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ANNEX 1

**Annual Work Programme for Pericles 2020 and the financing for the implementation of
the Pericles 2020 Programme in 2016**

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION DECISION

of

XXX

**Concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2016 of the Pericles 2020
Programme**

ANNEX

Annual Work Programme for Pericles 2020 and the financing for the implementation of the Pericles 2020 Programme in 2016

1.1. Introduction

This is the Annual Work Programme (AWP) for the implementation of the Pericles 2020 programme 2014-2020 established by Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 ("the Programme"). Pericles 2020 is a programme establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting.

On the basis of the objectives stated in the Programme, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for the year 2016 as indicated below.

The Programme will be implemented with the actions mentioned in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 331/2014.

The budget breakdown is the following:

The amount of appropriations allocated under Article 01 02 04 of the budget of the European Union is EUR 1 038 500¹ in 2016 (in current prices). The assistance in the context of this Programme will take one of the following forms:

- Grants for specific projects proposed by the competent national authorities following calls for proposals, the details of which are described below. It is planned to allocate EUR 700 000 to grants;
- Service contracts (procurements) concerning the organisation of trainings (such as conferences, staff exchanges and workshops), as well as conducting studies. It is planned to allocate EUR 338 500 to these measures organised by the Commission.

The EU's financial support takes the form of:

Grant agreements with a maximum co-financing rate of 75% (contribution of the EU in relation to the total eligible costs incurred for the action). In exceptional and duly justified cases, defined in the annual work programmes, the co-financing rate shall not exceed 90% of the eligible costs.

Such duly justified cases defined for this work programme include, in particular:

- Conferences, seminars and workshops taking place in third countries identified in priority action point b. of the Pericles 2020 Strategy².
- Actions addressing the second and third indent of priority action point d. of the Pericles 2020 Strategy.
- Actions introduced by competent national authorities that did not apply for Pericles funding in the calendar years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

¹ Subject to the approval of the Annual Budget 2016 by the Budgetary Authority.

² Update of the Pericles 2020 strategy: priority action points (see Appendix).

Legal basis

1. Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles 2020' programme) and repealing Council Decisions 2001/923/EC, 2001/924/EC, 2006/75/EC, 2006/76/EC, 2006/849/EC and 2006/850/EC³.
2. Council Regulation (EU) 2015/768 of 11 May 2015 extending to the non-participating Member States the application of Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles 2020' programme)⁴.

Budget line and budget allocation

The amount of appropriations allocated under Article 01 02 04 of the budget of the European Union is EUR 1 038 500 in 2016.

According to Article 9(2) of the basic act and its Annex, 100% of the budget will be allocated to the eligible actions⁵ (listed in Article 8(2)):

- Exchange and dissemination of information;
- Technical, scientific and operational assistance;
- Grants to finance the purchase of equipment to be used by specialised anti-counterfeiting authorities.

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Priorities: the priorities on which the Pericles Programme is based in 2016 are listed in the update of the Pericles Strategy 2016⁶. They have been endorsed by the Euro Counterfeiting Experts Group (ECEG), as provided for by Council Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001 of 28 June 2001. They are as follows:

- supporting activities aimed at improving cooperation among those Member States which are particularly affected by the production and distribution of counterfeits;
- fostering cooperation with authorities of those third countries where there is suspicion of or evidence for counterfeit euro production;
- maintaining an efficient framework for the protection of the euro in South Eastern Europe;
- new developments: security features or authentication methods, the distribution of counterfeits and raw materials on the internet and the involvement of Member States' customs authorities in the fight against currency counterfeiting.

³ OJ L 103, 5.4.2014, p. 1, hereinafter: the basic act.

⁴ OJ L 121, 14.5.2015, p. 1.

⁵ According to the Annex to the basic act, within the financial envelope for the Programme as set out in Article 9, a minimum of 90% of the budget shall be allocated to the eligible actions listed in Article 8(2).

⁶ Update of the Pericles 2020 strategy: priority action points (see Appendix).

Objectives:

The general objective⁷ of the Pericles 2020 Programme shall be to prevent and combat counterfeiting and related fraud, thus enhancing the competitiveness of the Union's economy and securing the sustainability of public finances.

The specific objective⁸ of the Programme shall be to protect euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and related fraud, by supporting and supplementing the measures undertaken by the Member States and assisting the competent national and Union authorities in their efforts to develop among themselves and with the Commission a close and regular cooperation and an exchange of best practice, where appropriate including third countries and international organisations.

