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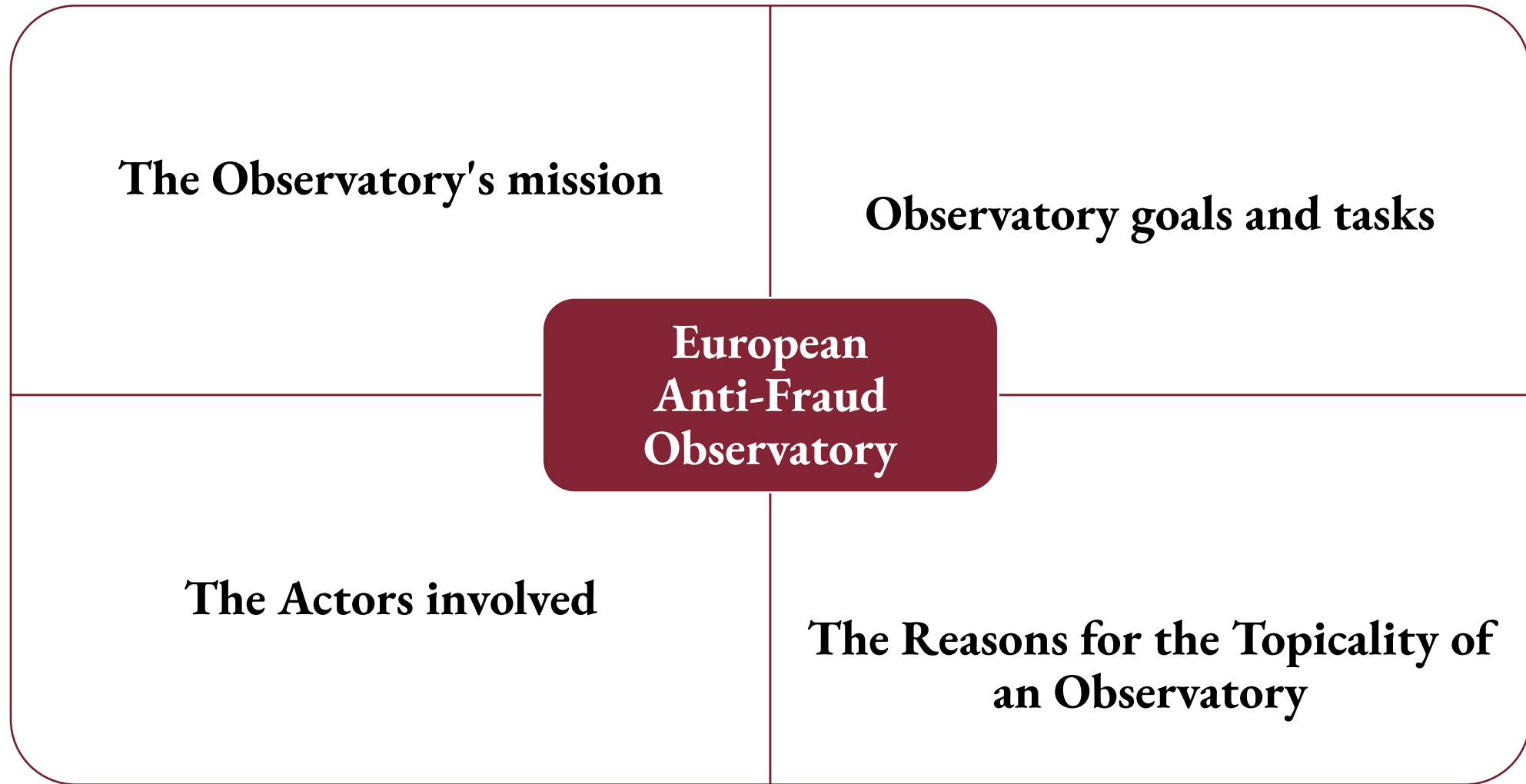
**Contributions for the development of the “European Anti-Fraud Observatory” on  
Monitoring the correct and efficient use of European Funds in micro territorial systems**

*The advantages of a European anti-fraud observatory*

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# Agenda:



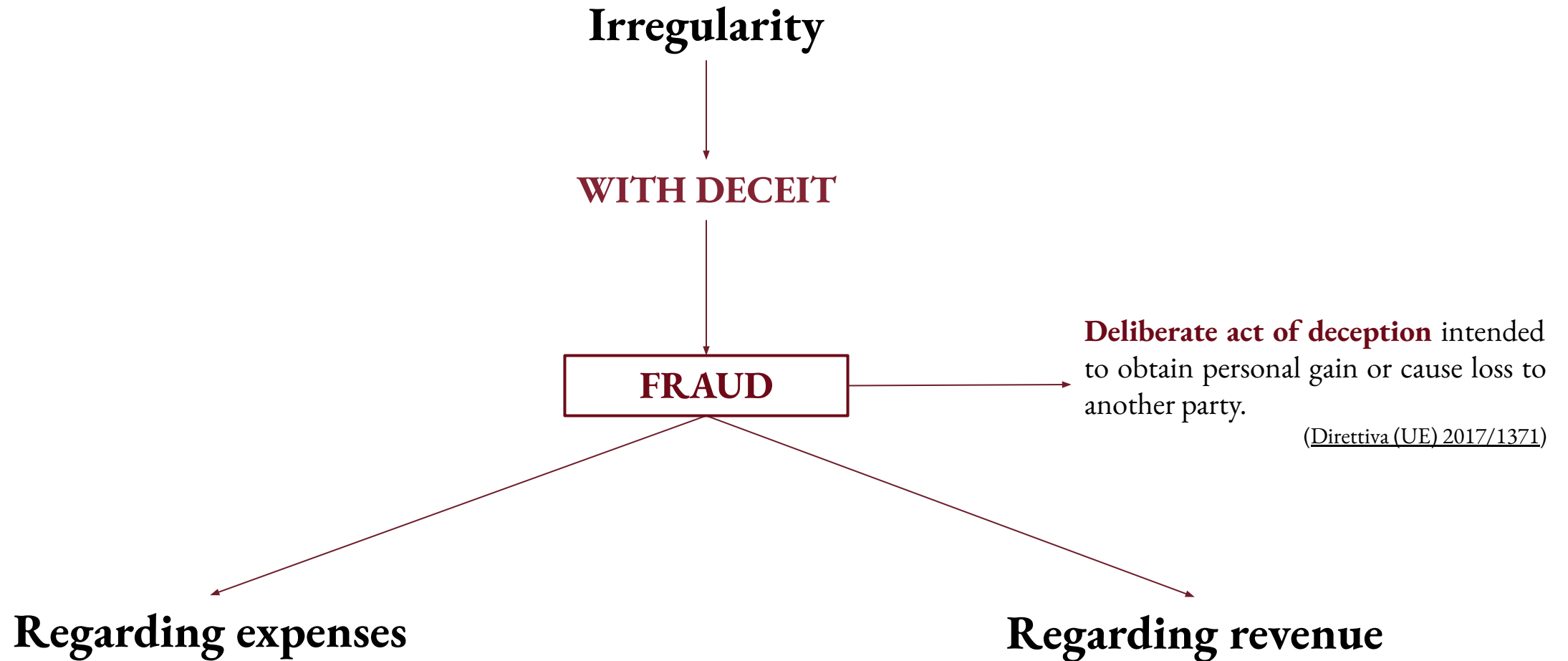
# Why?

