



The EPPO and EU law: a step forward in integration

# STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (JULY 2023)

CHAIR: BENEDETTA UBERTAZZI

VICE-CHAIR: ANTONY ZHILKIN



## Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence: *EPPO: A New Frontier in Integration (EPPONFI)*

- This month (July), we were delighted to receive great news from the European Commission concerning our participation in the Call for Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence!
- Our proposal for the CoE **has been successfully selected by the Commission** and evaluated with **97 points** (100 points max.).
- The CoE will be active and financially supported starting from 2024 to 2026 (36 months).

**JEAN MONNET CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**





# I. MEDIA SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: ROBERTO SAVIANO

VICE CHAIR: SOFIA MAZZA



# NEW: Media Subcommittee (chaired by Roberto Saviano)

- This subcommittee investigating the relationship between the EPPO and the traditional media, as well as analysing the reasons why the traditional media are usually reluctant to divulge information about this enhanced cooperation.
- **We kindly ask you to subscribe to this subcommittee via our website (we have reached 200 members so far):**  
<https://www.steppo-eulaw.com/login/>

**JEAN MONNET MODULE**  
EPPO and EU law

Home About us Editorial board Case law ▾

### Login

Name / Surname *(Obbligatorio)*

Email *(Obbligatorio)*

Role *(Obbligatorio)*

Subcommittee member ▾


Subcommittee *(Obbligatorio)*

Media Subcommittee ▾

Reference professor *(Obbligatorio)*

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# PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR JULY 2023

- Next publication: “Roberto Saviano at the journalism festival of *Le Monde*; he spoke about EPPO”.
- We have planned an online meeting with Roberto Saviano and all the members on September;



## 2. COLLABORATE SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: LORENZO SALAZAR



# STEPPO'S ABSTRACT IN EUCRIM

- **Eucrim** is a journal and online platform by the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law (co-financed by the European Commission, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)).
- Thanks to **Lorenzo Salazar's** assistance, the Managing Editor of Eucrim has agreed to include an abstract about our Module and the CoE in the upcoming issue of 1/23.
- Currently, we are negotiating the content of this abstract.



## AN INTERVIEW WITH NEW EUROPEAN PROSECUTOR

- In cooperation with the Interviews Subcommittee, an interview is upcoming with the participation of a new Italian European Prosecutor (EP) Andrea Venegoni.
- The interview will be ready for publication, when the EP's mandate officially begins (29 July 2023).





# 3. INTERVIEWS SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: SERENA CACCIATORE



## UPDATE ON PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR JULY 2023

- Interview to to Concepción Sabadell Carnicero, Prosecutor of the Special Prosecutor's Office against Corruption and Organized Crime in Spain
- Interview to Andrea Venegoni
- We have planned the interview sessions on September

# UPDATE ON PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

- Scheduling the interview for the month of September



# 4. LAWYERS' SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: FABRIZIO DE' SANNA – FEDERICO IACOPO MAMOLI



## CRIMINAL LAWYER: FABRIZIO DE' SANNA

- Before the Court of Justice was proposed the first reference for a preliminary ruling concerning the activity of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, and more precisely the management of investigative activities.
- During these meetings we have had the opportunity to discuss the problem of insufficient harmonization - at EU level - in the field of **evidence**.
- Well, this problem has already had a first realization: in a cross-border investigation (involving Germany and Austria) **the measure already validated (seizure)** in the State in which the investigation was carried out, **has been called into question** in the State of execution.
- Consequently, the Vienna Court questioned the Union Court on the need for a review of all the **substantive requirements** of the investigation measure, also pointing out the risk that this might lead to a review of the judicial decision of another State.
- We await the Court's reply.

## CIVIL LAWYER: FEDERICO IACOPO MAMOLI

- I, in quality of head of Steppo civil lawyers committee, participated in the Association of Young Lawyers General Annual Meeting (AGAM) that took place in Milan on 28 June 2023.
- A new “board of directors” of AGAM was elected in that context. Such board and the new chairman showed a huge interest in “Steppo” themes both the new civil law commission of AGAM and the criminal law commission of it by proposing me to cooperate with them in the next future.
- They asked me to make an update on the new developments of Steppo. I explained to them the significant progress and success of Steppo that has just been awarded as “Center of excellence” by the European Union.
- We agreed that I’ll report to them more in details in September in consideration of the next decisions taken by our Steering Committee.

