

**Minutes of the 33rd meeting of the OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicators' Network (OAFCN),
2-3 July 2024, Brussels**

Tuesday 2 July 2024

1. Welcome by Ville ITÄLÄ, Director General OLAF

Director General of OLAF Mr. Ville Itälä (VI) welcomed participants to the 33rd annual meeting of the OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicators' Network (OAFCN).

VI stressed the importance of OAFCN to OLAF and the key role that members play in spreading good news stories about the fight against fraud. VI gave a brief description of some OLAF's results for 2023 including that just over €1 billion had been recommended for recovery to the EU, whilst preventing around €209 million from being lost from it.

VI then addressed two items on the agenda, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and anniversaries. Noting that how to use AI was a topical issue for many organisations, including OLAF's 25 years of activities.

He noted how since 1999 (when OLAF began operations) much had the fight against fraud improved, for instance in cross border cooperation. Looking to the future VI concluded that there needed to be effective and collaborative communication to tell the good news stories about the fight against fraud.

2. Approval of minutes of the 32nd OAFCN meeting and welcome of new OAFCN members

The Agenda for this year's meeting was adopted unanimously without amendment. The minutes of last year's 32nd OAFCN meeting (28-29 March 2023) were adopted unanimously without amendment.

The meeting was non-public.

Head of OLAF's Unit 02 (Inter-institutional & International Relations and Communication) Jana Cappello (JC) welcomed all participants to the meeting asking all members present to introduce themselves, especially those attending their first OAFCN meeting.

JC asked OAFCN members to check the OAFCN webpage on the OLAF website to make sure that the contact details of members are up to date and to notify OLAF if they are not and whenever a change is required.

3. OLAF's Communication Activities

JC listed some of OLAF's communications activities in the previous year, including OLAF's participation in the EU's Open Day. JC also gave an overview of the interaction with journalists that includes background briefings into some of OLAF's operations.

JC highlighted OLAF's annual report 2023, which was published in a condensed print version akin to an executive summary and a user-friendly interactive digital version, available on the OLAF website, allowing for an enhanced user experience for journalists and citizens.

JC underlined that the OLAF Press release that accompanies the publication of the report is translated into every EU language, which offers an excellent opportunity for OAFCN members to promote the work of OLAF in their member states. JC thanked those members that distributed the press release and highlighted the benefits that it brought in media coverage such as happened in Romania.

JC then talked about the initiatives to celebrate OLAF's 25th anniversary and asked OAFCN members to consider how they could promote this important anniversary in their member state.

JC ended the session by asking OAFCN members to please share and promote OLAF communications such as press releases and social media posts. JC also asked OAFCN members to send their communication materials to OLAF so that it could be highlighted and shared with anti-fraud stakeholders via the network.

4. 'Secure AI-powered tools for communicators' – from the European Commission

Agnes Edit Farkas (AF), Head of the AI Language Services Advisory in DG Translation, introduced some of the AI tools developed and used by the European Commission that are also available to public administrations of member states and countries participating in the Digital Europe programme, who can register and use the tools for free.

AF focussed on five AI tools developed by the Commission:

- **eTranslation** - Which can be used to get a rough translation in 32 languages. AF underlined that for professional quality a human check is recommended to address any mistakes.
- **Speech-to-Text** - AF explained how this tool helps turn an audio file into a transcript. This can also be used to generate subtitles for video files and is available in 29 languages.
- **Anonymisation tool** - AF showed how the tool helped protect data of individuals by hiding or redacting identifiable information.
- **eSummary** - The tool condenses large amounts of texts into a summary according to the length desired by the user. This tool is available in 32 languages and can summarise using multiple languages.
- **e-Briefing** – AF explained that this tool takes various pieces of data from input documents uploaded by the user and produces a draft briefing according to the preferred style (EU style, general style or overview). The service is available in 32 languages.

AF underlined the importance of security, explaining some of the security features employed to secure data privacy and protection. She also stressed that all the data that is stored is encrypted and that only the user can upload documents or access the output documents using their EU login.

