context of rapid decisions in unfamiliar domain, waste law application represents a substantial challenge for judges.

What would you like to see coming out of the DOTCOM Waste project?

There is a need for judges to be able to rapidly understand the key concepts of waste law in order to avoid misinterpretations. Therefore tools which can be used in training, and in particular e-training, would be welcome. But there is also a need to look at the implementation of waste law: criminal law is certainly needed, but administrative fines could also be very effective, as well as a suspension of licences or other tools. I think it is important to utilise a 'policy-mix' in response to environmental crimes, so as not to only rely on criminal sanctions. In this respect, it is extremely positive to see that the DOTCOM project partners are covering the complete spectrum of the waste policy: from identification of waste crimes to prosecution and sanctions.



Ioana Botezatu

Environmental Security Organized and Emerging Crimes, INTERPOL

What do you feel are the biggest challenges when it comes to tackling cross-border waste crime?

The current landscape of cross-border waste crime appears to be a Gordian knot for policy makers and law enforcement. Competing priorities often place environmental quality and security issues on a sideline. This attitude needs to be revised because such crimes are closely interwoven with transnational criminal networks, including those involved in money laundering, fraud and violence. This reality calls for an adaptive governance model, which should place the emphasis on a number of key law enforcement solutions. These are mainly investigative capacity and processes, and cross border information sharing.

What would you like to see coming out of the DOTCOM Waste project?

The DOTCOM Waste project has an opportunity to become aware and understand the various frameworks, tools and services that would bolster that national and international law enforcement capacity. Given the nature of this type of crime, the outcomes of the project should be meaningful to a wider audience, including police and customs officers, environmental management authorities, inspectors and representatives, as well as to other essential professions from the administrative and criminal justice apparatus. In addition, the project should also consider engaging with representatives of responsible businesses, knowing that catching criminals enhances legitimate industries' operating capabilities in the waste management and supply chain.

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About



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