## CIVIL LAWYER: FEDERICO IACOPO MAMOLI

- I also attended the four days seminar “Talk to the future” organized by Milan Bar Association (Ordine Avvocati di Milano). In such venue several lawyers and professionals gathered to discuss topical legal subject matters and one of the main topics was the “fight of corruption and commercial fraud”.
- Most of the speakers insisted on the fact that, in consideration of the increasing number of this kind of criminal offences, new tools of intervention should be put in action. Also, the role of the European Public Prosecutor Office (EPPO) was mentioned and partly discussed by the attendees.
- I had a brief talk to some members of the Ordine Avvocati di Milano board starting to explore the most proper avenues to promote Steppo in the next future. They promised me to better collaborate in that respect from September onwards.

## UPDATE ON PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

- We are continuing to select and collect information on procedural activities and guarantees in different EU legal system.
- We have also planned a meeting with a EDP.



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# 5. PROSECUTOR'S SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: PIETRO SUCHAN



## UPDATE ON RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE EPPO

Carousel Fraud: the first big operation of the EPPO of Venice has been done with requests of seizures and of precautionary measures for people and estates and they have been ordered by the Judge of Preliminary investigations of Padua .

The measures have been executed simultaneously in Italy, Poland, Great Britain and other European countries which have subscribed the reinforced cooperation

The damage to the VAT is estimated in more than 26 Million Euros.

## UPDATE: SUMMER 2023

- The EDP of Rome has produced new «Sentenze» and «Ordinanze» of the Tribunale del Riesame of Palermo and Court of Cassation about a big Carousel Fraud in Palermo – The papers will be studied and an analysis will follow and will be published in a blog;
- The carousel fraud is about preventive seizures which have been requested and executed by the European Public Prosecutor's Office in Palermo;
- The execution was ordered by the European Public Prosecutor's Office of Madrid according to Art, 31 and 32 of the EPPO regulation.
- We encourage people to sign up to this Committee.

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# 6. ACADEMIC SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: ALEJANDRO HERNÁNDEZ LÓPEZ AND ILARIA STICCHI



## UPDATES ON ACADEMIC PAPERS

**Paul Le Fèvre** has recently published **“THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR AT A CROSSROADS - Chronicle of the European Public Prosecutor No. 2”**

The article provides an overview of the EPPO's activities in 2022, some data on the investigations carried out, the first convictions obtained, and some final thoughts on the risk of forum shopping in the cross-border investigations.

In 2022:

3318 reports (1,924 from individuals, 1,361 from public institutions or bodies)

865 investigations

20 convictions

Major investigation:

"Operation Amiral" 2.2 billion VAT fraud, almost all Member States involved, 9000 legal persons and 600 natural persons investigated

## UPDATES ON ACADEMIC PAPERS

- **Benedetta Minucci** has recently published on **Eurojus** (issue No 3, 2023) a new paper entitled «**La Procura europea e l'effettività della cooperazione giudiziaria in materia penale: tutele disomogenee e reali progressi**»

The contribution aims to examine the critical issues highlighted by the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor, in order to assess how and to what extent the EPPO has contributed to ensuring effectiveness in the judicial cooperation in criminal matters. The paper also deals with the preliminary ruling made by the Vienna Court of Appeal and pending before the Court of Justice (C-281/22), concerning the EPPO's Founding Regulation, on which the Advocate General already delivered an opinion on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

# UPDATES ON CASE LAW

- **Preliminary ruling question** referred to the CJEU by the **Oberlandesgericht Wien, Case C-281/22 G.K., G. K. e a. (Parquet européen)**  
The question concerns the nature of the review which the judicial authorities of the Member State of the Assistant European Public Prosecutor may carry out of the lawfulness of the investigative measures requested on their territory by the European Public Prosecutor Delegate in charge of the investigation. **Formal** or **substantive**?
- **OPINION OF ADVOCATE GENERAL ČAPETA, delivered on 22 June 2023:**
  - In the case of cross-border investigations, the court approving a measure to be carried out in the Member State of the assisting European Delegated Prosecutor may assess **only the aspects related to the execution of an investigative measure**
  - In the case of cross-border investigations, the court in the Member State of the assisting European Delegated Prosecutor **must accept the assessment by the handling European Delegated Prosecutor that the measure is justified**, whether or not the latter is approved by prior judicial authorisation of the court in the Member State of the handling European Delegated Prosecutor



# 7. JUDICIAL BODIES SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: ARTURO IADECOLA





## UPDATE ON PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR JULY 2023

- We are checking the latest decisions to add to the database regarding EU funds.