In reply to a question about how the Commission ensured data protection AF replied that users remain the owner of their data throughout the whole process, that only some data is kept such as the choice of language, time of access, the domain of the user's email address for statistical purposes and only for 18 months. *Liability and data privacy statements are publicly available at [eTranslation and associated tools statement](#) and [eBriefing statement](#).*

Regarding a question on how personal data was protected, AF stressed that data is encrypted and will not be shared with third parties.

As for the use of disclaimers for the texts generated by these AI tools, AF said that there was a general disclaimer for the website using eTranslation and as regards eBriefings output there is a line attached saying that it was generated by AI-powered tools.

Another question concerned the limit on the amount of data that can be uploaded, which AF specified is 20MB in the case of documents. For Speech-to-Text, AF said that it is advisable for long recordings to be uploaded in shorter pieces.

The final question concerned the availability of the tools for non-EU member countries regarding which AF reiterated that the tools are currently available for Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein and Ukraine, which is associated with the Digital Europe Programme.

5. 'A.I. a new frontier?'

Silvio Verrier (SV), OLAF's Graphic Designer, gave a broad overview of the current state of AI, cautioning against rushing blindly to use AI as it is still in the development phase, emphasising that the presentation would be on understanding how the tools work before using them.

SV started by charting the developments in the use of AI in communication stressing that AI is not in itself intelligent but is reliant on its data set. In simple terms – a bad data set will automatically give a bad result. SV illustrated this by using examples where bad data sets give obviously dangerous or misleading results.

SV raised concerns regarding use of data and AI, saying that individuals' data on social media sites META, X and other private platforms are used by the companies to train and generate AI content. SV insisted that the problem with this practice is that it is unregulated and nobody is responsible for the output generated by the machines, making it unsafe to use in the context of public discourse.

6. Members' Communication Campaigns

Viara Genova-Rudolf (VG) senior expert in public relations at the department of the Bulgarian National Customs Agency gave a presentation on institutional memory and the sense of belonging as a motivator in internal communications.

VG focussed on the celebration of the 145th anniversary of the Bulgarian National Customs Agency, which took place this year. The idea behind this communication project to celebrate the anniversary was to create a narrative that linked events from the past to the present.

The presentation by **Barbara Lichtfeldt** (BL) and **Jelizaveta Belous** (JB), from the communication department of the Police and Border Guard Board of Estonia, focused on lessons learnt during the communication campaigns about fraud over the last two years

The majority of the communication efforts focused on informing the public about benefit scams. During the last year, cases regarding this type of fraud in Estonia amounted to over €2 million.

Traditional communication methods are considered to have lost their effectiveness, mainly because of fatigue amongst the public and journalists. Press releases are generally lost among other news and Communicating on this issue faced two strong challenges: (1) the strong misconception that the victims of benefit frauds and scam calls are not very bright or educated and (2) the difficulty to reach the Russian-speaking population who are principal target of these scam calls but they primarily consume Russian media, which does not cover these issues.

One of the main actions to overcome these challenges was to tell stories. This had a greater impact on changing behaviour compared to publishing plain facts. The communication campaign also used

social media, using a campaign that consisted of posting images of cute animals with short sentences on social media, which were widely shared.

Lelde Grīnvalde (LG) of the Latvian Ministry of Finance talked about using games to transmit anti-fraud messages.

LG started by briefly explaining the gamification theory, where games can lead to increased engagement, motivation, and participation on a certain issue. Following this principle, it was decided to develop games to compliment the #Fraudoff movement in Latvia.

The games developed included a memory card game, a role-playing game and a whistle blower's card game similar to Halli Galli. These games are often used in festivals and other public events.

LG asserted that when playing the games people overcame their natural shyness allowing them to engage fully with the message behind the game. In the past, this was often not the case in conversations on fraud-related issues.

The presentation of **Giulia De Franciscis** (GF) from the General Prosecutor's Office at the Italian Court of Auditors focused on the efforts of the Public Prosecutor's Office to raise the civic consciousness for students in the last two years of public schools.

The prosecutors created a training model and brochure with practical examples and cases drawn from daily life that were presented in the schools through dedicated lessons. The development of the module proved to be challenging, as complex legal concepts had to be adapted to be understood by teenagers.

