

**14:15 – 15:00**

## Feedback from Anti-corruption research





# RESPOND

Rescuing Democracy from Political  
Corruption in Digital Societies

## Introducing RESPOND

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University of Lisbon

Brussels, EU Network against Corruption, 15.10.2025



Funded by  
the European Union



# What is RESPOND?

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## Mission & scope

A five-year (2024-2029) Horizon Project engaging in interdisciplinary research and collaborating with multiple stakeholders to offer practical solutions to corruption control by...

- Developing **large-scale datasets** and **risk indicators** on political corruption and forms of influence through the collection of new data and the expansion of existing datasets covering 27 EU Member States plus 11 neighbouring countries
- Conducting an **in-depth analysis** in 9 countries (Bulgaria, Italy, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Serbia, Sweden, United Kingdom and Ukraine) to investigate cases of corruption, anti-corruption measures, the social construction of political corruption and the consequences of political corruption for democracy.

Coordinator:



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Partners:



GÖTEBORGS  
UNIVERSITET



CENTRAL  
EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY  
OF AMSTERDAM



INSTITUTO DE CIÊNCIAS SOCIAIS



ACREC  
ANTI-CORRUPTION  
RESEARCH & EDUCATION  
CENTRE



MAX PLANCK  
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CATTOLICA  
del Sacro Cuore



Tele Radio City  
S.C.S.



Átlátható  
Kormányzás  
Kutatóintézet

# What is RESPOND?

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## The questions that need answering

- How does political corruption operate today?
- How deep can its impact on democracy go?
- How can anti-corruption efforts recover support for democracy?
- How can we engage people?

# What is RESPOND?

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## Objectives

1. ANALYSING 4 Forms of (undue) political influence - Political Finance, Lobbying, Revolving Doors/Personal Ties, Media Capture – and how they contribute to sustain cross-border political corruption
2. EVALUATING how political corruption is socially constructed, how people define, perceive, and interact with it and how does that affect their support for democracy
3. EXPLORING how digital technologies enable and sustain cross border corruption, whilst driving experimentation with alternative corruption control and democratic practices, including civic monitoring
4. IDENTIFYING national and EU loopholes in AC legislation and ENGAGING relevant stakeholders in co-creation workshops to design and test new AC instruments and review existing ones

# Highlighted deliverables

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## Advancing knowledge-based corruption control

- Understand how political influence sustains cross-border corruption, how digital technologies add complexity to corrupt exchanges, and how these developments impact democracy
- Create and upgrade large-scale datasets on anticorruption legislation and assess the degree of regulatory convergence and its effects
- Develop risk indicators to mitigate corruptive influence in policy-making and public spending
- Develop new survey items to measure tolerance towards corruption, and the link between political corruption and support for democracy
- Map cross-border revolving doors and their effects on political and business performance
- Build a Europe-wide media ownership database





# Thanks!

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University of Lisbon



**Funded by  
the European Union**

The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101132405. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of the RESPOND consortium and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains."



BRIDGE//GAP

# BridgeGap

Bridging the gaps in evidence, regulation and impact in anti-corruption policies



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the European Union



# The BridgeGap Mission



Develop a comprehensive understanding of corruption through **interdisciplinary research**.



Enhance **knowledge and data on political corruption and undue influences**.



Promote and integrate **modern technologies** for detecting, preventing, and combating corruption.

