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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO BICOCCA

STEPPO
JEAN MONNET
EUROPEAN UNION
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

EPPO and EU Law

(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence – EPPONFI)

May Steering Committee meeting

CHAIR: Benedetta Ubertazzi

VICE-CHAIR: Giulia Varisco, Marta Ramat, Mattia Rossi, Giordana Ambrosino

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EPPO and EU Law
(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence – EPPONFI)
1. Interview Committee

CHAIR: Serena Cacciatore

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On March 3, 2026,
I attended a lecture of the
STEPPO course

The topic addressed was enhanced cooperation in relation to the EPPO and the results it has produced both in the field of evidence and from the perspective of defence rights in criminal proceedings.

Reference was made to data contained in the new EPPO Annual Report and to the judgment of the Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice of 21 December 2023 concerning the limits and modalities of judicial review over the activities of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, as well as to certain aspects of the rules governing evidence.

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Interview of 22 April 2026

Dr. Francesco Cambiano — PhD candidate in Criminal Procedure at the University of Palermo, under a joint supervision programme with the University of Groningen — carried out his legal traineeship alongside an internship at the EPPO office in Palermo, thereby gaining a threefold experience: academic, professional as a legal practitioner, and practical as a trainee lawyer.

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He explained how the internship experience added a further dimension: the awareness that behind the provisions of the Regulation there is a daily process of negotiation, adaptation, and a form of “legal improvisation”, resulting from the novelty of several legal institutions whose integration into judicial practice therefore requires continuous adjustments.

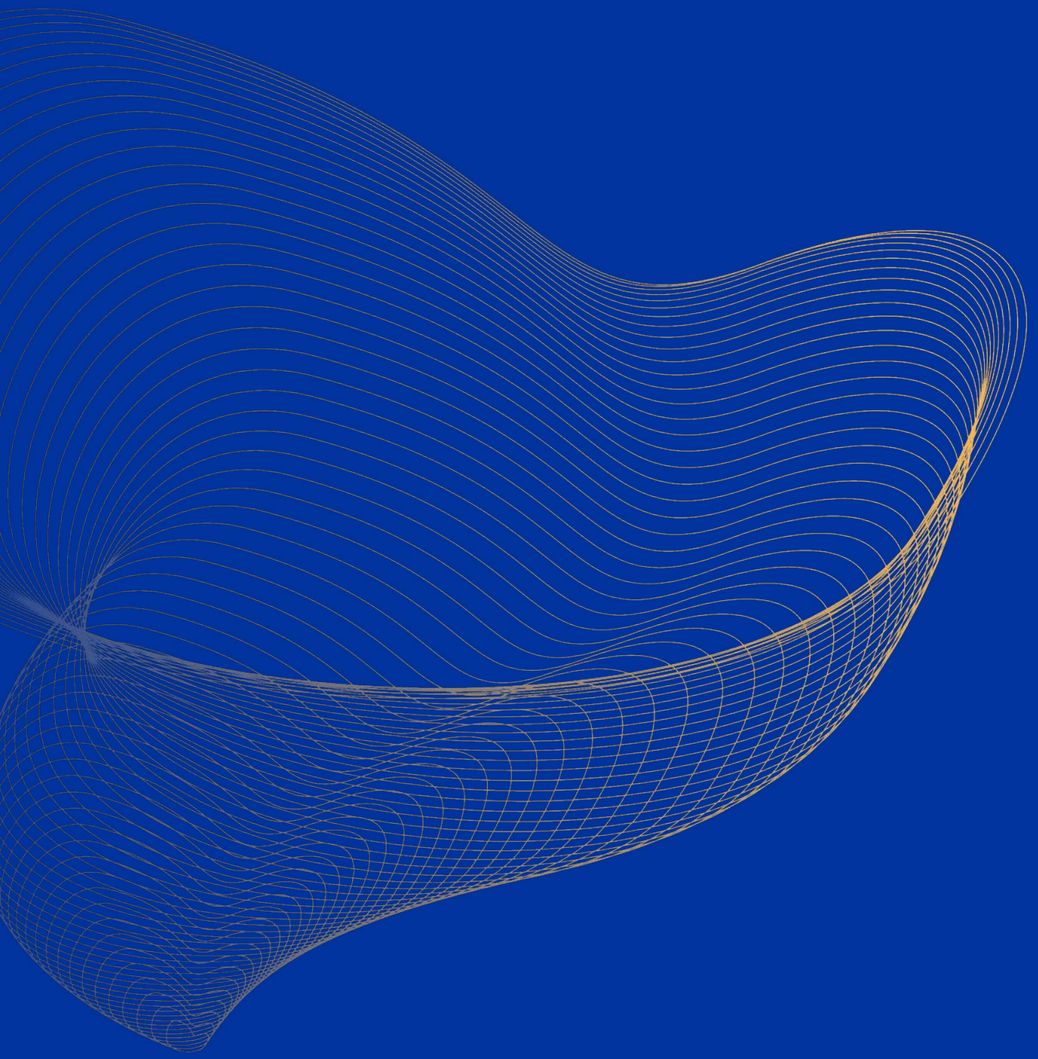
The internship experience also showed how communication between the European Delegated Prosecutors (EDPs) takes place directly, without the bureaucratic steps that characterised previous instruments of judicial cooperation. However, certain frictions remain: national codes of criminal procedure do not automatically become harmonised merely because practitioners belong to a single office. Differences persist, for example, in the authorisation regimes governing investigative measures such as searches and undercover operations. As a result, “border zones” emerge between legal systems, making the EPPO a particularly rich subject of study. In the absence of a European Code of Criminal Procedure, solutions must therefore be identified on a case-by-case basis.

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Grazie

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EPPO and EU Law

2. Academic Committee

20 May 2026

CHAIRS: A. Hernandez Lopez, I. Sticchi, E. Traversa

SUPPORTS: M. Ramat, M. Gomariz; M. Rossi, L. Zappaterra

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News & upcoming activities

What we have done

Module

- Lopez, Sticchi, Traversa & Ramat: lectures in the Steppo course
- Traversa, Ramat, Rossi: interventions in the *Closing Conference*
- Organisation of the Steppo course and respective *Opening* and *Closing Conferences*

Blogposts

- Ramat: *Interpretation of the EPPO Regulation: A new wave of preliminary references to the CJEU*. LINK

what we will do

Rossi: upcoming blogpost about the new proposal for a Regulation on EPPO's and OLAF's access to VAT information

Zappaterra: upcoming blogpost about the latest CJEU judgment on the EPPO

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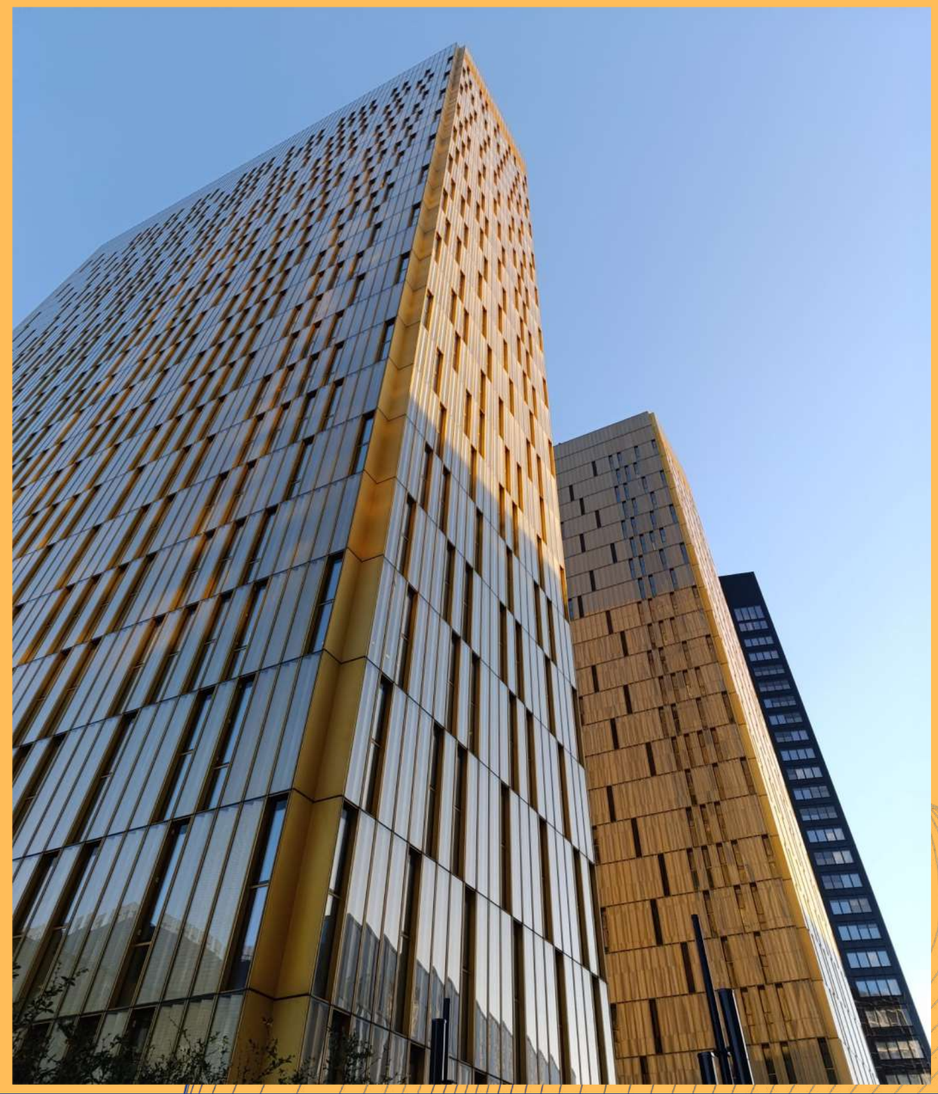
CJEU cases on the EPPO

16.4.26, **Judgment** of the Court in C-328/24 P, *Mincu Pătrașcu Brâncuși v EPPO* (LINK)

10.3.26, **hearing** in *EPPO v Court of Auditors*

01.5.26, **action for annulment** filed in T-272/26, Lovás v EPPO

19.5.26, hearing in C-407/25, Tersten



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New books on the EPPO

D. Brodowski & S. Trautmann (eds), *Strengthening the Future of the European Public Prosecutor's Office*, Nomos, 2026 (LINK)

B. Ubertazzi, *EPPO: A step forward in protecting the rule of law*, Giappichelli, 2026 (LINK)

New issues in relevant law journals

New Journal of European Criminal Law, Vol. 17, Issue 1, 2026 (LINK)

European Journal of Crime, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, Advance Articles, 2026 (LINK)

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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO BICOCCA

STEPPO JEAN MONNET EUROPEAN UNION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

EPPO and EU Law

(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence)

3. Agricultural and environmental frauds committee

CHAIR: Esther Muniz Espada

VICE-CHAIR: Samuel Bolis

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Agricultural and environmental frauds Committee

MEMBERS:

CHAIR:

Dra. Esther Muñiz Espada

Universidad de Valladolid

VICE-CHAIR:

Avv. Samuel Bolis

Ph.D. in European Criminal Law, Lawyer and former Lt. Colonel at Guardia di Finanza

MEMBERS:

- **Nicola Prota**, Confederazioni Italiana Agricoltori
- **Rocho Perteguer**, vocal de medioambiente del Colegio Nacional de Registradores
- **Juan Manuel López Torres**
- **Chiara Milano**, Law student
- **Tarikwa Lanzara**, PhD candidate
- **Natalia Andrea Rossi Raggio**, Law student
- **Angelo Salimbeni**, Law student
- **Alessia Satta**, Law student
- **Giulia Varisco**, Law student
- **Anthony Zhilkin**, Law student

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Last month's activities:



Article Published:

- During the last month, the Committee published an article, authored by Juan Manuel Lopez Torres, entitled: "**The European Deforestation Regulation (EUDR): Legal and Operational Challenges for the Spanish Business Sector"**

- The EUDR highlights the **growing legal and operational challenges for European businesses**, particularly regarding due diligence, georeferencing, and supply chain traceability.
- The Spanish case shows the **need for a balanced implementation of the EUDR**, ensuring legal certainty, proportionality, and effective environmental protection.
- New blog contribution on the **European Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)** and its impact on the Spanish business sector, focusing on compliance, digitalisation, and legal challenges.

https://www.steppo-eulaw.com/2026/05/08/il-regolamento-europeo-sulla-deforestazione-eudr-sfide-legali-e-operative-per-il-settore-imprenditoriale-spagnolo/

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Ongoing activities:

- The Croatian case highlights the **increasing complexity of CAP fraud**, including administrative corruption, document manipulation, and misuse of EU funds.
- The intervention of the European Public Prosecutor's Office in Croatia demonstrates the **importance of a coordinated and supranational response to fraud affecting EU agricultural funds**.
- New blog contribution on corruption and CAP fraud in Croatia, analysed in light of **Directive (EU) 2026/1021** and the new European anti-corruption framework.

