

# Europol Response to Online CSEA in the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Europol Unclassified - Basic Protection Level

PART I

# Operational Response

Providing A Service

A photograph of the Europol building facade, featuring the word 'EUROPOL' in large, white, stylized letters. The building is a multi-story structure with a grid of windows. The image is overlaid with a dark blue diagonal shape on the left side.

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# 5W Approach

1 Victim Identification

2 Intelligence Analysis

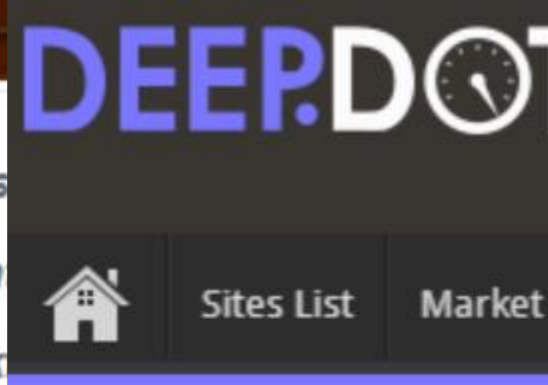
3 Technical Support

# #Europol helps Spanish police track down abuser

EU Reporter Correspondent | April 21, 2020



The operation to bring down a child sex abuser, who had made explicit videos of an underage boy, owes its success to international cooperation. Information from Queensland Police – Australia's Taskforce Argos per communication channel allowed Europol experts to carry out operational analysis, which revealed that a video from 2015 filmed in Spain.



**BREAKING NEWS**

Europa Market Exit Scams with Fake Seizure Banner

Home / News / Europol: Pedophile Arrested in International Investigation

## EUROPOL: PEDOPHILE ARRESTED IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION

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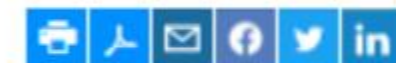
A pedophile accused of producing child abuse videos producing child abuse videos and sharing them on the darkweb was arrested in Spain following an international investigation coordinated by Europol. The investigation also involved Australia's Task Force Argos and the Spanish National Police.

### RELATED



# INTERNATIONAL POLICE COOPERATION LEADS TO THE ARREST OF A DARK WEB CHILD SEX ABUSER IN SPAIN

21 April 2020  
Press Release



- The suspect produced explicit videos of a young boy to gain access to sites and forums dedicated to child sexual abuse and exploitation.
- International cooperation was key to cracking the case: Europol supported the Spanish National Police in analysing information received from Queensland Police in Australia.
- The COVID-19 crisis forced experts from the Central Cybercrime Unit to carry out their duties by coordinating officers on the ground in Barcelona remotely.

The operation to bring down a child sex abuser, who had made explicit videos of an underage boy, owes its success to international cooperation. Information from Queensland Police – Australia's Taskforce Argos per communication channel allowed Europol experts to carry out operational analysis, which revealed that a video from 2015 found in Belgium and France may have been filmed in Spain.

## A CRUCIAL BREAKTHROUGH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The analysis of the images and video – which showed how the suspect abused a boy who was 15 at the time – led the Spanish National Police (Policia Nacional) to locate the suspect. When looking

darkweblink.com/europol-arrests-pedophile/

Home > Law Enforcement > Australian Authorities Collaborated With Spanish Law Enforcement Agency To Arrest A Dark...

Law Enforcement

# Australian Authorities Collaborated With Spanish Law Enforcement Agency To Arrest A Dark Web Pedophile

By Aadvik Perry - April 23, 2020

785 0



Another pedophile was brought down by law enforcement agencies and the operation was carried out by the Australians and the Spanish authorities. According to the information from Queensland Police-Australian Task force Argos sent secure messages via the **Europol's** secure communication channel.

# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION LEADS TO ARREST OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSER IN ITALY

27 May 2020

Press Release



Within 10 days of the discovery of the videos online, a 30-year old individual was arrested by the Italian State Police (Polizia di Stato) as a result of an international police effort to track down this man who produced child sexual abuse material.

The videos, which were released and offered for sale on the dark web, showed the suspect violently sexually abusing a pre-school aged girl. Analysis of these videos by the Italian State Police identified the location of the abuse in a region of northern Italy. Europol was quick to prioritise this case and dedicated several staff members to it.