Expected results:

- higher capacity of the national experts to address issues related to counterfeiting of the euro;
- strengthening of the cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities in relation to the protection of the euro against counterfeiting, both inside and outside the EU;
- improve knowledge on the legislation and administrative practices concerning the protection of the euro;
- harmonisation of the administrative practices in relation to the relevant legislation in different Member States;
- improving cooperation within the European Union and improving its relations with third countries;
- strengthening the technical capacity of third country agencies to investigate euro counterfeiting.

Implementation

The Programme will be implemented by the Commission in cooperation with the Member States, through regular consultations at different stages of the implementation of the Programme, within the Euro Counterfeiting Experts Group (ECEG)⁹, taking into account relevant measures undertaken by other competent entities, in particular the ECB and Europol¹⁰, as well as the multi-annual character of the projects.

Considering the nature and scope of actions planned as well as the nature of the authorities involved, the initiatives being supported should develop synergies and complementarities with Law Enforcement Training Schemes - LETS (COM(2013) 172 final) and with the Internal Security Fund - ISF.

The Commission will regularly report on the results of the actions supported by the Programme and will provide an annual report on results to the European Parliament and to the Council as stipulated in Art.13(3) of the basic act.

⁷ Article 3 of the basic act.

⁸ Article 4 of the basic act.

⁹ Referred to in Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001.

¹⁰ As stipulated in Article 13 of the basic act.

1.2. Grants

The indicative overall budgetary allocation reserved for grants in 2016 amounts to € 700 000.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The activities of the programme shall be implemented in conformity with Article 7 defining target groups and joint actions, and shall include:

- (a) exchange and dissemination of information, in particular through organising workshops, meetings and seminars, including training, targeted placements and exchanges of staff of competent national authorities and other similar actions (see Article 8(2)(a) of the basic act);
- (b) technical, scientific and operational assistance, as appears necessary as part of the Programme including in particular the actions mentioned in Article 8(2)(b) of the basic act;
- (c) grants to finance the purchase of equipment to be used by specialised anti counterfeiting authorities of third countries for protecting the euro against counterfeiting, in compliance with Article 10(3) and Article 8(2)(c) of the basic act.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

The Commission selects the projects submitted by the Member States on the basis of the following criteria:

a. Eligibility criteria

Bodies eligible for funding under the Programme shall be the competent national authorities as defined in point (b) of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001¹¹.

To be eligible for co-financing, measures must demonstrate the transnational and multidisciplinary aspects of the fight against counterfeiting.

b. Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, applicants shall demonstrate the operational resources (technical, management) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully implement the proposed action.

Where appropriate, the applicant shall demonstrate that it has the financial capacity enabling it to perform the tasks involved in the project as shown by the annual accounts (balance and profit and loss account) for the last financial year for which accounts have been closed. The financial capacity requirement does not apply to national and regional administrations.

¹¹ Article 5 of the basic act.

c. Award criteria

Applications submitted by applicants that fulfil the eligibility and selection criteria indicated above will be assessed on the basis of the award criteria mentioned below:

- compliance with the Programme's objectives as defined above;
- complementarity with previous, current or future projects carried out or planned as part of national or EU action in the field of combating currency counterfeiting;
- European dimension, including in particular aspects that relate to cooperation with the ECB and Europol;
- the intrinsic quality of the project in terms of its conception, organisation, presentation and objectives;
- cost-effectiveness ratio;
- the impact of the anticipated results on the attainment of the Programme's objectives.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the calls for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
Date of publication of the First Call on the Commission website	[First Semester 2016]	[EUR 700 000] in total
Deadline for the submission of proposals, First Call, first deadline	[First Semester 2016]	[EUR 350 000]
Deadline for the submission of proposals, First Call, second deadline	[Second Semester 2016]	[EUR 350 000]
Date of publication of the Second Call on the Commission website (if necessary)	[Second Semester 2016]	[Remaining available budget...]

1.3. Procurement

The indicative overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2016 amounts to EUR 338 500.

Procured actions will focus on the implementation of the priorities of the Pericles strategy 2016¹² complementing grant agreements.

In implementing these actions, the Commission may choose to use the services of a firm specialised in organising events under a framework contract. The number of contracts stipulated under existing framework contracts depends on the size and the type of planned actions and could indicatively concern up to 6 actions.