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The Observatory's  
mission



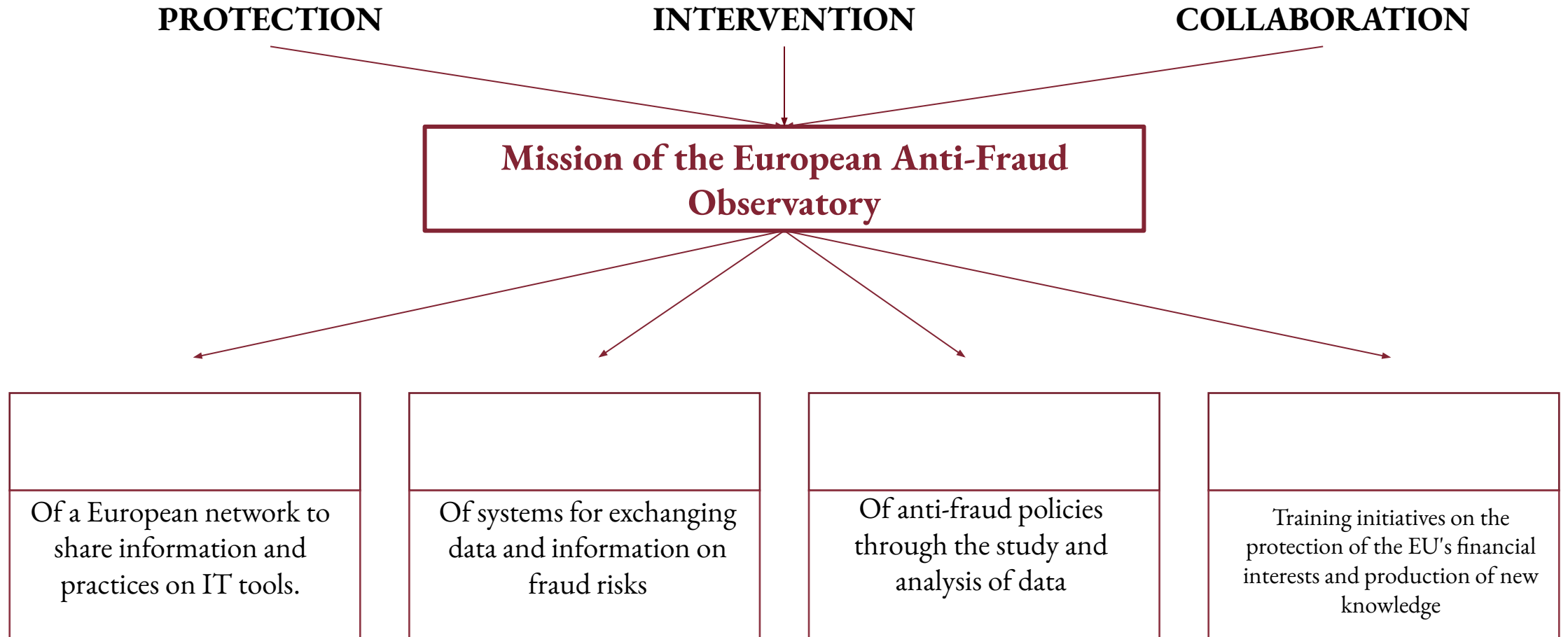
# 1. Definitions: distinction between irregularity and fraud



## 2. The European anti-fraud system

The aims of the European Anti-Fraud System		Reference
<b>Protection</b>	The Union and the Member States (MS) combat fraud and other illegal activities detrimental to the Union's financial interests by <b>means of dissuasive measures that afford effective protection of the Union's Institutions, Organisations and Organisations.</b>	Art. 325 par. 1 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
<b>Intervention</b>	MS must take all necessary measures, including legislative, regulatory and administrative measures, to <b>protect the financial interests of the Union and, in particular, prevent, detect and correct irregularities and fraud.</b>	Art. 59 par. 2 Reg. EU 966/2012
<b>Collaboration</b>	Obligation for the 28 MS to set up an anti-fraud coordination service with the specific purpose of facilitating effective cooperation and exchange of information with OLAF	Reg. (UE, Euratom) 883/2013

### 3. The Observatory within the European anti-fraud system



# What?

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Observatory goals and  
tasks