The content included:

- principles on which financial legality is based
- the way public budgets work,
- The Court of Auditors' role in the protection and correct execution of the administrative action, and the management of public resources and goods.

Mauro Valeri (MV) of the Italian National Police talked about the process of creating graphic novels which depicted fictionalised cases featuring fictional Italian Police Major 'il Commissario Mascherpa'. To date the police have produced seven such novels. The novels were conceived as a way to reach a younger audience. MV said that the editorial team is made up of real police and that they try to make the stories as real as possible to engage readers. The drawings are made by an outside agency.

MV highlighted examples of the novels including one produced in collaboration with Europol called 'Murky waters' (available in Italian and English).

MV also talked about the novel that the National Police produced with Interpol called 'Big Game!' (available in Italian and English). MV said that every delegate at the annual Interpol meeting in New Delhi was gifted a copy.

MV said that the novels were sold at comic fairs and that people could buy them via the police magazine. The proceeds from the sale of the books go to help fund various charities.

Questions asked concerned when OLAF would feature in one of 'il Commissario Mascherpa's' adventures and whether any names or drawings of the criminals needed to be changed to protect identities.

Modesta Zdanauskaitė (MZ), from the Financial Crime Investigation Service of the Lithuanian Ministry of the Interior, presented an insight into how the service managed a big news story in the country.

MZ stressed the importance of retaining control of the communication around this story. It was decided to do this by being proactive rather than merely answering the questions of journalists.

MZ said this proactive activity took the form of briefing the media on a regular basis, ensuring that the media amplified the communication's team messages. To ensure that the facts of the case entered the public domain the communication team issued press releases and held numerous press conferences.

MZ recommendations following this experience are:

- Prepare a plan
- Don't hide from the media
- Communicate fully, picking up every call answering every question
- Be honest

Reetta Salonen (RS) from the Finnish Customs gave an insight into how she and colleagues are planning to communicate proactively on the EU Customs Reform.

RS said that it was decided to promote the reforms as a way to generate more customs related stories in public and to raise awareness among citizens on customs matters in particular and EU-wide themes in general.

RS said that the communication activity plan would have four strands:

- Something old - using traditional communication methods, customs notices and a webpage
- Something new - engaging with interest groups and online customers
- Something borrowed – Looking to borrow from others, such as the use of opinion polls from the Ministry of Justice to ask questions on the reform to the public, web seminars and events and the use of press releases and social media to highlight the changes.
- Something blue – RS said there is always a proactive way to tell a story, whether it be customs reform or something else and hoped organisations will use those opportunities. Each organisation can identify what that is and can do it.

Olena Konoplia (OK), Head of Department of Communications and Information Policy, National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP) began her presentation regarding the agency's national anti-corruption campaign by giving a brief history of the NACP and their mission.

OK highlighted some of the challenges regarding corruption amongst the population and cited research, which shows that corruption is ranked as the third most pressing problem among the Ukrainian population and second for business.

OK listed some of the recent actions that the Ukrainian government has taken to tackle corruption such as the creation of a new anti-fraud infrastructure in the county, which has taken big steps to address corruption. Actions to reduce corruption include, creating a comprehensive asset declaration system for public officials, launching a 'whistle-blowers portal', approving a comprehensive National Anti-Corruption Strategy, and the three-year State Anti-Corruption Program, which contains more than 1 000 measures in all spheres of public life.

OK explained that in parallel to these reforms the NACP sought to change Ukraine's relationship with corruption by starting a campaign with a key message that "*corruption is not heritage*". The idea behind the campaign was to stress that corruption is not a legacy that cannot be overcome. OK also noted that "war is not a good time for communicating policies" and as such it is very difficult to put the message through and to dedicate resources to it.

The key objectives of the communication strategy were:

- Increasing the level of public trust in government agencies and initiatives
- Reducing tolerance to corruption and any of its manifestations
- Promotion of virtuous behaviour as a social norm
- Coordination of anti-corruption communication of government agencies

OK said that it is hoped that the campaigns will reach a minimum of 20 000 000 views. It is expected that the number of people sharing positive experience in the anti-corruption sphere and the number of people with an improved understanding of anti-corruption initiatives in Ukraine will increase.

