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# The EPPO and banking supervisory authorities

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EPPO's subject-matter competence involves offences affecting the EU's financial interests.  
Types of crime that are brought before the EPPO:

**1**

**frauds** involving the use of false statements and documents, including cross-border frauds (value > €10m), and the related money laundering

**2**

active and passive **corruption** of public officials, and the related **misappropriation**

**3**

**instigation, aiding and abetting** the commission of the crimes listed above

**4**

crimes related to **participation in a criminal organization** (from mere membership to direction), when the scope of the activity is the commission of a fraud, and other crimes under the BIP Directive.

...in **Milan**: mostly VAT fraud (e.g. carousel fraud) in Lombardia region and crimes against public administration. A concrete assessment is in any case needed to establish jurisdiction

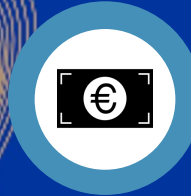


# EPPO ANNUAL REPORTS 2022 VS 2023 – CENTRAL OFFICE



## Active investigations:

2022	2023
1117	1 927



## Estimated total damages:

2022	2023
14.1b	19.2b



## Freezing orders:

2022	2023
359.1m	1.5b



## Indictments:

2022	2023
87	139



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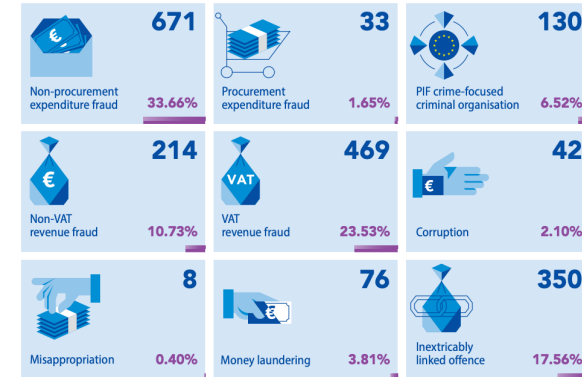


#### JUDICIAL ACTIVITY IN CRIMINAL CASES

Ongoing cases in the trial phase	<b>98</b>
Number of first court decisions	<b>22</b>
Number of appeals against first court decisions	<b>2</b>
Number of ongoing cases in the appeal phase	<b>2</b>
Number of final court decisions	<b>17</b>
Number of extraordinary legal remedies against court decisions	<b>0</b>
Convictions	<b>13</b>
Acquittals	<b>4</b>

#### TYPLOGIES IDENTIFIED IN ACTIVE EPPO CASES

NUMBER OF INVESTIGATED OFFENCES BROKEN DOWN BY TYPE



#### ACTIVE FUNDING FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS

BROKEN DOWN BY PROGRAMME

Agricultural and rural development programmes	<b>104</b>	Climate and environment programmes	<b>0</b>
Maritime and fisheries programmes	<b>13</b>	Recovery and resilience programmes	<b>179</b>
International cooperation programmes	<b>3</b>	Mobility and transport, energy and digitalisation programmes	<b>0</b>
Regional and urban development programmes	<b>24</b>	Asylum, migration and integration programmes	<b>0</b>
Education and culture-related programmes	<b>0</b>	Industry, entrepreneurship and SME programmes	<b>3</b>
Research and innovation programmes	<b>5</b>	Security and defence programmes	<b>0</b>
Employment, social cohesion, inclusion and values programmes	<b>10</b>	Other programmes/doubt cases	<b>53</b>



## RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN EPPO AND BANKING & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- As for anti-money laundering, EPPO has relations with: Bank of Italy, ECB, Guardia di Finanza (GDF)
- In terms of cooperation between EPPO and banking institutions/groups, two agreements have been concluded with:

### FIU (Financial Intelligence Unit)

- The Financial Intelligence Unit for Italy is an independent and autonomous body set up within the Bank of Italy pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/2007.
- The Financial Intelligence Unit of Italy and the European Public Prosecutor's Office have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim of facilitating their cooperation related to suspicious financial transactions (8<sup>th</sup> June 2022).
- The document lays down the principles on how both parties will exchange information and provide analytical support, on the suspension of suspicious transactions, on data protection and mutual training initiatives