Article in the Process of Publication

- An article authored by Juan Manuel Lopez Torres, entitled: "**Croatia, CAP Fraud and the New European Anti-Corruption Response**" is currently forthcoming for publication.

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Article in the Process of Publication

- An article authored by Juan Manuel Lopez Torres, entitled: "**Corruption and Fraud in CAP Subsidies in Croatia**" is currently forthcoming for publication.

Ongoing activities:

- The Croatian CAP fraud case highlights the **risks of administrative corruption, false declarations, and irregular documentation in the management of EU agricultural funds.**
- The intervention of the European Public Prosecutor's Office underlines the **importance of preventive controls, traceability, and coordinated European enforcement mechanisms**.
- New blog contribution on corruption and fraud in CAP subsidies in Croatia, focusing on **transparency, compliance, and the evolving EU anti-corruption framework**.

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Cooperation with high school students

Blog in Development:

- A blog created by high school students in collaboration with the Committee, entitled: "**The Escalation of EU Fraud in 2025: The Crucial Role of EPPO**"

Next activities:

- The sharp increase in EU fraud cases in 2025 highlights the **growing complexity of cross-border VAT fraud, customs fraud, and the manipulation of CAP funds**.
- The European Public Prosecutor's Office plays a **key role in coordinating supranational investigations and protecting EU financial interests, particularly in the agricultural sector.**
- New blog contribution analysing the **rise of EU fraud in 2025**, EPPO's investigative response, and the increasing importance of coordinated European enforcement mechanisms.

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EPPO and EU Law
(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence - EPPONFI)
4. Newsletter and digital communication Committee

CHAIR: Luca Zappaterra

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Website total visitors



After the publication of the newsletter, trend of visitors **raised** up.

The number of visitors increased significantly following the publication of the newsletter, **following a trend consistent** with the previous edition during the same period.

Data shows that the newsletter plays a key role, continuing to inform all followers of the center of excellence in a **clear, simple, and direct** manner.

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Our work



Do you like the newsletter?

Leave a comment!
You can do that on the steppo website or on the STEPPO whatsapp channel

Thank you!

DONE

May edition: 15° may 2026

SCHEDULED

Setting up the new management board: new chair and new members!

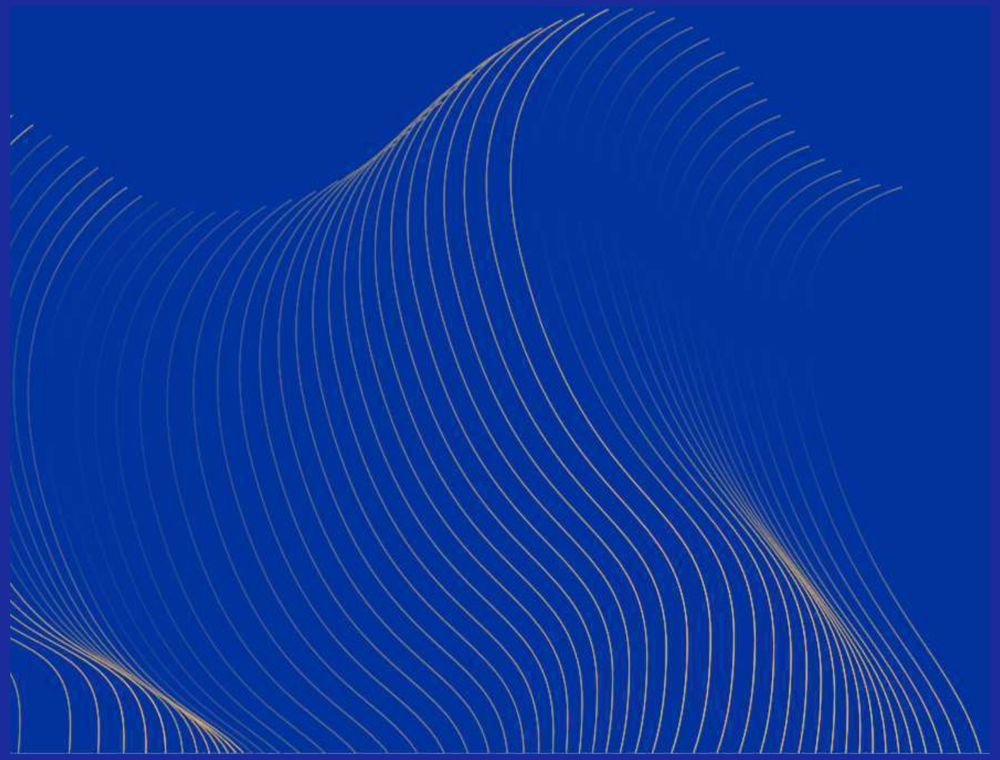
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EPPO and EU Law
5. AI for Compliance & EPPO Investigations Committee

CHAIR: Simone Fontana; Francesca Fragassi
Support: Sabrina Bouchelaghem

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Partecipation to the Project STEPPO ROLE-PLAY 2026



Inter-Committee Collaboration

synergy between the Game Committee and the High School Committee to create a hybrid educational experience for secondary schools.

"Human-First" AI Protocol

conscious integration of AI as a "cognitive scaffold." Students are encouraged to define human strategy before seeking algorithmic support.

Data Collection (ongoing)

quantitative and qualitative analysis based on participants' feedback regarding automation, bias, and critical thinking development.

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Pubblication roadmap

📖 Past Publication

Grok: A Case of Megalic Damages from Artificial Intelligence

Published: March 03, 2026

An in-depth analysis of legal liability and algorithmic harms in the context of advanced AI systems. Explores the intersection of investigative tools and civil damages.

✏️ Next Publication

Title: AI-Driven Compliance Frameworks in EPPO Investigations
Authors:
Simone Fontana, Francesca Fragassi
Expected Release:
Q4 2026

Focusing on procedural integrity and the implementation of AI Act guidelines within European legal frameworks.

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Committee Members

The AI for Compliance & EPPO Investigations Committee brings together academics, legal experts, and emerging researchers:

Simone Fontana
Associate Professor, University of Milano-Bicocca

Francesca Fragassi
Chair

Elena Tieghi
Lawyer

Sabrina Bouchelaghem
Student

Giulio Civitareale
Student

Silvia Binda
Student

Moira De Mizio
Student

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EPPO and EU Law

6.ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE CRIMES COMMITTEE

CHAIRS: Andrzej Jakubowski, Lucas Lixinski, Alicja Jagielska-Burduk, Benedetta Ubertazzi

MEMBERS: SherineAl Shallah, Francesca Marasi, Dimitri Eleni, Elisa Mazzilli

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PAST MONTHS' ACTIVITIES





Dr Andrzej Jakubowski

NEW BLOG ENTRY:

Criminal Accountability for Illicit Excavations in Occupied Crimea

The Butyagin case concerns a Russian archaeologist, arrested in Poland in December 2025 at Ukraine's request for conducting illegal excavations at the ancient site of Myrmekion.
Poland authorised his extradition, but in April 2026 Butyagin was handed over to Belarus as part of a prisoner exchange, thereby escaping prosecution entirely.

The case raises **two central issues:**

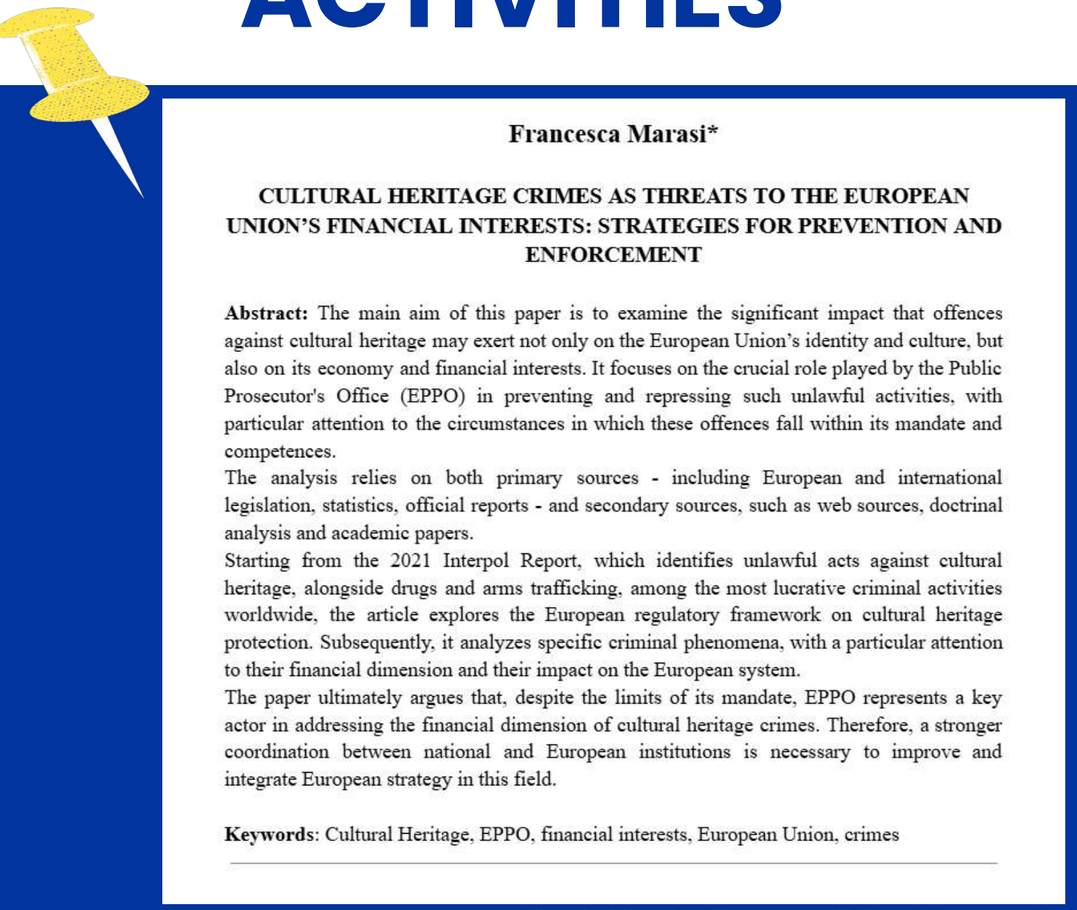
1. "Scientific neutrality" cannot be invoked to shield archaeological activity conducted in violation of international law.
2. the fragmentation of the European enforcement framework in the area of cultural heritage crimes.

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LAST MONTHS' ACTIVITIES



Francesca Marasi*

CULTURAL HERITAGE CRIMES AS THREATS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION'S FINANCIAL INTERESTS: STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT

Abstract: The main aim of this paper is to examine the significant impact that offences against cultural heritage may exert not only on the European Union's identity and culture, but also on its economy and financial interests. It focuses on the crucial role played by the Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in preventing and repressing such unlawful activities, with particular attention to the circumstances in which these offences fall within its mandate and competences.

The analysis relies on both primary sources - including European and international legislation, statistics, official reports - and secondary sources, such as web sources, doctrinal analysis and academic papers.

