

**1st WORKSHOP OF THE PROJECT “101101784 — 2022-IT-FRED2”
FRAUD REPRESSION THROUGH EDUCATION2**

«Capacity building, network programme guidelines and mapping of case studies and knowledge on the protection of the EU's financial interests and the fight against fraud»

EPPO Annual Report:

the role of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) to improve the level of protection of the financial interests of the European Union

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Acknowledging that fraud against Union revenues and expenditures is not confined to a single country and is often committed by organized criminal networks, in July 1995 the member states drafted a Convention on the Protection of the European Communities' Financial Interests (EPPO). Both the Union and member states must protect the Union's financial interests against crimes, which are not always sufficiently investigated and prosecuted by national judicial authorities.

EPPO is a supranational and independent body of the European Union, comprising 22 participating Member States. Structured at both central and decentralized levels, it consists of 15 Permanent Chambers with the tasks to monitor and direct investigations, prosecutions by European Delegated Prosecutors, and other operational decisions such as bringing a case to judgment or dismissing it. At the decentralized level (national level), there are 140 European Delegated Prosecutors responsible for investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating cases falling within EPPO's jurisdiction. EPPO's main competencies are regulated by Article 2 of the EU PIF Directive (2017/1371) on combating fraud affecting the Union's financial interests through criminal law. These competencies focus on criminal activities, related crimes, and money laundering involving real estate and VAT fraud. In fact, according to the 2022 Annual Report, as of December 31, 2022, EPPO had 1,117 active investigations, 16.5 percent of which focused on real estate and VAT fraud.

EPPO aim's is to investigate, prosecute and hold accountable those suspected of crimes affecting the financial interests of the Union, as outlined in the "PIF Directive." It is expected that EPPO's mission may be expanded to other serious cross-border crimes in the future.