

Successful operations

INTERPOL

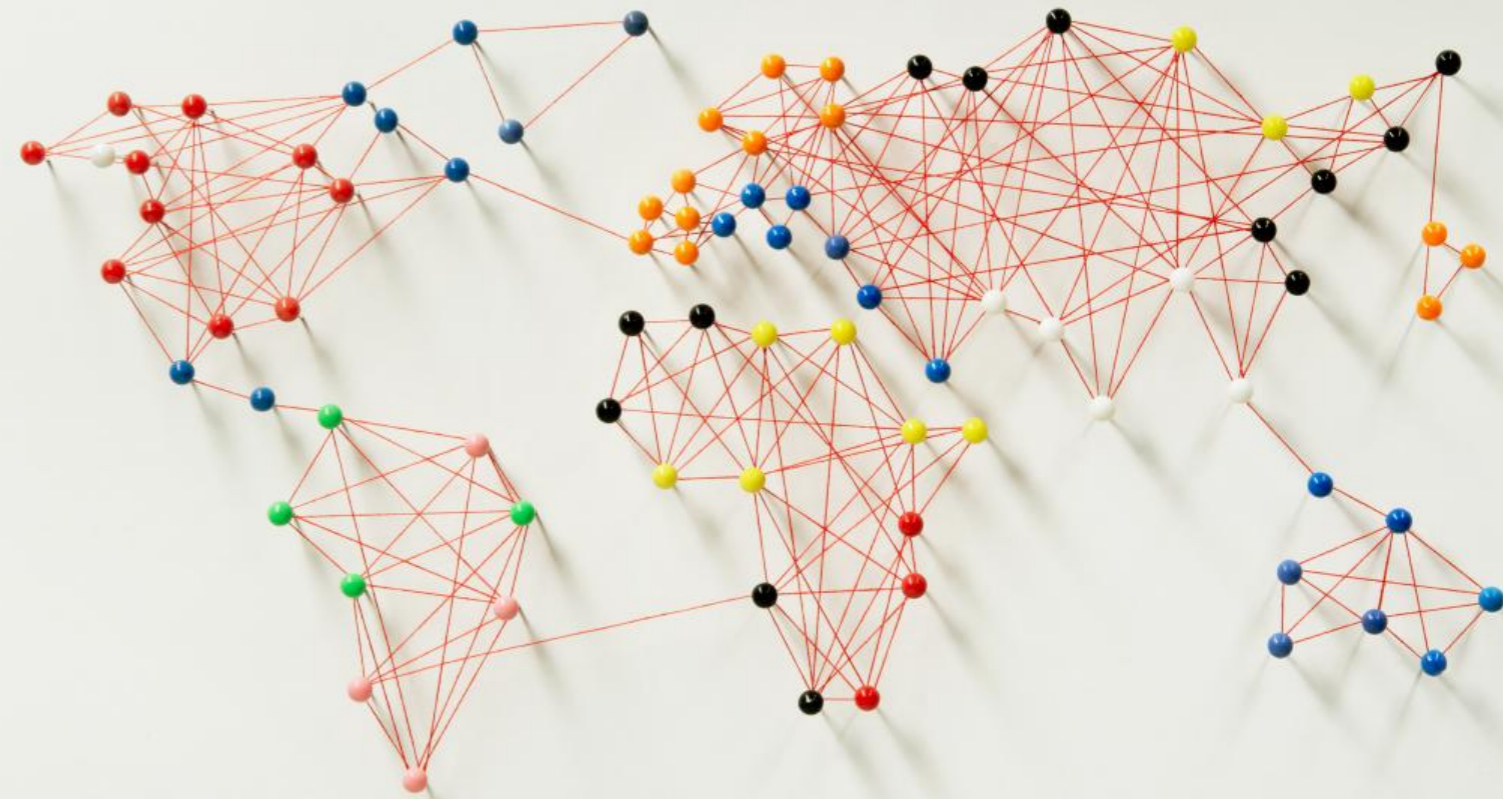
- In 2012, the good level of cooperation within the INTERPOL framework between EULEX and relevant law enforcement authorities in Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Italy and Slovenia led to the arrest of 18 suspects, charged with organised crime and smuggling of migrants. Two of them were Kosovo Albanians, arrested in Kosovo by a joint EULEX-Kosovo Police investigation team.

EUROPOL

- On 29 January 2013, 10 European countries and EULEX were involved in a common action supported and coordinated by EUROPOL, which resulted in the arrest of 103 persons suspected of being part of a people-smuggling network. Three persons were also arrested in Kosovo on the same day as part of this Europe-wide common action; 12 others of the same criminal network had already been arrested in Kosovo in 2011 and 2012.
- The Italy-led and EUROPOL-supported 'Joint Police Operation Europe 2013', which resulted in the seizure of 129 stolen vehicles with an estimated value of almost EUR 2 million, saw the participation of law enforcement authorities from Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and the United Kingdom, as well as the participation of EULEX, Eurojust, Frontex and INTERPOL.
- On 21 March 2018, Slovenia, Kosovo, EULEX and EUROPOL worked together to arrest 12 migrant smugglers operating in the Balkans, eight of which in Kosovo.
- In March 2021, following a request by the Kosovo Police, EULEX facilitated the exchange of information via EUROPOL on a major joint operation conducted jointly by EUROPOL, Albania and several EU Member States targeting two organized crime groups dealing with trafficking in human beings and document forgery.