Presentation Title / Section

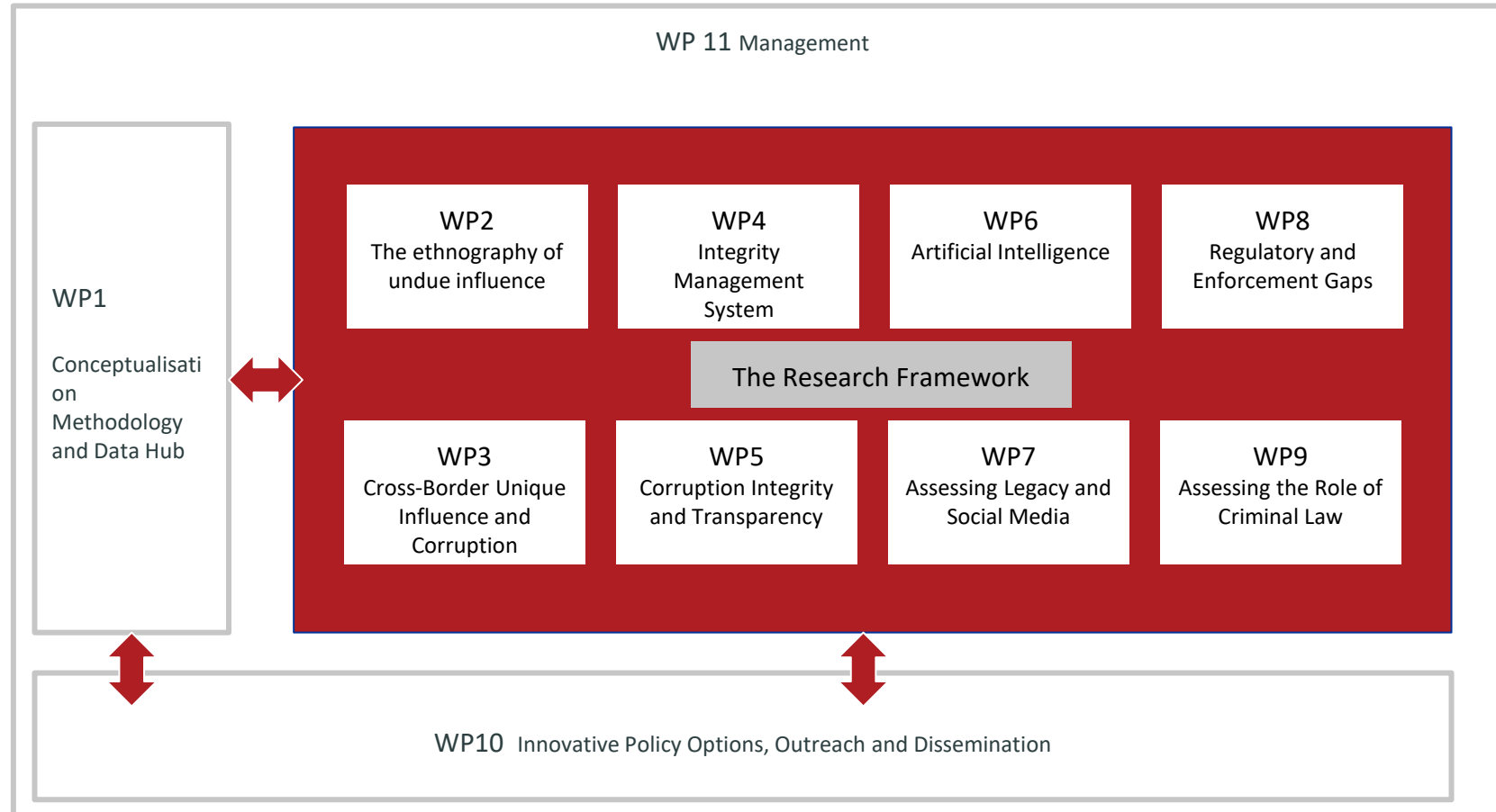
# Our Objectives

What is new about BridgeGap is that it treats corruption as a policy problem and focuses on understanding both the domestic vulnerabilities and the cross-border factors that undermine the control of corruption. BridgeGap aims to:

- 1 **Close critical knowledge gaps** about the ways corruption infiltrates open societies and threatens democratic principles.
- 2 **Address digital transparency issues**, analyzing how technology influences corruption and anti-corruption efforts, public accountability, and integrity.
- 3 **Tackle regulatory and enforcement gaps**, examining the consistency and effectiveness of anti-corruption frameworks across EU member states and neighboring nations.
- 4 **Bridge the divide between academia and policy-making** in the fight against corruption.

Presentation Title / Section

# Research Framework and Methodology



## COMPARATIVE RESEARCH

- WP3 (WEAPONIZATION)
- WP5 (TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY)
- WP6 (TECHNOLOGY)
- WP7 (MEDIA)
- WP8 (LAW ENFORCEMENT)
- WP9 (PREVENTIVE TOOLS)

## EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH

- WP4 (INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT)
- WP5, 6 (TRANSPARENCY, TECHNOLOGY)
- WP7 (MEDIA)
- WP9 (REGULATION IMPACT)

## QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

- WP2 (ETHNOGRAPHIC)
- WP2 (SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS)
- WP2, 3, 5 (DETECTION BY AI MEANS)
- WP5, 8, 9 (CASE STUDIES)
- WP8 (LEGAL CASE STUDIES)

# BridgeGap Public Tools

## Website



## Data Hub

Pools data from:

1. Integrity Watch
2. IPI
3. T-index
4. YouControl
5. Global Corruption Barometer
6. Europam
7. PACI
8. Money-laundering
9. Etc.

It will offer end users the same investigation and analytical tools as the project researchers, inviting crowd-sourcing and offering online tutorials.

## Follow the Money

Search engine platform (by YouControl) that aids corruption investigation.

It uses interconnect data to enable searches of the assets of sanctioned Individuals across several jurisdictions.

## EU Compass

Comparative & interactive data repository that shows the variations in legal treatment of corruption crimes across countries.

## European Transparency Index

Map visualisation and database of universal indicators of transparency for accountability from EU and candidate countries.

## MOOCC

Massive Open Online Corruption Course, targeting university students, investigative journalists, governments and civil society experts.



Data Hub



Training & engagement



Analytical tool

Research Outputs/ Policy Briefs

# BridgeGap Timeline



D3.1 Impact of sanctions on infiltration of Russia in Europe



5 Stakeholder engagement workshops (on & offline)



Data Hub



EUCAL data repository and visualisation of regulatory gaps



Updated and extended EUROPAM.eu



D2.2 Countering Weaponised Corruption



Massive Open Online Corruption Course (MOOCC)

Jan 2024

Jan 2025

Jan 2026

Jan 2027

Dec 2027

European Transparency Index Map



Online Comparative Regulation Database and Map: EUCAL



All-EU media capture risk map



4 Research-to-policy workshops



6 Policy Briefs based on research framework outputs



# Some findings

***Upholding Integrity: Corruption Risk in Europe-41 (2025)*** Mungiu-Pippidi & Parvanova (LUISS)

## **Scope & Method:**

*Fact-based, 10-year analysis of 41 European countries (EU, candidates, northern outliers) using UNODC & IPI frameworks — moving from perception to fact.*