Indicative time framework for the procurement contracts: second semester 2016.

¹² Update of the Pericles 2020 strategy: priority action points (see Appendix).

APPENDIX

Update of the Pericles 2020 strategy

A. priority action points

This appendix updates the previous Pericles Strategy¹³ and describes the priority action points of the Pericles implementation for the upcoming year. It is presented to the ECEG experts¹⁴.

These priorities could be adapted in case of upcoming unexpected new threats in relation to the protection of the euro which require activities financed under the Annual Work Programme for 2016.

The actions on which the Pericles programme will focus in 2016 are the following¹⁵:

a. Supporting activities aimed at improving cooperation among those Member States which are particularly affected by the production and distribution of counterfeits

Within the European Union, Italy is the most sensitive country with respect to the production of counterfeit euro coins and banknotes. Italy has dismantled the highest number of dangerous print shops and illegal mints in Europe since 2002¹⁶. There is concrete suspicion that about 80% of dangerous counterfeit euro banknotes in circulation continue to be produced in the area of Naples (common classes denominated "Napoli group")¹⁷.

France¹⁸, Italy¹⁹ and Spain²⁰ are subject to the largest distribution of counterfeit euro banknotes, with respectively 44,5%, 18,5% and 12% of counterfeit banknotes in circulation found in these countries²¹. This is also attested by the numerous seizures carried out²². With respect to counterfeit coins, Italy and Germany are subject to the largest distribution, representing respectively 26,6% and 23,6% of counterfeit coins found in circulation. Spain and France follow, with respectively 13,7% and 11% of counterfeit coins found in these countries²³.

Implementation:

Actions focusing on cooperation between France, Spain and Italy, such as workshops and staff exchanges targeting both production and distribution.

Actions focused on countering counterfeit coin distribution in Germany and Italy.

¹³ Ares(2014)3967843 endorsed in the ECEG of 12 November 2014.

¹⁴ In line with Article 13(1) of Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the "Pericles 2020" programme.

¹⁵ The priorities of the "Pericles 2020" programme have been endorsed by the Euro Counterfeiting Experts Group (ECEG), as provided for by Council Regulation (EC) 1338/2001 of 28 June 2001.

¹⁶ Information received during Euro Counterfeiting Expert Group (ECEG) meetings indicating that 47 illegal mints and print shops dismantled from 2002 to 2013.

¹⁷ Europol (2015). *Report on Euro Counterfeiting 2014*.

¹⁸ E.g.: INHESJ/OCRDP (2014). *Rapport Annuel 2014*: the report notes that France continues to find the highest amount of counterfeit money in circulation of all EU Member States.

¹⁹ Banca d'Italia (2014). *Trends in counterfeiting*, press release, 18 June.

²⁰ E.g.: Policia Nacional de Espana (2014). *La policia nacional localiza al principal falsificador de billetes de Euro de Espana*, press release, 22 January: in 2013, a total value of 1.7 million in counterfeit euros was seized in Spain by the national police.

²¹ Europol (2015). *Report on Euro Counterfeiting 2014*.

²² E.g.: Policia Nacional de Espana (2014). *La Policia Nacional detiene en Albacete a un importador de billetes falsos elaborados en Italia*, press release, 03 May; Policia Nacional de Espana (2014). *Diez detenidos y 8.000 Euros en billetes falsos intervenidos en Alicante*, press release, 18 January; Police Nationale de France (2014) *Faux Monnayeurs en Famille*, press release, 23 April; Police Nationale de France (2013).

²³ ETSC (2015). *Annual report on euro coin counterfeiting*.

b. Fostering cooperation with authorities of those third countries where there is suspicion of or evidence for counterfeit euro production

China

The involvement of Chinese criminality in producing counterfeit money is increasing; criminals based in China are not only providing raw materials for producing counterfeit euros such as holograms²⁴, but they have also become directly involved in the production phase. In December 2014, 306 000 coins produced in China were seized by the Italian authorities in the port of Naples²⁵. The economic and demographic size of China as well as the proven contacts between Chinese nationals and organised crime in the EU increases the risks of currency counterfeiting (production and distribution). There is a concrete need for cooperation and awareness raising actions targeting China.

Colombia and Peru

Outside the EU, the highest quality and largest quantity of counterfeit euros are produced in Colombia²⁶ and Peru²⁷, representing potential threats for the euro.

