



## Work Package 5: Crime Analysis

### Deliverable 5.1

#### Definition of Organised Crime applied to WEEE



<b>Project</b>	Countering WEEE Illegal Trade
<b>Acronym</b>	CWIT
<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="http://www.cwitproject.eu">www.cwitproject.eu</a>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main objective of Work Package 5 is 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, and to provide an estimation of the volume of WEEE that is generated and illegally traded. Deliverable 5.1 is specifically looking at creating a crime typology. This includes developing a continuum of the various levels of compliance and violations of actors in the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) trade. In parallel, the report developed a continuum of criminal organisational structures, which details the characteristics, sub-structures, types of actors involved and how the description of their activity correlates to traditional definitions of organised crime or not. From preliminary analysis of the information collected, it is clear that violations and non-compliance in the WEEE trade is not unique to one particular type of actor. There is a degree of compliance and criminality that spans across a continuum ranging from minor unintentional violations to activity following a criminal business model.

The research activity was performed based on open source material and supplemented by analyses on criminal data handled solely by INTERPOL through its secure channels, as well as by the outcome of questionnaires and expert interviews carried out by the Consortium members. The results presented also take into account the output coming from work package 3 (Legal Framework) and work package 4 (Market Assessment). Importantly for the purpose of the project, this also includes alignment of definitions and terminology and typology descriptions of the market serving as the analysis framework for the various Work Packages and upcoming Deliverables.

In the course of examining the instances of criminality involved in the WEEE trade, there is considerable variation in the degree of criminality reflected by various levels of non-compliance with the relevant regulations. This varies from individual actors reflecting low level non-compliance through to overt deliberate criminal activity for the purpose of financial gain. In the extreme instances of criminal activity in the cases we examined, there are links with legitimate companies involved in some element of the WEEE supply chain, demonstrating how the legal and illegal markets for electronic waste are closely interwoven. The offenders involved are either company owners, company staff or individuals that cooperated with companies. The diverse nature and severity of the criminality seen in the WEEE trade depended on the country, as did the level of enforcement. Information gaps are identified in the information supplied but experts did note that as their expertise in enforcing illegal WEEE trade increases, so too will the information available for law enforcement analysis.

This report provides the initial examination of the nature of the illegal WEEE trade which will be further expanded on through the progression of the criminal analysis work package. The continuum and the codification of the typologies will be further developed in the later deliverables of 5.3 and 5.5. Further details of case studies, offenders and specific *modi operandi* will be reported in Deliverable 5.3 which is a restricted release document.