### EIB (European Investment Bank Group)

- The EIB and the EIF (European Investment Fund), as bodies of the EU, have a duty to protect financial interests of the European Union and to implement effective measures against fraud and any other harmful illegal activity of the financial interests of the EU.
- In December 2021, the EIB Group and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) signed a Working Agreement "to make the fight against fraud, corruption, money laundering and any other criminal offences affecting the Union's financial interests, as efficient as possible avoiding duplication of efforts".
- The Working Arrangement aims at facilitating cooperation between the EPPO and the EIB Group within the existing limits of their respective legal frameworks and mandates, through the exchange of information, including personal data, and other cooperative activities.



## RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN EPPO AND BANKING & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

In the context of its relationships with Banking Institutions and Supervisory Authorities, EPPO operates through the Italian Financial Police (Guardia di Finanza), which is often delegated to carry out investigations.



Among the operations carried out, EPPO executes the seizure measures on bank accounts ordered by Delegated European Prosecutors.

**A new role for financial institutions?  
Case-by-case cooperation with the EPPO**



## INTERVIEW TO MR. VALENTINO GRANT, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### **Qual è il Suo punto di vista sullo stato attuale della regolamentazione e supervisione delle banche a livello europeo?**

Il nostro approccio alla regolamentazione e supervisione dovrebbe essere guidato da principi di efficienza e semplicità. Invece di imporre nuove regole, dovremmo lavorare per semplificare quelle esistenti, eliminando quelle obsolete o ridondanti. Credo che un dialogo costante tra il settore bancario e i regolatori possa portare a una regolamentazione più intelligente. L'aumento della trasparenza e della responsabilità è fondamentale, ma deve essere perseguito in modo che non diventi un fardello eccessivo per le banche. Credo che dovremmo esplorare modi per integrare meglio, senza ampliarne le competenze, le funzioni dell'EPPO con le operazioni quotidiane delle banche.



### **Quali iniziative specifiche o politiche potrebbero rafforzare il contributo delle banche alla lotta contro le frodi che minacciano gli interessi finanziari dell'UE?**

Dovremmo concentrarci su una migliore applicazione delle norme esistenti e promuovere una collaborazione più stretta tra le autorità di vigilanza e il settore bancario, semplificare il quadro regolatorio per renderlo più efficiente e meno oneroso.

### **Come valuta l'efficacia della collaborazione tra la Procura Europea e le istituzioni bancarie nella prevenzione e nella lotta alle frodi finanziarie?**

La collaborazione tra la Procura Europea e le istituzioni bancarie è essenziale per un sistema di prevenzione delle frodi finanziarie efficace e robusto. Tuttavia, questa collaborazione non deve tradursi in un incremento degli oneri per le banche, che già affrontano un quadro regolatorio complesso. Occorre trovare un equilibrio tra la necessità di scambio di informazioni per la lotta alle frodi e il mantenimento della competitività e dell'innovazione nel settore bancario. Un'efficace collaborazione dovrebbe anche includere la formazione congiunta e lo scambio di personale tra le banche e l'EPPO.



# FUTURE PERSPECTIVES: GRADUAL HARMONIZATION

## ■ GRADUAL HARMONIZATION

1. No plans yet to create a European Court with jurisdiction to hear cases arising from EPPO investigations.
2. Discussing the possibility of standardization of bank statements for situations in which information such as transaction history is provided to law enforcement Authorities, at their request, for the purposes of investigating criminal offences.
3. Increasing international cooperation and intelligibility of communication between Bank Institutions and EPPO in the fight against financial crime.
4. Continuing to monitor legislative innovations and proposals for revision of the EPPO Regulation by the new European Parliament and Commission.





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# Thank you for your attention!

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