Valuable information was provided by partner law enforcement agencies across the world including Australia, Denmark, France and Canada. Victim identification specialists from these countries worked together with Europol to help identify the victim and offender through image and video examination to get information as quickly as possible to the Italian investigators.

Combining that information with open source information and intelligence from Europol, the Italian State Police identified the home of the 30-year old. Working together with the field office of the State Postal and Communications Police (Servizio Polizia Postale e delle Comunicazioni-CNCPO), they carried out a thorough search of the suspect's home. Evidence, including items from the abuse videos were found with thousands of images and videos of sexual exploitation of minors.

CRONACA

## Abusa di una bimba e vende i video sul dark web, in manette un 30enne

L'operazione Amnesia della Polizia postale ha scovato in soli 10 giorni l'uomo che produceva video di abuso sessuale di minori per venderli sul dark web. La vittima è una bambina di pochi anni.

aggiornato alle 08:30 del 26 maggio 2020



pedofilo pedofilia violenza abusi minori

Un 30enne italiano è stato arrestato nella notte con l'accusa di abuso di una bimba di pochi anni e di diffusione e vendita di video sul dark web.



uomini della polizia postale hanno arrestato un comasco accusato di violenza e pedopornografia

Lunedì 25 Maggio 2020 (0)

Facebook Twitter

## Abusa di una bambina e vende i video sul web Pedofilo in manette

Trentenne comasco preso dalla polizia postale

Drogava la sua vittima e poi riprendeva le violenze

Scoperto grazie ai detective della postale nel deep web

PART II

# Strategic Response

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03 April 2020

Press Release



Europol report on cybercrime and disinformation amid the COVID-19 pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, criminals have been quick to seize opportunities to exploit the crisis by adapting their modus operandi and engaging in new criminal activities. Cybercriminals have been among the most adept at exploiting the pandemic. The threat from cybercrime activities during the crisis is dynamic and has the potential to increase further. With a record number of potential victims staying at home and using online services across the EU, the ways for cybercriminals seeking to exploit emerging opportunities and vulnerabilities have multiplied.

Europol has been monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cybercrime landscape since the beginning and has published an updated threat assessment of potential further developments in this crime area.

Among the forms of cybercrime analysed in the report are:

- > ransomware;
- > DDoS;
- > child sexual exploitation;
- > the dark web;
- > hybrid threats: disinformation and interference