Starting from the 2021 Interpol Report, which identifies unlawful acts against cultural heritage, alongside drugs and arms trafficking, among the most lucrative criminal activities worldwide, the article explores the European regulatory framework on cultural heritage protection. Subsequently, it analyzes specific criminal phenomena, with a particular attention to their financial dimension and their impact on the European system.

The paper ultimately argues that, despite the limits of its mandate, EPPO represents a key actor in addressing the financial dimension of cultural heritage crimes. Therefore, a stronger coordination between national and European institutions is necessary to improve and integrate European strategy in this field.

Keywords: Cultural Heritage, EPPO, financial interests, European Union, crimes

In the last months, Francesca Marasi, under the supervision and with the assistance of Chair Andrzej Jakubowski, has worked on an academic paper on crimes against cultural property as crimes that harm the financial interests of the Union. The paper is now under review in order to be published on Santander art and cultural law review.



SANTANDER ART & CULTURE LAW REVIEW NR 2 / 2025 (11)

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CLOSING CONFERENCE 2025/2026

Dr. Andrzej addressed the importance of EPPO's role in combating crimes against cultural heritage, even though EPPO does not have a mandate to do so. Cultural heritage is protected not by virtue of its intrinsic value, but because it intersects with financial crimes.





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NEXT ACTIVITIES:

NEW MEMBERS:

1. **HARRIET DEACON** (lecturer in the UK)
2. **PROFESSOR MEHRINIGOR AKHMEDOVA**, from Bukhara University Uzbekistan



A hybrid format seminar – both in presence and online – will be held in Bicocca on June the 17th, at 3 pm.
It will have as speakers:

1. Professor Ubertazzi
2. Professor Mehrinigor Akhmedova, from Bukhara university (Uzbekistan)
3. Dr Adina Hulubas, UNESCO facilitator
4. Francesca Marasi

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EPPO and EU LAW (Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence- EPPONFI)

7. AUDIT COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Cesare Montagna, Giuseppe Mancini
VICE-CHAIR: Marzia Catino

Members: Marzia Catino

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THIS MONTH



“EPPO ANNUAL REPORT 2025: uno sguardo concreto al cyber money laundering e al ruolo significativo dei commercialisti”, di Marzia Catino

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Si sottolinea il crescente <u>coinvolgimento</u> di professionisti specializzati, come <u>avvocati e commercialisti</u>, che <u>facilitano</u> operazioni sempre più sofisticate.

Tra i modelli più avanzati di riciclaggio vengono citati:

- **<u>il *trade-based money laundering*</u>, emerso nell'indagine "Calypso", che sfrutta il commercio internazionale per occultare fondi illeciti tramite evasione doganale e frodi IVA;**
- **<u>il sistema *hawala*</u>, analizzato nell'indagine "Goliath", basato su trasferimenti informali di denaro tra Europa, Turchia, Medio Oriente e Nord Africa.**

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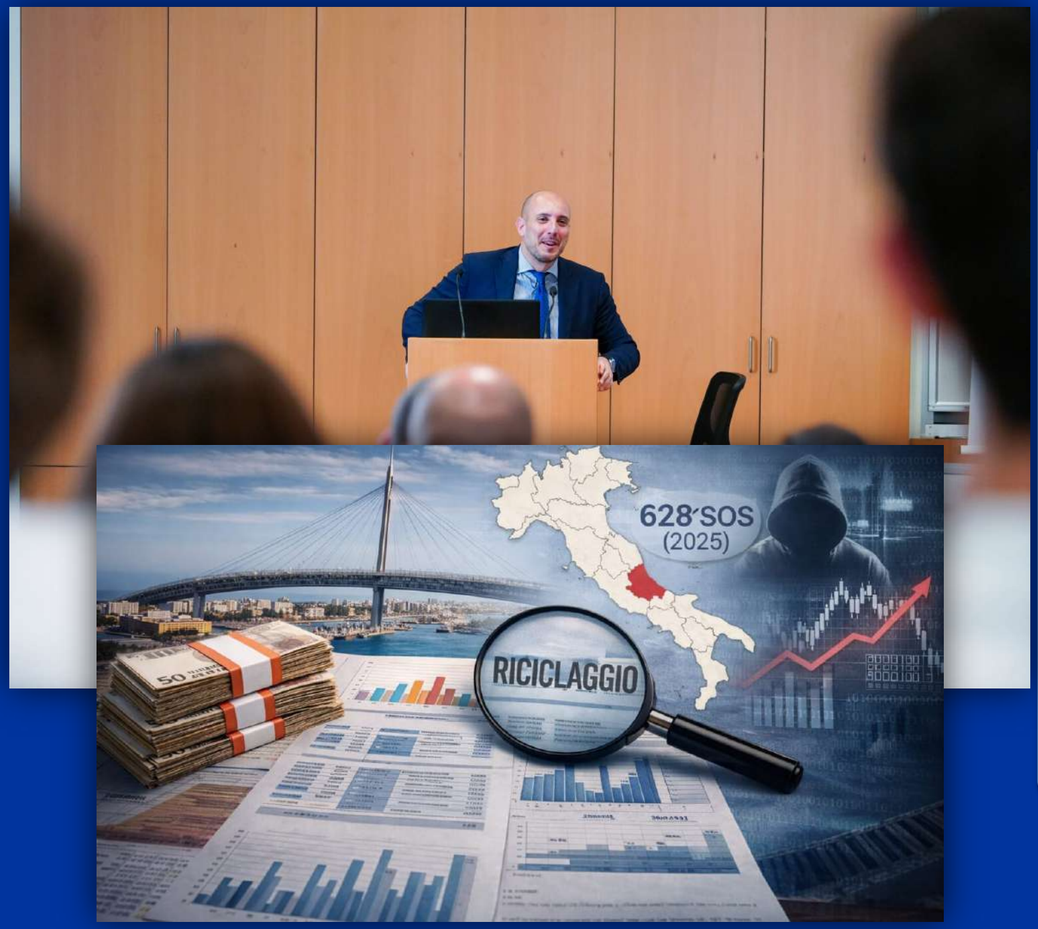


Lo scorso aprile 2026, sul sito del Consiglio Nazionale dei Commercialisti, è stato pubblicato il documento "Il contrasto al finanziamento del terrorismo", nel quale viene posto l'accento sul crescente rischio di utilizzo illecito degli asset digitali per finalità di riciclaggio, finanziamento del terrorismo

Nel contesto attuale emerge come la Procura Europea si trovi sempre più spesso a fronteggiare casi in cui la criminalità organizzata sfrutta strumenti tecnologici per riciclare denaro, c.d *cyber money laundering*

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NEXT BLOG



Blog dei liceo classico Carducci sul tema trattato dal Dott.Montagna durante la conferenza finale 2026:

“SOS, INDICATORI DI ANOMALIA, TITOLARI EFFETTIVI”

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8.EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

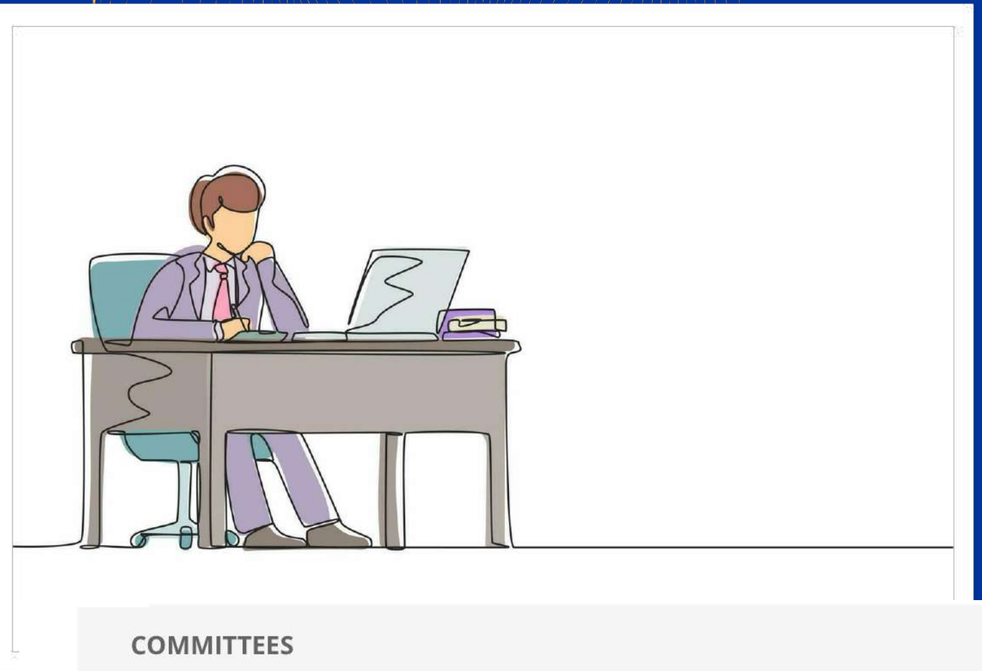
CHAIR: CESARE MONTAGNA, MICHELE MONOPOLI, FRANCESCA VENINI, GIULIA VARISCO

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GENERAL UPDATE



COMMITTEES

- The Committees
- I giovani e la Procura Europea (EPPO): costruire il Futuro della Legalità
- OLTRE LE SBARRE: incontri che aprono mondi

56 blog da: dicembre ad oggi

8 blog giá programmati

È stato pubblicato l e book: “OLTRE LE SBARRE : incontri che aprono mondi”

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Steppo Blog

Articles and the update



Politica Agricola Comune tra governance, controlli e conflitto sociale: il caso delle proteste agricole in Europa e il ruolo dell'EPPO nella tutela dei fondi europei

Gen 4, 2026 | Agricultural and environmental frauds Subcommitee

Author: Chiara Milano Committee: Agricultural and environmental frauds Committee Date: 04/01/2026 Introduzione: un conflitto strutturale nel cuore dell'Unione europea Negli ultimi anni l'Europa è stata teatro di un'ondata crescente di proteste agricole, manifestazioni...

leggi tutto



La Corte di cassazione decide sull'avocazione

Dic 29, 2025 | Prosecutors Subcommittee

Author: Corrado Rossitto; Pietro Suchan Committee: Prosecutors Committee Date: 29/12/2025 Cosa ha deciso la corte: Nella sentenza esaminata lo scorso mese (Cassazione sezione penale num. 44968/2024) la Corte di Cassazione si concentra anche su un altro aspetto:...

leggi tutto







Indipendenza digitale europea nel contesto globale: l'importanza di definire oggi l'orientamento digitale europeo per avere un ruolo solido e strategico domani

Mar 19, 2026 | Banking insurance and financial authorities

Author: Alice Travaglin Committee: Banking, insurance and financial Authorities Date: 19/03/2026 1. Regolamentazione e innovazione: falsi nemici; 2. Rivoluzione ed evoluzione: i dati; 3. Regolazione dell'IA e controllo dei dati: una sfida per la legalità finanziaria...

leggi tutto



La competenza funzionale della Procura Europea

Mar 10, 2026 | Prosecutors Subcommittee

Author: Corrado Rossitto; Pietro Suchan Committee: Prosecutors Committee Data: 10/03/2026 Cosa ha stabilito La Corte di Cassazione: La Corte di Cassazione, con la sentenza (n. 33087/2024) ha chiarito un principio rilevante in materia di competenza funzionale...

leggi tutto



Simulare per comprendere: STEPPO Role Play 2026

Mar 9, 2026 | Game Subcomm
School Subcommittee

Author: Francesca Fra
Monopoli Committee
High School Committ
09/03/2026 Dopo il su



"Io non ti credo più": la crisi della giustizia minorile e la del recupero.

