








Source		The most important events of the period [15/12/2022 - 13/01/2023]
1		<b>Emerging trends and risks</b>
1	US FINCEN	<p><b>[22/December/2022]</b> FINCEN published Financial Activity by Russian Oligarchs in 2022.</p> <p>The conclusions are: i) Russian oligarchs moved or transferred funds and assets around the time of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Several Russian oligarchs transferred beneficial ownership of their companies, trusts, or accounts to their children, other family members, or close business associates. ii) Russian oligarchs purchased high-value goods or property in 2022. This included jewelry, art, and property or real estate in other countries leading up to the invasion. Residential or commercial real estate, specifically in Turkey and the UAE, has increasingly become a safe haven for Russian wealth, both legitimate and illicit, since the beginning of the Russian invasion. iii) Potential changes in longstanding oligarch-linked financial flows related to U.S. properties and companies. Several oligarchs moved funds from accounts in Russia to accounts in other countries, soon before or around the time of the Russian invasion, and used the funds for property-related expenses. While this activity is not inherently illegal or suspicious, the source of funds from Russia was unknown and could be linked to corruption.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/Financial%20Trend%20Analysis_Russian%20Oligarchs%20FTA%20_Final.pdf">https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/Financial%20Trend%20Analysis_Russian%20Oligarchs%20FTA%20_Final.pdf</a></p>
1	Europol	<p><b>[15/December/2022]</b> Complexities and conveniences in the international drug trade: the involvement of Mexican criminal actors in the EU drug market. A joint Europol and US Drug Enforcement Administration analysis report.</p> <p>This report delves into the activities of these criminals and their methods. Drug trafficking operations benefit from a number of different actors, such as brokers, cooks, envoys, intermediaries and money laundering service providers. The report also provides an outlook on potential threats that may develop in the future.</p> <p><a href="https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Europol_DEA_Joint_Report.pdf">https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Europol_DEA_Joint_Report.pdf</a></p>
2		<b>Warnings and reports, thematic analyzes of national and international authorities</b>
2	RO ONPCSB	<p><b>[12/January/2023]</b> Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery guidance and typology report for Moldova and Romania</p> <p>The report provides behavioral, KYC and transactional indicators and guidelines that help understanding the issues of forced labour, child labor and sexual exploitation in Moldova and Romania and provides other relevant information that the financial sector can use to counter this phenomenon.</p> <p><a href="https://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Human%20Trafficking%20and%20Modern%20Slavery%20guidance%20and%20typology%20report%20for%20Moldova%20and%20Romania.pdf">https://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Human%20Trafficking%20and%20Modern%20Slavery%20guidance%20and%20typology%20report%20for%20Moldova%20and%20Romania.pdf</a></p>
2	USA OCC	<p><b>[04/January/2023]</b> Joint Statement on Crypto-Asset Risks to Banking Organizations</p> <p>The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation today issued a joint statement highlighting key risks to banks associated with crypto-assets and crypto-asset sector participants. The interagency statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-highlights key risks associated with crypto-assets that could affect banks.</li> <li>-reminds banks to engage in robust supervisory discussions with their supervisory office regarding proposed and existing crypto-asset-related activities.</li> <li>-reminds banks that, before launching crypto-asset-related activities, banks should ensure that an activity can be performed in a safe and sound manner, is legally permissible, complies with applicable laws and regulations, and can be conducted in a manner that is fair to consumers.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.occ.treas.gov/news-issuances/news-releases/2023/nr-ia-2023-1a.pdf">https://www.occ.treas.gov/news-issuances/news-releases/2023/nr-ia-2023-1a.pdf</a></p>
2	CANADA FINTRAC	<p><b>[24/December/2022]</b> Operational alert: Terrorist activity financing</p> <p>The purpose of this Operational Alert is to support reporting entities in recognizing financial transactions suspected of being related to terrorist activity financing and provides terrorist activity financing indicators as a result of the analysis of FINTRAC disclosures related to terrorist activity financing. There are 54 indicators reflecting the types and patterns of transactions, along with contextual factors, that are grouped in 3 main categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Indicators of terrorist activity financing in relation to domestic terrorism;</li> <li>-Indicators of terrorist activity financing in relation to support of international terrorist groups;</li> <li>-Indicators of terrorist activity financing in relation to extremist travellers.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://fintrac-canafe.canada.ca/intel/operation/taf-eng.pdf">https://fintrac-canafe.canada.ca/intel/operation/taf-eng.pdf</a></p>

2	UK	<p><b>[21/December/2022]</b> HM Treasury - AML&amp;CTF Report 2020-2022</p> <p>The report contains the most common causes of non-compliance/breaches, interesting case studies and key findings.</p> <p><a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1125446/Supervision_report_final_draft_-_signed.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1125446/Supervision_report_final_draft_-_signed.pdf</a></p>
2	UK	<p><b>[21/December/2022]</b> Solicitors - AML Supervisory Report 2022</p> <p>The Law Society of Scotland - the professional body for Scottish solicitors, as AML supervisory authority published its AML activity report. The relevant information is related to the risk assessment and deficiencies identified in the sector.</p> <p><a href="https://www.lawscot.org.uk/media/373883/lss-aml-annual-report-2022.pdf">https://www.lawscot.org.uk/media/373883/lss-aml-annual-report-2022.pdf</a></p>
2	AUSTRALIA	<p><b>[15/December/2022]</b> National Proliferation Financing Risk Assessment</p> <p>AUSTRAC released Australia's first national proliferation financing risk assessment aimed at strengthening domestic and international efforts to combat this serious criminal activity. The results of this assessment have found that Australia is primarily targeted by state-based or linked procurement networks that wish to exploit a range of sectors to export restricted, sensitive or dual-use goods and knowledge. Procurement networks targeting Australia operate on behalf of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Iran, as well as other countries of proliferation concern. Other significant proliferation financing threats include the use of third-country nationals to facilitate proliferation financing and evade sanctions, and the exploitation of Australian citizens to source and export sensitive technologies and knowledge for use by actors of proliferation concern.</p> <p><a href="https://www.austrac.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-12/AUSTRAC_Proliferation_Financing_in_Australia-National_Risk_%20Assessment_Web.pdf">https://www.austrac.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-12/AUSTRAC_Proliferation_Financing_in_Australia-National_Risk_%20Assessment_Web.pdf</a></p>
2	UK	<p><b>[15/December/2022]</b> Report of the Independent Reviewer of Terrorismlegislation on the Operation of the Counter Terrorism</p> <p>This report is the product of the first independent review of anysanctions regimemade by HM Treasury under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018.</p> <p><a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1124845/CT3_Independent_Review.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1124845/CT3_Independent_Review.pdf</a></p>
3		<b>Terrorism and International Sanctions updates</b>
3	USA	<p>OFAC-Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List</p> <p><a href="https://www.treasury.gov/ofac/downloads/sdnlist.pdf">https://www.treasury.gov/ofac/downloads/sdnlist.pdf</a></p>
3	EU	<p>European Union Consolidated Financial Sanctions Lis</p> <p><a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fsd/fsf/public/files/pdfFullSanctionsList/content?token=n002g3ky">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fsd/fsf/public/files/pdfFullSanctionsList/content?token=n002g3ky</a></p>
3	UN	<p>United Nations Security Council Consolidated List</p> <p><a href="https://scsanctions.un.org/consolidated/">https://scsanctions.un.org/consolidated/</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[12/January/2023]</b> COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2023/66 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of dual-use items</p> <p>The updated EU control list includes new entries in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-electronics, semiconductors and computers;</li> <li>-chemical and biological;</li> <li>-aerospace and propulsion.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0066">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0066</a></p>
3	USA	<p><b>[09/January/2023]</b> Venezuela-related General License and Amended Frequently Asked Questions</p> <p>OFAC issued Venezuela-related General License 31B,"Certain Transactions Involving the IV Venezuelan National Assembly and Certain Other Persons." and amended several Frequently Asked Questions (522, 547, 660, 679, and 680).</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/faqs/updated/2023-01-09">https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/faqs/updated/2023-01-09</a></p>