Ioannis Blatsos (IB) and **Ioannis Tsioros-Mavrias (ITM)** of the Greek Directorate General Financial and Economic Crime Unit (SDOE) started their presentation by explaining the role of SDOE, which includes carrying out inspections and investigations to ensure compliance with tax and customs regulations, as well as preventing and combating tax evasion, smuggling and fraud.

IB presented some of the communication activities undertaken by SDOE in the past year including the production of press releases relating to the results and financial impact of investigations involving the use of EU and national funds with the aim of raising awareness of Greek citizens (often these involve joint investigations with OLAF). SDOE published a strategic plan listing a number of goals for the current year and a document that shows the results of investigations for each year.

ITM presented some aspects of the holistic approach that SDOE employs to fight financial and economic crimes, from planning to action. It was stressed that '*continued collaboration and a Holistic Approach will be crucial in protecting our economy and society from financial crimes*'.

Chiara Vetro (CV), of the Italian Court of Auditors, gave a comprehensive guide to the role that the court plays in relation to alleged allegations of misuse of EU funds and how trials are carried out.

CV illustrated this by presenting analysis of a series of practical cases that the court ruled on this year. CV finally stressed that the Court cooperates closely with OLAF and other partners in the pursuit of its mission.

Aleksander Krzemień (AK) of the Ministry of Finance/National Revenue Administration of Poland (KAS) talked about their educational communication campaigns, entitled '*Gambling – don't get sucked in!*'

AK explained the background to the campaign, namely that changes in the law made unlicensed gambling in Poland illegal, and that participating in gambling activities that are hosted abroad while the player is located in Poland constitutes a fiscal criminal offence.

AK went on to explain that since 2018 KAS had noted an increase in gambling among young people that led to the creation of a communication campaign called '*Gambling? No thanks*' targeting young people, students, parents and teachers.

Now in its fourth edition, the campaign aims to make young people, their parents and teachers aware that illegal gambling is prohibited in Poland, that gambling is dangerous and can destroy the financial

situation, disrupt family life and affect health. Gambling may also lead to addiction. The campaign also warns against messages that only emphasise the benefits of gambling and focus only on the possibilities of winnings and profits. Finally, it stresses that even seemingly 'innocent online games' may also include gambling features.

The campaign relies heavily on the message being delivered directly to its target audience, including the videos, which warn of the dangers. Another way to get the message across is via lectures in school.

Martin Fostelničák (MF) of the Communication department of the Customs Office in the Slovak Financial Directorate gave a presentation on some of the changes that have taken place in the Financial Directorate and on the role of the customs office, which is particularly relevant given Slovakia's 100KM border with Ukraine.

MF also talked about the twinning project between customs administrations of Slovakia and Lebanon, as Lebanon is an important trading partner of the EU. This twinning has resulted in two study visits to Slovakia from Lebanese customs officials. The aim of the project was to raise awareness on the importance of the protection of financial interests of the EU and to provide support to the Lebanese Customs Administration.

This twinning project has been promoted via social media as a win-win approach that shows how Slovakia is supporting Lebanon, whilst at the same time defending its own and EU revenue streams.

Julija Gorovniovaitė (JG) of the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania presented a communication campaign in Lithuania dedicated to raising awareness of corruption in the healthcare sector. JG explained that a survey showed that around 50% of the population in Lithuania believed that the system was corrupt. Especially when it comes to giving and accepting bribes, whether it be money or gifts. Given the importance that health plays in society it was decided that the campaign should not be instructive or lecturing, instead that it should take the form of a respectful dialogue between medical staff and citizens.

JG said that it was decided to engage the young doctors association of Lithuanian as partners to initiate a dialogue between doctors and patients to bust some of the myths surrounding bribes in the health service. The campaign was called, 'to give or not to give'.

Doctors were also targeted during the campaign, as some feel pressured to take a bribe because if they refuse patients may think that they may not be offered the best treatment or that doctors are not interested in treating them.

The campaign was presented to citizens in stands at various hospitals across Lithuania as well as information materials explaining why bribes exist in Lithuanian culture and why they should not exist. Advice was also given on how to react if a bribe was offered and where to report it, if it occurred. JG said that by taking the stands to different locations across the country attracted the attention of local media. Campaign messages were also broadcasted on Lithuanian national TV, radio, news portal, social media channels (Special Investigation Service and Young doctor association).

