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MEDI-THEFT

Newsletter N.1 May, 2022

Partners:



transcrime



Co-funded by
the European Union

OVERVIEW OF MEDI-THEFT PROJECT

The EU co-funded project MEDI-THEFT – *Data sharing and Investigative Platform against Organised Thefts of Medicines* – has been launched November 1st, 2021. MEDI-THEFT aims to counteract medicine theft and reselling through the development of an intelligence-based platform to report, analyse and share data.

The project is funded under the ISF Programme and led by AIFA with the participation of SAFE Foundation, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Transcrime, Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato (IPZS), Affordable Medicines Europe (AME), Medicines and Medical Devices Agency of Serbia (ALIMS), Institute for Medicines and Medical Devices of Montenegro (CInMED) and Arma dei Carabinieri.

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER ISSUE:

- Introduction to the Project
- Insight from the Project Coordinator
- Media and visibility



MEDI-THEFT main objectives are:

1. Collect, share and analyze information related to medicine theft to identify and prevent criminals' *modi operandi*.
2. Produce and share early warnings to prevent stolen medicines and medical devices to re-enter the legal market.
3. Support and improve joint transnational investigations related to medicine theft.

PROJECT PARTNERS

The MEDI-THEFT Consortium is comprised of 8 Public and Private Partners.



The Italian Medicines Agency – AIFA is a public body operating under the direction of the Ministry of Health and the supervision of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economy.

SAFE, Security and Freedom for Europe, is a no-profit association specialised in the design and implementation of EU-funded projects in the area of security, defence, peace, stability and fundamental rights.



Transcrime is the Joint research centre on transnational crime of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, the Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna and the Università degli Studi di Perugia.

The Italian Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato (IPZS) (State Mint and Polygraphic Institute) produces coins, passports, and postage stamps. Thanks to the production of drug traceable labels, IPSZ supports the Italian institutions in fighting medicine counterfeiting.



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**AFFORDABLE
MEDICINES
EUROPE**

WORKING IN PARALLEL FOR A BETTER DEAL

Affordable Medicines Europe represents Europe's licensed parallel distribution industry, an integral part of the EU pharmaceutical market that adds value to society by introducing price competition and a supplementary layer of product safety.

The mission of the Institute is to guarantee that there are quality, safe and efficient medicines and medical devices on the Montenegrin market, as well as to reliably provide the highest level of public health protection and high quality patient health care.



The Carabinieri Corps is the largest Italian Police Force. In its dual role as a Police and Armed Force, the Carabinieri Corps is responsible to carry out a wide range of police and military tasks.



Medicines and Medical Devices Agency of Serbia contributes to the accomplishment of the basic human right for quality, efficacious and safe medicines and medical devices accessibility and promotes and enhance public and animal health..



Agencija za lekove
i medicinska sredstva
Srbije

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

MEDI-THEFT aims to counter the illicit trafficking and re-selling of counterfeit meds. To achieve its objective, the project Consortium will work in synergy through five Work Packages that tackle different aspects of the project: Management, Risk Assessment, Platform Design, Platform Testing and Communication & Visibility.

Here are the main foreseen outputs of MEDI-THEFT:



MEDI-THEFT: inception and vision

We invited MEDI-THEFT Project Coordinator, Dr. Domenico Di Giorgio, to give us an insight on the project origins, and its next steps.

Q: Thank you for joining us, Dr. Di Giorgio. Can you talk about the basis of the Project?

A: MEDI-THEFT is the natural follow up to our previous initiatives in this field, in particular with respect to the Operation Volcano (2014) and to the EC project FakeShare and FakeSare II, both led by AIFA and focused on the set up of web based infrastructures aimed at structuring the available knowledge on specific categories of pharmaceutical crime.

In all of those initiatives, we always worked with this view - fostering data sharing and cooperation between health authorities, police forces, customs, laboratories and private stakeholders: then, MEDI-THEFT will be another opportunity for defining new tools and procedures for a cooperative effort against pharmacrime.

Q: What's the added value that this project will bring to the EU and its Member States?