3	USA	<p><b>[06/January/2023]</b> OFAC Sanctions Lis - Counter Terrorism Designations</p> <p>The following entities have been added to OFAC's SDN List: -7 private individuals.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230106">https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230106</a></p>
3	USA	<p><b>[05/January/2023]</b> OFAC Sanctions Lis - Counter Terrorism Designations</p> <p>The following entities have been added to OFAC's SDN List: -4 private individuals; -2 legal entities.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230105">https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230105</a></p>
3	USA	<p><b>[28/December/2022]</b> OFAC Sanctions Lis - Iraq-related Designations Removals</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20221228">https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20221228</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[22/December/2022]</b> Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2525 implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/44 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2022/2543 implementing Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya</p> <p>An entity was deleted from the sanction list (Libyan Arab African Investment Company – LAAICO)</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022D2543">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022D2543</a> <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022R2525">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022R2525</a></p>
3	USA	<p><b>[22/December/2022]</b> OFAC Sanctions List - Russia-related Designations</p> <p>The following entities have been added to OFAC's SDN List: -10 legal entities (naval).</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20221222">https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20221222</a></p>
3	USA	<p><b>[21/December/2022]</b> OFAC Sanctions List -Iran-related Designations; Nicaragua-related Designation Removal; Venezuela-related Designation Removal; Counter Terrorism Designations Updates; Publication of Russia-related Frequently Asked Question</p> <p>The following entities have been added to OFAC's SDN List: -5 private individuals; -1 legal entity.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20221221">https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20221221</a></p>
3	USA	<p><b>[21/December/2022 ]</b> OFAC Humanitarian-related Regulatory Amendments</p> <p>OFAC is amending multiple regulations to add or revise certain GLs across a number of OFAC sanctions programs to ease the delivery of humanitarian aid. Specifically, OFAC issued or amended four GLs across a number of OFAC sanctions programs authorizing the following four categories of activities: the official business of the U.S. government; the official business of certain international organizations and entities; transactions in support of certain nongovernmental organizations' activities; and the provision of agricultural commodities, medicine, medical devices, replacement parts and components, or software updates for medical devices for personal, non-commercial use.</p> <p>OFAC is separately updating a regulatory interpretation in several sanctions programs' regulations to explain that the property and interests of property of an entity are blocked if one or more blocked persons own, whether individually or in the aggregate, directly or indirectly, a 50 percent or greater interest in the entity. These changes will be effective upon publication in the Federal Register on December 21, 2022.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20221220">https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20221220</a></p>
3	USA	<p><b>[19/December/2022]</b> New Illicit Drug Trade Sanctions Regulations</p> <p>Following the declaration of international drug trafficking as US national threat by the US President (ExO 14059/12.15.22), OFAC issued a new regulation "Imposing Sanctions on Foreign Persons Involved in the Global Illicit Drug Trade". OFAC intends to supplement these regulations with a more comprehensive set of regulations, which may include additional interpretive guidance and definitions, general licenses, and other regulatory provisions.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/illicit_drug_trade_sanctions_regulations.pdf">https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/illicit_drug_trade_sanctions_regulations.pdf</a></p>

3	CANADA	<p><b>[19/December/2022]</b> Canada seizes a Russian oligarch's assets for the first time</p> <p>Canada will seize and pursue the forfeiture of US \$26 million from Granite Capital Holdings Ltd., a company owned by Roman Abramovich—a Russian oligarch sanctioned under the Special Economic Measures (Russia) Regulations. This is the first time that Canada is using its new authorities that allow the government to pursue the seizure of assets belonging to sanctioned persons. This means that Minister Joly will now consider making a court application to forfeit the asset permanently to the Crown.</p> <p><a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/12/canada-starts-first-process-to-seize-and-pursue-the-forfeiture-of-assets-of-sanctioned-russian-oligarch.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/12/canada-starts-first-process-to-seize-and-pursue-the-forfeiture-of-assets-of-sanctioned-russian-oligarch.html</a></p>
3	USA	<p><b>[16/December/2022]</b> OFAC Sanctions List - Counter Narcotics Designations Removals</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20221216">https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20221216</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[16/December/2022]</b> Council Reg (EU) 2022/2474 amending Reg (EU) No 833/2014  Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2475 amending Regulation (EU) No 269/2014  Council Implementing Reg (EU) 2022/2476 implementing Reg (EU) No 269/2014  Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/2477 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP  Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/2478 amending Decision 2014/512/CFSP  Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/2479 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP</p> <p>The new (9th) package includes mainly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new export controls and restrictions on dual-use goods and technology as well as goods and technology that can contribute to the technological enhancement of Russia's defence and security sector by significantly expanding the list of entities connected to Russia's military and industrial complex by additional 168 entities targeted by sectoral measures;</li> <li>- expand the export ban on aviation and the space industry related goods and technology to include aircraft engines (including drone) and their parts;</li> <li>- ban on the provision of EU advertising, market research and public opinion polling services, as well as product testing and technical inspection services;</li> <li>- prohibition on new investments in the Russian mining sector;</li> <li>- 49 entities and 141 individuals, including heads of Russian military and special forces and family members of Russian oligarchs, were included in the assets freezing list;</li> <li>- Credit Bank of Moscow and Dalnevostochniy Bank included in assests freez list;</li> <li>- Russian Regional Development Bank included in full transaction ban list.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2022:322I:TOC">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2022:322I:TOC</a></p>
3	USA	<p><b>[15/December/2022]</b> OFAC Sanctions List -Russia-related Designations and Designations Updates; Issuance of Russia-related General Licenses; Publication of Russia-related Frequently Asked Questions</p> <p>The following entities have been added to OFAC's SDN List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-44 private individuals;</li> <li>-21 legal entities (among which ROSBANK and VTB BANK subsidiaries);</li> <li>-1 vessel.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20221215">https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20221215</a></p>
4		<b>EU ML/TF SupraNational Risk Assessment</b>
4	EU	<p>The last EU report of the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing affecting the internal market and relating to cross-border activities (EU SNRA) was issued on [27/October/2022] :</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0554">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0554</a>  <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022SC0344">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022SC0344</a></p>
5		<b>Information and assessments by national authorities on risks at national level, policy statements and warnings or explanatory statements for relevant legislation</b>
5	RO	<p>The main findings and conclusions of the Romania ML/TF National Risk Assessment (NRA) was published on [22/November/2022]</p> <p><b>RO:</b> <a href="http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Rezumat%20NRA%20Public.pdf">http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Rezumat%20NRA%20Public.pdf</a>  <b>EN:</b> <a href="http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Summary%20of%20the%20National%20Risk%20Assessment%20Report%20on%20Money%20Laundering%20and%20Terrorism%20Financing.pdf">http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Summary%20of%20the%20National%20Risk%20Assessment%20Report%20on%20Money%20Laundering%20and%20Terrorism%20Financing.pdf</a></p>
6		<b>Specific guidelines, guides, instructions or warnings</b>




6	USA	<p><b>[31/December/2022]</b> OFAC Preliminary Guidance on Implementation of the Price Cap Policy for Petroleum Products of Russian Federation Origin</p> <p>The price cap applies from the embarkment of maritime transport of Russian petroleum products (e.g., when the Russian petroleum products are sold by a Russian entity for maritime transport) through the first landed sale in a jurisdiction other than the Russian Federation (through customs clearance).</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/price_cap_prelim_guidance_petroleum_products_20221230.pdf">https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/price_cap_prelim_guidance_petroleum_products_20221230.pdf</a></p>
6	UAE	<p><b>[23/December/2022]</b> New guidance on AML and CTF for the insurance sector</p> <p>This Guidance takes into account standards and guidance issued by the Financial Action Task Force, industry best practices, and red flag indicators identified by the FATF and leading jurisdictional authorities</p> <p><a href="https://www.centralbank.ae/media/eprfwwzf/cbuae-aml_cft-guidance-for-the-insurance-sector.pdf">https://www.centralbank.ae/media/eprfwwzf/cbuae-aml_cft-guidance-for-the-insurance-sector.pdf</a></p>
6	EU	<p><b>[22/December/2022]</b> European Commission updated numerous FAQs related to the Russia sanctions regime.</p> <p>The updates cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21 December 2022: Transit of listed goods via Russia</li> <li>21 December 2022: Imports, purchase and transfer of listed goods</li> <li>21 December 2022: Provision of services</li> <li>21 December 2022: Insurance and reinsurance</li> <li>20 December 2022: Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://finance.ec.europa.eu/eu-and-world/sanctions-restrictive-measures/sanctions-adopted-following-russias-military-aggression-against-ukraine/frequently-asked-questions-sanctions-against-russia_en">https://finance.ec.europa.eu/eu-and-world/sanctions-restrictive-measures/sanctions-adopted-following-russias-military-aggression-against-ukraine/frequently-asked-questions-sanctions-against-russia_en</a></p> <p><a href="https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/66e8fd7d-8057-4b9b-96c2-5e54bf573cd1_en?filename=faqs-sanctions-russia-consolidated_en.pdf">https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/66e8fd7d-8057-4b9b-96c2-5e54bf573cd1_en?filename=faqs-sanctions-russia-consolidated_en.pdf</a></p>
6	USA	<p><b>[15/December/2022]</b> New York State Department of Financial Services - Industry Letter: Prior Approval for Covered Institutions' Virtual CurrencyRelated Activity</p> <p>The New York Department of Financial Services (DFS) released Guidance to banking organizations that wish to engage in virtual currency-related activities. The Guidance outlines six broad categories of information that DFS will consider in assessing a Covered Institution's proposal: business plan; risk management; corporate governance and oversight; consumer protection; financials; and legal and regulatory analysis. The Guidance also includes a supplemental checklist of initial documents and information that a Covered Institution should provide for DFS to consider in its assessment.</p> <p><a href="https://www.dfs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/12/il20221215_prior_approval.pdf">https://www.dfs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/12/il20221215_prior_approval.pdf</a></p>
7		<b>Warnings, fines and convictions for violating the KYC/AML/CTF/Compliance legislation</b>
7	UK FCA	<p><b>[11/January/2023]</b> Al Rayan Bank PLC fined £4,023,600 for failing to put in place adequate AML controls</p> <p>U.K. largest Islamic bank failed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- establish high-risk customers' Source of Wealth and Source of Funds;</li> <li>- adequately scrutinize transactions undertaken through the course of its relationship with customers;</li> <li>- keep documents, data or information obtained for the purposes of applying CDD and EDD measures up-to-date;</li> <li>- provide adequate training to staff;</li> <li>- have appropriate internal controls in order to prevent activities related to money laundering and terrorist financing.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/final-notice/al-ryan-bank-plc-2023.pdf">https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/final-notice/al-ryan-bank-plc-2023.pdf</a></p>
7	UK FCA	<p><b>[10/January/2023]</b> Guaranty Trust Bank fined £7.6 million for failures in its AML systems and controls</p> <p>GT Bank failed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- undertake adequate customer risk assessments, often not assessing or documenting the money laundering risks posed by its customers;</li> <li>- monitor customer transactions and business relationships to the required standard;</li> <li>- take appropriate remedial action to rectify the weaknesses in its AML systems and controls – these weaknesses were identified by its Compliance and Internal Audit functions;</li> <li>- establish, verify and evidence the source of funds and source of wealth for higher risk customers;</li> <li>- ensure relevant staff were provided with appropriate AML training.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/final-notice/guaranty-trust-bank-uk-limited-2023.pdf">https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/final-notice/guaranty-trust-bank-uk-limited-2023.pdf</a></p>