The campaign continues to gather a lot of media attention. It has also triggered a wider discussion at national level on corruption in the country.

Wednesday 03 July 2024

7. Commemorating Anniversaries: Italy's Guardia di Finanza

Armando Modesto (AM) from the Guardia di Finanza (GDF) began by giving a brief description of the role of the GDF and its role in protecting the EU's financial interests.

AM highlighted some cases of fraud against EU funds that the GDF were involved in, including the so-called 'VAT carousel fraud' in Varese, the fraud against EU agricultural fund in Pescara and the fraud against the EU regional development fund in Palermo.

AM then talked about the GDF's major communication campaigns in 2024 celebrating the organisation's 250th anniversary.

After showing a video, produced by an external company to promote the 250th anniversary, AM ran through some of the celebrations that the GdF had held, with a wide range of activities. The opening event took place in the Congress Centre "La nuvola" in Rome and included helicopter simulators, screens showing some of the GdF's actions and an avatar that would answer questions on the GdF. A special logo commemorating the 250th anniversary was created and unveiled during the same event.

The GdF produced special commemorative stamps and coins to commemorate their anniversary. There was also an historical exhibition in Vittoriano, a GdF Village in Piazza del Popolo (Rome), with many sports activities for children and a military ceremony in Piazza di Siena, which was attended by the President of Italy Sergio Mattarella.

AM said that the GDF also showcased their anniversary during major sporting events, such as their logo appearing on the Ducati's team motorbikes at the MotoGP of Italy, during the Nastro Rosa sailing race or the Milan marathon. Further commemorations are due to take place in Turin on 5 October 2024 including a museum exhibition and a concert.

Commemorating Anniversaries: OLAF

JC's presentation focused on how OLAF (which began operations on 1 June 1999) is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

JC then described the process of creating a unique visual identity to celebrate the anniversary. The logo that was designed is now used on all communications PowerPoints, Teams backgrounds, email signatures, etc.).

JC listed some of the communication activities undertaken by OLAF to promote the anniversary, including the creation of a dedicated webpage containing a timeline of some of the milestones of OLAF's history, a foreword by the OLAF Director-General and a link to the Press Release, which marked the 25th anniversary.

JC focussed on the ongoing social media campaign, the articles published and the TV reports dedicated to the celebrations.

JC highlighted how the anniversary was promoted internally in OLAF, stressing the personal message from the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen that was posted on OLAF's intranet and was greatly appreciated by staff.

A special photo was also taken to commemorate the anniversary where OLAF staff stood in the form of the number 25. The photo was printed out and given to members of staff at a party to celebrate the anniversary.

JC finally invited OAFCN members to contribute with any audio-visual content they have for OLAF's celebratory video. This material can include any footage or photos of meetings and activities with OLAF over the last 25 years.

8. Members' Communication Campaigns Part IV

David Vorel (DV) from Czechia Customs ministration highlighted examples of the country's fights against illegal cigarette production.

The first case code-named "Cappello", took place in 2022 and led to the uncovering of an illegal production line and the confiscation of about two tons of tobacco and six million illegal cigarettes. The second case "Kolosseum" saw the discovery of an illicit production and packaging line. The customs seized around 25 tons of tobacco and 17.3 million cigarettes.

DV said that last year, the customs administration closed down four illicit cigarette production lines, confiscated 50 tons of tobacco and 50 million cigarettes. In the last 20 years, they uncovered 47 illegal production lines and confiscated 950 tons of tobacco and 243 million cigarettes in the process. The estimated cost of these illicit activities in lost tax revenue was €88 million.

The investigative results were presented on Czech customs administration social media and during a dedicated press conference.

Vasileios Terzis (VT) of the Independent Authority for Public Revenue (IAPR- AADE) highlighted some of their communication campaigns especially focused on social media.

VT pointed out that one of the missions of the IAPR is building trust among citizens by communicating values of transparency, justice and accountability.