High School Subcommittee

l lavoro sul Progetto
sso l'Istituto penale
are Beccaria d
Hi
7/0

ALCUNI BLOG

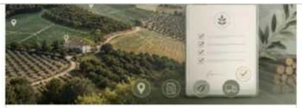


DALLA SIMULAZIONE ALLA REALTA': AL VIA IL MAXI-PROCESSO STEPPO

Mag 11, 2026 | Criminal Lawyers Subcommittee

Author: Avv. Andrea Guarnaschelli Committee: Criminal Lawyers Committee Date: 11/05/2026 Quello che, fino a non molto tempo fa, era solamente un caso utilizzato quale paradigma per comprendere e descrivere, in concreto, il funzionamento dell'attività della Procura...

leggi tutto



Il Regolamento Europeo sulla Deforestazione (EUDR): sfide legali e operative per il settore imprenditoriale spagnolo

Mag 8, 2026 | Agricultural and environmental frauds Subcommitee

Author: Juan Manuel López Torres Committee: Agricultural and environmental frauds Committee Date: 08/05/2026 · Introduzione: Un quadro normativo in costante revisione L'analisi fornita nell'intervista intitolata "Imprenditori di fronte al Regolamento europeo...

leggi tutto



Corruzione e Grandi Opere: il caso bosniaco

Mag 7, 2026 | Law Enforcement Agencies Subcommittee

Author: Mainetti Marco Committee: Law Enforcement Agencies Commitee Date: 07/05/2026 Introduzione: Lo scandalo di ottobre 2025 Il 13 ottobre 2025, gli uffici veneziani della Procura Europea (EPPO) hanno scoperchiato un sistema di malaffare che proietta ombre pesanti...

leggi tutto



"Oltre le sbarre. Incontri che aprono mondi": la risposta all'emergenza del carcere minorile richiamata da Nicola Gratteri

Apr 29, 2026 | High School Subcommittee

Author: Gruppo di lavoro sul Progetto Palla al Centro presso l'Istituto penale per i minorenni Cesare Beccaria di Milano Committee: High School Committee Date: 29/04/2026 Le parole del Procuratore di Napoli Nicola Gratteri, intervenuto a Roma durante il convegno...

Manage consent

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STEPPO JEAN MONNET EUROPEAN UNION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

9. CONNECT COMMITTEE

INSIGHTS SOCIAL MEDIA

CHAIRS: Carlotta Eleni, Dimitri Eleni
MEMBERS: Beatrice Pellegrino, Wisal Tayebi

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INSTAGRAM

PROBLEMI

1. Mancata o incompleta fornitura delle frasi social
che rallenta significativamente il lavoro. Delegare al
nostro comitato la scelta delle frasi, pur se talvolta
praticata, non è sostenibile.
2. Tempistiche di invio non sempre puntuali hanno
inciso sulla calendarizzazione.

SOLUZIONI

Condividere nuovamente le linee guida per
la scelta delle frasi social.
Rispettare le scadenze (inviare il materiale
uno o due giorni prima rispetto alla scadenza).

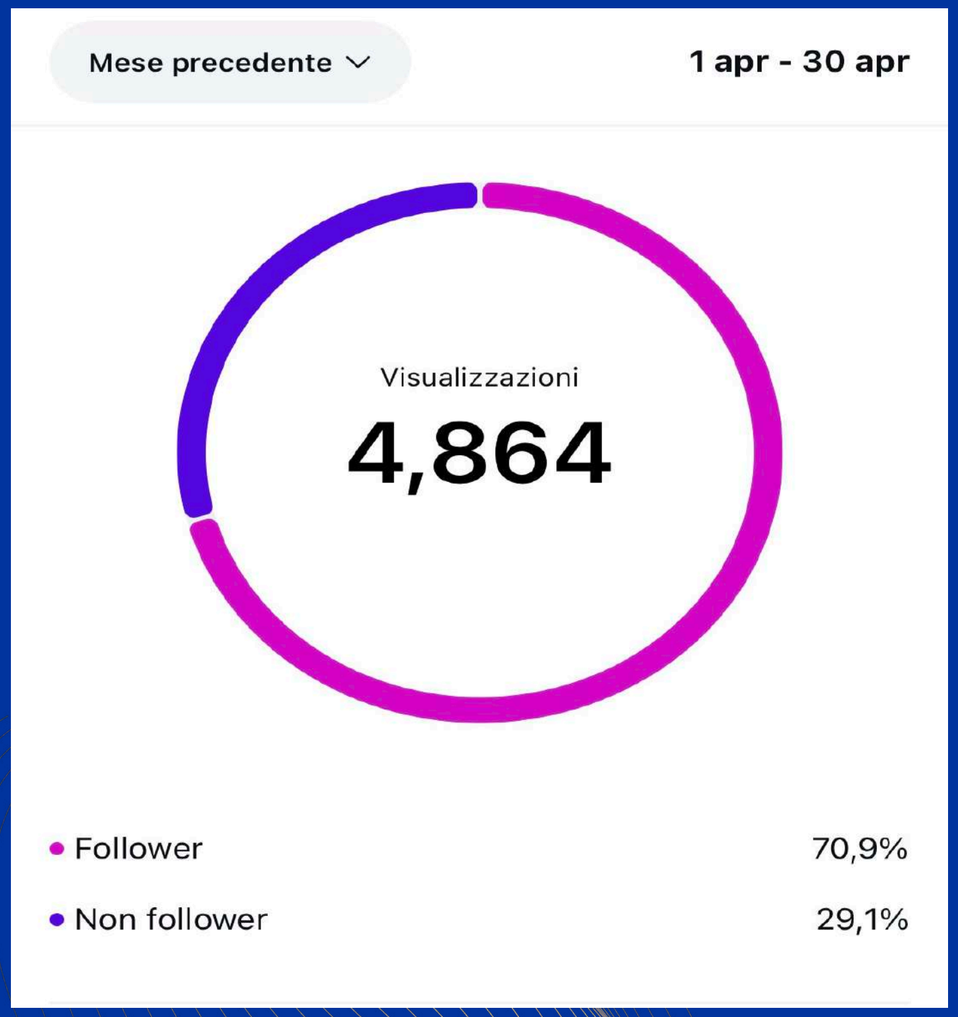
ANALISI INTERAZIONI

Il contenuto ha generato 4864 visualizzazioni, con una buona percentuale di
non follower (29,1), segnale di una discreta
esposizione verso nuovi utenti. Le interazioni
totali indicano un buon coinvolgimento della
community già acquisita.

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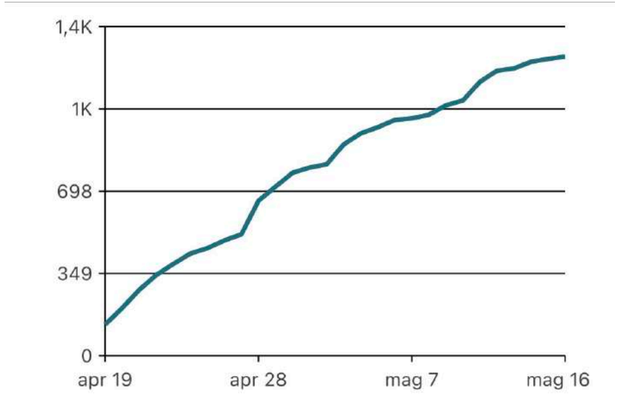






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I dati giornalieri sono registrati nel fuso orario UTC

Scoperta

1.269 Impressioni

471 Utenti raggiunti

Interesse

15 Interazioni social

Reazioni 15

LINKEDIN

PROBLEMI

Le criticità riscontrate su LinkedIn risultano in linea con quelle già emerse su Instagram.

SOLUZIONI

Si ripropongono le medesime soluzioni già individuate per Instagram.

1. Condividere nuovamente le linee guida per la scelta delle frasi social.
2. Rispettare le scadenze (inviare il materiale uno o due giorni prima rispetto alla scadenza).

PUNTI DI FORZA

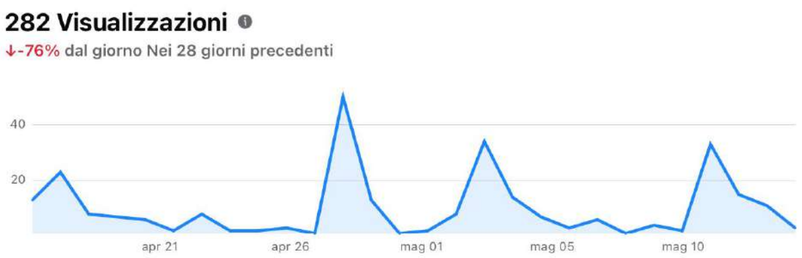
Le impressioni totali sono state 1.269, in calo segnale di una riduzione della visibilità dei contenuti pubblicati. Nonostante ciò, gli utenti raggiunti sono stati 471, con un aumento del 25,7%, indicando una migliore capacità di intercettare nuovi profili. L'andamento giornaliero mostra picchi in corrispondenza delle pubblicazioni, confermando l'importanza della continuità e della frequenza dei post.

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FACEBOOK



La pagina ha registrato 282 visualizzazioni, con una diminuzione del 70% rispetto al periodo precedente. Questo calo è probabilmente dovuto ai problemi riscontrati con il rispetto della calendarizzazione che ha causato uno slittamento nelle pubblicazioni. Di conseguenza, sono stati pubblicati più post in un solo giorno, influenzando negativamente la distribuzione e l'interazione. Tuttavia, il picco di visualizzazioni a partire dal 26 Aprile suggerisce un recupero della visibilità, legato alla regolarizzazione delle pubblicazioni

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X

Problemi:
È il social meno utilizzato dagli utenti;

SIAMO ARRIVATI UGUALMENTE A **34 VISUALIZZAZIONI**

Soluzioni:
Utilizzare foto coinvolgenti che attirino l'attenzione degli utenti.

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Steppo_eulaw: intervento di Roberto Saviano presso l'U...
5462 visualizzazioni · 1 m...



The full video of the closing conference: EPPO and THE RU...
514 visualizzazioni · 2 mes...



SPOTIFY E YOUTUBE

Problemi:

1. I dati mostrano una chiara riduzione dell'engagement dopo la pubblicazione dei primi video, a causa della mancanza di una programmazione regolare e di contenuti nuovi.

Soluzioni:

1. Pubblicare anche su YouTube, non solo su Instagram, i video «Le Chicche della Settimana»
creati dal Create Com.

Punti di forza:

Nonostante la mancanza di pubblicazioni si è registrato un aumento di 21 iscritti su Youtube.

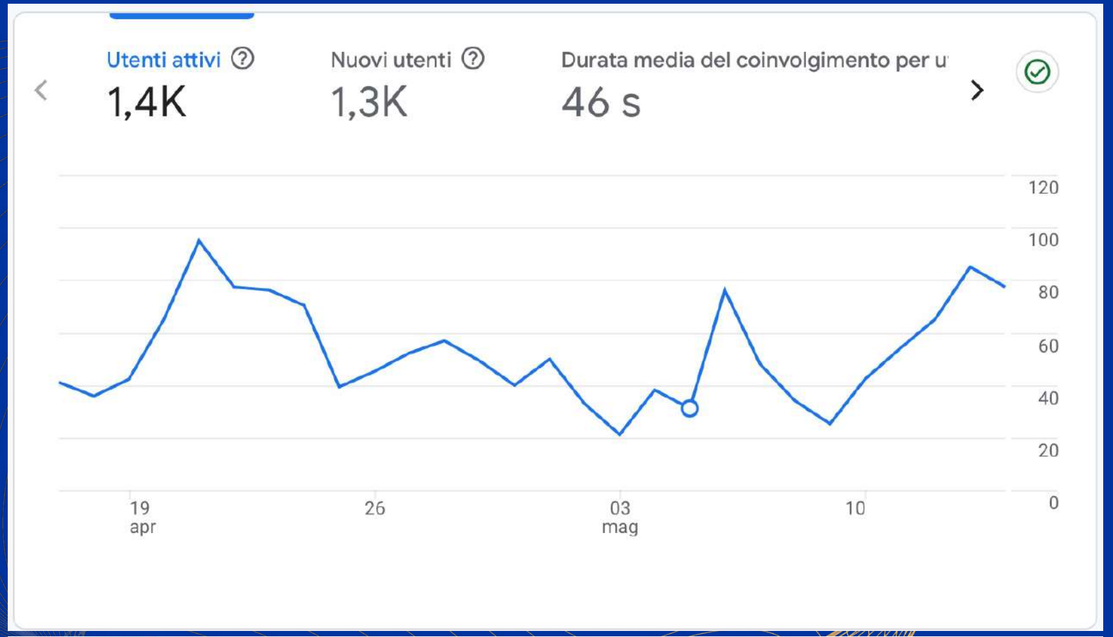
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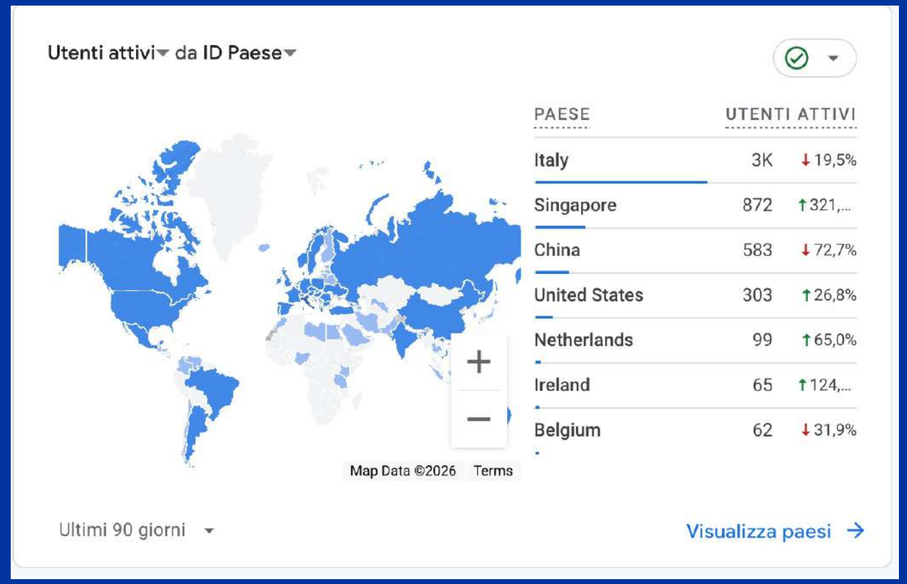
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SITO WEB

