

# Russian war against Ukraine: Europol establishes Target Group on Sanctions

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Europol, the EU's Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, has established a dedicated Target Group on Sanctions within its European Financial and Economic Crime Centre (EFECC). The Group will serve as a central hub for sanction-related investigations.

This initiative will improve the tracking of illicit financial flows and asset seizures, ensuring a more coordinated response to sanctions evasion.

EFECC has already provided extensive analytical and operational support, cross-checking intelligence against Europol's databases and coordinating efforts between law enforcement agencies, customs authorities, asset recovery offices and financial intelligence units.

The investigations on sanctions circumvention are implemented as part of

'Operation OSCAR'. Launched on 11 April 2022, Operation OSCAR was established by Europol to strengthen financial investigations into assets linked to sanctioned individuals and entities following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. A total of 44 partners, including Eurojust and Frontex, are actively involved. By facilitating intelligence exchange, supporting financial investigations and enhancing international cooperation, Operation OSCAR enforces EU sanctions and combats financial crime.

To date, Europol has received more than 300 operational contributions in over 90 separate investigations developed as part of the operation.