

Monitoring Cyberspace

Catching the cyber criminals in the Western Balkans and Turkey

With cybercrime an ever-increasing threat, authorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey have significantly improved the way they tackle cybercrime as a result of a recently completed EUR 2.5 million EU-funded multi-country project.

CONCERTED APPROACH

Law enforcement officers have been working towards a concerted and consistent approach to tackle cybercrime across the region, in line with EU standards.

This has resulted in stronger action being taken against cyber criminals both nationally and internationally, with a significant increase in related prosecutions. This in turn makes cyberspace a safer place for all, including citizens of Member States.

Attacks on Serbian Government computers and Internet sites by Croatian hackers were investigated by Serbian specialised cybercrime authorities. They cooperated closely with the Croatian Ministry of Interior with direct exchanges of information, depositions and additional data, including interviewing suspects. The investigation eventually resulted in the arrest, prosecution and sentencing of the very first proven member of the so-called “Anonymous Serbia” hacking group.

MULTI MILLION FRAUD

Serbia also cooperated with Montenegrin law enforcement agencies specialising in cybercrime which led to the arrest and prosecution of an organised group specialising in a multi-million Euro credit card and on-line money transfer fraud.

Another multi-million Euro fraud was uncovered thanks to cooperation between the Serbian Special Prosecutors Office for Cyber Crime and the Macedonian Organised Crime Prosecution Office. This led to the identification of two people suspected of credit card skimming and fraud, who operated in both countries.

These are just some of the ways that more and more cyber criminals are now being successfully prosecuted across the Western Balkans and Turkey thanks to a special project called CyberCrime@IPA, financed by the EU and implemented jointly with the Council of Europe.



Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Western Balkans

IPA – AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE. AN INVESTMENT IN RULE OF LAW.

The project strengthened the capacity of the authorities who now use the tools provided under the project for developing legislation, assisting specialised cybercrime units, financial investigations and efficient regional and international cooperation.

AWARENESS

Ministers and senior officials from South-eastern Europe adopted a declaration on “strategic priorities in the cooperation against cybercrime.” The declaration offered a blue-print for consistent measures aimed at strengthening legislation, criminal justice capacities, public-private cooperation, the confiscation of criminal money on the Internet and efficient international cooperation. As a further result of the project, courses in cybercrime awareness are being introduced in the initial training of many judges and prosecutors.

PROJECT DETAILS –

Strengthening capacities in the fight against cybercrime



Total cost in €:
EUR 2.5 million (90% EU co-financing)

EU Contribution:
Contribution agreement with Council of Europe (CoE)

Start date:
November 2010

End date:
June 2013

Activities:
Training, workshops; inter country liaison;
electronic evidence guide produced