VT said that the IAPR carries out its mission by posting their results on social media and by other means such as press releases, selected circulars & decisions, statistics and participation in conferences. VT illustrated a campaign on fuel fraud that included the production of a video to highlight the issue.

Another example was the promotion of the "myAADEapp", which allows citizens to use all IAPR services from mobile phones. The authority used all available means of achieving maximum coverage including a press conference, a press release, a dedicated website, a video and social media posts. The campaign resulted in 280 000 downloads among android users and over 158 000 via apple store.

The final case study introduced by VT related to, "Appodixi", which is an app that allows citizens to obtain a virtual receipt for every transaction. Users can also send the shop information to IAPR if they suspect any fraud. The campaign targeted at tourists aimed to let them know that card payment is always possible and that they should always ask for a receipt by saying "Apódixi please". A video (also in English) was produced to explain how the app worked and posted on YouTube.

Lorenzo Pisoni (LP) from Agenzia delle dogane e dei monopoli (ADM) presented the agency's 2024 anti-fraud strategy and its relations with OLAF. Such as joint press releases and recent ADM meetings where OLAF members took part.

LP also illustrated an important example of ADM-OLAF cooperation during the joint operation "Bellerophon". The operation detected €18 million of VAT evasion.

LP also mentioned the “Adria Customs project” co-funded by OLAF, which is aimed at strengthening customs cooperation in the Adriatic area by creating a common framework for customs controls to intensify the fight against crimes and customs frauds.

Katalin Serfőző (KS) from the Hungarian Prosecution Service started by introducing the composition and functions of the Communication and Press relations team in the Service and how the team operates.

KS works directly with two colleagues in the Communication and Press relations team (who are also prosecutors) while the rest of the network includes some 50 local spokespersons who are also prosecutors.

KS explained that local spokespersons use traditional communication methods to get their messages across, such as press statements, interviews in local news and radio and replying to journalist’s enquiries.

The central communication department supports and supervises the local spokespersons networks, updates the official webpage of the prosecution service and manages the communication on social media. They are also in charge of the press relations for the office of the Prosecutor-General.

KS concluded her presentation by indicating that the mention “decision pending” in the OLAF report table “Actions taken by judicial authorities” often leads to misinterpretation that the prosecution office is not working on the case. KS proposed therefore to use the wording “national investigation ongoing”.

Christos Andreou (CA) talked about the Cyprus Police social media campaign to increase police recruitment.

The freeze of hiring in the public sector from 2011 due to economic constraints combined with the retirement of older members created a 20% reduction in Police personnel.

In 2016, recruitment resumed but the number of applications did not meet the need for officers. CA explained that to overcome the problem several communication campaigns were launched, made up of various materials including a short video to promote the career as police officers, which was produced by the Police themselves (shown to the meeting).

Following the campaign, the number of applications significantly increased. Given the success of the first campaign, a second one was created, including another video.

CA said that posts on social media proved to be a good way not just to recruit new staff but also to revive the morale of existing police officers and improve the public opinion towards the police profession.

Toni Tiala (TT) from Finland’s Ministry of Finance gave a presentation on their efforts to fight fraud in the country by improving the transparency of Recovery and Resilience Funding (RRF).

TT explained the role that the Finnish Ministry of Finance plays as the coordinator of the RRF national recovery and resilience plans (total amount of Finnish share is €1.8 billion).

In line with Finland’s long tradition of data transparency, the national agencies responsible for daily management of the RRF funding and the State Treasury and Business Finland publish a list, and details of, all Finnish companies and other beneficiaries that received RRF funding on their websites. Given the amount of data available to citizens and especially journalists, many stories were published about which companies received the biggest shares. These stories are generally neutral in nature.

TT concluded by highlighting a request by a journalist eager to receive the Joint OLAF-Europol report Assessing the Threats to the Next Generation EU (NGEU) Fund. At the time of the request, the report had not been made public. However, thanks to some speedy communication between and OLAF the report is now available on Europol's website without a disclaimer.

Eric Allagapen (EA) from the Mission Interministérielle de coordination anti-fraude (MICAF) discussed their recent webinar on the fight against fraud and protection of the EU's financial interests. The initiative aimed at raising awareness on the fight against fraud, clarifying fraud-reporting obligations for French authorities and presenting the EDES database.