# 1. The Activities of the European Anti-Fraud Observatory

**Creation**

**Development**

**Implementation**

**Monitoring**



## Tasks



Research in the field of anti-fraud



Organisation of educational activities



Conducting annual studies



Creation of awareness campaigns



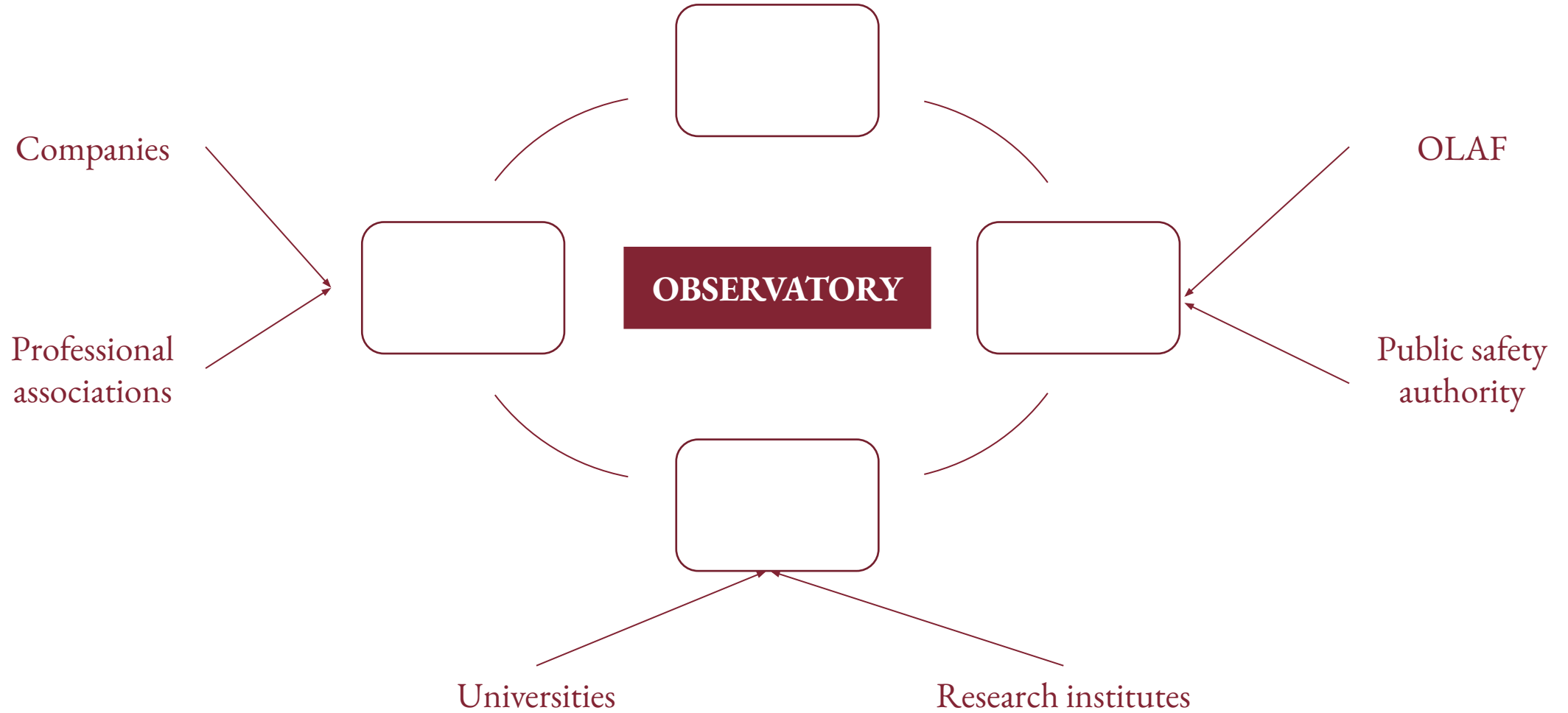
# Who?

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The actors involved



# 1. The added value of a social network in the anti-fraud lot



# When?

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The Reasons for the  
Topicality of an  
Observatory



# 1. Quantitative analysis of the fraud phenomenon

## Fraud cases in 2022

- ✓ 3,318 crime reports;
- ✓ 1,117 active investigations with damage estimated at EUR 14.1 billion;
- ✓ 865 investigations with an estimated damage to the EU budget of EUR 9.9 billion.
- ✓ The main areas of intervention are agriculture, cohesion policy, employment programmes, research and innovation

(Annual EPPO Report, 2022)

## OLAF investigation results in 2022

- ✓ Concluded 256 investigations, issuing 275 recommendations to the relevant national and European authorities;
- ✓ Recovered EUR 426.8 million for the EU budget and avoided undue expenditure of EUR 197.9 million;
- ✓ Initiated 192 new investigations following 1017 preliminary analyses carried out by its experts.
- ✓ Referred 71 cases of possible offences to the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), of which 16 on behalf of the European Commission

(Annual OLAF reports, 2022)

## 2. The Reasons for the Topicality of a European Anti-Fraud Observatory

<b>The current context of financial vulnerability</b>	During and after financial and economic crises, public funds are particularly vulnerable to fraud risks. These moments call for enhanced monitoring and vigilance to protect resources intended for recovery and support of citizens and businesses.
<b>Development of large expenditure programmes</b>	As the EU has initiated major investment programmes with significant funds (e.g. for the ecological transition or digitisation), it is crucial to establish effective control mechanisms to prevent and counteract fraud.
<b>Moments of technological innovation</b>	Technological developments, such as the development of artificial intelligence and machine learning applied to fraud prevention, suggest an ideal time to set up an observatory that can exploit these technologies.
<b>Growth of global interconnectedness</b>	As the EU economy becomes more globally interconnected, the risk of transnational fraud also increases, making an observatory to coordinate the European response essential.



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CENTRO DI RICERCA  
IMPRESAPIENS



**Thanks for your attention.**

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