Abbiamo registrato un aumento delle visite al sito. Il grafico evidenzia l'ingresso di utenti provenienti da altri Paesi un segnale positivo in termini di espansione e capacità di raggiungere un pubblico internazionale.







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EPPO and EU Law
(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence – EPPONFI)
10. FORENSIC EXPERTS COMMITTEE
CTU

CHAIR: Fabrizia Bemer
VICE-CHAIR: Ing. Michele Vitiello
Member: Giovanni Negrini

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Updates

- **Aggiornamenti:** Comitato in fase di rimodulazione con nuova struttura per rafforzare la rete di esperti forensi in Europa.
- **A breve:** nuova serie di interviste e iniziative sui temi più rilevanti per la comunità forense europea.
- **Focus EPPO:** chain of custody e metodi di sequestro in perquisizioni digitali al centro dei prossimi lavori.

- **Nodo critico:** copia di mezzo e copia di fine — il legislatore non ha ancora definito cosa si può fare dei dati durante un'indagine.
- **Cassazione:** orienta verso proporzionalità dei dati acquisiti, pertinenti ai fatti contestati e analizzati entro tempi definiti.
- **Ruolo CTU:** bilancia esigenze investigative, tutela della privacy e garanzie difensive.
- **EPPO:** circolazione transnazionale dei dati rende il tema ancora più strategico per le indagini digitali.



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Ing. Michele Vitiello



— Forensic Experts Committee | Conferenza Finale STEPPO 15/04/2026

Vice-Chair del Forensic Experts Committee | Esperto di Ingegneria Informatica Forense.

Closing Conference STEPPO — 15/04/2026: ha presentato "Digital Forensics & AI — Dallo Stato dell'Arte al Futuro delle Indagini".

- **AI nelle indagini:** analisi predittiva, Computer Vision e NLP già integrati nei principali tool forensi.
- **Software chiave:** Cellebrite Pathfinder, Magnet AXIOM, Oxygen Detective.
- **Sfide future:** Generative AI Forensics, contrasto ai deepfake, Edge Forensics, analisi prompt LLM.
- **Messaggio chiave:** "l'AI potenzia, non sostituisce" — il giudizio critico e la chain of custody restano insostituibili.

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Progetto JUST2026JCOO — EEEI



Istituto Europeo degli Esperti e dell'Expertise — Parigi

9 Aprile, Milano: Incontro tra Prof.ssa Ubertazzi, Dott.ssa Bemer e Presidente Onorario Jean-Raymond LEMAIRE (EEEI, Parigi) per definire la partecipazione al progetto.

- **WP4 — Formazione:** affidato a Bicocca per il ruolo accademico e scientifico strategico.
- **Obiettivo:** Reg. UE 2023/2844 — digitalizzazione della giustizia, interoperabilità e cooperazione fluida tra Stati membri.
- **Bicocca:** partner scientifico e finanziario essenziale del consorzio europeo.
- **Prossimi passi:** risposta Commissione EU → Settembre | risposta ufficiale → Ottobre 2026.

Bollettino EEEI — la nostra partecipazione al progetto:
https://experts-institute.eu/en/projects/two-projects-judicial-expertise/

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11. CREATE COMMITTEE

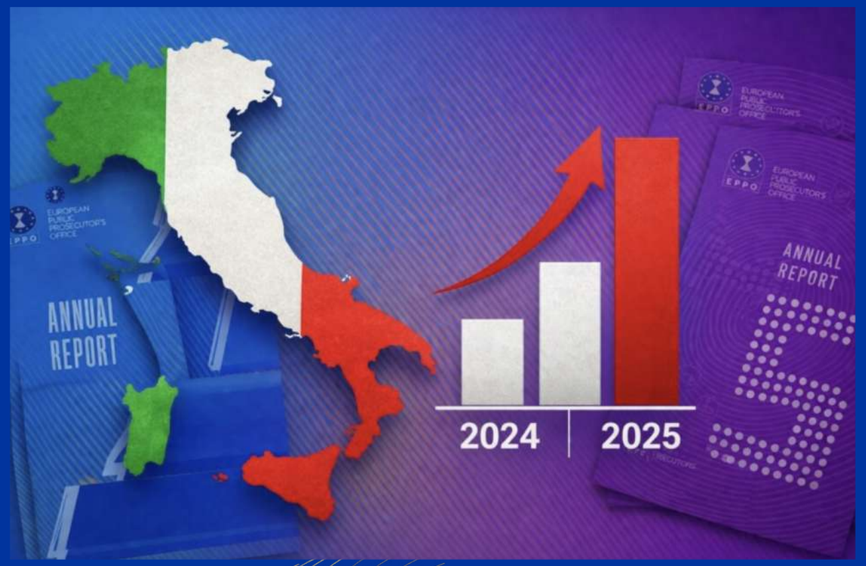
CHAIR: Iman Khodri, Veronica Carbone

VICE-CHAIR: Chiara Milano, Adriana Valladares, Francesca Fragassi, Melania Santoro

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Last month's activities:

- The **comparison between the 2024 and 2025 EPPO reports** shows a significant increase in fraud cases and financial damage affecting the EU budget.
- The data confirm the **growing role of the European Public Prosecutor's Office in combating VAT fraud**, customs fraud, and irregularities involving EU funds.
- New blog contribution on the **evolution of EPPO investigations in Italy** and the rising risks of cross-border financial crime.

Article Published:

- During the last month, the Committee published an article, authored by Chiara MIlano, entitled "**Italy and EPPO: What Emerges from a Comparative Analysis of the 2024 and 2025 Annual Reports**".

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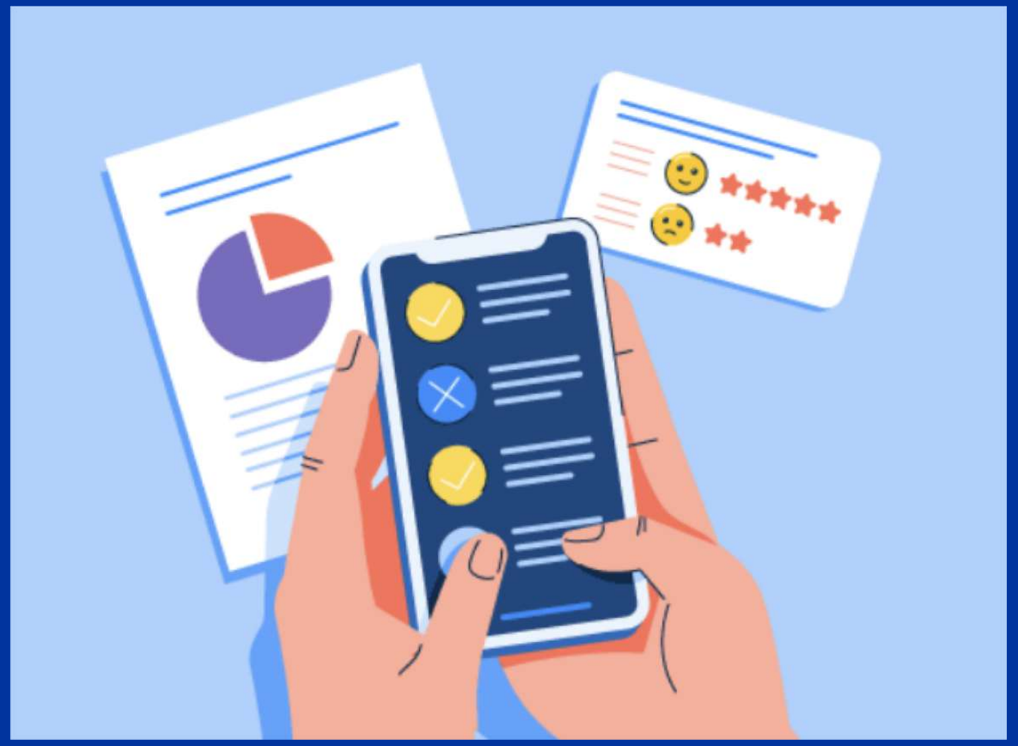
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Next activities:

STEPPO Course Survey

The Committee will conduct the **new STEPPO course survey**, which will be shared with all students for completion.

The collected data will then be **analysed** and **compared** with the results from previous years in order to provide a consistent and comprehensive overview of the course's evolution over time.



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EPPO and EU Law

(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence – EPPONFI)

12. Collaborate Committee

CHAIR: Lorenzo Salazar

VICE-CHAIR: Veronica Carbone

SUPPORT: Moira De Mizio

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Judicial Nominations Update

8 new European Prosecutors to be appointed by July 2026.

- 7 EPs are reaching the end of their terms.
- 1 new EP is required for Germany (replacing the previous EP who was appointed Chief Prosecutor).

Current Status:

- Confirmed: Candidates for Belgium (BE) and Czech Republic (CZ) selected by the Council.
- In Progress: Candidate rankings for France and Malta transmitted to the Council; procedures ongoing for Slovakia and Slovenia.

On March 28, the EPPO temporarily suspended the Bulgarian European Prosecutor following a finding of serious misconduct by the Disciplinary Board. On April 8, 2026, the Bulgarian Council of Ministers repealed the previous designation of their three candidates. Bulgaria must restart the selection process to identify three new qualified candidates for the post.

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Leadership Change



Andrés Ritter appointed as new EPPO chief prosecutor

On the 1st of April Decision (EU) 2026/800 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 March 2026, appointing the European Chief Prosecutor
was published in the Official Journal

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New Corruption Directive and EPPO Competence



Legislative Update:

Directive (EU) 2026/1021 on combating corruption was published on May 11, 2026.

- The new directive also amends Directive (EU) 2017/1371 (PIF Directive) to align rules on:
- Criminal and non-criminal penalties.
- Aggravating and mitigating circumstances.
- Limitation periods.

The EPPO competence is based on the PIF Directive and will be therefore modified accordingly.

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April: 15th final conference



Lorenzo Salazar presented the final STEPPO conference held on May 15, guiding the discussion on the recent developments of the EPPO and the challenges surrounding European integration. His moderation helped frame the debate among experts, academics, and legal practitioners on the evolving role of European judicial cooperation.