7	USA DOJ	<p><b>[09/January/2023]</b> Over \$3.5 Million in Fraudulent Online Auction Proceeds</p> <p>A Romanian national was sentenced to 89 months in prison for his role in a transnational, multimillion-dollar scheme to defraud American victims. He is the 24th member of the organized criminal group to be sentenced, of the 28 who were charged. Ionut-Razvan Sandu, 35, of Romania, pleaded guilty in April 2022 to conspiracy to commit a Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act offense. Four other defendants pleaded guilty to this offense and were sentenced for their roles in the conspiracy between Nov. 16 and 18, 2022, including: Rafael-Liviu Cucu, 33, of Romania to 61 months; Alexandru-Catalin Calin, 40, of Romania, to 61 months; Ciprian-Ionut Filip, 37, of Romania to 70 months; and Gabriel Constantin Georgescu, 37, of Romania to 63 months. Members of the conspiracy used several tactics to convince victims to send money for the advertised goods and used digital currency to launder their ill-gotten gains.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/man-sentenced-integral-role-sophisticated-international-fraud-scheme">https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/man-sentenced-integral-role-sophisticated-international-fraud-scheme</a></p>
7	EPPO	<p><b>[09/January/2023]</b> Mayor of Romanian municipality indicted for attempted subsidy fraud and forgery</p> <p>The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) filed an indictment against the mayor of Brăhăsești, a rural municipality in the Galați county, in Romania, at the Iași County Court, on 7 December, for attempted subsidy fraud and forgery of official documents. The mayor is accused of attempting to unlawfully obtain EU funds, under a project to support the initial development of new companies within the local community, financed by the Human Capital Operational Program 2014–2020.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/mayor-romanian-municipality-indicted-attempted-subsidy-fraud-and-forgery">https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/mayor-romanian-municipality-indicted-attempted-subsidy-fraud-and-forgery</a></p>
7	RO NBR	<p><b>[09/January/2023]</b> Banca Comerciala Romana S.A. sanctioned with warning</p> <p>The National Bank of Romania (BNR) sanctioned Banca Comercială Română S.A. with a warning (Order of the first vice-governor of the BNR no. 171/13.12.2022) for not complying with the CSB Law of Romania, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- failure to report post &amp; ante-factum suspicious transactions to FIU;</li> <li>- improper monitoring of customer business relationships;</li> <li>- high risk customers business relationship without hierarchical approval;</li> <li>- deficiencies in internal control procedures.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.bnr.ro/Sanc%C8%9Biuni-emise-de-BNR-pentru-nerespectarea-legisla%C8%9Biei-incidente--20132.aspx#peloc">https://www.bnr.ro/Sanc%C8%9Biuni-emise-de-BNR-pentru-nerespectarea-legisla%C8%9Biei-incidente--20132.aspx#peloc</a></p>
7	USA NYDFS	<p><b>[06/January/2022]</b> Coinbase to Pay \$50 Million Penalty and to Invest an Additional \$50 Million in its Compliance Program</p> <p>Coinbase will pay a \$50 million penalty to New York State for significant failures in its compliance program that violated virtual currency, money transmitter, transaction monitoring, and cybersecurity regulations. These failures made the Coinbase platform vulnerable to serious criminal conduct, including, among other things, examples of fraud, possible money laundering, suspected child sexual abuse material-related activity, and potential narcotics trafficking. In addition to the penalty, Coinbase has agreed to invest an additional \$50 million in its compliance function over the next two years to remediate the issues and to enhance its compliance program pursuant to a plan approved by DFS.</p> <p><a href="https://www.dfs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/01/ea20230104_coinbase.pdf">https://www.dfs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/01/ea20230104_coinbase.pdf</a></p>
7	USA DOJ	<p><b>[06/January/2022]</b> Former Bolivian Minister of Government Sentenced for Bribery Conspiracy</p> <p>The former Bolivian Minister of Government was sentenced today to 70 months in prison for conspiracy to launder bribes he received in exchange for corruptly helping a U.S. company win a lucrative contract from the Bolivian government. Arturo Carlos Murillo Prijic, 58, of Bolivia, pleaded guilty on Oct. 20, 2022, to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. According to court documents, Murillo received at least \$532,000 in bribe payments from a Florida-based company in exchange for helping that company secure an approximately \$5.6 million contract in 2019 to provide tear gas and other non-lethal equipment to the Bolivian Ministry of Defense. Murillo and his co-conspirators laundered the proceeds of the bribery scheme through the U.S. financial system, including bank accounts in Miami. Murillo received approximately \$130,000 in cash bribe payments at a family member's home in Miami.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-bolivian-minister-government-sentenced-bribery-conspiracy">https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-bolivian-minister-government-sentenced-bribery-conspiracy</a></p>
7	RO NBR	<p><b>[04/january/2023]</b> Banca Română de Credite și Investiții S.A. sanctioned with warning</p> <p>National Bank of Romania (NBR) sanctioned Banca Română de Credite și Investiții S.A. with warning (Order of the First Deputy Governor of the NBR no. nr.170/06.12.2022 ) because it did not implement a preview Order issued by NBR related to the Romanian AML Law.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bnr.ro/Sanc%C8%9Biuni-emise-de-BNR-pentru-nerespectarea-legisla%C8%9Biei-incidente--20132.aspx#peloc">https://www.bnr.ro/Sanc%C8%9Biuni-emise-de-BNR-pentru-nerespectarea-legisla%C8%9Biei-incidente--20132.aspx#peloc</a></p>



7	USA OFAC	<p><b>[31/December/2022]</b> Danfoss agreed to pay \$4,379,810 to settle its potential civil liability</p> <p>Danfoss A/S, a multinational Danish company that manufactures and sells refrigeration and other cooling products agreed to remit \$4,379,810 to settle its potential civil liability for 225 apparent violations of the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations, the Syrian Sanctions Regulations, and the Sudanese Sanctions Regulations, between November 2013 and August 2017. The apparent violations occurred when Danfoss FZCO, Danfoss's wholly owned United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based subsidiary, directed customers in Iran, Syria, and Sudan to make payments to its bank account at the UAE branch of a U.S. financial institution.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/20221230_danfoss.pdf">https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/20221230_danfoss.pdf</a></p>
7	EU EPPO	<p><b>[30/December/2022]</b> Former minister and three suspects indicted in Croatia for abuse of office and authority and trading in influence</p> <p>The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Zagreb sent an indictment against four persons and two legal entities: former Croatian Minister for Regional Development and EU Funds (MRRFEU); the former director of Croatia's Central Finance and Contracting Agency (SAFU); and two business owners, along with their respective businesses. All four persons are accused of trading in influence, and of the abuse of office and authority. In total, estimated damages of at least €1 million were caused to the EU budget, and estimated damages of almost €300 000 to the state budget of the Republic of Croatia.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/former-minister-and-three-suspects-indicted-croatia-abuse-office-and-authority-and-trading">https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/former-minister-and-three-suspects-indicted-croatia-abuse-office-and-authority-and-trading</a></p>
7	MALTA FIAU	<p><b>[30/December/2022]</b> ECCM Bank plc fined €310,217</p> <p>Deficiencies were identified in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- risk assessment, both related to CRA and EWRA;</li> <li>- Purpose and Intended Nature of the Business Relationship;</li> <li>- transactions monitoring.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://fiaumalta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Publication-Notice-27122022.pdf">https://fiaumalta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Publication-Notice-27122022.pdf</a></p>
7	NZ FMA	<p><b>[24/December/2022]</b> FMA files court proceedings against Tiger Brokers, alleging AML/CFT Act breaches</p> <p>The FMA case alleges four causes of action, relating to Tiger Brokers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Failing to conduct customer due diligence (including standard, enhanced and additional customer due diligence on certain clients);</li> <li>-Failing to terminate an existing business relationship with any customer in respect of whom it was unable to conduct customer due diligence;</li> <li>-Failing to report suspicious activities; and</li> <li>-Failing to keep records in accordance with the Act's requirements.</li> </ul> <p>The matter will proceed to a penalty hearing before the High Court where the parties will jointly submit that Tiger Brokers should be ordered to pay a pecuniary penalty of \$900,000</p> <p><a href="https://www.fma.govt.nz/news/all-releases/media-releases/court-proceedings-tiger-brokers-amlcft-breaches/">https://www.fma.govt.nz/news/all-releases/media-releases/court-proceedings-tiger-brokers-amlcft-breaches/</a></p>
7	MALTA FIAU	<p><b>[23/December/2022]</b> Triton Capital Markets Limited fined €226,902</p> <p>Deficiencies were identified in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- risk assessment, both related to CRA and EWRA;</li> <li>- CDD measures;</li> <li>- Purpose and Intended Nature of the Business Relationship;</li> <li>- on-going monitoring.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://fiaumalta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Publication-Notice-23122022.pdf">https://fiaumalta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Publication-Notice-23122022.pdf</a></p>
7	USA DOJ	<p><b>[23/December/2022]</b> Latvian Citizen Extradited from Norway Sentenced in Federal Court for Role in Money Laundering Conspiracy</p> <p>The perpetrator conspired and agreed with others to knowingly conduct financial transactions affecting interstate and foreign commerce. They informed investors that the monies provided to one or more of the co-conspirators would be used for charitable or humanitarian projects, oftentimes using religion or sovereign-citizen ideologies to entice and induce victims into investing money in the scheme. The purpose of the conspiracy was to enrich the co-conspirators, all of whom amassed nearly \$13 million (2015-2021), and then spent the fraud proceeds on a luxury residence located in a suburb of Oslo, Norway, renovation costs on the house, a Mercedes Benz, nearly \$4 million in silver, travel, and personal expenses.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice.gov/usao-sd/pr/latvian-citizen-extradited-norway-sentenced-federal-court-role-money-laundering">https://www.justice.gov/usao-sd/pr/latvian-citizen-extradited-norway-sentenced-federal-court-role-money-laundering</a></p>