EA said that the webinar attracted some 350 agents from various administrations in charge of management and control and audit authority for the RRF.

For his presentation, **Luis Gonzalez** (LG) of the Guardia Civil Press Office explained how the Guardia Civil press office communicated the introduction of their new underwater drones to the public. The idea was to improve the capabilities of the Guardia Civil to fight drug smuggling. The new drones help inspect ships without being detected. The European Union Anti-Fraud program covered 80% of their cost.

In order to communicate about and raise awareness among the public on the importance of fighting smuggling, a press conference was organised in the port of Valencia to present the drones and give a practical demonstration. Following that, the Guardia Civil published another press release with all the technical details of the drone, highlighting OLAF's contribution and the fact that they were acquired with European funds.

Ivana Ramljak (IR) of the Ministry of Finance of Croatia explained the organisational changes that have taken place in the AFCOS Unit after it became a Sector and the new powers/jurisdiction it has acquired when performing administrative checks of EU funded projects.

IR also talked about what the AFCOS unit is planning to promote their anti-fraud communication activity (their first since 2009) and how they plan to put additional efforts into this matter.

IR also highlighted that the AFCOS Unit has an upcoming Technical Support Instrument project, (approved by the European Commission) due to start by the end of this year. The project's primary aim is to teach the necessary skills for performing administrative checks, drafting legal bases, working procedures and strategic documents. Improving transparency the public's trust in institutions is another of the campaign's outcomes. IR will gladly share the results of this campaign in a future OAFCN meeting.

IR further reflected on the potential future of the OAFCN with the aim of it becoming more practical/active and connected throughout the year and said that the Ministry of Finance of Croatia would welcome joint communication campaigns among OAFCN members.

Kevin Agius (KA) of the Internal Audit & Investigations Department (IAID) highlighted his department's plans for communication campaigns and activities in 2024. KA explained that in Malta there is a coordinating committee, formed by 16 different institutions, that takes care of coordinating the activities of different entities in charge of protecting and safeguarding public funds. The IAID, as chair of the coordinating committee, takes care of updating the National Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy (NAFCS), which includes twenty-three action points related to the strengthening of the fight against fraud and corruption. Several actions are dedicated to the development of training and awareness-raising campaigns.

In this perspective, a subcommittee responsible for communications has developed an action plan for the year 2024. It includes the development of a dedicated Media department, as well as the preparation of anti-corruption awareness campaigns on national TV, radio stations and social media. The budget comes from internal resources already allocated.

Tatiana Prievalska Bartosova (TPB), Department Unit National office for OLAF, Control Section presented a case on how the government Office of the Slovak Republic communicates and disseminates the AFCOS network partners report and the OLAF Annual report to the relevant stakeholders.

TPB explained how the timeline works, starting with the recompilation of data from the corresponding units data from the colleagues of the Unit National office for OLAF and from the members of the Working group for communication which consists of the AFCOS network partners and the subsequent drafting process of the report. The final report is then approved by the Steering committee for the protection of the EU financial interests in the Slovak republic. Once approved, the report is published on the webpage of the AFCOS networks partners, as well as on social media. The target audience for the report are state and public administration officers working with EU funds and the general public. In the preventive area, the Unit Department National office for OLAF also carries out training seminars on topics such as anti-competitive practices in public procurement, experiences in control and audit, how to detect fraudulent behavior, fraud risk management and the implementation system of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRF) targeted on the administrative capacities working with EU money.

There were various slogans at the seminars and events organised by the Unit National office for OLAF such as: “Let’s not allow EU taxpayers’ money to be misused!”, “Let’s protect together the financial interests of the EU, it’s also our money!” etc.

9. OLAF action plan and closing remarks

TZ closed the 33rd meeting of the OAFCN thanking those that came and contributed to the event.

TZ said that it was time to think about the OAFCN’s future, what members wanted the Network to do and how it should change. TZ noted that the OAFCN added a lot of value to OLAF and one of the questions is how that value can be maximised in the future.

TZ said that a short questionnaire relating to the future actions of the OAFCN would be distributed by OLAF within 2 weeks of the meeting.