# UPDATE ON PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR JULY 2023

- We'll keep adding new decisions and abstracts to the database.



# 8. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: FLAVIA NDRIOLLARI  
GIANLUCA DI BIASI



# ACTIVITIES FOR JULY 2023

- Analysis of the most relevant issues emerged from:
  - a. the first case of conflict of jurisdiction between the Ordinary Prosecutor's Office of Brescia and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (investigation, conducted by Guardia di Finanza, of a tax fraud and related bribery of a financial police non-commissioned officer): Italian Supreme Court of Cassation ruling;
  - b. the opinion expressed by the Italian «Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura» about preliminary questions related to C-281/2022 case

# PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR JULY-AUGUST 2023

- Writing a report focussed on:
  - a. the operative matters related to the concrete applications of art.31 and 32 of EPPO Regulation and the possible need for a change of it;
  - b. the difference between the investigative tools provided by art. 31 and 32 of EPPO Regulation and the European Investigation order, provided by Directive 2014/41/EU.



# 9. NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

INTERIM CHAIR: (...)





# 10. CONNECT SUBCOMMITTEE

**CHAIR:** CARLOTTA ELENI, DIMITRI ELENI, NIDHI MEHRA



# INSTAGRAM

## Contenuti più popolari

In base alla copertura

Post



Storie



## Insight

17 giu - 16 lug

Account raggiunti

256  
+32,6% >

Account che hanno interagito

25  
+31,5% >

Numero totale di follower

267 >



# LinkedIn

## INSIGHTS



Collegamenti

119

### Analisi

 Solo per te



**70 visualizzazioni del profilo**

Scopri chi ha visitato il tuo profilo.



**530 impressioni del post**

Scopri chi sta interagendo con i tuoi post.

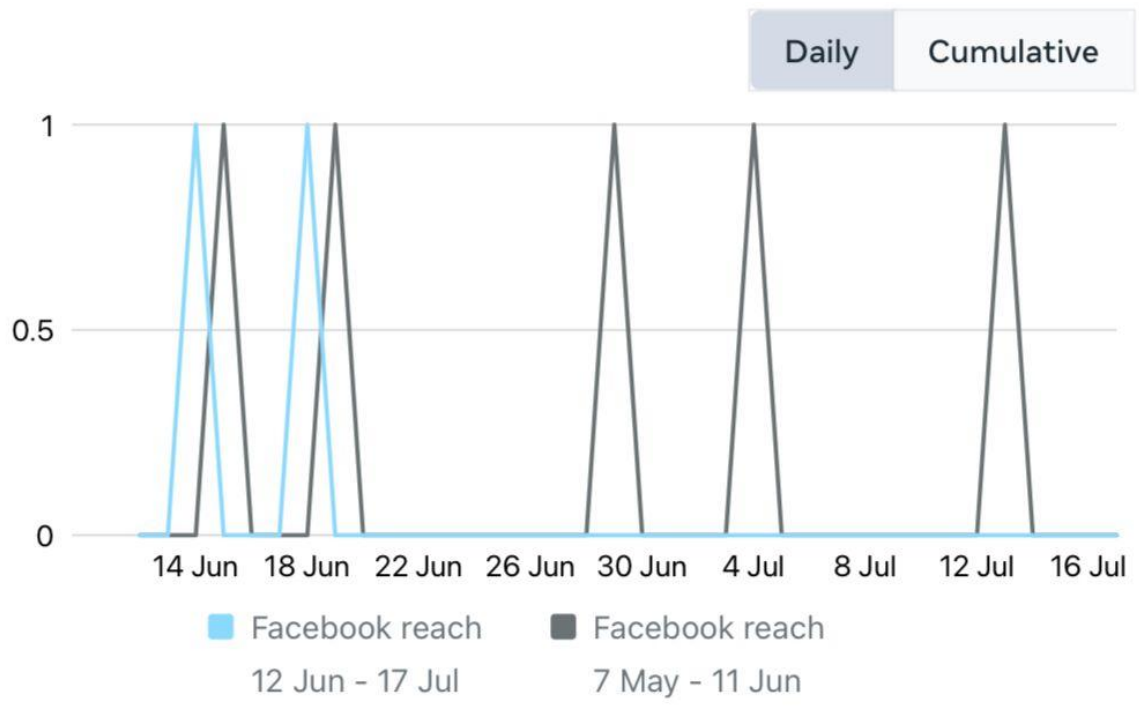


**2 comparse nei motori di ricerca**

Vedi quante volte compari nei risultati di ricerca.

unlike instagram for LinkedIn, the impressions for the latest posts vary from **70 but we had 530**, new profile views.