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EPPO and EU Law
(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence - EPPONFI)
13. Cybersecurity Strategic Committee

CHAIR: Marco Bacini

VICE-CHAIR: Giordana Ambrosino, Maria Giulia Mariotti

SUPPORT: Michela Magna

MEMBERS: Rita Valentino, Alessio Vergnano; Marzia Catino; Aleksandra Lombardo; Yael Wuhl; Giulio Civitareale; Francesca Fragassi

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NEW BLOG POST UPLOADED



TITLE: "When protecting the European budget also becomes a matter of digital security"

A blog post has been uploaded, regarding the EPPO Annual Report 2025, with a focus on the cybersecurity perspective

AUTHOR: Maria Giulia Mariotti

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Steppo's Annual Closing Conference 2026

On 15.4.2026, the Steppo's Annual Closing Conference took place at the University of Milano Bicocca.
The Cybersecurity Strategic Committee featured a panel in cooperation with the Committee on Artificial Intelligence for Compliance & Eppo,

The Panel discussed the topic of AI, Eppo and Personal Data, with the with the attendance of Professor Marco Bacini, Chair of the Cybersecurity Committee, Professor Simone Fontana, and Professor Engineer Michele Vitiello





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New additions in the Committee

Michela Magna, law student at the University of Milano Bicocca, joined the Committee, taking up the role of Support.
Maria Giulia Mariotti is now the co-vice-chair of the Committee.

Rita Valentino, law student at the University of Milano Bicocca, joined the Cybersecurity Committee while attending the Steppo's course, and developed a blog in cooperation with the Committee for the final exam.

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UPCOMING BLOG POST



TITLE: «Vat Fraud and digitalization in Europe: The case of Naples 2026»

AUTHOR: Rita Valentino

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EPPO and EU Law
(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence – EPPONFI)
14. EU INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Petr Klement, Florin-Răzvan RADU
MEMBERS: Miriam Testa, Gaia Marazzi, Federica Rubini

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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO BICOCCA

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STEPPO: Closing Conference

During the STEPPO Closing Conference, held on the 15th April 2026, Petr Klement, the Director-General of OLAF and Chair of our Committee, gave his insight for the panel “EPPO: Current Developments».



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Committee's Blog

In February 2026, the Committee published the blog "Europe under pressure: Defending Digital Sovereignty in Trump's Second Era"





In March, we published a blog analyzing the Annual Report 2025. In particular, we focused on the problem of corruption, the relationship between EPPO and OLAF, and specific cases

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Committee's Blog

Finally, in May we published a blog titled "The EPPO's Cross-Border Investigation and the Protection of Procedural rights"



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Future activities



In the upcoming months, we are planning on publishing more blogs for the STEPPO website. Specifically, a blog on the White Paper on the Anti-Fraud Architecture of the European Commission will be delivered.

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EPPO and EU Law

(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence – EPPONFI)

15. FUNDS FOR SOCIAL COHESION COMMITTEE

CHAIRS: Dott. Francesco Testa
Avv. Alessia Voinich

MEMBERS: Avv. Elena Tieghi
Dott. Mattia Rossi
Pietro Nacci

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CLOSING CONFERENCE 2025/2026



L’avv. Elena Tieghi interviene alla Closing Conference STEPPO 2025/2026, nel panel sul ruolo dell’EPPO nella tutela dei Fondi per la Coesione Sociale, insieme a Grazia Ofelia Cesaro, Giulia Varisco e all’ avv. Alessia Voinich.

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CLOSING CONFERENCE 2025/2026

Durante il suo intervento ha approfondito:

- aggiornamenti sulle raccomandazioni del rapporto Draghi 2024,
- Analisi dei meccanismi complessi usati dalle mafie per l'uso illecito dei fondi, evidenziando il coinvolgimento di nuove tecnologie (IA), del settore immobiliare e del mercato dell'oro,
- Next Generation EU.

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Last activities



«Il Silenzio Dell'oro E La Memoria Della Blockchain: Il Paradosso Della Tracciabilita' Nel Riciclaggio Moderno»

Author: Pietro Nacci



«Next Generation Eu E Fondi Per La Coesione: Tra Rilancio Economico E Rischi Di Frode»

Author: Pietro Nacci

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NEXT ACTIVITIES



- **Monitorare la scadenza del PNRR a fine 2026**: con circa il 50% delle risorse ancora da erogare, la concentrazione di spesa nell'ultimo anno crea una finestra ad alto rischio per irregolarità e frodi, su cui l'EPPO ha già dichiarato massima vigilanza.

- **Blog in uscita su *Next Generation EU* scritto da un gruppo di ragazzi del Liceo Classico "Giosuè Carducci" di Milano.**

Authors:

Martina Berluti

Elena Cassinis

Jari Calvanese

Nicolò Campagna



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EPPO and EU Law

(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence - EPPONFI)

16. Game Committee

CHAIRs: Fabrizia Bemer; Veronica Carbone; Iman Khodri
Support: Francesca Fragassi

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Field testing & validation



Visit to Guardia di Finanza Academy

Field visits on February 25 and March 4 in Bergamo for high-level tactical simulation testing.

User engagement

10 selected cadets performed rigorous testing, providing expert-level feedback on realism and usability.

VR GAME 3 Integration (*ongoing*)

Collection of gathered insights that will be essential foundations for the architecture of the upcoming VR GAME 3 iteration.

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April 15th: Final Conference Highlights



Professional Hands-On Testing

During the final conference on April 15th, various industry professionals had the exclusive opportunity to test and experience our VR game firsthand.

FSL Partner Endorsement

A professor from Liceo Carducci (an existing FSL partner) thoroughly evaluated the simulation and recognized its immense potential.

Expanding to Schools

Convinced by its educational value, she has volunteered to bring **VR Game 1** into schools, citing it as a highly useful tool for modern education.

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Future roadmap

Future Developments & Strategic Integration

- Initiating the exploration phase to integrate **OLAF (European Anti-Fraud Office)** characters into the Virtual Reality ecosystem.
- Leveraging current field-testing insights to architect the foundational structure of the upcoming **VR GAME 3.**
- Expanding investigative simulation capabilities to encompass multi-agency European anti-fraud workflows.



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EPPO and EU Law

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17. Investigations and activities committee

CHAIR: Filip Siroky

VICE-CHAIR: Samuel Bolis

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Investigations and Activities Committee MEMBERS:

CHAIR:

Dr. Filip Siroky:
expert investigator at the European Public Prosecutor's Office in Luxemburg.

VICE-CHAIR:

PhD Samuel Bolis:
Ph.D. in European Criminal Law, Lawyer and former Lt. Colonel at Guardia di Finanza.

MEMBERS:

- **Iman Khodri**: Law student
- **Sandra Grabmeier**: Law student
- **Annalisa Trabbia**: Law student

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ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH:

The committee realized:

- a blog about the Annual Report 2025, focusing on the most significant investigations that defined the year





- a blog about a recent EPPO investigation that took place in Italy – reflecting on the presence of the Mafia within european financial flows

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The committee worked with 5 **high school students** to create a blog that will conclude their experience with STEPPO.

The theme of the blog is EPPO and its impact on the constitutional balance of EU member States, starting from the Greek immunity case.

https://it.euronews.com/video/2026/04/01/la-procura-europea-chiede-la-revoca-dellimmunita-di-undici-deputati-greci-di-centro-destra

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https://www.rainews.it/articoli/2025/12/ue-ex-ministra-mogherini-fermata-sospetta-frode-su-formazione-diplomatici-39385448-8458-4d6e-92e6-7605320380a1.html

NEXT ACTIVITIES:

- The committee will publish the blog written by the high school students.
- Simone Rossitto is s writing a blog about a recent investigation involving former minister **Federica Mogherini**, who was detained along with other officials over alleged fraud and irregularities in the use of funds for the training of young EU diplomats.

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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EPPO and EU Law

(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence – EPPONFI)

18. Judicial Bodies Committee

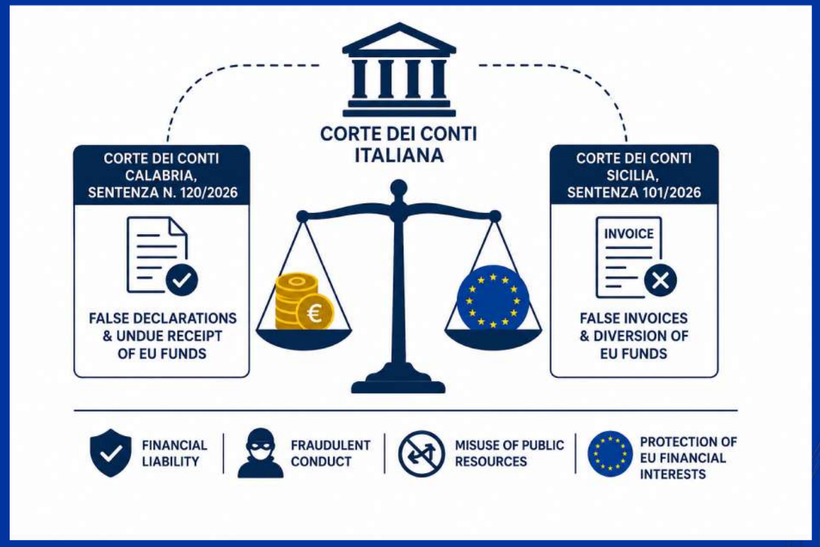
CHAIR: Arturo Iadecola

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General Update

- **The committee highlights two recent judgments by the Italian Court of Auditors on financial liability for the fraudulent misuse of EU funds:**

Corte dei Conti Calabria sentenza n. 120/2026



Corte dei Conti Sicilia, sent. 101/2026

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PO FESR Sicilia 2007/2013

Corte dei Conti Sicilia, sentenza n. 101/2026

- **Financial liability** → unlawful retention of €992,860 under the Sicily ERDF Operational Programme 2007-2013.
- Conduct → **False invoices for non-existent transactions** and diversion of EU funds.
- Parallel criminal proceedings were intiated for **tax fraud** and **aggravated fraud.**.
- The Court ruling:
  - beneficiary sole proprietorship acquitted due to the lack of awareness;
  - suppliers were found liable for intentionally enabling the unlawful obtainment of funds.

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Corte dei Conti Calabria, sentenza n. 120/2026

- An entrepreneur was order to repay €**192,252.48** to ARCEA for **unlawfully obtained EAFRD subsidies.**
- Investigations uncovered:
  - **False tax documentation.**
  - **False certification** of completion of funded agricultural works.
- EU funds intended for agricultural purposes were diverted to the **construction of private dwellings** → violation of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005.
- The Calabria Region revoked the grants.
- ARCEA referred the case to the Public Prosecutor's Accounting Office.