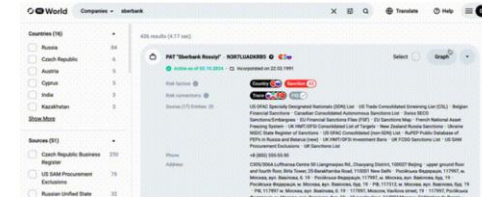
## **Key Findings**

- ***Corruption = equilibrium*** between opportunities (discretion, opacity) and constraints (media, justice).
- ***Government favoritism doubled***
- ***Cross-border bribery trends*** (e.g Barcelona conference, 2024), historical patters
- ***Oligarchization rising***
- ***Political overrule of tech:*** e-Gov & transparency gains offset by decline in ***judicial independence & press freedom***.
- ***Regulation ≠ integrity:*** Most corrupt countries have the most laws; formal frameworks don't ensure accountability.

## **FOLLOW THE MONEY**

Follow the Money is a search engine enabled by [Youcontrol](#), a BridgeGap partner organization, on top of their [YC World pooled database](#).

The search engine enables investigating beneficial ownership (who really owns a company), and undue corrupt influence (links between public authority holders, directly or through their proxies and businesses) by uncovering business links between companies and individuals, searching mostly in registers of commerce from the European Union, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Belarus.



## **Policy Recommendations**

1. **Unify data and indicators** across EU (via “Follow the Money”).
2. Shift to **ex-ante prevention**: correlate public managers’ performance with corruption risk indicators (e.g., ProZorro).
3. **Blacklist or disbar** corrupt companies from EU funds.
4. Focus anti-corruption efforts on **reducing opportunities**—especially in **EU funds, defense procurement, and reconstruction**





# About Publications, Learnings & Data Stories

[Publications](#)

[Learning](#)

[Data Stories](#)

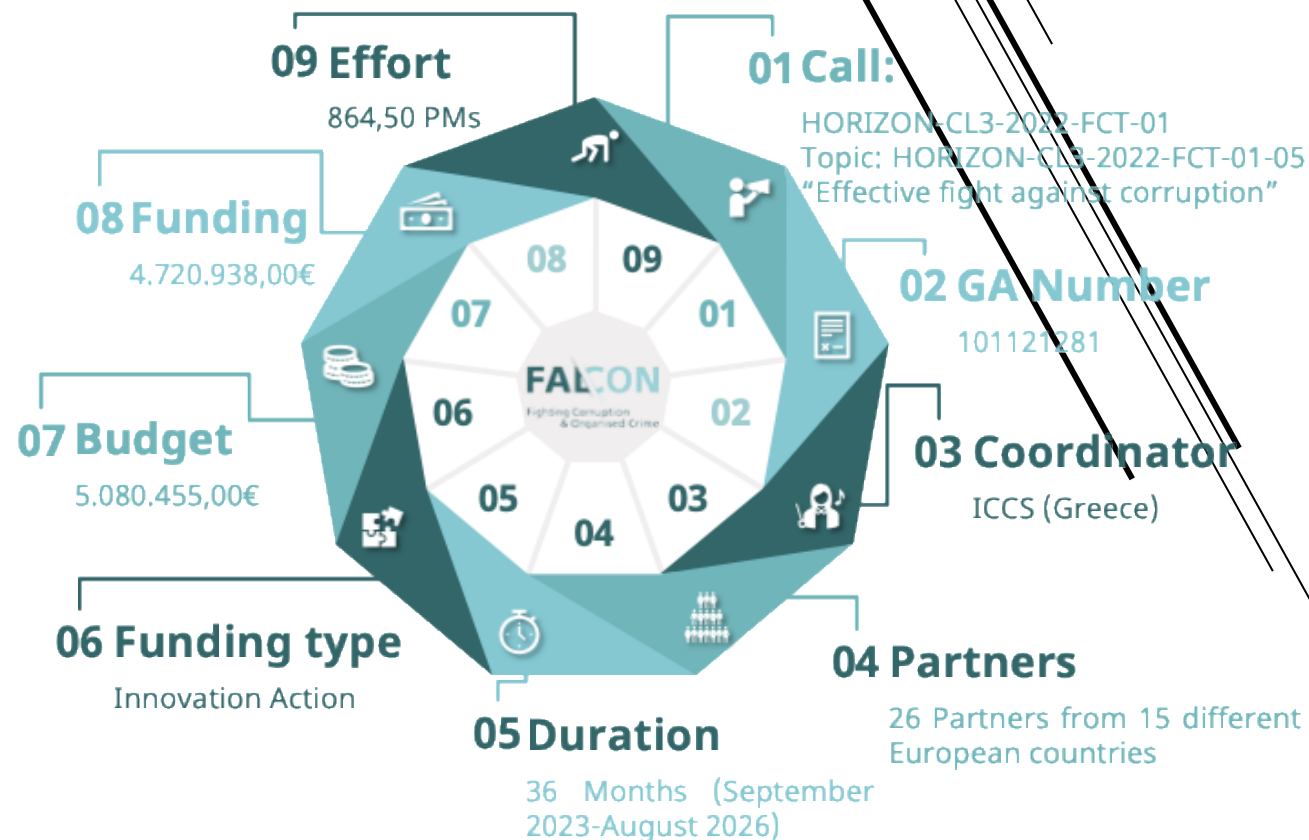


# FALCON

## Fighting Corruption & Organised Crime

Meeting of the EU Network against  
Corruption

Brussels, 15 Oct. 2025



Funded by  
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# Motivation and Contributions of FALCON