# BEYOND THE PANDEMIC - WHAT WILL THE CRIMINAL LANDSCAPE LOOK LIKE AFTER COVID-19?

30 April 2020

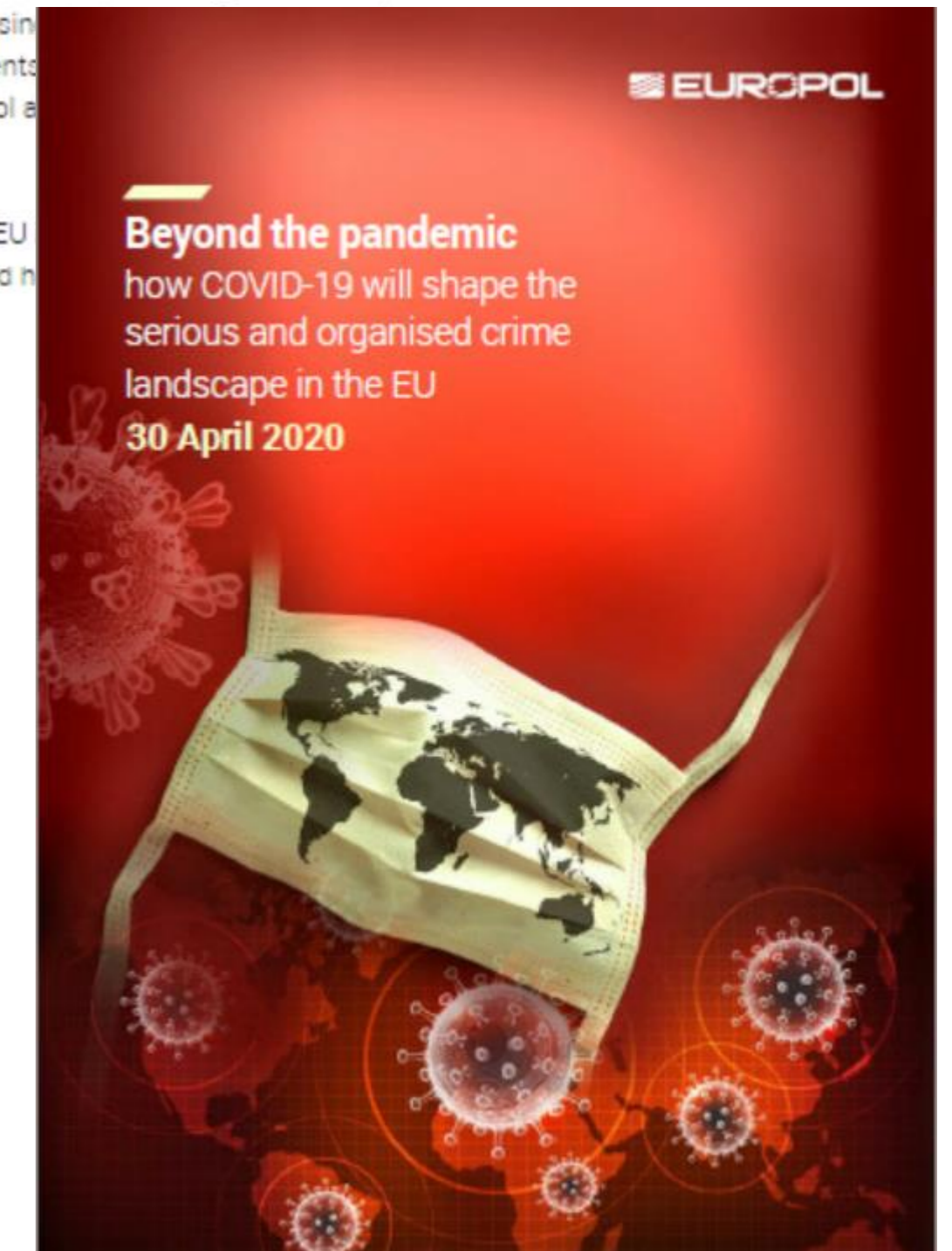
Press Release



New Europol report assesses the impact of the pandemic on serious and organised crime across three phases.

Based on criminal information from investigations in the Member States, Europol is assessing the impact of the pandemic on serious and organised crime across three phases: current, mid- and long-term phase. The report anticipates developments that will have an operational impact on law enforcement authorities across Europe. Europol also identifies trends that influence organised crime during and after the pandemic.

Anticipating the long-term impact of the pandemic on serious and organised crime in the EU, law enforcement can look to previous moments of crisis, such as the economic crisis of 2007 and 2008, and other security threats to anticipate general developments.



PART III

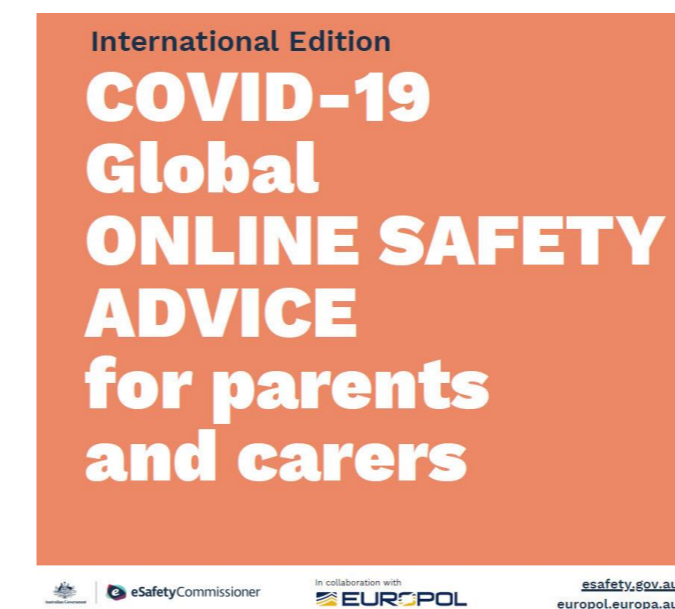
# Prevention & Education

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# Child Sexual Exploitation - Prevention & Education material



Thank you for your  
attention

Any  
questions?

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