# FACEBOOK



facebook's **goal** will be to **increase followers** as much as impressions on posts are increasing

# TWITTER

Twitter dati

Modules participation in the eppo conference in Luxembourg

-54impressions

Proposal for a directive on combating corruption and the amendments to the eppo's internal rules

-23impressions

Finalising the selection of new European prosecutors

-15 impressions

Eppo and the banking supervisory authorities:ideas for a possible collaboration

-19impressions

twitter has had an

**increase** in post impressions.

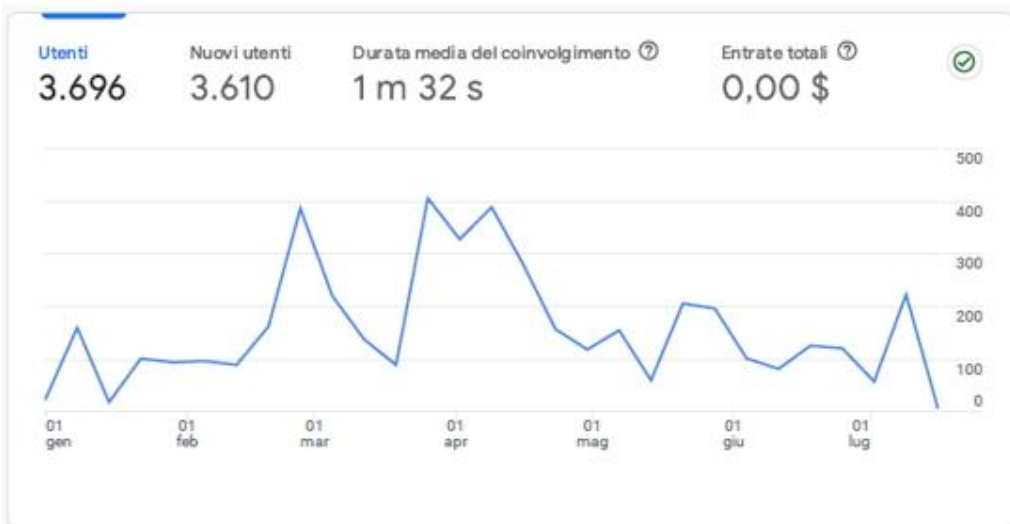
the increase varies from 19 impressions up to a **maximum of 56**