Implementation:

Actions such as conferences and staff exchanges aimed at raising awareness and establishing and developing close cooperation with the relevant Chinese authorities.

Staff exchanges, technical/tactical trainings and networking events involving Peruvian and Colombian competent national authorities.

Purchase of equipment for competent national authorities of non-EU Member States²⁸.

c. Maintaining an efficient framework for the protection of the euro in South Eastern Europe

Europol/Interpol consider this area one of the most sensitive regions in Europe with respect to euro counterfeiting. Because of their strategic geographical position close to the euro area, all countries in this region are considered to be both transit areas and potential production sites. In addition, Montenegro and Kosovo UNSCR 1244 use the euro as their only official currency. Turkey represents a risk in terms of possible transit and production of counterfeit currency. Centralisation of information in the country, cooperation among competent national authorities and with European authorities still leaves room for improvement.

South Eastern European countries have close ties with EU Member States, resulting in an increased movement of persons and goods from and to the European Union. Links

²⁴ Information received during Euro Counterfeiting Expert Group (ECEG) meetings: in 2009, the Spanish Police carried out a successful operation involving holograms produced in China and used on counterfeit euro notes; counterfeit holograms for banknotes appeared for sale on the Chinese "alibaba" website. The ECB is establishing contact with the competent authorities to raise awareness on this phenomenon.

²⁵ Europol (2015). *Report on Euro Counterfeiting 2014*.

²⁶ E.g.: Europol. (2014) *International police operation busts Colombian currency counterfeiters*, press release, 17 March : in March 2014, a value of 600 000 in counterfeit euros was seized in Bogota.

²⁷ E.g.: Europol. (2014): in August 2014, a value of 483 000 in counterfeit euro's was seized in Lima; see also Europol. (2012) *Four million counterfeit euros confiscated in Peru*, press statement, 19 December.

²⁸ Provided for in Article 8(c) of Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles 2020' programme).

between the Euro area and Balkans are also demonstrated by the dismantling of a printshop in September 2014 by the Italian and Romanian police, where counterfeit euro banknotes with an overall value of 20 million euro were seized²⁹. Since this action, counterfeiting of the euro has continued in this region³⁰. Indeed, Europol notes that Italian organised crime groups are relocating their printshops to other European countries such as Romania³¹.

Bulgarian organised crime continues to represent a threat due to its involvement in the production of high quality counterfeit euro banknotes and it is linked to criminal organisations operating in other countries in the region such as Greece³². The region represents an active threat to the euro, as demonstrated by the continuous successful police operations taking place³³.

Implementation:

Technical/tactical training for police officers.

Support to Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia for developing further activities in the area like multilateral conferences/workshops and staff exchanges.

Networking actions aimed at reinforcing regional cooperation and establishment of a framework for the protection of the euro similar to the one already in place within the EU (e.g.: continuation of the Euro South East Conference).

Purchase of equipment for competent national authorities of non-EU Member States³⁴.

Supporting the development of the Turkish anti-counterfeiting legislation and other mechanisms for cooperation through workshops and seminars.

d. New developments

Security features or authentication methods

A successful counterfeiter produces counterfeit euros of a quality which easily enter into circulation. The quality of counterfeits depends on the technical capacity to imitate genuine money as well as on the capacity of the users to recognize counterfeits. In this respect, the development of new security features combined with an increase in the effectiveness of authentication measures deters the circulation of counterfeits. Studies of new security features which may be used to counter the technological advances of counterfeiters are a prudent measure against future threats.

Distribution of counterfeits and high quality components on the internet

²⁹ Guardia di Finanza. (2014) *Sequestrati oltre 17 milioni di euro contraffatti*, press release, 24 September.

³⁰ E.g.: DIICOT (2015) Press release, 04 June: 2 suspects carrying a value of 2000 counterfeit euros were arrested before trying to distribute counterfeits in Moldova.

³¹ Europol (2015). *Report on Euro Counterfeiting 2014*.

³² E.g.: Europol (2014): in June 2014, a value of 21.250 in counterfeit euro's was seized in Sofia.

³³ Among other cases, in November 2014 two illegal printshops producing Romanian lei and 50 euro notes were dismantled in Bucharest, and in February 2014, 4 persons in the possession of materials for counterfeiting were arrested in Lezhe, Albania, see Europol (2015) *Report on Euro Counterfeiting 2014*.

³⁴ Provided for in Article 8(c) of Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles 2020' programme).