**Measuring** the impacts, prevalence, and trends of **corruption** and performing corruption risk assessments face considerable difficulties and **limitations**



Corruption detection and investigation are slow and expensive processes



Corruption landscape is enormously **complex**, due to the **hidden nature** and different forms of corruption phenomena, and their **interlinks with O.C. and money laundering**



**Policy decisions** in the fight against corruption are often **not well informed**

01

- Develop novel, evidence-based **indicators** of corruption

02

- Automate **risk assessments** by fusing structured and unstructured data from a wide range of sources

03

- Develop **AI and data analytics technologies and tools** to combat corruption

04

- Develop comprehensive **Corruption Intelligence Pictures (CIP)**

05

- Produce useful **policy recommendations** towards supporting EU anti-corruption efforts

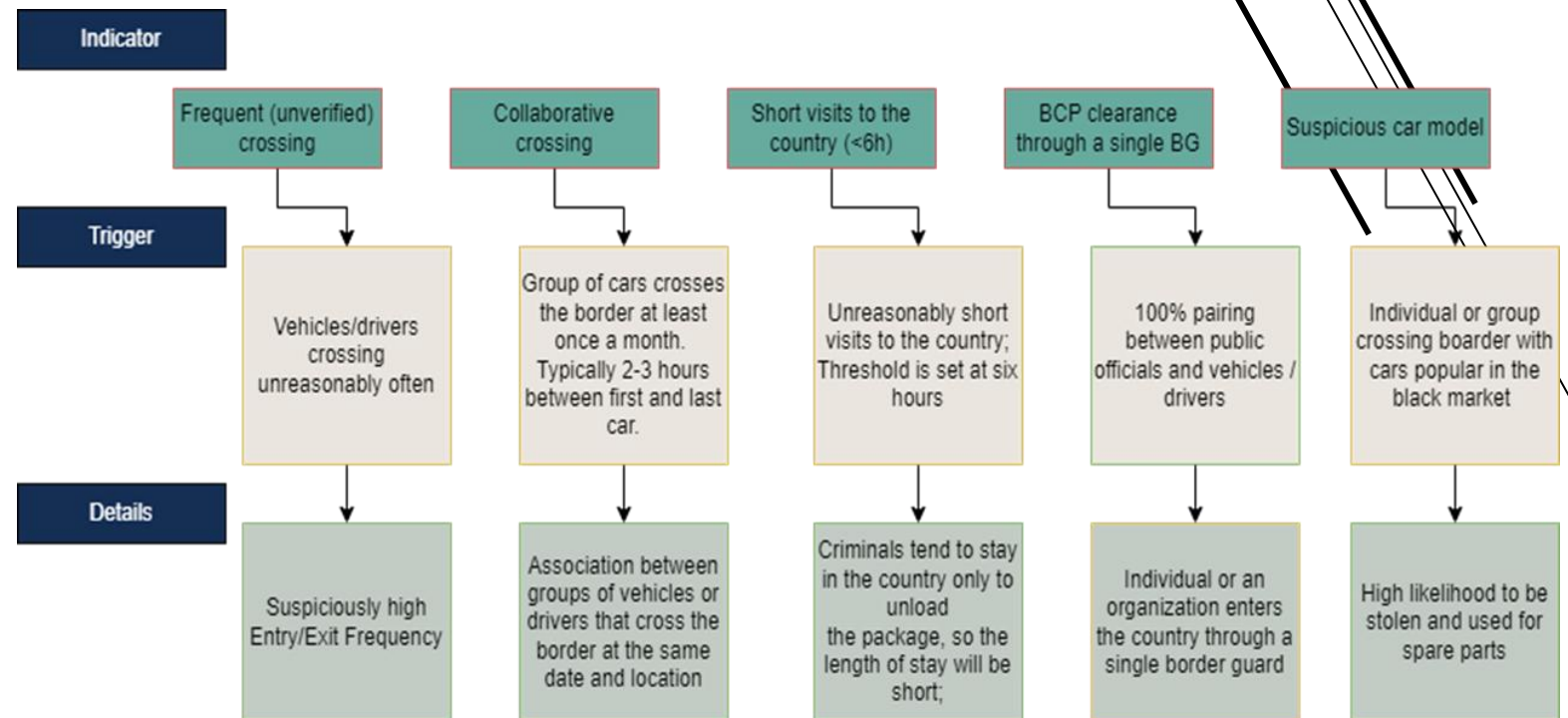
# Indicative indicators per domain

## Public Procurement-focused indicators

### Examples:

- Single bidding
- Buyer concentration
- Length of submission/decision period
- No call for tender
- Procedure type
- Unusual market entry

## Border-crossing focused indicators



# FALCON Technologies and Tools

Predictive Analytics

Advanced Corruption Risk Assessment (ACRA)

