



WP5 Crime Analysis

Selective results of preliminary data collection

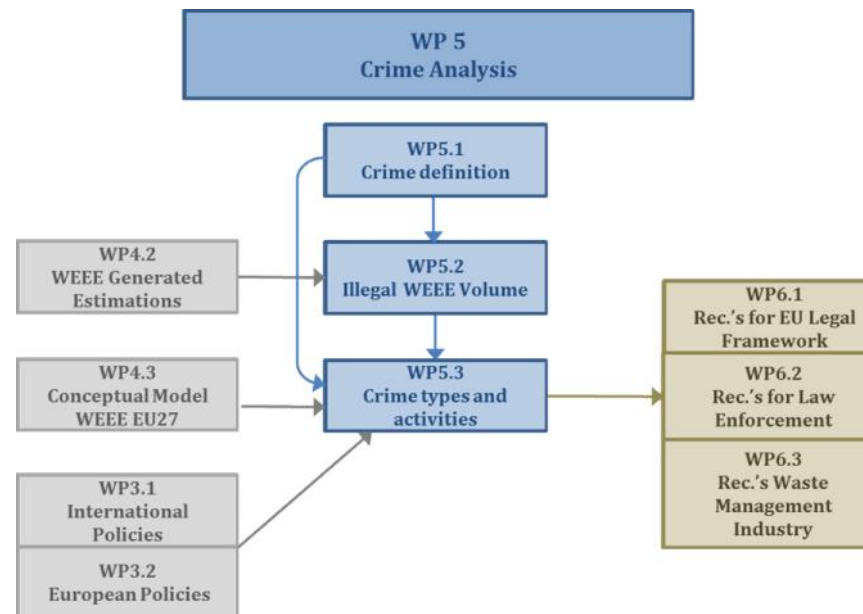
Expert workshop
Lyon, 17 October 2014

WP5 Crime Analysis

- **Objectives:**

- To study the **involvement of organised crime groups** in the global distribution of WEEE;
- to identify the **specific criminal activities associated** with illegal WEEE shipments;
- to provide an **estimation of the volume of WEEE generated and illegally traded.**

Relation
between WP5
and the other
WPs



Information collection plan

- **Scope:**

- Who are the **actors** involved in the illegal WEEE trade;
- Which are **modi operandi** of the illegal WEEE trade;
- What **activities** are considered violations;
- Which is the **organisational structure and nature of the activities** undertaken in this context;
- Whether **organised crime** is involved to any extent.

- **Tools:**

- academic research;
- questionnaires;
- case studies;
- expert interviews;
- exploitation of existing law enforcement data held by the INTERPOL General Secretariat.

Preliminary results

Organisational structures in the global distribution of WEEE

Most of the cases do not fit into the internationally adopted definition of O.C. (the Palermo Convention) requiring:

- structured group of three or more persons,
 - existing for a period of time and acting in concert
 - with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences (i.e. punished with min. 4 years of prison)
 - in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.
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- ❖ In most of the cases, the illegal trade is carried out by **loosely organised networks**. These networks are **horizontal** and **decentralised**. They often include members of the same nationality.
 - ❖ In all reported cases **private companies were involved**.

Preliminary results

Actors

- WEEE/e-waste dealers and brokers;
- Transport companies;
- WEEE/e-waste collection organisation;
- Treatment facilities.

Not mentioned: terminal operators (e.g. port terminals); customs brokers; WEEE/e-waste management organisations (including producer compliance schemes); refurbishes and individuals.

Preliminary results

Products

- Most reported commodities detected by authorities:
 1. Screens: LCDs, CRTs, flat screen TVs etc.;
 2. Fractions: batteries, cables, printed circuit boards;
 3. Compressors and refrigerators;
 4. IT equipment, Small Household Appliances and then Large Household Appliances.
- In some cases WEEE was **mixed** with other commodities (e.g. functioning vehicles, car parts and waste tyres etc.).

Preliminary results

Investigations, prosecutions and punishments

- Fine predominantly under 1,500€.
- Probation:
 - ✓ Suspension/revocation of licences
- Obligation to pay the cost of treatment.
- Containers returned to the country of origin.
- Restrictions on future employment.
- Custodial sentence reported through case studies (max. 16 months).



Thank you for your attention

For further information please contact:

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Visit the CWIT website:

www.cwitproject.eu

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