# WEBSITE

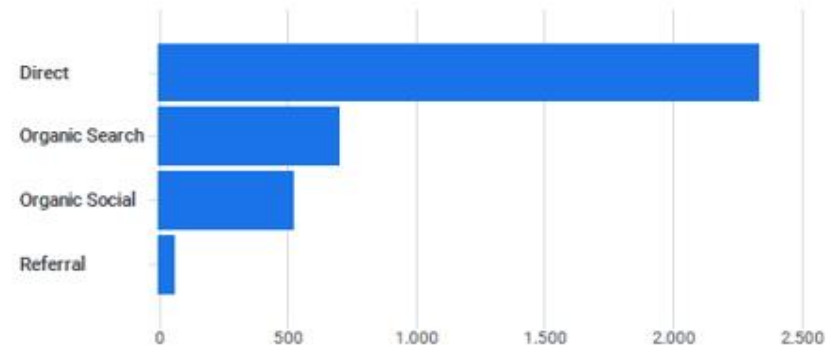


Steppe-eulaw  
www.steppe-eulaw.com

Quest'anno (da gennaio a oggi) 1 gen - 16 lug 2023



Nuovi utenti per Gruppo di canali predefinito del primo utente



[Visualizza acquisizione utenti](#) →

# annual website data

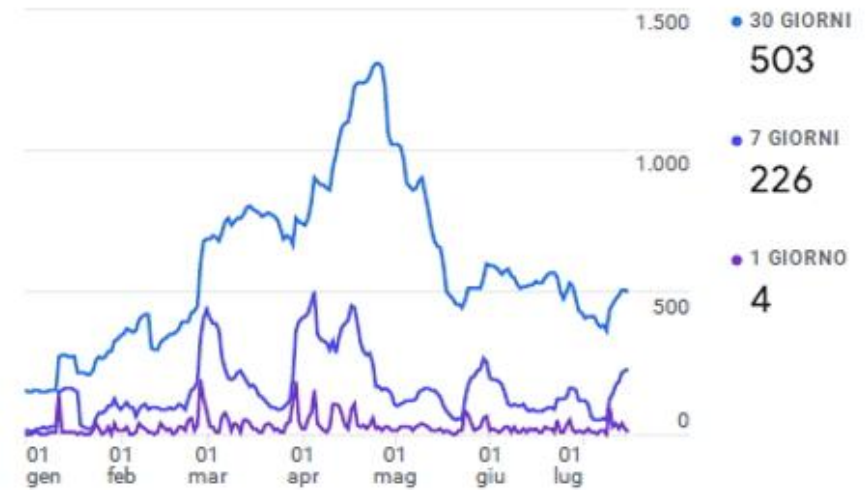
## Utenti per Paese



PAESE	UTENTI
Italy	2.947
United States	132
Netherlands	88
Luxembourg	65
Spain	61
Russia	49
Finland	47

[Visualizza paesi](#) →

## Attività utente nel tempo





# II. CREATE SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIRS: IMAN KHODRI, ESTELLA GAMBARA, VERONICA CARBONE



# UPDATE ON PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR MAY / JUNE 2023

- Creation of an evaluation form about the Jean Monnet module «The EPPO and EU Law: a step forward in integration» 2023;
- we also prepared a form to let the participants get their certificate of attendance.
- Publication of an article about the results of the evaluation form: we received **155 answers, which is a great result!** You can read it to know what the participants thought of the module and of the Steppo website.



## The EPPO and EU Law: a step forward in integration, second success in a row

Giu 8, 2023 | [Create Subcommittee](#)

Author: Estella Gambarà & Iman Khodri

Create subcommittee Milan, 08/06/2023

This Jean Monnet module on the EPPO was an initiative accredited by the Milan Bar Association and by the National Bar Council thanks

to Benedetta Ubertazzi, Associate Professor of EU Law,...

[leggi tutto](#)

## UPDATE ON PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR JUNE / JULY 2023

- Our co-chair Veronica Carbone participated with Dr. Bemer to the conference «*EPPO the way forward: new potentials and challenges*» at the EPPO, Luxembourg, 5-6 June 2023.
- A blog post about this experience will be soon published: you will see the great results achieved for the **future of the VR Game**.



# UPDATE ON PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR JULY/AUGUST 2023

- Collaboration with Editorial subcommittee to promote the new Media Subcommittee
- We filled out the forms for the PNRR project with high schools for the year 2024



# 12. SERIOUS GAME SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: FABRIZIA BEMER



## UPDATING: MEETING 15.06.2023

- **5 and 6 June:** Participation of **me and the student Veronica Carbone** to the closing conference of **the Luxembourg University** on EPPO (title: **EPPO THE WAY FORWARD – NEW POTENTIALS AND CHALLENGES**)
- Morning: talks at the EPPO Headquarter with **Mr. Petr Klement (EPP Czechia)** and **Mr Danilo Ceccarelli (EPP Italy)** - A meeting will follow in September with the presentation in front of the **College** to discuss on how to begin the collaboration;
- The Vr game has been presented by **me and Veronica Carbone** on the following day and it has been highly appreciated and many scholars , professors and also magistrates have asked many questions about it;
- Two more interviews on the widening of the field of competence will follow: the representant of the **Dutch Minister Mr Nicholas Franssen** and the Professor of the University of Catania, **Mrs. Grazia Maria Vagliasindi**

# UPDATING: MEETING 15.06.2023



# UPDATING: MEETING 15.06.2023



## UPDATING: MEETING 18.07.2023

- Dr Bemer and her team are working on the project phases to present the VR game to the European Public Prosecutor's Office in September/ October

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# 13. BANKING INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: DANIELE ALESSANDRO LUISON



## UPDATES - JULY 2023

- **Updates on EPPO's investigations related to Banking and Financial Institutions in Italy:**
  - 4 July 2023, Italy: €3 million seized in real estate and current accounts within an EPPO fraud investigation;
  - 5 July 2023, Italy: EPPO seizes €570 000 in investigation into fraud involving dairy products for schools.