7	USA SEC	<p><b>[20/December/2022]</b> SEC Charges Former CEO of Biotech Company CytoDyn with Fraud, Insider Trading</p> <p>The Securities and Exchange Commission charged Nader Pourhassan, the former CEO of CytoDyn Inc., with fraud and insider trading in connection with providing misleading information to shareholders about the progress of a clinical research treatment for COVID-19 and HIV. In a parallel action, the U.S. Department of Justice announced criminal charges against Pourhassan and Kazempour.</p> <p><a href="https://www.sec.gov/news/press-release/2022-232">https://www.sec.gov/news/press-release/2022-232</a></p>
7	USA CFTC	<p><b>[20/December/2022]</b> CFTC Orders to Pay \$6.5 Million for Anti-Money Laundering, Risk Management, Recordkeeping, and Supervision Violations</p> <p>The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) announced it has issued an order simultaneously filing and settling charges against registered futures commission merchant CHS Hedging LLC, for AML, risk management, recordkeeping, and supervision violations. These violations are primarily a result of CHS Hedging failing to implement an adequate AML program, particularly as applied to a futures and options trading account controlled by one of its customers. In addition, CHS Hedging failed to implement risk-based limits concerning trading by that customer.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/8642-22">https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/8642-22</a></p>
7	USA DOJ	<p><b>[19/December/2022]</b> Honeywell UOP to pay over \$160M to resolve foreign bribery investigations in U.S. and Brazil</p> <p>Between 2010 and 2014, Honeywell UOP conspired to offer an approximately \$4 million bribe to a then-high-ranking executive of Petróleo Brasileiro S.A (Petrobras) in Brazil. Specifically, Honeywell UOP offered the bribe to secure improper advantages in order to obtain and retain business from Petrobras in connection with Honeywell UOP's efforts to win an approximately \$425 million contract from Petrobras to design and build an oil refinery called Premium.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/honeywell-uop-pay-over-160m-resolve-foreign-bribery-investigations-us-and-brazil">https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/honeywell-uop-pay-over-160m-resolve-foreign-bribery-investigations-us-and-brazil</a></p>
7	USA DOJ	<p><b>[19/December/2022]</b> Nigerian National Sentenced to Prison for Role in Fraud and Money Laundering Scheme - Romance Scams</p> <p>Kenneth Emeni, 30, a citizen of Nigeria, was sentenced to one year and one day in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, for conspiracy to commit money laundering. Emeni was also ordered to pay \$904,126.96 in restitution. Between August 2017 -October 2020, Emeni took part in a scheme that defrauded at least 200 victims, many of whom are elderly, of at least \$2.5M. Emeni's co-conspirators created false personas to establish romantic, friendship or business relationships with unwitting individuals via email, text messaging or online dating and social media websites. The victims were persuaded to send money for a variety of false and fraudulent reasons for the benefit of the false personas.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdwv/pr/nigerian-national-sentenced-prison-role-fraud-and-money-laundering-scheme">https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdwv/pr/nigerian-national-sentenced-prison-role-fraud-and-money-laundering-scheme</a></p>
7	USA DOJ	<p><b>[16/December/2022]</b> Co-Founder Of Multi-Billion-Dollar Cryptocurrency Pyramid Scheme "OneCoin" Pleads Guilty</p> <p>KARL SEBASTIAN GREENWOOD, co-founded OneCoin with RUJA IGNATOVA, a/k/a "the Cryptoqueen," pled guilty to wire fraud and money laundering charges in connection with his participation in the massive OneCoin fraud scheme. OneCoin records show that, between the fourth quarter of 2014 and the fourth quarter of 2016 alone, OneCoin generated €4.037 billion in sales revenue and earned "profits" of €2.735 billion. On October 12, 2017, IGNATOVA was charged with OneCoin-related fraud and money laundering charges in the United States and a federal warrant was issued for her arrest.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/co-founder-multi-billion-dollar-cryptocurrency-pyramid-scheme-onecoin-pleads-guilty">https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/co-founder-multi-billion-dollar-cryptocurrency-pyramid-scheme-onecoin-pleads-guilty</a></p>
7	SWEDEN	<p><b>[15/December/2022]</b> Länsförsäkringar Bank fined €8.15M for AML/CTF deficiencies</p> <p>Länsförsäkringar Bank has been deficient in its compliance with the rules to identify deviant activities and transactions that could entail a risk that the bank was used for money laundering and terrorist financing. The system has also not considered the customer's risk class or all of the risks that bank has identified itself in its general risk assessment. This has impaired the bank's possibilities for being able to identify deviant customer behaviour, stop suspicious transactions and report them to the FIU. The Bank also has not validated its model for transaction monitoring and has not had certain procedures and guidelines in place.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fi.se/en/published/press-releases/2022/lansforsakringar-bank-is-issued-a-remark-and-must-pay-administrative-fine/">https://www.fi.se/en/published/press-releases/2022/lansforsakringar-bank-is-issued-a-remark-and-must-pay-administrative-fine/</a></p>
8		<b>Threats, alerts and typologies</b>



8	EUROPOL	<p><b>[12/January/2023]</b> Call centres selling fake crypto taken down in Bulgaria, Serbia and Cyprus</p> <p>Law enforcement and judicial authorities from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany and Serbia, supported by Europol and Eurojust, have teamed up against organised crime groups involved in online investment fraud. This criminal network, comprising a number of different criminal actors operating through call centres, lured victims into investing large amounts of money into fake cryptocurrency schemes. The suspects used advertisements on social networks to lure victims to websites covertly operated by the criminals, which offered seemingly exceptional investment opportunities in cryptocurrencies. The victims, mainly from Germany, would first invest low, three-digit sums. Fake price hikes leading to supposedly lucrative profits for investors then persuaded them to make transfers of higher amounts. Currently, it is estimated that the financial damage to German victims is over two million euro, while other countries such as Switzerland, Australia and Canada also have victims. The investigation suggests that the number of unreported cases is likely to be much higher. This would mean that the illegal gains generated by the criminal groups, with at least four call centres in eastern Europe, may be in the hundreds of millions of euro.</p> <p><a href="https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/call-centres-selling-fake-crypto-taken-down-in-bulgaria-serbia-and-cyprus">https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/call-centres-selling-fake-crypto-taken-down-in-bulgaria-serbia-and-cyprus</a></p>
9		<b>Corruption Perception Indices and Country Reports</b>
10		<b>Mutual evaluation reports or lists of states or jurisdictions that have KYC/AML/CTF deficiencies</b>
10	FATF	<p><b>[09/January/2023]</b> FATF countries consolidated assessment ratings</p> <p>An up-to-date overview of the ratings on both effectiveness and technical compliance for all countries assessed against the 2012 FATF Recommendations and using the 2013 Assessment Methodology.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/4th-Round-Ratings.pdf">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/4th-Round-Ratings.pdf</a></p>
10	FATF	<p><b>[09/January/2023]</b> The Bahamas' progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</p> <p>The Bahamas has taken significant actions to strengthen its framework to fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation. The Bahamas, a member of FATF Associate member the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), has been under enhanced monitoring since the adoption of its Mutual Evaluation Report. In line with the CFATF Procedures for the Fourth Round of Mutual AML/CFT Evaluations, the country has reported back to the CFATF on the actions it has taken since its mutual evaluation and its Follow-up Reports. Consequently, to reflect the progress of The Bahamas, the CFATF has re-rated the country in relation to Recommendations 8 and 15 from Partially Compliant to Compliant. The Bahamas has 40 Recommendations rated C or LC.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/fur/CFATF-Follow-Up-Report-Bahamas-2022.pdf">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/fur/CFATF-Follow-Up-Report-Bahamas-2022.pdf</a></p>
10	FATF	<p><b>[21/December/2022]</b> Turks and Caicos Islands' progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</p> <p>Overall, Turks and Caicos Islands has made significant progress in addressing the technical compliance deficiencies identified in their Mutual Evaluation Report. For Recommendations 8, 16, 22, 26, 34, only minor deficiencies remain and they are all re-rated from PC to Largely Compliant. Turks and Caicos Islands has been re-rated C on Recommendations 10, 14, 17, 18, 19, 23 and 40. Turks and Caicos Islands has 35 Recommendations rated C/LC. The next enhanced follow-up report is due November 2023.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/fur/CFATF-Turks-and-Caicos-islands.pdf">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/fur/CFATF-Turks-and-Caicos-islands.pdf</a></p>
10	FATF	<p><b>[21/December/2022]</b> Kyrgyzstan's progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</p> <p>The Kyrgyz Republic has made significant progress in addressing technical compliance deficiencies identified in the MER. As a result, the following Recommendation has been re-rated. Recommendation 8 has been upgraded from Non Compliant to Partially Compliant.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/fur/EAG-Follow-Up-Report-Kyrgyzstan.pdf">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/fur/EAG-Follow-Up-Report-Kyrgyzstan.pdf</a></p>
10	FATF	<p><b>[20/December/2022]</b> Jamaica's progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</p> <p>Jamaica has made significant progress in addressing the technical compliance deficiencies identified in its 2017 Mutual Evaluation Report and has been re-rated on six Recommendations.</p> <p>Recommendation 1: from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant ; Recommendation 25: from Partially Compliant to Compliant; Recommendation 26:from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant ; Recommendation 27:from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant; Recommendation 35: from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant ; Recommendation 40: from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant</p> <p>Jamaica has 33 Recommendations rated C/LC.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/fur/CFATF-Follow-Up-Report-Jamaica-2022.pdf">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/fur/CFATF-Follow-Up-Report-Jamaica-2022.pdf</a></p>
11		<b>Relevant information from credible and reliable organizations</b>