Iniziativa finanziata dal FEASR
(Fondo Europeo Agricolo per lo Sviluppo Rurale)
Programma di Sviluppo Rurale 2014/2020
Regione Calabria

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Next activities

- **Upcoming publication:**
  - Blog article on the **ECA Special Report 26/2025** *"EU bodies fighting fraud: clear mandates, but insufficient information-sharing and Commission oversight".*
- Coming soon by Alessia Teloni



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EPPO and EU Law
(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence – EPPONFI)
19. Lawyers Committee

CHAIR: Federico Mamoli, Elena Tieghi
VICE-CHAIR: Wisal Tayebi

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Institutional & Social Engagement

Gala Dinner Bar association (31 Jan 2026)

-Representation of the Lawyer Committee Venue: Rubattino56, Milan

-Shared the values of the profession, new perspectives for this historical period

-Attendance of Italian institutions and association members

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Committee's recent activities

Interview with Lawyer Milena Orlandelli: youth crimes in Italy and opportunities by EPPO: not repression but programs to solve the problem



EPPO Maxi Trial: Lawyer Guarnaschelli's process about alleged violations of EU's balance, EPPO in action in national and European context

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STEPPO Closing conference 2026





-Lawyer Mamoli; Capecelatro; Ferrante; Jakubowski; Klement; Salazar; Suchan discussed EPPO status and developments

-Lawyer Tieghi; Cesaro; Varisco; Voinich talked about EPPO's role in the protection of social fund

-Lawyer Guarnaschelli, Francesca Fragassi and Monopoli presented Steppo's Role Play, a new AI tool for financial investigations

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20. STEPPO-Libera: The Civil Society Role Committee

CHAIRS: Wisal Tayebi, Beatrice Pellegrino,
Simone Rossitto, Stefano Mattacchini

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CHAIRS: Wisal Tayebi, Beatrice Pellegrino, Simone Rossitto, Stefano Mattacchini
BLOG IN PUBB

BLOG PUBBLICATI



•Simone Rossitto ha pubblicato il blog: “Pio la Torre: un esempio che rimane vivo” blog fondamentale che ci ha introdotto alla giornata del 21 marzo in memoria alle vittime innocenti delle mafie e comprendere la normativa 416 bis https://www.steppo-eulaw.com/2026/04/27/pio-la-torre-un-esempio-che-rimane-vivo/

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BLOG PUBBLICATI E ATTIVITÀ





- Abbiamo partecipato alla giornata in memorie delle vittime innocenti delle mafie che quest'anno si è tenuta a Torino promossa da "Libera. Associazioni, nomi e numeri contro le mafie"

- Abbiamo pubblicato pubblicato il blog "Report annuale della Procura Europea: l'importanza delle comunità monitoranti" sul report annuale di Eppo https://www.steppo-eulaw.com/2026/04/28/report-annuale-della-procura-europea-limportanza-delle-comunita-monitoranti

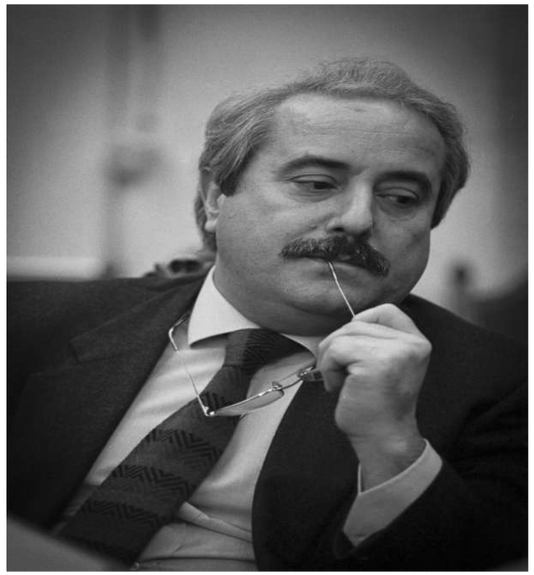
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Prossime Attività

- Stiamo scrivendo un blog su Giovanni Falcone in vista dell'anniversario della strage di Capaci che si terrà giorno 23 maggio "Dalla lotta alle mafie alla tutela dell'Unione: Il filo tra Falcone e EPPO"

- La prossima settimana uscirà il blog inerente alla closing conference di Steppo di cui siamo stati membri attivi attraverso Leonardo Ferrante membro di "Libera"





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21 HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE



CHAIRS

ALESSANDRO FUMAGALLI: Civil lawyer and former headmaster of several middle and high schools

MICHELE MONOPOLI: Former Dean of Beccaria High School Milan

ANTONELLA IANNASCOLI: Mathematics and physics teacher at the Liceo Classico Cesare Beccaria in Milan

VERONICA CARBONE: law student

MEMBERS

ALESSANDRO COLOMBO, EGLE CONCINA, SAMUELE DI MARTINO, ARIANNA DUZ, BEATRICE QUAGLIA, SAMANTHA NICOLE DE GUZMAN, MARIA CHIARA CAPPELLI, FRANCESCA FRAGASSI, ADELE MINICHIELLO, SONIA M'GAYEDI, NICOLO' ELENI, GIULIA PAGANI, ANGELO SALIMBENI (support)

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FSL



The course gave students the opportunity to take part in a legal role-play simulating a real-life case involving EPPO and to write a blog on the most topical issues relating to EPPO, working closely with experts from the committees.

During the final Steppo conference, the data regarding participation in the activities proposed by High School Committee from 2023 to the present were presented:

- **300 students** from 11 schools took part in the PNRR lessons
- **600 students** from schools across the region took part in the FSL courses

The FSL programme offered by the Steppo Centre and organised by the High School Committee ended last April.
Once again, this year there was a high level of participation from high school students, with over 100 students taking part.

We are currently awaiting the finalisation of all the blogs that have been written, which will be published on the website in the coming weeks



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IPM BECCARIA



Thanks to collaboration with the **Rava Foundation**, university students took part in a series of meetings in prison. The meetings between students and prisoners focused on a variety of topics such as poetry, music and AI, but the greatest achievement was the building of meaningful relationships between young people with different experiences and backgrounds.

The High Schools Committee's programme at the **Ipm Beccaria** has also recently come to an end.



The project culminated in the publication of an **e-book** "OLTRE LE SBARRE. INCONTRI CHE APRONO MONDI" which collects the documents from two years of work.

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22 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES COMMITTEE

CHAIR: FLAVIA NDRIOLLARI

MEMBERS:

- Pietro Frisone
- Roberto Lupo
- Giulia Pagani
- Salvatore della Ragione
- Erica Bongiorno
- Teresa Scialla
- Gianluca di Biasi
- Andrea Sarra Fiore
- Paola dell'Orletta
- Ines Kaede Kikuchi
- Leonardo Petrozzi
- Luigi Vinciguerra
- Lukas Kuhl
- Pierangelo Seri
- Francesca Zucca
- Francesco Vitali
- Ferdinando Sorbilli

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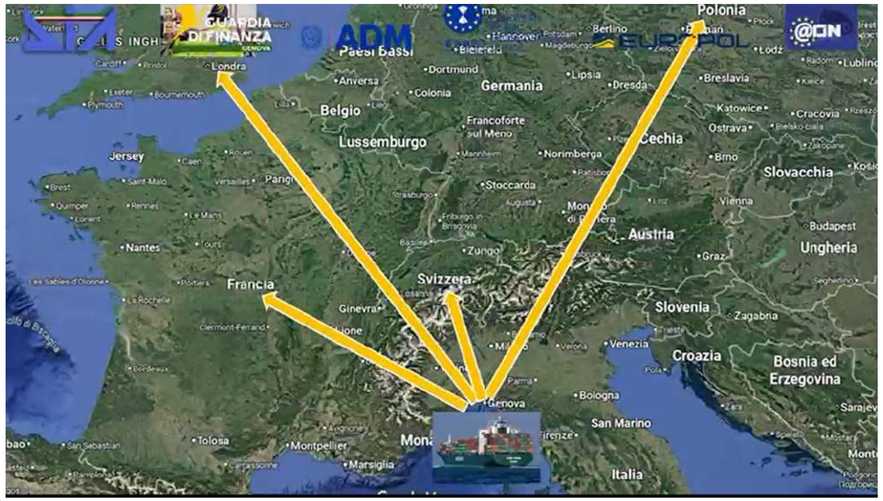
Latest news on EPPO results

«Borotalco» investigation



The European Public Prosecutor's Office in Turin has coordinated a maxi investigation into the smuggling of foreign tobacco products.

The investigation, which began in 2024 following a warning from Anti-Mafia Investigation Directorate (DIA) regarding a suspicious shipment that arrived at the port of Genoa, has uncovered an international tobacco smuggling network.



Tons of cigarettes from Armenia, Dubai and Spain were smuggled into Italy via the port of Genoa and then stored at a company site in Bosco Marengo (AL), which was used as a logistics hub for unloading, storage and onward distribution.

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The goods followed maritime and commercial routes designed to prevent their illicit origin being traced, passing through Georgia, Kenya, Netherlands and Turkey.



The operational base of the criminal organisation that managed the smuggling is located in the United Kingdom, with links across Europe, Africa and Asia. The investigations also reveal links to the Kurdish mafia.

Cooperation between national authorities was crucial to the investigation. Numerous authorities were involved in the investigation: D.I.A., GdF and ADM in Italy, HMRC in UK, the Polish Economic Crime Unit, the French Customs Authority, the FOCBS in Switzerland, Europol and the Services for International Police Cooperation (SCIP)



At the start of the investigation, 41 tonnes of cigarettes were seized, representing an estimated loss of over €10 million in unpaid customs duties

Currently, at the request of the EPPO, five suspects have been arrested and are being held in pre-trial detention in Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom. The value of the seized assets amounts to €2.5 million.

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23. National Istitutions Commitee

CHAIR: Claudio Palazzoni, Gabriele Liberatore

MEMBER: Nicolò Eleni, Alessandra Parisi, Zaccaria Moreschi

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EU Anti-VAT Fraud Initiatives

Informations given by the Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union



The Problem:

Fraudsters exploit *taxsystem loopholes to evade VAT*, while investigators (EPPO and OLAF) are slowed down by complex, bureaucratic data exchanges with Member States. This *lack of immediate access* creates critical *bottlenecks* that let fraudsters escape oversight.

The Solution:

To solve this, the EU Council has agreed to *streamline cooperation*. Following the November 2025 proposal, national authorities, *EPPO, OLAF, and Eurofisc will now share VAT data* seamlessly, ensuring faster and more effective cross-border investigations.

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SHIFTING BALANCES



latest ECOFINCouncil

The Current Status:

-The*ECOFINCouncil* has officially agreed on this reform, largely backing the Commission's initial proposal.

-With the *European Economic and Social Committee*'s opinion already issued and the European Parliament preparing its own, this marks a *major step toward final adoption.*

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SHIFTING BALANCES



The Mechanism:

-Understrict data protection rules, the *EUROFISC network* will forward its fraud risk analyses directly to *EPPO* and *OLAF*.

-Both offices will also gain direct, *targeted access to Member States' VAT information*, removing previous bureaucratic barriers.

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Examining the Reform Framework



Every year, Member States lose billions to cross-border VAT fraud, driven primarily by_____

***1= Carousel Fraud (MTIC)*, which exploits EU trade exemptions and costs an estimated *€32.8 billion annually*—a figure growing even larger due to e-commerce.**

Another major threat is :

2= abuse of *Customs Procedure 42*, where goods are imported VAT-free under the false pretense of transit but are instead sold locally to evade the tax, making the eradication of these loopholes a critical priority for public budgets.

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Next Activities

With respect to the matters addressed over the recent months and during the conference, the Committee will proceed with its analysis of these core themes, closely monitoring further developments in the field.

Furthermore, in the following months, Zaccaria Moreschi —a law student at Bicocca University and the committee's new support—will address the issue of cross-border VAT fraud, the damage it causes, and the methods to curb it, in his master's thesis, under the guidance of Dr. Liberatore and Professor Ubertazzi.

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24.PROSECUTORS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: PIETRO SUCHAN
SUPPORT: CORRADO ROSSITTO

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Aggiornamento



Abbiamo scritto e pubblicato su un blog in merito alla sentenza (33087/3024) della Corte di Cassazione che enuncia un principio fondamentale in tema di competenza funzionale di Eppo.



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La competenza funzionale di EPPO



La sentenza n. 33087/2024 della Corte di Cassazione chiarisce il criterio di competenza funzionale dell'EPPO. Nel caso in esame, che era relativo ad un'indagine derivata da frode IVA e di dazi, il PED con sede a Napoli aveva disposto di un sequestro probatorio impugnato successivamente dinanzi al Tribunale del riesame di Napoli, nonostante l'EPPO avesse eccepito la competenza di Salerno quale luogo del reato. La Cassazione ha stabilito un importante principio: la competenza spetta al tribunale del capoluogo in cui ha sede l'ufficio del PED non a quello del luogo dí commissione el reato, pena l'incompetenza o l'inammissibilità dell'impugnazione

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Prossime Attività



Stiamo scrivendo un blog in merito all'intervento e principali punti che ha delucidato il Procuratore Suchan alla Conferenza finale di STEPPO



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EPPO and EU Law
(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence – EPPONFI)
25. Real Estate Transactions Committee

CHAIR: Marina Palmulli

Support: Alessandra Parisi

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Activity Report: Focus on EPPO Investigations and the Signa Case

In May, the Committee held a lecture dedicated to the crisis in the real estate sector, using the Signa case as an example. We explained how property values were artificially inflated in order to obtain larger loans from banks (the mechanism of asset overvaluation) and how false invoices were used to make financial statements appear stronger and more reliable. We also analyzed the work of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in tackling tax fraud connected to these major real estate operations.