A: In the last 2 years, as a consequence of the pandemic emergency, the European authorities set up many different workstreams and fora fostering the dialogue between MS, supporting the involvement of the private stakeholders,

when the objective of an activity may be considered as a common goal, to be pursued in cooperation with no conflict of interests. Pharmaceutical crime counteraction is an area where this approach has already been applied for more than 10 years: then, extending this network and refining the cooperation tools will not simply strenghten the activities in this field, but will also provide all MS models that may be applied in other areas, such as shortages prevention.

Q: Can you tell us what are your expectation for the future of the project, and what the work the Consortium is doing will bring us?

A: As for the Fakeshare projects, our goal is to build something that may go beyond the timeframe of the EC grant: this is the reason why we involved many relevant institutional partners in the initiative. For example, the National Mint, that will set up the IT platform; the center Transcrime - Università Cattolica, managing the criminal profiling processes; the Italian Carabinieri, as first end-users that will test and use the platform. Moreover, we will engage European and international actors to share relevant information and experiences to magnify the impact of the project results outside the EU.

We want to be sure that the "good practices" and tools that we will develop together may become a reference for all MS, and then will receive support from all authorities even after 2025..



Project Insight

Dr. Domenico Di Giorgio, AIFA Director and Project Coordinator gives us a compelling insight on the project.

PROJECT EVENTS

Project Events are great opportunities to meet and coordinate with Consortium Partners, but also to enhance the project network, meet stakeholders and disseminate project progress information and results.

Therefore, MEDI-THEFT has planned several project events in order to better disseminate key information and expand its sphere of influence.

Here are the current planned and foreseen events:

Event Type	Location	Planned or foreseen date
Presentation of the Project at national level	SERBIA	October, 2022
Presentation of the Project at national level	MONTENEGRO	April, 2023
Presentation of the Project at national level	ITALY	October, 2023

If you would like to join us during a MEDI-THEFT event, please contact us:

info@medi-theft.eu

PROJECT VISIBILITY



Work Package 5 on Communication and Visibility outlines the communication activities, with the aim to maximize the impact of the project. In order to achieve this objective, several digital touch-points have been created in the first few months of the project.

Among the digital touchpoints are:

WEBSITE



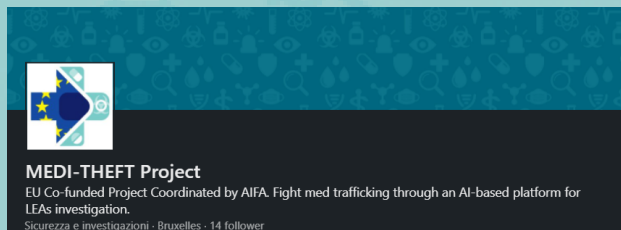
The official website is a fundamental digital touchpoint which offers all the basic information about MEDI-THEFT - including objectives, news and updates, information on the Partners, and much more.

The MEDI-THEFT website is available at: www.medi-theft.eu

PROJECT VISIBILITY

SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

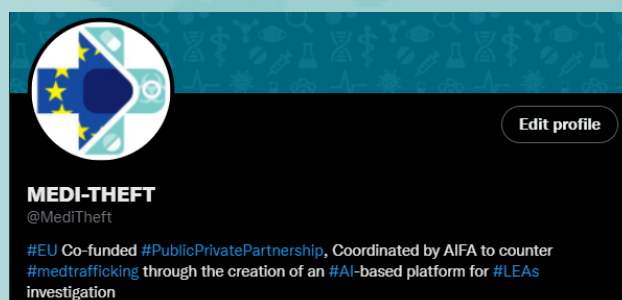
LinkedIn



The LinkedIn Showcase Page was created on **January, 2022**. It is a useful digital touchpoint to inform, update and promote synergies online.

Twitter

The Twitter Account was launched on **December, 2022**. It supports brief, essential communications and is a means to boost news and updates and supports the LinkedIn page.



YouTube Introductory Video



The first of the two videos to be realized within the Project introduces MEDI-THEFT, its objectives, its foreseen outputs and main digital touchpoints. The video was officially published on **March, 2022**. [Click the picture to watch.](#)



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