11	Whistleblower Network	<p><b>[31/December/2022]</b> AML Whistleblower Improvement Act Becomes Reality as President Biden Signs Omnibus Spending Bill into Law</p> <p>President Biden signed the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023,” a spending package for 2023. With this action, the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Whistleblower Improvement Act has passed, and individuals blowing the whistle on money laundering and sanctions violations now have enhanced protections.</p> <p><a href="https://whistleblowersblog.org/aml-rewards/aml-whistleblower-improvement-act-becomes-reality-as-president-biden-signs-omnibus-spending-bill-into-law/">https://whistleblowersblog.org/aml-rewards/aml-whistleblower-improvement-act-becomes-reality-as-president-biden-signs-omnibus-spending-bill-into-law/</a></p>
11	Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime	<p><b>[30/December/2022]</b> Criminal Innovators - Emerging extortion trends in Latin America</p> <p>New forms and methods of extortion are continually emerging in northern Central American countries, as well as Mexico and Colombia, as criminal groups respond to changes in their operating environments – such as the mobility restrictions imposed to combat COVID-19. These new methods not only demonstrate criminal innovation, but also link to other crimes, such as fraud, kidnapping and cybercrime. Actors are continually innovating extortion techniques used in the region, such as deploying minors to collect payments; obtaining information from social networks; or requesting payments for services that are not delivered or for crimes that are not carried out.</p> <p><a href="https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Criminal-innovators-English-web.pdf">https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Criminal-innovators-English-web.pdf</a></p>
11	OCCRP	<p><b>[24/December/2022]</b> Thai Prosecutors Indict U.S. Citizen and Myanmar Tycoon on Drug Charges</p> <p>Prosecutors in Thailand have indicted a U.S. citizen and an accused arms dealer from Myanmar for their alleged roles in laundering drug money by purchasing energy from a Thai state-owned company, and sending it over the border to be sold in Myanmar. Also indicted were a Thailand-registered firm connected to both men, called Allure Group (P&amp;E) Co Ltd, and two other people involved in the company. Allure Group (P&amp;E) was used to “transform money gained from offenses related to drugs into commodities in the form of electricity that was exported to Myanmar,”</p> <p><a href="https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17202-thai-prosecutors-indict-u-s-citizen-and-myanmar-tycoon-on-drug-charges">https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17202-thai-prosecutors-indict-u-s-citizen-and-myanmar-tycoon-on-drug-charges</a></p>
11	Global Financial Integrity	<p><b>[22/December/2022]</b> Private Investment Funds in Latin America: Money Laundering and Corruption Risks</p> <p>The report specifically aims to understand the size, scale, and money laundering risks from private investment funds in the LatAm region’s five largest economies – Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, and Colombia—and to provide recommendations on how best to mitigate and address the money laundering risks to both the Latin America region and the United States.</p> <p><a href="https://gfintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/GFI-PIF-in-LatAm-Report.pdf">https://gfintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/GFI-PIF-in-LatAm-Report.pdf</a></p>
11	OCCRP	<p><b>[22/December/2022]</b> Latvia Shuttters Baltic International Bank for Not Preventing Money Laundering</p> <p>Latvia’s financial authorities shuttered one of the oldest banks in the country for its lax financial crime controls. The bank intended to accept a financial injection from shareholders who failed to explain the origin of their money. The shutdown comes after years of controversy over BIB’s operations, deriving from its customer base of offshore shell firms owned by wealthy individuals from former Soviet countries.</p> <p><a href="https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17199-latvia-shuttters-baltic-international-bank-for-not-preventing-money-laundering">https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17199-latvia-shuttters-baltic-international-bank-for-not-preventing-money-laundering</a></p>
11	Transparency International	<p><b>[21/December/2022]</b> EU countries continue to fail whistleblowers</p> <p>A year after the deadline to implement protections, most EU countries have yet to comply. EU adopted a landmark Directive on Whistleblower Protection in 2019. It included many important provisions to defend whistleblowers across the Union, filling gaps in many countries’ existing legislation and requiring that all member states pass legislation to protect them. Some of the most important include the shielding of whistleblower identities and the obligation for most companies and public institutions to establish whistleblowing mechanisms and follow up on reports. When the deadline hit, only five member states had adopted relevant legislation. Even more devastatingly, a whole year later, only eight more followed suit – for a total of 13 out of 27 transposing the directive as of now. Thirteen more countries have issued draft laws that will still take time to pass, and Hungary hasn’t even begun the process.</p> <p><a href="https://www.transparency.org/en/blog/eu-countries-continue-to-fail-whistleblowers">https://www.transparency.org/en/blog/eu-countries-continue-to-fail-whistleblowers</a></p>
11	Basel Institute on Governance	<p><b>[21/December/2022]</b> Europol–Basel Institute recommendations on tackling crypto crime and money laundering</p> <p>The Recommendations are intended to highlight broad approaches and best practices. They are designed to help public and private actors stay one step ahead of those seeking to abuse crypto assets (also known as virtual assets) and services to make, hide and launder illicit money. The recommendations are, in brief:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1/Break down silos between “traditional” and “crypto”</li> <li>2/ Regulate broadly and make full use of existing laws</li> <li>3/Take advantage of the blockchain to disrupt organised crime</li> <li>4/Raise crypto literacy through</li> <li>5/ Increase public-private cooperation.</li> </ol> <p><a href="https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/2022_Recommendations_Joint_Working_Group_on_Criminal_Finances_and_Cryptocurrencies_.pdf">https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/2022_Recommendations_Joint_Working_Group_on_Criminal_Finances_and_Cryptocurrencies_.pdf</a></p>

