



*Forwarded via CCJ-News, Hans-Juergen Kerner*

ONLINE FINAL CONFERENCE  
**Enhancing operational cooperation in the fight  
against firearms trafficking**  
— Results of Project ECOFIT

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 | 10:30 - 12:00 (CEST) | Via Zoom

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The demand for illegal firearms influences the illegal supply of firearms across different routes of trafficking. In order to respond to crime effectively, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) must improve and adapt their investigative means to the more sophisticated conditions of the firearms trafficking, apply special investigative techniques, and strengthen the international cooperation.

Project [ECOFIT](#), funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund – Police, DG for Migration and Home Affairs (*ISFP-2018-AG-OC-FIRE*) and coordinated by [TRANSCRIME](#), has identified the **best policy options** for enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of the operational cooperation between LEAs in the fight against firearms trafficking.

The results are aligned with the **EU Policy Cycle - EMPACT Firearms** and the **2020-2025 EU Action Plan on firearms trafficking priorities**. They could be useful for the future strategies of the European Commission in this field.

This online final conference will be a unique opportunity to:

- Present the key findings of the project, and the best policy options to increase the operational cooperation among European countries and with Southeast European countries;
- Provide recommendations and guidelines to better put into action the operational cooperation;

- Discuss with experts in the field future challenges in light of the EMPACT Firearms Operational Action Plans and the priorities of the 2020-2025 EU Action Plan on firearms trafficking.

## **AGENDA**

- *Welcome and introduction: How ECOFIT conclusions fit in the 2020-2025 EU Action Plan on firearms trafficking* – Ernesto U. Savona (Transcrime – Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore)
- *Best policy options to increase operational cooperation* – Marina Mancuso (Transcrime – Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore)
- *Main recommendations for the EU and guidelines for LEAs* – Toine Spapens (Tilburg University)
- *Future challenges in the Southeast Europe* – Valentin Niculescu (SELEC)
- *Roundtable*  
Martin van der Meij – Europol / Pedro Nuno R.M. Coelho de Moura – European Firearms Expert Group / Simonetta Grassi – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Global Firearms Programme
- *Q&A*
- *Closing remarks* – Ernesto U. Savona (Transcrime – Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore)

Please see attached **leaflet** to learn more.

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