OSINT

Investigation for Corruption Cases

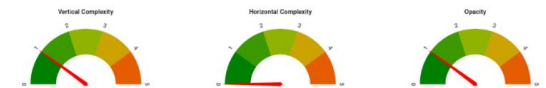
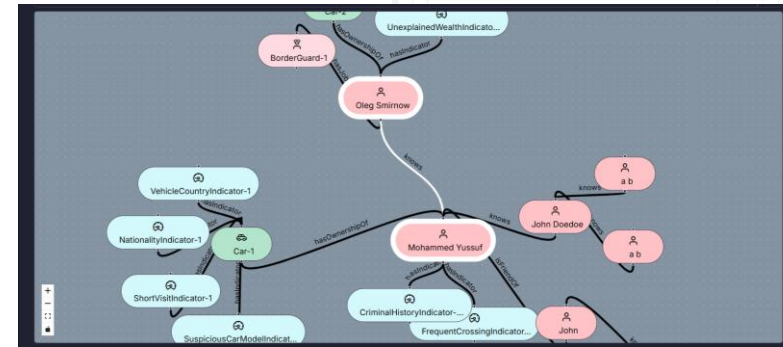
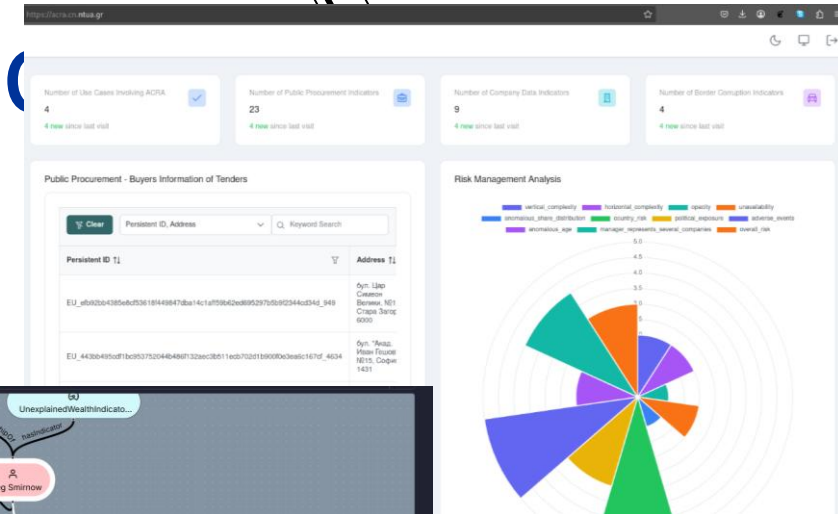
Trend detection