11	OCCRP	<p><b>[20/December/2022]</b> Abramovich Had Secret Partnership with Kremlin in Major Forestry Company</p> <p>Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich was a direct partner of the Russian government for nearly a decade in a forestry venture worth at least half a billion dollars, leaked documents show, contradicting his claims that his links to the Kremlin were limited. Abramovich, worth about \$9 billion, was sanctioned for his Kremlin connections by the European Union and the U.K. following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. The U.S. has not sanctioned Abramovich but has recently stepped up its hunt for his assets. In a lawsuit aimed at getting the EU sanctions removed, Abramovich's lawyers have argued that he has had no substantive ties to the Russian government. But company records and leaked compliance documents from Cyprus show that Abramovich in fact invested heavily in a major forestry company, Russia Forest Products (RFP), in which the Russian government was also a significant shareholder.</p> <p><a href="https://www.occrp.org/en/asset-tracker/abramovich-had-secret-partnership-with-kremlin-in-major-forestry-company">https://www.occrp.org/en/asset-tracker/abramovich-had-secret-partnership-with-kremlin-in-major-forestry-company</a></p>
11	ICIJ	<p><b>[19/December/2022]</b> Key US law enforcement aide being investigated for allegedly extorting former Venezuelan officials</p> <p>A key consultant to United States law enforcement efforts to pursue corrupt Venezuelan government officials and drug traffickers is now himself being investigated in Spain for allegedly extorting some of the same wealthy Venezuelans targeted in U.S. probes. Prosecutors in Spain allege that Martin Rodil, the consultant and a prominent expert on Venezuelan corruption, led a group that targeted wealthy Venezuelans suspected of corruption. Members of this group, including three Spanish police officers, are now under investigation for alleged influence-peddling, corruption and money laundering.</p> <p><a href="https://www.icij.org/inside-icij/2022/12/key-us-law-enforcement-aide-being-investigated-for-allegedly-extorting-former-venezuelan-officials/">https://www.icij.org/inside-icij/2022/12/key-us-law-enforcement-aide-being-investigated-for-allegedly-extorting-former-venezuelan-officials/</a></p>
11	Basel Institute on Governance	<p><b>[15/December/2022]</b> How political economy analysis can support corruption risk assessments to strengthen law enforcement against wildlife crimes</p> <p>The Basel Institute on Governance undertook targeted sector-level political economy analyses (PEAs) in three countries to understand why corruption risks may emerge in investigations and prosecutions of illegal wildlife trade (IWT) cases.</p> <p><a href="https://files.worldwildlife.org/wwfmsprod/files/Publication/file/29wcd0zi86_PEA_CRA_IWT_LE.pdf">https://files.worldwildlife.org/wwfmsprod/files/Publication/file/29wcd0zi86_PEA_CRA_IWT_LE.pdf</a></p>
11	OCCRP	<p><b>[15/December/2022]</b> Chinese Crypto Ring Laundered \$1.7B</p> <p>In China's latest crackdown on cryptocurrency fraud, police say they arrested 63 people suspected of helping domestic and foreign criminal groups launder the equivalent of US\$1.7 billion through virtual currencies. The group is alleged to have begun operations earlier this year, helping criminals launder their funds from pyramid schemes, fraud and gambling. The group converted the funds into Tether, a stablecoin pegged to the US dollar, and then attracted new people from around the world to open crypto accounts and help launder the funds. Between 2017 and 2021, cybercriminals laundered more than \$33 billion worth of cryptocurrency. Last year, about \$8.6 billion was laundered, which represented a 30 percent increase in money laundering activity over 2020.</p> <p><a href="https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17158-police-mongolian-crypto-ring-laundered-us-1-7-billion">https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17158-police-mongolian-crypto-ring-laundered-us-1-7-billion</a></p>
12		<b>Information from statistical organizations and academia</b>
13		<b>Relevant information on ML/FT risks from mass - media</b>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[12/January/2023]</b> Cristiano Ronaldo yet to issue legal response in money laundering case involving Juventus: Reports</p> <p>Cristiano Ronaldo is yet to issue a legal response in the money laundering case involving Serie A giants Juventus. The Old Lady allegedly had a secret document signed with Ronaldo and hid the Portuguese superstar's actual wages. Investigators claimed that they had proof Juventus concealed Ronaldo's actual financial package.</p> <p><a href="https://www.sportskeeda.com/football/news-cristiano-ronaldo-yet-issue-legal-response-money-laundering-case-involving-juventus-reports">https://www.sportskeeda.com/football/news-cristiano-ronaldo-yet-issue-legal-response-money-laundering-case-involving-juventus-reports</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[12/January/2023]</b> Russia is losing €160 million per day due to Western sanctions on oil, new report says</p> <p>Russia, the world's largest exporter of oil, is losing an estimated €160 million per day due to the combined impact of the European Union's far-reaching oil embargo and the G7's price cap, according to a new report. Russia now earns €640 million per day – down from €1,000 million per day in March – from the sale of all fossil fuels, which are believed to represent around 40% of its federal budget and act as a financial lifeline to bankroll the increasingly costly war in Ukraine.</p> <p><a href="https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2023/01/11/russia-is-losing-160-million-per-day-due-to-western-sanctions-on-oil-new-report-says">https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2023/01/11/russia-is-losing-160-million-per-day-due-to-western-sanctions-on-oil-new-report-says</a></p>

13	Mass-media	<p><b>[12/January/2023]</b> Ten oligarchs who used 'golden visa' route to UK are on sanctions list</p> <p>The government's "golden visa" scheme, which was meant to lure super-rich investors, has been targeted by people with suspected criminal links as well as 10 Russian oligarchs to gain a foothold in the UK, a review has disclosed. Suella Braverman, the home secretary, said "a minority" of more than 6,000 individuals who used the tier 1 (investor) visa route were "potentially at high risk" of having obtained wealth through corruption, illegality or organised crime – and that many were still under investigation by the police.</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jan/12/sanctioned-russia-backed-individuals-golden-visa-route-uk">https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jan/12/sanctioned-russia-backed-individuals-golden-visa-route-uk</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[12/January/2023]</b> Crypto Lender Nexo Targeted in Bulgaria Probe Into Alleged Money Laundering, Tax Violations</p> <p>"The main organizers of the scheme are Bulgarian citizens, and the activity was carried out mainly from the territory of Bulgaria," Attorney General Siika Mileva said in the statement. "Evidence has been collected that a person who used the platform and transferred cryptocurrencies has been officially declared a terrorist financing person," according to the statement.</p> <p><a href="https://www.coindesk.com/business/2023/01/12/nexo-subject-to-investigation-in-bulgaria-over-alleged-money-laundering-tax-offenses/">https://www.coindesk.com/business/2023/01/12/nexo-subject-to-investigation-in-bulgaria-over-alleged-money-laundering-tax-offenses/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[11/January/2023]</b> Former Petronas executive slapped with more corruption, money laundering charges</p> <p>A former executive of Petronas Carigali Sdn Bhd (PCSB) was charged with another 41 counts of corruption and five counts of money laundering amounting to almost RM9.65 million involving maintenance works at the Sessions Court .</p> <p><a href="https://www.thesundaily.my/local/former-petronas-executive-slapped-with-more-corruption-money-laundering-charges-BN10485567">https://www.thesundaily.my/local/former-petronas-executive-slapped-with-more-corruption-money-laundering-charges-BN10485567</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[09/January/2023]</b> European judicial delegation arrives in Lebanon to investigate money laundering</p> <p>Members of the European judicial delegation investigating money laundering and tax evasion related to the Governor of the Banque du Liban and directors of Lebanese banks are arriving in Lebanon successively.</p> <p><a href="https://www.lbcgroup.tv/news/d/news-bulletin-reports/681364/european-judicial-delegation-arrives-in-lebanon-to/en">https://www.lbcgroup.tv/news/d/news-bulletin-reports/681364/european-judicial-delegation-arrives-in-lebanon-to/en</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[09/January/2023]</b> Totti investigated for money laundering</p> <p>Ex-footballer Francesco Totti is being investigated for supposed money laundering, as it is thought that he is involved in "suspicious transactions" linked to operations in casinos in Las Vegas, Monte Carlo and London. The Roma and Italy legend is accused of laundering money and the investigators have already examined his bank account and all the transactions carried out in the last few years. According to the sources mentioned, Totti is thought to have taken out an interest-free loan of €80,000 from an unknown person from Anzio in Italy. At first glance, the account behind the loan is thought to be the daughter of an employee in the Italian Ministry of Sports and Health's.</p> <p><a href="https://www.besoccer.com/new/totti-investigated-for-money-laundering-1217913">https://www.besoccer.com/new/totti-investigated-for-money-laundering-1217913</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[09/January/2023]</b> Proposed cashless gaming card causes division in gambling industry</p> <p>The (Australia) state government is working to implement a cashless gaming card which has been met with criticism from some lobby groups. Responsible Gaming Industry Forum chairman Frank Makryllos told Mark Levy the issue shouldn't be driving a wedge between government and businesses.</p> <p><a href="https://www.2gb.com/proposed-cashless-gaming-card-causes-division-in-gambling-industry/">https://www.2gb.com/proposed-cashless-gaming-card-causes-division-in-gambling-industry/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[08/January/2023]</b> Nigeria to Ban Cash Withdrawals From Government Accounts</p> <p>Nigeria will ban cash withdrawals from government accounts from March 1 to tackle illicit activity and push toward a cashless economy. About 1.1 trillion naira (\$2.4 billion) has been taken out of public accounts in cash since 2015, with most transactions exceeding legal thresholds.</p> <p><a href="https://uk.style.yahoo.com/nigeria-ban-cash-withdrawals-government-151030237.html">https://uk.style.yahoo.com/nigeria-ban-cash-withdrawals-government-151030237.html</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[07/January/2023]</b> EU Blacklists Cameroon Over Illegal Fishing</p> <p>The European Commission has banned the import of seafood from Cameroon to the European Union, punishing the country for its lack of action against illegal fishing. The ban will stay in effect until Cameroon complies with the EU's Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing regulation. The global value of IUU fishing is worth up to 20 billion euro per year, while between 11 and 26 million tonnes of fish are caught illegally every year.</p> <p><a href="https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17221-eu-blacklists-cameroon-over-illegal-fishing">https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17221-eu-blacklists-cameroon-over-illegal-fishing</a></p>