In response to the increasingly effective and coordinated efforts in dismantling of traditional counterfeit distribution networks, criminals are resorting to more innovative ways of distributing their counterfeits. This can be found particularly in relation to the open internet and darknet; on internet trade platforms such as Alibaba and darknet hidden services, advertisements have been placed for both high quality components and materials of banknotes and coins, as well as complete euro counterfeits. It is therefore vital to coordinate a unified response to this threat, which requires cooperation at both a European and international level.

Involvement of Member States' customs authorities in the fight against currency counterfeiting

Customs officials of Member States have become increasingly important actors in the fight against counterfeiting. They form an important line of defense, not only by monitoring, controlling and disrupting counterfeit distribution networks within Europe, but also by preventing counterfeit euros that are produced outside of the European Union from crossing the border and entering circulation in the euro area. The control of goods at main entry points such as ports and airports by customs authorities is vital, as demonstrated by a large seizure of Chinese-produced euro coins by customs authorities in the port of Naples in December 2014³⁵.

Implementation:

Technical studies to develop new security features of coins and authentication methods.

Workshops and staff exchange to share best practices on authentication methods.

Organizing workshops on how to effectively investigate threats posed by the internet/darknet.

Organizing awareness-raising actions and tactical/technical trainings addressed to customs authorities.

³⁵ Europol (2015). *Report on Euro Counterfeiting 2014*.

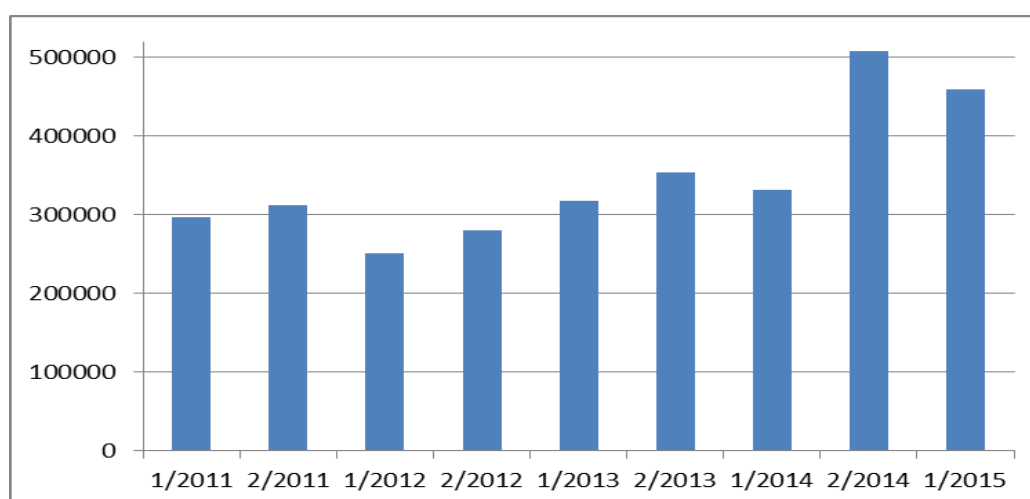
B. Status of counterfeiting

Counterfeiting represents a serious threat to the euro. The level of detected counterfeit banknotes and coins, the rise in "good quality" counterfeits, the increasing availability of technology and the interest showed by organised crime groups within and outside the EU indicate that the criminal offenses related to counterfeiting would rise considerably if competent authorities did not maintain or increase current efforts against innovative forms of euro counterfeiting.

According to the latest bi-annual information on euro banknotes prepared by the ECB³⁶, "in the first half of 2015 a total of 454 000 counterfeit euro banknotes were withdrawn from circulation, 37.2% up on the figure for the first half of 2014".

The €20 and €50 continued to be the most counterfeited banknotes. The proportion of counterfeit €20 notes slightly decreased and that of counterfeit €50 notes increased. Together, they accounted for 86% of all counterfeits.