TZ also stressed the importance of OAFCN members giving any materials, especially any audio/visual that their organisation has in relation to cooperation or interactions with OLAF.

10. Participants

Last name	First name	Organisation / Company	Country
Hristova	Radina	National Customs Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria	BULGARIA
Todorova	Tsvetelina	AFCOS Directorate	BULGARIA
Genova	Viara	Bulgarian National Customs Agency	BULGARIA

JURIĆ	Mirjana	Ministry of finance	CROATIA
Ramljak	Ivana	Ministry of Finance	CROATIA
Andreou	Christos	Cyprus Police	CYPRUS
Μιχαήλ	Μιχάλης	Cyprus Police	CYPRUS
VOREL	David	Customs Administrations of the Czech Republic	CZECH REPUBLIC
Lichtfeldt	Barbara	Police and Border Guard Board	ESTONIA
Belous	Jelizaveta	Estonian Police and Border Guard Board	ESTONIA
TIALA	Toni	Ministry of Finance, AFCOS	FINLAND
Salonen	Reetta	Finnish Customs	FINLAND
ALLAGAPEN	Eric	MICAF	FRANCE
Wagner	Albert	Central Customs Authority	GERMANY
Liedtke	Hendrik	Central Customs Authority	GERMANY
PAVLIKIANIS	KONSTANTINOS	National Transparency Authority (AFCOS Greece)	GREECE
Blatsos	Ioannis	Financial Crime Unit, Ministry of Finance	GREECE
TSIOROS-MAVRIAS	IOANNIS	Ministry of Finance / • Directorate General of the Financial Crime Unit (DG SDOE) / Department E' Financial Cases.	GREECE
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SAKELLARIOU	ATHANASIOS	National Transparency Authority (NTA) / AFCOS	GREECE
Terzis	Vasileios	IAPR	GREECE
Gajger	Georgina	AFCOS-HU	HUNGARY
Serfozo	Katalin	Office of the Prosecutor General	HUNGARY
Pisoni	Lorenzo	Italian Customs and Monopolies Agency	ITALY
Valeri	Mauro	Italian National Police	ITALY
Modesto	Armando	Guardia di Finanza	ITALY
De Franciscis	Giulia	State Court of Auditors	ITALY
CRUCIANI	CRUCIANO	IT-AFCOS	ITALY
Vetro	Chiara	Italian Court of Auditors	ITALY
Grīnvalde	Lelde	Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia (AFCOS)	LATVIA
Birziņa	Linda	Ministry of Finance	LATVIA
Teice-Mamaja	Evita	State Revenue Service	LATVIA
Martinonienė	Elena	General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Lithuania	LITHUANIA
Petkuvienė	Gabrielė	General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Lithuania	LITHUANIA
Gorovniovaite	Julija	Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania	LITHUANIA
Zdanauskaite	Modesta	Financial crime investigation service under the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania	LITHUANIA
Calleja	Kevin	Internal Audit and Investigations Department	MALTA
Agius	Kevin	IAID	MALTA

Çakiroglu	Yasmin	Douane Nederland/ Dutch Customs	NETHERLAND S
Stegeman	Mariska	Customs Netherlands	NETHERLAND S
Krzemien	Aleksander	Ministry of Finance	POLAND
Kwiecińska	Dorota	Ministry of Finance	POLAND
Cardoso	Jorge	National Republican Guard	PORTUGAL
RASCANU	CARMEN- GABRIELA	Fight Against Fraud Department	ROMANIA
Habarová	Alžbeta	Criminal Office of the Financial Administration	SLOVAKIA
PRIEVALSKA BARTOSOVA	Tatiana	Government Office of the Slovak Republic	SLOVAKIA
Kostelničák	Martin	FINANČNÁ SPRÁVA	SLOVAKIA
Kure	Irena	Ministry of finance - Budget Supervision Office of the Republic of Slovenia	SLOVENIA
Gonzalez Gonzalez	Luis Miguel	Guardia Civil	SPAIN
BERNÁCER	Teresa	Tax Agency	SPAIN
Konoplia	Olena	National Agency on Corruption Prevention	UKRAINE