13	Mass-media	<p><b>[07/January/2023]</b> Trucking boss and his staff jailed over massive money laundering plot</p> <p>Six men have been jailed for more than 40 years combined for their involvement in a multi-million pound money laundering operation. The court heard of a criminal operation to launder cash through a Tunstall-based haulage company, Genesis 2014 (UK) Ltd. Marcus Hughes, part owner of the business, used an encrypted network phone, known as Encrochat, to communicate with a man in Dubai, Craig Johnson, a convicted fraudster from Stoke-on-Trent. The total amount of cash involved in the conspiracy involving all six men was in excess of £30 million. It was discovered after the French authorities broke into the Encrochat network and reported activity to the British authorities.</p> <p><a href="https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/trucking-boss-staff-jailed-over-8002102">https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/trucking-boss-staff-jailed-over-8002102</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[06/January/2022]</b> Leak reveals Roman Abramovich's billion-dollar trusts transferred before Russia sanctions</p> <p>Trusts holding billions of dollars of assets for Roman Abramovich were amended to transfer beneficial ownership to his children shortly before sanctions were imposed on the Russian oligarch. Leaked files seen by the Guardian suggest 10 secretive offshore trusts established to benefit Abramovich were rapidly reorganised in early February 2022, three weeks before the start of Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. The sweeping reorganisation of Abramovich's financial affairs commenced just days after governments threatened to impose sanctions against Russian oligarchs in the event of an invasion.</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/06/roman-abramovich-trusts-transfer-leak-russia-sanctions">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/06/roman-abramovich-trusts-transfer-leak-russia-sanctions</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[06/January/2023]</b> Former Uzbek Prosecutor-General Jailed For Corruption Released On Parole</p> <p>Former Uzbek Prosecutor-General Rashidjon Qodirov, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison on corruption charges in June 2019, has been released on parole. Qodirov was arrested in February 2018 and later convicted of bribe taking, extortion, financial fraud, tax evasion, obstruction of justice, and money laundering.</p> <p><a href="https://www.rferl.org/a/uzbekistan-prosecutor-corruption-parole/32210706.html">https://www.rferl.org/a/uzbekistan-prosecutor-corruption-parole/32210706.html</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[06/January/2023]</b> ANTI-MONEY-LAUNDERING INVESTIGATORS FOCUS ON TOTTI'S SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS</p> <p>According to Italian paper La Verità, anti-money-laundering investigators are focusing on suspicious bank transactions completed by Roma and Italy legend Francesco Totti. Totti is reportedly involved in 'suspicious transactions reported by Anti-Money Laundering Officers' and investigators have been scrutinising his bank accounts.</p> <p><a href="https://football-italia.net/anti-money-laundering-investigators-focus-on-tottis-suspicious-transactions/">https://football-italia.net/anti-money-laundering-investigators-focus-on-tottis-suspicious-transactions/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[06/January/2023]</b> Danish police arrest dozens in large money laundering case</p> <p>Danish police said on Thursday they had arrested 135 people in a large-scale operation on suspicion of laundering money defrauded from elderly people. The money was defrauded by contacting elderly people and convincing them to transfer money from their bank accounts or provide personal banking information. Those arrested were not the organisers of the scam but what the police call "mules" who allow their bank accounts to be used to launder the cash, said Torben Svarrer, chief of the police's special crime unit. Authorities have prepared money laundering charges against a total of 212 people, but Svarrer said some of those whom the police had sought to detain could not immediately be found.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/danish-police-arrest-dozens-large-money-laundering-case-2023-01-05/">https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/danish-police-arrest-dozens-large-money-laundering-case-2023-01-05/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[05/January/2023]</b> UK barber jailed after sending Islamic State thousand of pounds from Covid grants</p> <p>A barber has been sentenced to 12 years in prison after sending thousands of pounds from taxpayer-funded coronavirus grants to the terrorist group Islamic State (IS) in Syria. Tarek Namouz, 43, told an associate he had transferred up to £25,000 to an IS fighter after discussing purchasing bombs, Kalashnikov rifles and other firearms as part of a plot to attack the Syrian government, the court heard.</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/05/uk-barber-jailed-sending-islamic-state-thousand-of-pounds-covid-loans-tarek-namouz-funding-terrorism-london">https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/05/uk-barber-jailed-sending-islamic-state-thousand-of-pounds-covid-loans-tarek-namouz-funding-terrorism-london</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[05/January/2023]</b> Ex-Czech PM Andrej Babis on trial for €2m EU fraud</p> <p>A 2 million euro fraud trial resumed in Prague today, with the former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic accused of illegally accessing EU funds for a construction project. Andrej Babis, 68, denies the charges. He returned to court on Wednesday after an adjournment for the Christmas holiday period. The billionaire owns the Agrofert business conglomerate and the court has heard claims its involvement in the construction of the Stork's Nest conference centre was covered up when the scheme received 2 million euros in small business funds from the EU.</p> <p><a href="https://www.euronews.com/2023/01/04/ex-czech-pm-andrej-babis-on-trial-for-2m-eu-fraud">https://www.euronews.com/2023/01/04/ex-czech-pm-andrej-babis-on-trial-for-2m-eu-fraud</a></p>


13	Mass-media	<p><b>[05/January/2023]</b> Jumbo ending most motorsport sponsorship amid money laundering investigation</p> <p>Supermarket chain Jumbo is putting a stop to most motorsport sponsorship, and is conducting a critical review of how it handled motorsport sponsorship in the past and present. Jumbo's sponsorship of motorsport was discredited last year due to the investigation by the Public Prosecution Service (OM) into Jumbo CEO Frits van Eerd. He was arrested in September as a suspect in a money laundering case. The OM previously said that the money laundering was carried out through real estate transactions, the automotive trade, and sponsorship in motocross.</p> <p><a href="https://nltimes.nl/2023/01/04/jumbo-ending-motorsport-sponsorship-amid-money-laundering-investigation">https://nltimes.nl/2023/01/04/jumbo-ending-motorsport-sponsorship-amid-money-laundering-investigation</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[04/January/2023]</b> FBI, IRS uncover money laundering, wire fraud involving CNMI casino deal</p> <p>U.S. Attorneys for Guam the CNMI filed a complaint for forfeiture in the U.S. District Court for the CNMI after seizing more than \$ 300,000 from two local bank accounts under the name "MCS." The move comes after the FBI and IRS Criminal Investigation found a "suspected conspiracy by foreign entities and entities and individuals in the CNMI to commit wire fraud and money laundering." The schemes also involve tax evasion.</p> <p><a href="https://www.kuam.com/story/48062043/fbi-irs-uncover-money-laundering-wire-fraud-involving-in-cnmi-casino-deal">https://www.kuam.com/story/48062043/fbi-irs-uncover-money-laundering-wire-fraud-involving-in-cnmi-casino-deal</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[04/January/2023]</b> More MEPs could lose immunity in corruption probe, president says</p> <p>The EU says it will launch proceedings to remove parliamentary immunity from two MEPs implicated in an ongoing corruption scandal. Parliamentary President Roberta Metsola said she had taken the move after a request from Belgian police.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64146807">https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64146807</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[31/December/2022]</b> Dubai approves extradition of financier accused of tax fraud</p> <p>A court in Dubai on Thursday approved the extradition to Denmark of a British financier accused of orchestrating a \$1.7 billion tax scheme. Hedge fund trader Sanjay Shah is accused of masterminding a scheme that ran from 2012 to 2015 in which foreign businesses pretended to own shares in Danish companies and claimed tax refunds for which they were not eligible.</p> <p><a href="https://apnews.com/article/dubai-united-arab-emirates-denmark-extradition-crime-4cb487ba51abd5f9c9e64cd944331625">https://apnews.com/article/dubai-united-arab-emirates-denmark-extradition-crime-4cb487ba51abd5f9c9e64cd944331625</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[31/December/2022]</b> Russian oligarchs lose \$95bn in 2022 amid sanctions after Ukraine war</p> <p>Roman Abramovich, the former Chelsea FC owner, was the biggest loser, with his fortune falling by 57% to \$7.8bn this year, according to the Bloomberg billionaires index (<a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/billionaires/">https://www.bloomberg.com/billionaires/</a>). The fortune of Gennady Timchenko, a billionaire energy investor and close friend of Putin, has reduced by 48% to \$11.8bn, and Suleiman Kerimov, another of the Russian president's allies, has lost 41%, dropping to \$9bn, according to the index.</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/30/russian-oligarchs-lose-95bn-in-2022-amid-sanctions-after-ukraine-war">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/30/russian-oligarchs-lose-95bn-in-2022-amid-sanctions-after-ukraine-war</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[31/December/2022]</b> Romanian court extends detention of ex-kickboxer Andrew Tate in rape, human trafficking case</p> <p>A Romanian court agreed to extend the detention of Andrew Tate by 30 days, after the divisive internet personality was arrested on suspicion of human trafficking, rape and forming an organised crime group. The former professional kickboxer and his brother Tristan were detained on Thursday for an initial 24 hours alongside two Romanian suspects, prosecutors from the anti-organised crime unit said after raiding their properties in Bucharest.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/romania-detains-ex-kickboxer-andrew-tate-human-trafficking-case-2022-12-30/">https://www.reuters.com/world/romania-detains-ex-kickboxer-andrew-tate-human-trafficking-case-2022-12-30/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[30/December/2022]</b> Kraken quits Japan for the second time, blaming a 'weak crypto market'</p> <p>The crypto exchange said it will deregister from Japan's Financial Services Agency as a crypto asset exchange operator from Jan. 31. On Nov. 30, Kraken announced it had made one of its "hardest decisions" to cut its global workforce by approximately 1,100 people, equivalent to 30% of its headcount, amid difficult market conditions.</p> <p><a href="https://cointelegraph.com/news/kraken-quits-japan-for-second-time-blaming-a-weak-crypto-market">https://cointelegraph.com/news/kraken-quits-japan-for-second-time-blaming-a-weak-crypto-market</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[30/December/2022]</b> Angolan court orders seizure of dos Santos's assets - Lusa news agency</p> <p>LISBON – Angola's Supreme Court has ordered the "preventive" seizure of assets worth around \$1 billion held by Isabel dos Santos, the daughter of the southern African country's former president. The seizure also includes all of dos Santos's shares in Angolan company Embalvidro, as well as 100% of shares in Cape Verde's telecom company Unitel T+ and Unitel STP in Sao Tome e Principe. A total of 70% of her shares in Mozambique's telecom MStar and Upstar Comunicacoes should be seized too.</p> <p><a href="https://www.euronews.com/2022/12/28/angola-dossantos">https://www.euronews.com/2022/12/28/angola-dossantos</a></p>