## UPDATES - JULY 2023

- **4 July 2023, Italy: €3 million seized in real estate and current accounts within an EPPO fraud investigation**

In an investigation led by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Turin, 13 properties, 4 plots of land and €400 000 of money in current accounts were seized in several cities in Italy by the Italian Financial Police (Guardia di Finanza) from Asti. Four suspects are believed to have fraudulently obtained around €3 million in EU and national funds to present their machines for food packaging at trade fairs abroad.

Between 2017 and 2020, three board members and the manager of the company supposedly provided false information (e.g. alteration of financial statements) to the officials responsible for disbursing loans and received credits for over € 2.8 million from the EU program for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized enterprises (COSME) and almost € 70 000 from national funds.

The investigation by the Guardia di Finanza revealed that the actual financial situation of the company involved in the fraud was critical and that they had suffered an operational loss of €11.9 million and a negative net worth of €7.3 million at the end of 2019.

The four suspects were reported to the EPPO office in Turin in February 2022 for aggravated fraud against the European Union, undue receipt of public funds and fraudulent bankruptcy. The criminal proceedings are still at the preliminary investigation stage, and the responsibility of the suspects will be finally established in the event of a conviction.

## UPDATES - JULY 2023

- **5 July 2023, Italy: EPPO seizes €570 000 in investigation into fraud involving dairy products for schools**

On the radar of the EPPO is a company based in Puglia, acting on behalf of a temporary association of companies that won a procurement procedure to supply dairy products to schools – a EU scheme to help children develop healthy eating habits, financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF). For that purpose, the company signed a contract with the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policy (MIPAAF).

On 2019, the legal representative of the company submitted to the Italian agricultural payments agency AGEA (Agenzia per le erogazioni in agricoltura) and MIPAAF a payment request of €570 000, for the expenses incurred for the provision and distribution of food.

However, following controls by AGEA, several elements brought into question the reliability of the documents submitted by the company. According to the investigation, the company submitted fraudulent bank statements and falsified account books to certify that it had paid the suppliers. While the food was supplied, the evidence shows that the company did not actually pay any of the invoices from its suppliers, and was therefore not entitled to reimbursement.

In order to recover the damage to the EU budget, the pre-trial Judge of the Court of Bari issued a freezing order of €570 000, which was executed in full, by freezing the bank account of the company.

# PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Study and analysis of future prospects with a view to gradual harmonization.
- Updates on new EPPO's investigations in Italy



# 14. AUDIT INSTITUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: ANTONIO FORTAREZZA



# UPDATE ON MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

## WELCOME TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE



Cesare Montagna

*Anti Money Laundering Senior Learning Advisor Compliance Specialist*

*Anti-Money Laundering Commission of the Milan Association of Chartered Accountants*

