



DOTCOM Waste News



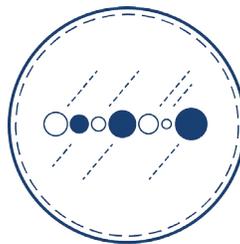
Welcome to our second newsletter from the DOTCOM Waste project!

The International Workshop of the DOTCOM Waste project was held at UNU Headquarters in Bonn, Germany in November. The eight High-Level Advisory Board (H-LAB) members as well as twelve international experts and practitioners involved in the fight against waste trafficking joined the event and gave their input on current and future activities of the project. Experts included representatives of environmental inspectorates, customs, police forces, prosecutors, judges and international organisations (such as INTERPOL, UNEP and IMPEL).



The preliminary results of the DOTCOM Waste toolkit were presented including

1. a Risk Assessment identifying key activities that law enforcement agencies need to prioritise in order to tackle waste-related crimes more effectively
2. a Training Needs Assessment aimed at understanding the needs of the rele-



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vant stakeholders and comparing them against existing training materials and tools that are already in use. Attendees shared their opinions on progress and suggested improvements in the materials, giving the Consortium tangible ways in which to refine and adjust the training toolkit and programme.



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In addition, discussions were held around common challenges and experiences in investigating cases of illegal waste management and trade, as well as ways to share capacity building tools, practical know-how and existing procedures. Furthermore, ideas to improve the exchange of information and increase inter-agency cooperation within Europe and with participating third countries' representatives were discussed. The International Workshop also revealed the desire and commitment of participants to reinforce collaboration and networking among the various actors.

DOTCOM Waste Library

A collection of information on good practices and lessons learned in supporting the detection, investigation and prosecution of the illicit management and illegal trade of waste.

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Defining Good Practices

As an initial and fundamental step of the DOTCOM Waste project, a Compendium of Good Practices was assembled to provide an overview of good practices in waste crime detection, inspection, investigation, prosecution and sentencing. The first phase of collection involved in-depth research, as well as a number of detailed interviews carried out by project partners with stakeholders across the regions and questionnaires sent to European authorities.

The second activity encompassed the development of a risk analysis (see next article) and thirdly, the International Workshop was organised in Bonn, Germany, attended by experts from the different phases of the law enforcement chain in order to elicit their opinions and expertise to further improve the project's outputs.

This 'Good Practice' information has helped define the challenges, best practices and training needs of relevant stakeholders.

For more details, please email info@dotcomwaste.eu.

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Waste Crime – A Risk Analysis

As part of the DOTCOM Waste project, a detailed risk analysis looked at current trends relating to waste crimes, law enforcement activities and their key priorities, as well as training needs. Research revealed some interesting findings regarding contemporary waste crimes and here are just a sample:

Waste traffickers seem to react rapidly to any legislative reforms and changes in law enforcement activity, moving illicit operations to ports and border crossings where chances of getting caught are small and penalties are low.

Findings show that a typical criminal waste trafficker has close connections to legitimate businesses, especially in logistics, waste handling, trade, and banking. Waste traffickers are employing increasingly sophisticated methods of deception, from better document forgeries to concealing waste among second-hand goods or other legitimate non-waste goods, as well as exploiting differences in European laws.

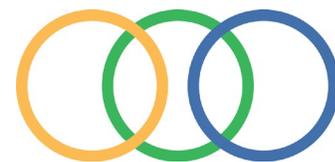
Many regulatory weaknesses complicate the effective fight against waste crimes.

Law enforcement agencies have launched some promising initiatives to inform stakeholders on how to detect illegal waste shipments and how to distinguish between waste and non-waste.

For more information on the risk assessment, please email info@dotcomwaste.eu.

Linking with Other European Waste Projects

DOTCOM Waste invited representatives from some other European projects and organisations involved in waste to its International Workshop, including Block Waste, LIFE SMART Waste and [European Network of Prosecutors \[ENPE\]](#). The following areas were identified as potential opportunities to work together on: communication, awareness raising and networking; sharing knowledge and work on the modus operandi used by waste criminals; learning about / use of new technologies (apps, GPS, track and trace technologies); sharing training materials and capacity building, and avoiding overlap; sharing trainers / experts; and joint meetings to capitalise on networking.