Number of counterfeit euro banknotes recovered from circulation (2011/1-2015/1)



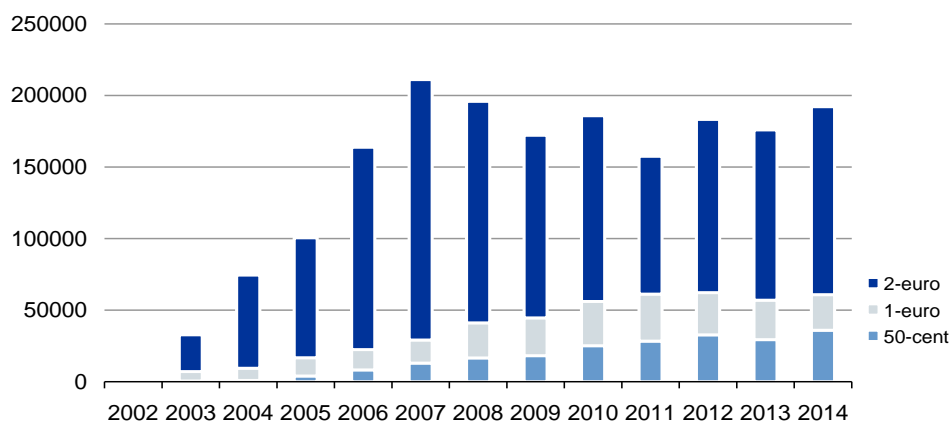
Source ECB

In 2014 the number of counterfeit euro coins found in circulation increased slightly compared to 2013, yet is still below 200 000 pieces per year, resulting in an equivalent of 1 counterfeit coin for every 98 000 genuine ones. The number of counterfeit coins detected in circulation has for the first time been overtaken by those seized before entering circulation, due to a large seizure of counterfeit euro coins in the port of Naples that were produced in China. The overall value of counterfeit coins removed before circulation in 2014 was EUR 301 970.

The quality of counterfeits continued to improve in 2014, demonstrated by an increasing number of counterfeits having electromagnetic properties close to the specification. In addition, two new variants were registered of the recently identified sophisticated 1 euro counterfeits. A number of actions were carried out in order to define the extent of the problem and to improve the detection of counterfeits by the coin-processing machines.

³⁶ ECB press release of 17 July 2015.

Number of counterfeit euro coins recovered from circulation (2002-2014)³⁷



Source ETSC

According to the latest Europol data, approximately 1.2 million counterfeit banknotes were seized by the police in 2014. The total face value of these banknotes is over 66 million euro. As for coins, 301 489 counterfeit coins were seized by police forces in 2014, which includes a seizure of more than 300 000 coins in Italy in September 2014. The total face value of these seizures amounts to EUR 565 248,5.

According to the latest Europol Serious Organised Crime Threat Assessment³⁸, in 2014 there was an increased production of counterfeit €20 and €50 banknotes by Italian OCG's based in Naples, Italy.

With respect to the criminal phenomenon of counterfeiting, the long-term view held by Europol and expressed by national experts, DG ECFIN and the ECB, indicates the growing interest in euro counterfeiting of organised crime groups located outside the EU and confirms that the involvement of organised crime groups continues to be characteristic of this crime; the level of the criminal threat remains high. Moreover, in 2013 SOCTA stated that the enlargement of the Eurozone, together with the global acceptance of the euro as a stable currency and the evolutions towards 'easily' available hologram emulations were likely to create new opportunities for organised crime within and outside the EU.

For organised crime groups euro counterfeiting continues to represent a very lucrative market, with the potential to yield to large profits. Organised crime groups involved in euro counterfeiting are characterized by their rigid organisation and distribution of tasks to independently operating cells. Organizers fund activities, but are not involved in the production process; printers possess very high levels of technical skills (offset printing or digital printing); high-level distributors purchase counterfeits at low prices, while low-level distributors are usually unskilled youths operating in small, but flexible and temporary networks³⁹.

³⁷ ETSC Annual Report 2014.

³⁸ 2015 Interim SOCTA.

³⁹ See OCTA 2011 and discussions at the ECEG meeting of March 2012. This opinion was also confirmed by experts in the latest ECEG meetings.

