

First Funding Round

Background information

For its first funding round, PMI IMPACT called for projects that have an impact on illegal trade and related crimes in the European Union, even if they are implemented elsewhere.

Organizations based anywhere in the world were invited to apply, however, all proposals had to directly relate to one or more of the PMI IMPACT focus areas and to demonstrate that they are likely to have a clear impact on the illegal tobacco trade, even if they tackle as well other forms of illegal trade and related crimes.

The call for expressions of interest for this first round was concluded in September 2016.

Why the EU?

The EU remains both a profitable target and an attractive operating environment for criminal networks.

Enabled by the international trade routes and the freedom of movement within the EU, criminals - with the incentive of significant profit margins - operate in a range of illicit sectors, including drugs, firearms, smuggling and counterfeiting of tobacco products and other goods, human trafficking, and other types of crime. Tobacco in particular, is one of the most common illegally traded goods in the EU, due to its high profit and low risk profile.

While the EU is uniquely positioned to disrupt the operation of criminal networks through its advanced legal framework, its controls, and its cooperation with non-EU countries and international organizations, illegal trade targeting the European market continues to evolve rapidly in scope, size, routes and actors.

These developments call for a renewed, more targeted approach against illegal trade in the EU and coordinated efforts from the private sector, government, law enforcement and civil society.

PMI IMPACT Expert Council Members

The Expert Council members for the first PMI IMPACT funding round were:

- Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni
- Ms. Suzanne Hayden
- Mr. Alain Juillet
- Dr. Paul Makin
- Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo
- Mr. Jürgen Storbeck
- Ms. Catherine Volz