Vittoria Luda di Cortemiglia,
Consultant



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

International experts say that globalisation with its immense flow of goods and services has progressed faster than our ability to regulate it. The involvement of criminal networks acting across borders is one of the main factors that has led the considerable expansion of environmental crime in recent years. As these often entail considerable financial gain coupled by low risk of detection and scarce conviction rates, criminal networks are becoming increasingly interested in such illicit cross-border activities.

Cross-border waste crime is often connected to other serious crimes, including theft, fraud, corruption, drugs and human trafficking, counterfeiting, firearms smuggling, and money laundering, as demonstrated by investigations carried out in different countries.

Also - as noted by EUROPOL - many criminal networks have quickly adapted their businesses, exploiting new opportunities produced by the recent economic crisis.

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

DOTCOM Waste was born to address some of the challenges highlighted by the Counter WEEE Illegal Trade (CWIT) Report, and put in place some of the recommendations concluding the report.

I am particularly happy by the attention paid to prosecutors and judges as they represent the final ring of the enforcement chain, yet have often been left out of trainings, and awareness raising activities.

Despite the growing concern about the environment, crime in this area is often under-sentenced. Often perceived as 'victimless' and incidental, environmental crimes frequently rank low on the law enforcement priority list, and are commonly punished with low and ineffective sanctions.

DOTCOM Waste will produce a training toolkit covering all waste-related aspects of interest for prosecutors and judges, as well as a Compendium of Good Practices in international cooperation and networking, with information on where existing databases and networks can be found.

Halina Güldiren
Technical Officer / Analyst
Regional Intelligence Liaison
Office Western Europe



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

Frontline Customs Officers responsible for controlling trade play a very important role in protecting the national and global environment.

However, Customs Officers cannot identify and combat illegal waste alone. They have to rely on relevant national environmental agencies to provide them with the appropriate legal and technical information. It requires the co-operation of all enforcement agencies at both a national and international level to successfully detect and prosecute illegal traffic.

Illegal waste might not be detected in a short time period without a constant exchange of information and cooperation between the competent authorities in the countries along the illicit waste stream.

Therefore, it is important to raise awareness and to guide Customs Officers in their daily work to monitor and facilitate legal trade, and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities.

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

For us, as the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for the Western European Customs Administrations (RILO), it is important that frontline Customs Officers are able to detect illegal waste and to get in contact with the relevant authorities in their countries and abroad easily and effectively.

One of the main achievements of the DOTCOM Waste project for us is the training toolkit including educational material and practical operational tools for Customs Officers.

Since the RILO WE began working with the other partners in the DOTCOM waste project, we appreciate the approach that all areas of the waste policy are covered; from inspection and detection, to investigation and prosecution.



Training

Involved in the fight against waste crime?
Interested in receiving best practice training?

DOTCOM Waste is organising two training workshops on tackling waste crime in Italy, 26 - 29 Sep, and China 17 - 20 Oct, 2017. Attendance is free, but on an invitation-only basis, limited to 25 participants. Representatives from the following stakeholder groups are invited to express their interest in participating:

- Judges
- Law enforcement agencies, e.g. police
- Customs
- Port authorities
- Environmental agencies or inspectorates / regulatory bodies responsible for waste matters
- Prosecutors

The training toolkit covers:

- Legislative landscape
- Problematic waste streams
- Intelligence
- Inspection and Detection
- Next Generation Compliance
- Investigation
- Dealing with the illegal shipments
- Prosecution
- Sentencing
- Interagency collaboration
- Networking

Each workshop will last for 4 days and focus on improving collaboration among authorities and increased enforcement skills to help fight cross-border waste crime more effectively.

One of the main outputs of the DOTCOM Waste project is the creation of a training toolkit to assist those directly involved in the fight against waste. The toolkit consists of existing best practice material and newly created content to fill existing gaps.

Why don't you register your interest in attending our events in Italy or China, or online training?

Sign up now!

About



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