C. Methodology and patterns of intervention for implementing the Pericles 2020 programme in 2016

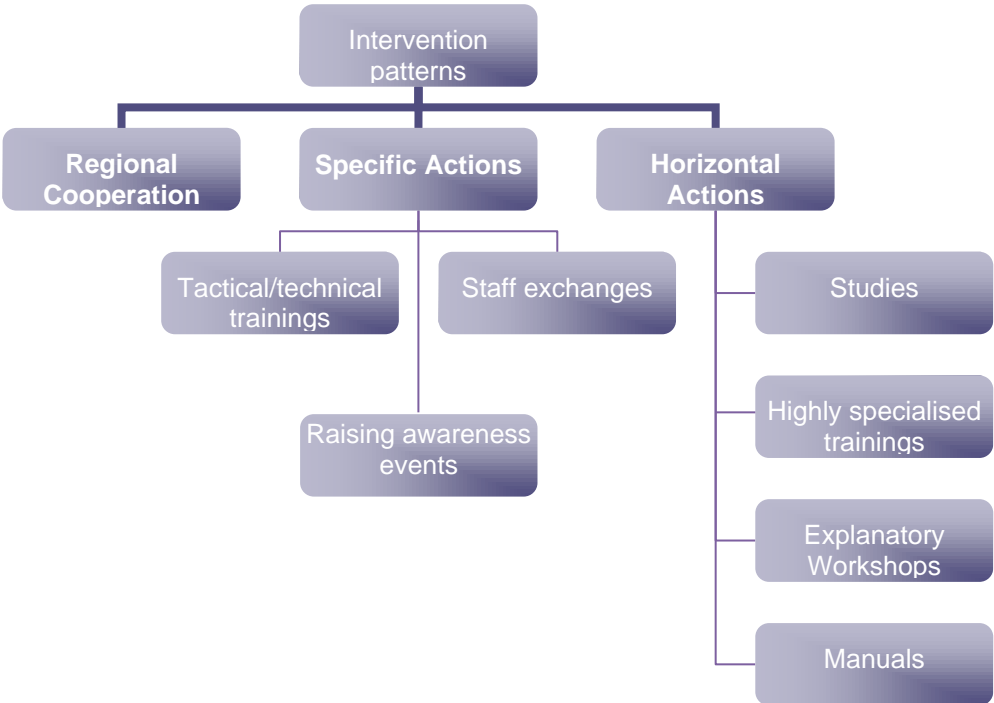
1. Methodology

The strategy for implementing the Pericles programme has traditionally been based on the deliberations of the Commission’s Euro Counterfeiting Experts’ Group (ECEG)⁴⁰, bringing together experts from all relevant disciplines and Member States, as well as Europol, Interpol and the ECB. The discussions are generally based on notes prepared by ECFIN and bilateral preparations with potential Pericles beneficiaries. Discussions focus on defining the specific needs for training and technical assistance, as well as the geographical areas where action needs to be taken. This ensures the efficient implementation of the Pericles programme in the EU Member States most affected by euro counterfeiting and the active support and involvement of other Member States.

With respect to areas outside the EU, priorities are also defined on the basis of discussions in the ECEG, taking into account risk assessments carried out by Interpol/Europol, as well as specific initiatives of Member States or the Commission (DG ECFIN). Additionally, the Commission (DG ECFIN) establishes bilateral contacts with competent authorities in the areas/countries concerned, with a view to specifying the type (conference/seminar, workshop, staff exchange, study) or domain (law enforcement, judicial, financial, and technical) of training and technical assistance. In all cases, the general lines and each of the individual projects proposed are described in detail and discussed at the ECEG.

When it occurs that relevant priorities are not sufficiently covered by actions proposed by Member States, the Commission (DG ECFIN) organises complementary actions on its own initiative based on priorities identified together with the experts and available budget.

2. Intervention patterns



⁴⁰ In line with Article 13(1) of Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the "Pericles 2020" programme.

Mid-term priorities are implemented as follows:

Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation covers sensitive regions of the world (e.g.: Latin America and South East Europe) and consists of:

- One yearly seminar/conference bringing together the key experts of the region from police, judicial and financial staff;
- Various specific actions involving two or more countries in the area and organised by Member States or by the Commission (DG ECFIN).

Specific actions

These actions are aimed at increasing the level of protection of the euro in specific countries by targeting definite categories of professionals (e.g.: judicial, police, customs or financial staff). Specific actions fall under three categories:

- Technical and tactical trainings (mainly addressed to investigators or cashiers, these are practical workshops on how to recognise suspect euro coins and banknotes);
- Staff exchanges (these actions have the main goal of exchanging know-how and increasing the creation of homogeneous framework for protecting the euro against counterfeiting);
- Awareness-raising events (multidisciplinary seminars and conferences mainly addressed to medium-high level staff from ministries and competent authorities with the aim to create favourable conditions to further develop co-operation for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting).

Horizontal actions

Horizontal activities contribute to the overall protection of the euro. Featured among these actions are: studies, highly specialised trainings, explanatory workshops and manuals.