Kriptosare

Car Visual Recognition

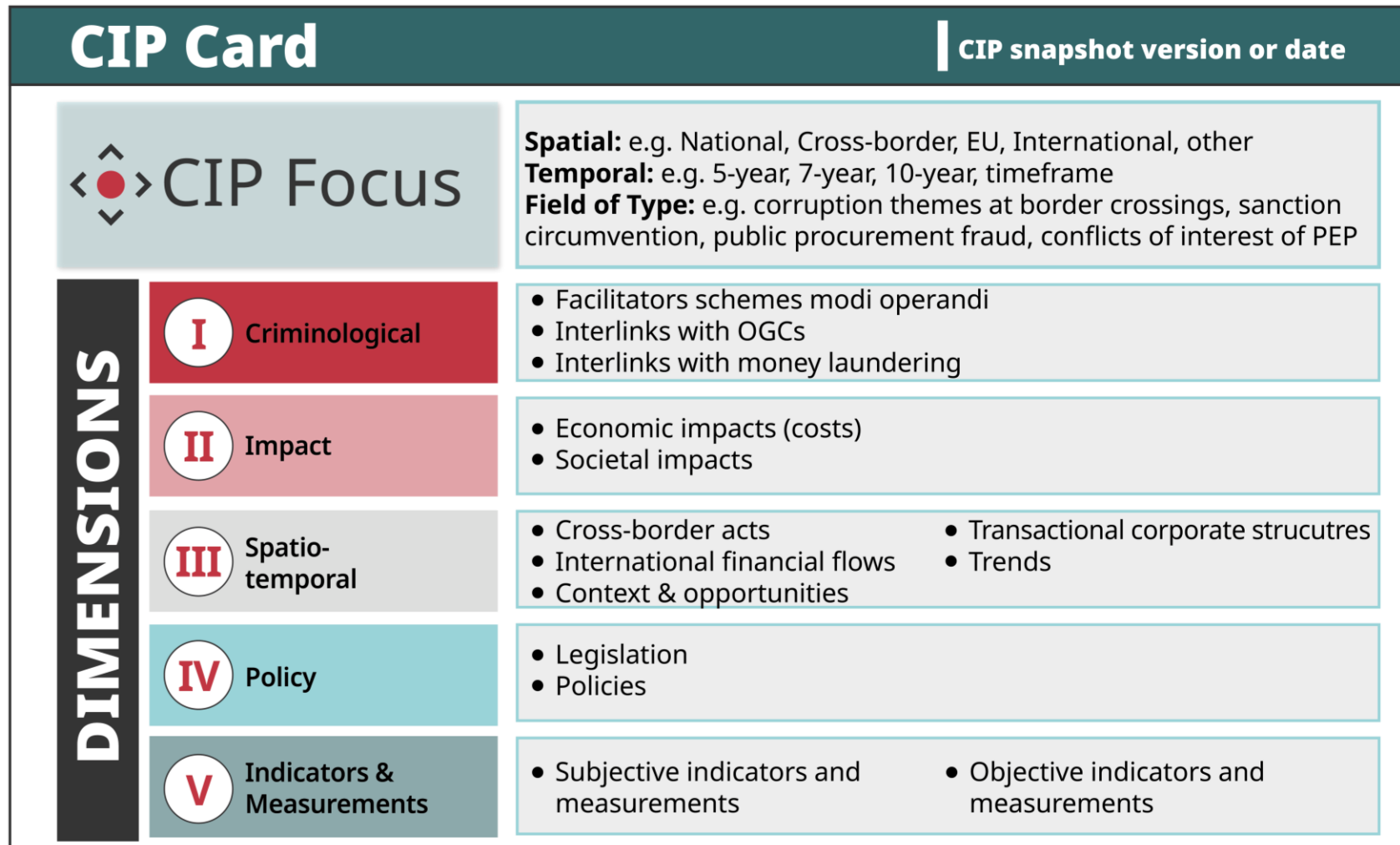
Border Corruption Investigation

Textual Analysis Toolset








# Corruption Intelligence Picture – Policy Briefs



- **Two policy briefs** have been successfully published. **Next Steps:** Development of policy briefs dedicated to each use case.
1. 'High-level Corruption: an Analysis of Schemes, Costs and of Policy Recommendations', summarises the main results of the analysis carried out on the four corruption domains.
  2. 'Leveraging artificial intelligence in the fight against corruption', provides guidance on how to promote the use of artificial intelligence technologies in anti-corruption efforts.

# Policy Insights and Recommendations

| <br><br> | Improving data for anti | Strengthening existing | Promoting the use of AI in  | Anti-corruption Legislative to  |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
|  | Public Procurement      | Sanction Circumvention | Conflict of Interest (PEPs) | Border Corruption   |
|  |                         |                        |                             |   |
|  |                         |                        |                             | Promote <b>scenario building exercises</b> and support the adoption of innovative forms of human-machine interaction. |



# Thank you for your attention!



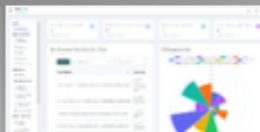
**63** corruption cases led to useful insights through desk research. 1<sup>st</sup> FALCON Policy Brief



**37** corruption risk indicators already available and demonstrated



**8** prototype tools already developed and demonstrated



Over **1200** ontology entities deployed in the FALCON Knowledge Base



**6** anti-corruption training sessions with over 520 particip.  
3 training workshop and 2 training webinar



**2** webinars already organized for “Trustworthy AI” and “Security of AI systems”



# FALCON

## Fighting Corruption & Organised Crime

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[twitter.com/FalconProjectHE](https://twitter.com/FalconProjectHE)

The project “FALCON – Fight Against Large-scale Corruption and Organised Crime Networks” is funded under the Horizon Europe Framework Program, Grant Agreement ID 101121281.

Coordinator: Institute of Communication & Computer Systems (ICCS), Athens, Greece



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G.A. 10110387

BRIDGE//GAP

# POSEIDON

## Ports United Against Corruption

15 October, 2025

Ecorys



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## Objectives of POSEIDON



- Identify vulnerabilities for corruption (and organised crime) in the port supply chain
- Identify good practices to fight corruption (and organised crime) in the port supply chain
- Develop recommendations for development of EU Port Integrity Standard and Dashboard
- Build a network of stakeholders in the ports