# UPDATE

## EPPO and the relevance of a shared reference system at european scale in the contrast system to laundering

Apr 24, 2023 | Audit Institutions Subcommittee

- We have prepared an article on EPPO and contrast system to laundering



# UPDATE



Ordine dei Dottori Commercialisti  
e degli Esperti Contabili

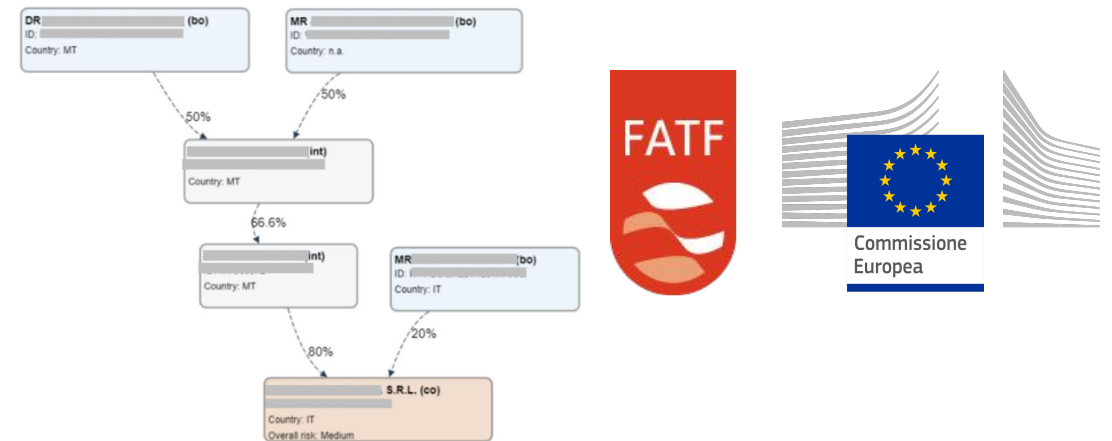
**MILANO**

- Related aspects have been taken care of Training event accreditation on Chartered Accountants of Milan

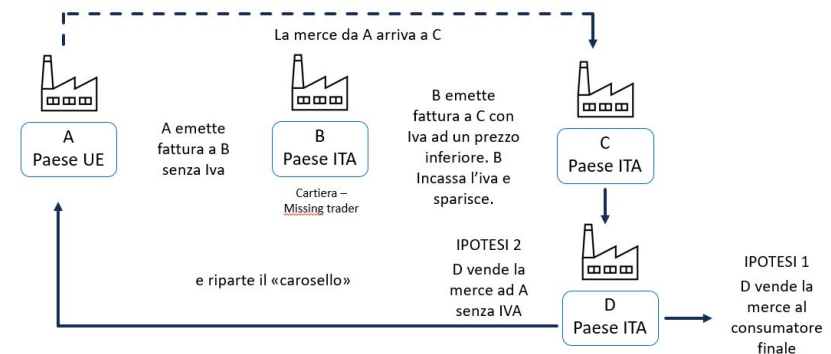
THE EPPO AND EU LAW: A STEP FORWARD IN INTEGRATION  
THE 2ND CYCLE OF THE MODULE (2023)

# PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR JUNE 2022

- Prepare an article on the beneficial owner in the EU



- Prepare an article on carousel fraud in the EU







# EDITORIAL BOARD – from 15/03/2023

COORDINATOR: BENEDETTA CARLA MARIA ANGELA UBERTAZZI

DIRECTOR: ANTONIO FORTAREZZA

EDITOR IN CHIEF: GIULIA VARISCO

COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING MANAGER: SOFIA MAZZA

# ACTIVITIES

In addition to the production of high quality content, we have published a very interesting article by Sofia Mazza from our editorial staff to launch Roberto Saviano's new activities

## EPPO: the small steps of the next generation EU

Giu 23, 2023 | Editorial board, Media Subcommittee



Author: *Sofia Mazza* - Law student Milano-Bicocca University

Communication and marketing manager - Steppo EULaw Editorial board

Date: 20/06/2023

Translator: Sonia M'gayedi

# ACTIVITIES

we have improved the management of information flows within the editorial staff and we are progressing very well

STEP 1

receipt of articles  
from various authors

STEP 2

layout of texts and  
translation of articles

STEP 3

publication of the  
article on the blog

STEP 4

publication of the  
article on social  
media

## EVALUATION ELEMENT

we are evaluating that  
some articles will be  
published in Italian

- We noticed that google searches are all in Italian;
- Our site is practically indexed in English;
- we have to upload some content in Italian to increase visibility;



# 15. HIGH SCHOOL SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: ALESSANDRO FUMAGALLI



# ACTIVITIES FOR JULY 2023

- Invitation mail addressed to the PCTO representatives of the institute, to other interested teachers and to the students who participated in STEPPO PCTO to enroll in the subcommittee of Roberto Saviano

# PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR AUGUST 2023

- Possible compilation of the forms proposed by the PCTO Bicocca Office for the new STEPPO 2023-24 PCTO Project



# 16. REAL ESTATE SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: MARINA PALMULLI





# ACTIVITIES FOR JULY-AUGUST 2023

- Implement contact with colleagues of other companies and Association during events
- Hold meeting with Training school for Agents connected with a big National Association (Milan level for the moment) and arranged meeting with National Association (Milan level)

# PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER 2023

- New article on risk exposure of real estate area and new actions in the EU involving cooperation with EPPO and other EU bodies
- In September organising a meeting on how to introduce subject into Training course and possible participation to next year course (1-2 lessons)