To make these analyses accessible to everyone, we are preparing a blog post that will soon be published on our website. The article will clearly explain how these financial engineering techniques affected the real estate market and what risks they pose to the European budget.

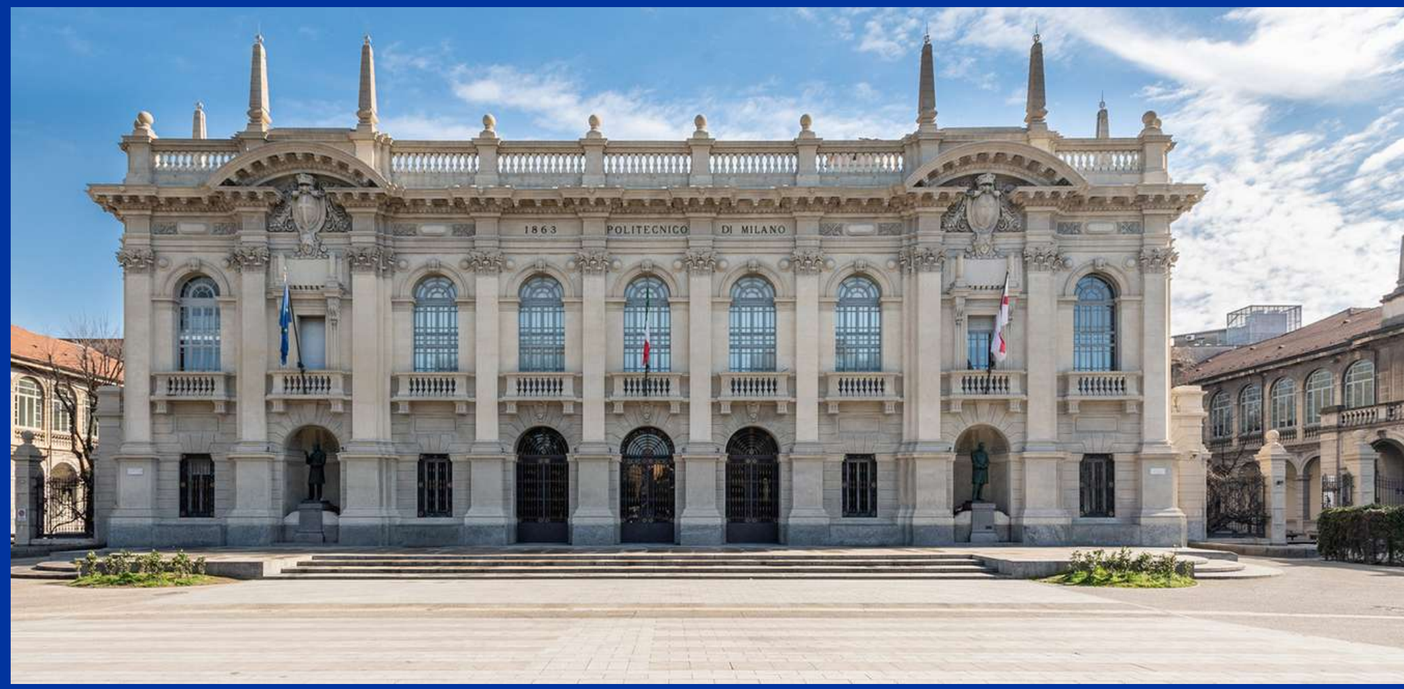
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UPCOMING BLOG POST

The Committee is also preparing a blog post analyzing a study conducted by the Politecnico di Milano, according to which around 60 companies control the majority of properties in Milan, especially high-value real estate assets. The concentration of these investments has fostered a process of urban financialization that has made Milan increasingly attractive for international investment and tourism, while also contributing to rising housing and rental prices, with the risk of emptying entire neighborhoods and reducing the city's accessibility for residents.



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IN THE FUTURE

In the future, the Real Estate Transactions Committee hopes to collaborate more closely with the other STEP committees in order to make the joint work more effective, synergistic, and productive.

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EPPO and EU Law
(Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence – EPPONFI)
26. Media Committee

CHAIR: Serena Perini, Michele Monopoli

MEMBERS: Alessandro Fumagalli, Umberta Colella Tommasi, Andrea Guarnaschelli, Fabrizio Capecelatro, Claudio Bonato

SUPPORT: Silvia Binda

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Last Activities

During this months Media Committee worked on networking, and searching contacts with traditional papers, and writing blogs.

we have the pleasure to work with two new members

→ Fabrizio Capecelatro: news editor in Fanpage

→ Claudio Bonato: assignment editor

We are still improving our team and contacts.

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In March 16th, Fabrizio Capecelatro interviewed Ignacio de Lucas Martin, the Spain European Public prosecutor, to gain a better understanding of the fight against organized crime and his specific role in it. Fabrizio has since written a blog post about the interview

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Final Conference



Fabrizio Capecelatro delivered a presentation focused on examining mainstream media coverage of the EPPO. He explained that information on the subject remains insufficient, highlighting the pressing need for increased public awareness and reporting.

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EPPO and EU Law
27. Banking, insurance and financial authorities subcommittee

CHAIR: Lawyer Daniele Alessandro Luison
VICE-CHAIR: Matteo Ianni

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PUBLISHED BLOG

“ Indipendenza digitale europea nel contesto globale: l’importanza di definire oggi l’orientamento digitale europeo per avere un ruolo solido e strategico domani ”

March 2026 , Travaglin Alice

“The European Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA): Role, Functions, and Impact on the Financial System”

February 2026, Iman Nadif

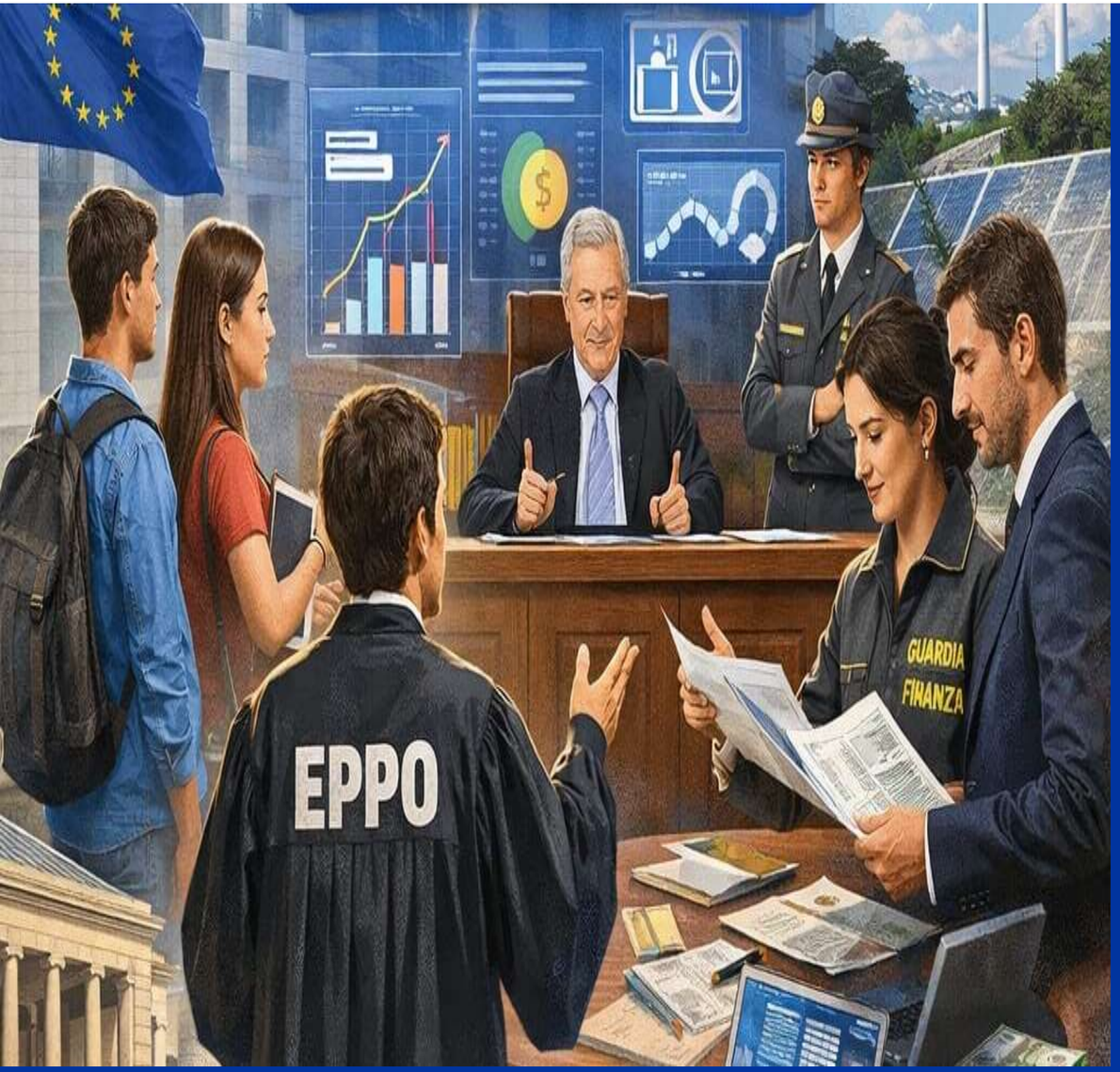
“ STEPPO presso l’Accademia della Guardia di Finanza di Bergamo: Sistema bancario, tassazione e riforme ”

February 2026, Daniele Alessandro Luison

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MOCK TRIAL – STEPPO ROLE PLAY 2026

March 25th 2026

WHO

- high school students
- university students
- Lawyers
- magistrates
- legal professionals
- experts in European law,

= interdisciplinary and interactive learning environment!!!

WHAT

- ✓ draft legal documents
- ✓ develop procedural arguments while applying both national and EU legal frameworks in a realistic judicial setting.
- ✓ actively take on procedural roles such as European Delegated Prosecutors, defense lawyers, defendants, witnesses, and investigative authorities.

THE ADC TRADING CASE, called **"Operation Green Clean",** focused on financial crimes falling under EPPO jurisdiction, including cross-border fraud affecting the financial interests of the European Union.

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DEFERRED PROSECUTION AGREEMENTS IN THE AGE OF THE EPPO: COOPERATION OR COLLISION?

ERA ACADEMY 2026:
Deferred Prosecution Agreements (DPAs) The future of corporate liability in Europe.

Prof. Ubertazzi Benedetta
Prof. Luison Alessandro Daniele

CORE DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Interaction between **DPAs** and the **European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)**
- Emerging balance between **cooperation and jurisdictional tension**
- Convergence vs fragmentation across EU enforcement frameworks

OUTCOME:

- Alignment on growing strategic importance of DPAs
- Identification of key legal and operational challenges ahead

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What's next?

22ND ANNUAL IBA ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE

17 Jun - 18 Jun 2026, London

The Role of the Global Financial System in the Fight Against Corruption

Panel two **: The evolving role of financial institutions in detecting and preventing corruption**

- Evolving **compliance** obligations for banks
- Monitoring **suspicious transactions** and capital flows
- International **cooperation** against financial crime
- Innovation and **data analytics** in corruption prevention
- Combating **corruption** through the financial system

Daisuke Fukamiz	NO&T, Tokyo, Japan
Claudia Goetz Staehelin	Nater Dallafior, Zürich, Switzerland
Maureen Lewis	Investigations & Enforcement, Barclays, London, England
Daniele Alessandro Luison	UniCredit S.p.A., Milan, Italy

A global forum bringing together regulators, financial institutions, legal experts and corporations to strengthen international anti-corruption enforcement, compliance and financial transparency.

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Call for debates



Contact: Matteo.IANNI@ec.europa.eu

Sub-Committees interested in a constructive debate with ours are welcome to collaborate.

Debates help exchange ideas, challenge perspectives, and foster understanding.

For details and scheduling, please contact our

Vice-Chair, Matteo Ianni.

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