Protocol on Police Cooperation between EULEX and the Serbian Ministry of Interior

- On 27 March 2020, the Serbian Police asked EULEX to check with the Kosovo Police whether a missing person travelling from Kosovo to Serbia was arrested or admitted to any hospital in Kosovo. The Kosovo Police immediately replied that searches made within prisons, hospitals and all COVID-19 quarantine centers were negative. On the same day, the car of the missing person was found in a village near a Common Crossing Point with Serbia and on 3 May 2020 the missing person was found dead. Throughout this operation, the cooperation between the two law enforcement agencies was excellent.
- On 23 March 2021, EULEX facilitated the return of confiscated equipment to the Kosovo Police, including a vehicle, personal weapons, and other police equipment. The equipment was confiscated in March 2012 when Serbian police officers arrested two Kosovo police officers, who were later released.
- On 28 May 2021, a 31 year-old Serbian citizen, traveling by motorcycle from Belgrade, Serbia to Gračanica/Graçanicë, Kosovo went missing. The next day, the Serbian authorities sent an urgent request to EULEX asking for an investigation on the missing person's whereabouts. On 30 May 2021, the person was found alive in a precipice. Members from EULEX's Formed Police Unit, who were on reconnaissance patrol, gave first aid to the injured person, who was later transferred to a hospital.
- On 14 June 2021, the Serbian authorities sent an urgent message to EULEX reading that a male individual went to a village in Serbia and raped a 14 year-old girl in order to marry her. On 15 June 2021, the Kosovo Police entered the suspect's house, where the perpetrator and the missing underage victim were found. The suspect and the victim were escorted to the police station and based on the order of the State Prosecutor the suspect was kept in detention for 48 hours. The case was considered as rape and the underage victim was placed in a shelter for victims of gender-based violence.



International Police Cooperation in a Nutshell



How does the exchange of information work?

- 1) Between Kosovo and various countries, it is based on bilateral agreements on police cooperation.
- 2) Between the Kosovo Police and the Serbian Ministry of Interior, it is facilitated through EULEX based on the Protocol on Police Cooperation between EULEX and the Serbian Ministry of Interior.
- 3) Between the Kosovo Police and EUROPOL, it is facilitated through the EULEX-run EUROPOL-SIENA Swedish Desk. On 28 July 2020, a Working Arrangement establishing cooperative relations between Kosovo's law enforcement authorities and EUROPOL entered into force. In September 2021, Kosovo announced it will soon appoint a Liaison Officer to EUROPOL. The Working Arrangement will greatly enhance direct cooperation between Kosovo and EUROPOL.
- 4) Between the Kosovo Police and the National Central Bureaus of INTERPOL, it is facilitated through the Interpol Liaison Office within UNMIK. EULEX experts are embedded in the UNMIK Interpol Liaison Office.

Why is international police cooperation important?

Thanks to international police cooperation mechanisms, credible data is timely available to allow the law enforcement authorities to:

- prevent and combat organized crime, terrorism, and other forms of serious crime;
- investigate serious and organized crime, cross-border crime, and other forms of serious crime;
- arrest a criminal;
- solve crimes with an international dimension;
- share criminal data and intelligence with other countries.

What is the role of EULEX?

EULEX supports the Kosovo Police in the field of international police cooperation by facilitating the exchange of information between the Kosovo Police and INTERPOL, EUROPOL or the Serbian Ministry of Interior through secure channels. From 2008 until June 2018, this cooperation has resulted in more than 100 arrests.

EULEX has been organizing capacity-building training courses and study visits for Kosovo Police representatives.

Number of requests received and sent by EULEX from 2017 to 2021:

	INTERPOL channel	EUROPOL channel	Protocol between EULEX and the Serbian Ministry of Interior
2017	2241	117	239
2018	1717	115	208
2019	2740	292	281
2020	1760	340	702
2021 (until 09.11.2021)	1124	530	752

Training courses and on-site visits organized by EULEX

- 2015 ▶ Training for staff of the International Law Enforcement Coordination Unit (ILECU) of the Kosovo Police on INTERPOL and EUROPOL standards for communication and respective rules and regulations.
- 2016 ▶ Workshop for Kosovo Customs and Kosovo Police staff on how to prevent and combat trafficking of illicit goods.
- 2016 ▶ Training session for the Kosovo Police on international police cooperation instruments and channels.
- 2016 ▶ Training on INTERPOL and EUROPOL standards for communication, data protection issues, and rules and regulations governing operational activities of the National Central Bureau.
- 2016 ▶ Study visit of ILECU representatives to the INTERPOL National Central Bureau of Athens, Greece.
- 2017 ▶ Study visit for ILECU representatives to EUROPOL's HQ in The Hague, the Netherlands.
- 2018 ▶ Training for ILECU representatives on cultural heritage protection in Rome, Italy.
- 2018 ▶ Study visit for Kosovo Police representatives to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) in Brussels, Belgium.
- 2019 ▶ Training on international police cooperation principles for Kosovo Police representatives at the Criminal Intelligence Service in Austria.
- 2019 ▶ Workshop for Kosovo Police officers on how to counter environmental crime.
- 2019 ▶ Study visit for Kosovo Police representatives to the Italian Carabinieri Command for the Protection of the Environment Headquarters in Rome, Italy.
- 2021 ▶ Meetings of EUROPOL experts with representatives of the Kosovo Police and the Kosovo Forensic Agency on how EUROPOL can support Kosovo in its fight against currency counterfeiting.