

11h00-12h50

**Workshop 4 – Crime and cryptocurrencies**

**Purpose:** Considering the difficulty to follow a money trail in the blockchain and the somewhat anonymity that surrounds transactions using cryptocurrencies, this virtual asset is preferred by cybercriminals when conducting their illicit activities and laundering the proceeds resulted from them. Ransomware, hacking and other types of cybercrime are without doubt highly inter-connected with cryptocurrency and the response of judicial authorities is sometimes hampered by the complexity of this mix of crimes. The lack of legislation on virtual assets and even more importantly, on seizing them also contributes to this void that cybercriminals exploit. The COVID-19 Pandemic only increased the use in virtual assets both for legitimate and illegitimate purposes. The aim of this workshop is to provide information on how criminals abuse cryptocurrencies in hiding the illicit gains resulted from criminal endeavours and emphasise on the importance of defining legislation on domestic level in relation to handling and seizing this type of currency.

**Moderators:** Jan Kerkhofs, Federal magistrate, Federal Prosecutor’s Office Belgium, Organized Crime Division – Cyber Unit  
Paul Darcy, Senior Investigator, Ireland’s Department of Justice

**Rapporteur:** Hania Elhelweh, Judge, President of the First Instance Court, North of Lebanon

**Secretariat:** Alexandru Cristea, Project Manager, Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe  
Liliana Trofim, Senior Project Officer, Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe

▶ **Introduction and objective of the workshop [5 min]**

- Jan Kerkhofs and Paul Darcy

▶ **Crime and cryptocurrencies: case studies and typologies [45 min]**

- Knock-knock: who’s there in the Blockchain? Bart De Vlamincq, Detective ICT Crime, Federal Computer Crime Unit of Belgium
- How to co-ordinate mitigating virtual assets facilitated crimes, Jung Kee You, Criminal Intelligence Officer, Financial Crimes Unit, INTERPOL
- The 69,370 BTC Seizure from Silk Road, Nikhil Bhagat, Federal Prosecutor, USA Department of Justice

► **Investigating the criminal use of cryptocurrencies: tools, regulations and good practices [50 min]**

- Red flags related to the use of virtual assets, Janet Ho, Policy Analyst, Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- Regulating Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASP's), Irina Talianu, Head of Unit, Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), Council of Europe
- Regulating cryptocurrencies, El Salvador's experience, Ana Virginia Samayoa Baron, Director, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), El Salvador
- Following the money. Cryptocurrency tracing introduction, Brian Carter, Senior Cybercrimes Specialist, Chainalysis

► **Conclusions [10 min]**