## General information

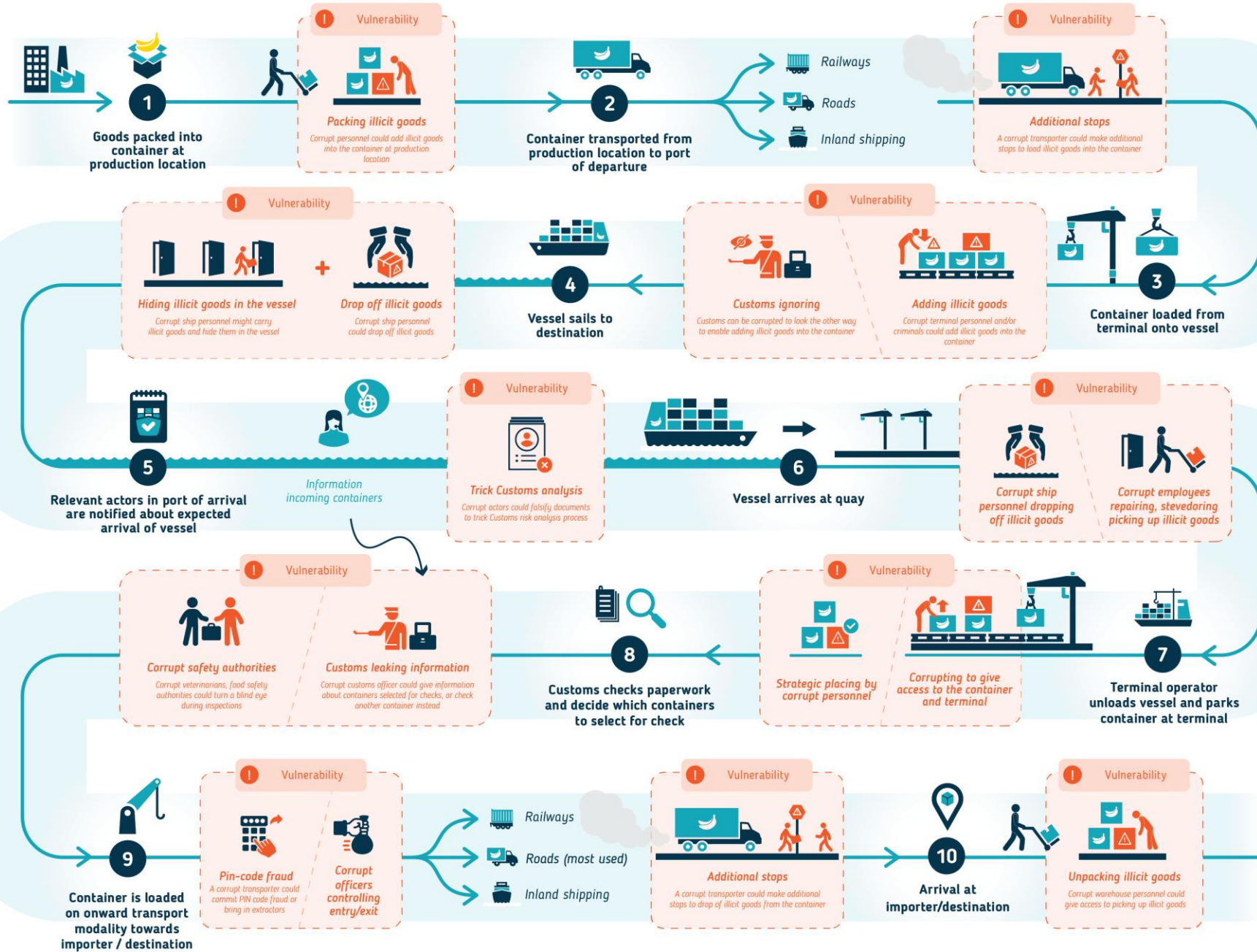


- **Duration:** March 2023 – March 2025
- **6 port visits:** Port of Piraeus, Port of Antwerp-Bruges, Port of Algeiras, Port of Rotterdam, Port of Cartagena and Port of Venice
- Europol Operational Action 7.1, High Risk Criminal Networks (HRCN)
- European Ports Alliance
- Partners: SAFE, University of Gent, University of Murcia, University of Thrace



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Practices  
by country

Select one of the **Good practices**  
to see the information on the  
right side

Actors

- Border Guard

Civil society

Freight forwarders

IT-companies

Logistics companies

Ministry of Interior

Municipality

Police

Port workers

Public administration

Security companies

Stevedoring companies

Transporters
- Citizens

Customs

International organisations

Labour unions

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Justice

National Anti-corruption ...

Port Authority

Private actors

Public prosecutors

Shipping companies

Terminal operators

Good Practices

| Good practice                          | Link                 |
|--|----------------------|
| Access policies                        | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Anti-mafia package                     | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Awareness-raising                      | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Building resilience                    | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Certified Pick-up                      | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Code of Conduct                        | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Compliance protocols                   | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Container training                     | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Digital systems                        | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Legal expansion to inland navigation   | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Multiagency cooperation                | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Portban                                | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Port-specific anti-corruption strategy | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Reforms in the Stevedores Contracting  | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Reporting mechanism                    | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Screening                              | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Staff rotation                         | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| Terminal automatisation                | <a href="#">Link</a> |

Access policies

Anti-corruption awareness campaigns educate employees in public and private sectors about recognising and resisting illicit activities, particularly in high-risk environments like ports. By fostering a culture of transparency and providing tools for reporting suspicious behaviour, these campaigns aim to reduce criminal infiltration and enhance compliance with ethical standards.

