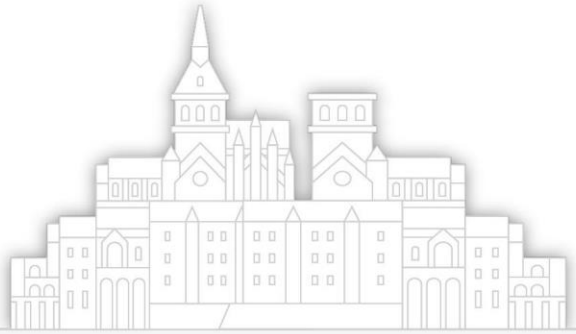


# OLAF and Guardia di Finanza unravel complex scam with EU funds: Operation Paper Castle



OLAF put an end to an intricate fraud scheme through which more than € 1.4 million had been misappropriated.



Investigations took place across several EU Member States.

In Italy, OLAF relied on its close cooperation with **Guardia di Finanza**.

## Case Details



An Italian-led consortium, from France, Romania and the UK received EU funds for two hovercraft prototypes.



The hovercraft were meant to reach remote areas in case of environmental accidents.

The Italian grantees used accounting artifices to syphon off money, claiming false expenses.



Investigations also revealed the UK partner only existed on paper.



A mortgage on a castle facing foreclosure had been repaid with the EU funds.



Investigators analysed more than 12,000 financial transactions and payments made in the project.



Investigators also only discovered various disassembled components of one hovercraft. The other was completed after the project deadline.



The company was owned by the Italian partner.



The project leader is facing charges of embezzlement and fraud against the EU.

Close and constant cooperation between OLAF and Guardia di Finanza was central to cracking the case.