Details

**Countries of implementation** Belgium

**Level of Governance** Local

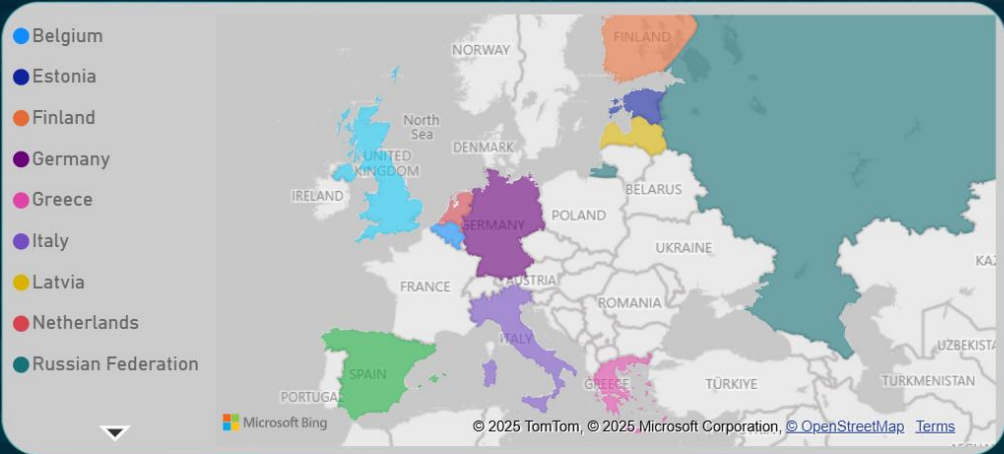
**Cost of practice** -

**Type of Anti-Corruption practice** Anti-corruption strategies

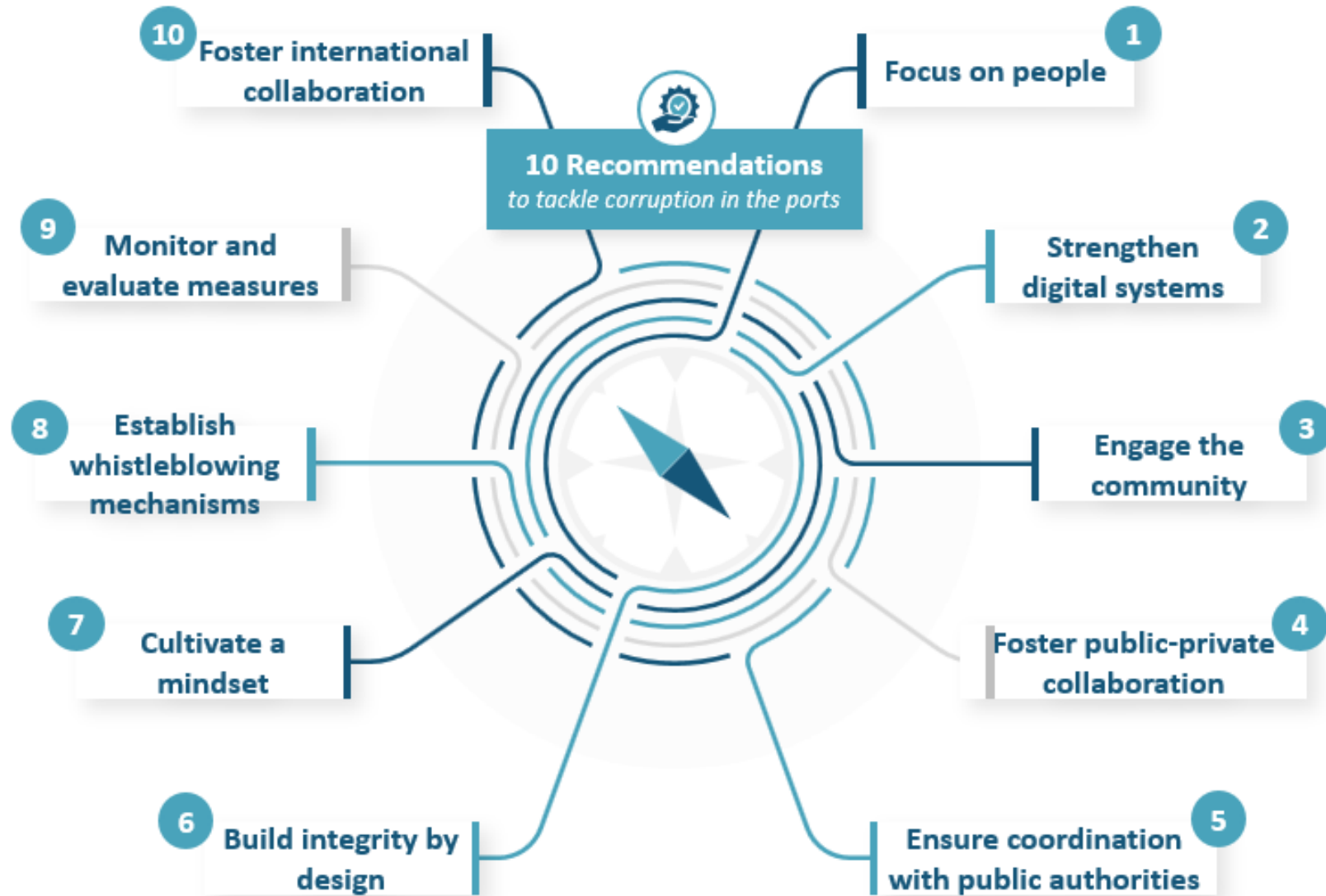
**Type of action** Analytical

**Direct results** Compliance plans, Intra-/Inter-institutional coordination, External or internal communication

**Source** -







**The Recommendation could be the foundation for an EU Port Integrity Standard in the future.**

**To move towards a harmonised EU-approach, there is a need to:**

- Capitalise on the momentum that POSEIDON contributed to building
- Continue advancing existing approaches to stay ahead and prevent waterbed effects
- Foster public-private cooperation to ensure an all-round approach



# Thank you

Scan the QR code or visit the  
POSEIDON website  
[poseidon.safe-europe.eu](https://poseidon.safe-europe.eu)



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**14:15 – 15:00**

## Feedback from Anti-corruption research

### Q&A

What do you consider to be the **most significant gaps** between anti-corruption research, policy design and practical implementation across EU Member States?