13	Mass-media	<p><b>[30/December/2022]</b> U.S. Virgin Islands alleges JP Morgan knowingly "turned a blind eye" to Jeffrey Epstein's sex crimes in federal lawsuit</p> <p>The attorney general of the U.S. Virgin Islands filed a lawsuit against JP Morgan Chase, alleging that the banking giant benefited from Jeffrey Epstein's illegal sex trafficking enterprise and helped conceal the ongoing exploitation of women and girls at his property on Little St. James. The suit, accuses JP Morgan of providing banking services to Epstein even after he became a registered sex offender in the U.S. Virgin Islands following his 2008 conviction for soliciting a minor for prostitution in Palm Beach, Florida. It also accuses the financial institution of failing to comply with federal regulations, including records and reporting requirements that may have flagged Epstein's crimes to U.S. officials before they eventually came to light, in a deliberate attempt to hide Epstein's suspicious activities.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/jeffrey-epstein-jp-morgan-us-virgin-islands-lawsuit/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/jeffrey-epstein-jp-morgan-us-virgin-islands-lawsuit/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[30/December/2022]</b> Fraudsters' working patterns have changed in recent years</p> <p>It is estimated that the current global financial cost of fraud is \$5.38 trillion (£4.37 trillion), which is 6.4% of the world's GDP. With most fraud now happening online (80% of reported fraud is cyber-enabled), Onfido's Identity Fraud Report uncovers patterns of fraudster behavior, attack techniques, and emerging tactics.</p> <p><a href="https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2022/12/29/less-sophisticated-fraud/">https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2022/12/29/less-sophisticated-fraud/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[29/December/2022]</b> Greece asks Panama to check possible money transfers from Qatar to MEP Kaili</p> <p>The chairman of Greece's anti-money laundering authority, Charalampos Vourliotis, sent an urgent request to authorities in Panama — a well-known tax haven with a reputation for lacking financial transparency — asking to be informed whether remittances of some €20 million had been transferred from Qatar to accounts that may have been opened by Kaili or her family members, according to officials at the agency. Vourliotis' request came after posts began circulating on social media that were then picked up by Spanish and Greek media, purporting to show banking documents for Panamanian accounts belonging to Kaili and her family members receiving deposits originating in Qatar. The posts allege that the accounts were held at the Bladex Bank of Panama and belonged to Kaili, her father Alexandros Kailis and her mother Maria Ignatiadou. They claim the accounts contain €20 million collected through two deposits from Qatar to Kaili; €4 million through two deposits from Qatar to Kailis; and €4 million through two deposits from Qatar to Ignatiadou.</p> <p><a href="https://www.politico.eu/article/eva-kaili-qatar-corruption-european-parliament-greece-panama-money-transfers/">https://www.politico.eu/article/eva-kaili-qatar-corruption-european-parliament-greece-panama-money-transfers/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[29/December/2022]</b> Dutch banks introduce new fees for AML checks.</p> <p>Banks say the monthly charge is needed to pay for the extra checks they have to make for AML&amp;CTF. High risk customers are being asked to pay additional banking fees to cover the cost of AML investigations. ABN Amro, ING and SNS have already introduced the new fees and Rabobank will follow soon.</p> <p><a href="https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2022/12/banks-bring-in-new-fees-for-money-laundering-checks/">https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2022/12/banks-bring-in-new-fees-for-money-laundering-checks/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[28/December/2022]</b> Ferrexpo's owner detained in France at Ukraine's request</p> <p>Billionaire Kostyantyn Zhevago, the controlling shareholder of London-listed iron pellet producer Ferrexpo, has been arrested and is being detained in France at Ukraine's request. Ukraine's state bureau of investigation DBR, which was the first to say publicly that Zhevago had been arrested, said the billionaire was wanted on suspicion of embezzlement and money-laundering linked to the disappearance of \$113 million from the now bankrupt lender Finance &amp; Credit Bank.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-says-ferrexpo-controlling-shareholder-detained-france-2022-12-28">https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-says-ferrexpo-controlling-shareholder-detained-france-2022-12-28</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[27/December/2022]</b> Russia's largest bank issued gold-backed digital financial assets</p> <p>Russia's largest bank Sber — formerly known as Sberbank — reported the first issue of gold-backed digital financial assets (DFAs). The bank considers DFAs to be a "great alternative" to investments amid dedollarization. On Dec. 26, Sber published the news about its first issue of gold-backed DFAs. A diversified metals seller and manufacturer, Solfer, became the first investor to obtain the issued assets. Gold-backed DFAs represent certifying monetary rights, whose price and volume depend on gold prices.</p> <p><a href="https://cointelegraph.com/news/russia-s-largest-bank-issued-gold-backed-digital-financial-assets">https://cointelegraph.com/news/russia-s-largest-bank-issued-gold-backed-digital-financial-assets</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[26/December/2022]</b> Sanctions forcing Russia's Sberbank to close UAE office</p> <p>Russia's dominant lender Sberbank will be forced to close its office in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) early next year, First Deputy Chairman Alexander Vedyakhin said on Monday, blaming sanctions pressure.</p> <p><a href="https://uk.sports.yahoo.com/news/sanctions-forcing-russias-sberbank-close-140732956.html">https://uk.sports.yahoo.com/news/sanctions-forcing-russias-sberbank-close-140732956.html</a></p>

13	Mass-media	<p><b>[25/December/2022]</b> Ex-Maldives leader gets 11 years for money laundering, bribe</p> <p>A court in Maldives on Sunday found the former president guilty of money laundering and accepting a bribe and sentenced him to 11 years in prison. The Criminal Court of Maldives also ordered Abdulla Yameen to pay a fine of \$5 million. The court found Yameen guilty of accepting money for leasing an island owned by the government. He ruled the Indian ocean archipelago nation, known as an exclusive tourist destination, from 2013 to 2018.</p> <p><a href="https://apnews.com/article/prisons-money-laundering-maldives-abdulla-yameen-b6a12548df0cdc84d27d736c5e0ae1de">https://apnews.com/article/prisons-money-laundering-maldives-abdulla-yameen-b6a12548df0cdc84d27d736c5e0ae1de</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[25/December/2022]</b> Banks may rely on notary statement for anti-money laundering checks</p> <p>Banks were relieved of the dilemma of notary accounts in their anti-money laundering checks. When requesting information about accounts held by notaries for clients, banks often ran up against the notaries' duty of confidentiality. It was now agreed that a statement by the notary about his or her own money laundering checks will suffice, reported the Dutch Banking Association. To combat money laundering or terrorist financing, banks are required to investigate the origin of the money held in client accounts. However, due to the duty of confidentiality, this is difficult in the case of so-called third-party money accounts of notary offices, which contain funds that do not belong to the notary or the office itself.</p> <p><a href="https://nltimes.nl/2022/12/25/banks-may-rely-notary-statement-anti-money-laundering-checks">https://nltimes.nl/2022/12/25/banks-may-rely-notary-statement-anti-money-laundering-checks</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[23/December/2022]</b> Cryptocurrency becomes mainstream option for money laundering and funding of terrorism, Austrac says</p> <p>Australia's financial intelligence agency has warned Russian paramilitary groups are soliciting cryptocurrency donations to buy weapons and that Australians have donated to terrorist organisations overseas.</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/dec/23/cryptocurrency-becomes-mainstream-option-for-money-laundering-and-funding-of-terrorism-austrac-says">https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/dec/23/cryptocurrency-becomes-mainstream-option-for-money-laundering-and-funding-of-terrorism-austrac-says</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[22/December/2022]</b> Kaili plot on Paros frozen pending money-laundering investigation</p> <p>A Supreme Court prosecutor has ordered that a plot of land on the island of Paros bought by MEP Eva Kaili and her husband Francesco Giorgi be frozen pending a money-laundering investigation into the activities of the couple. It is understood that an account used to purchase the 0.7-hectare plot has also been frozen. Kaili is one of four people linked to the European Parliament charged by Belgian authorities over allegations World Cup host Qatar lavished them with cash and gifts to influence decision-making.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1200871/kaili-plot-on-paros-frozen-pending-money-laundering-investigation/">https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1200871/kaili-plot-on-paros-frozen-pending-money-laundering-investigation/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[22/December/2022]</b> Money launderers targeted football club owner</p> <p>Five men have been convicted of money laundering offences which included hacking the bank account of a football club owner. The unnamed multi-millionaire had almost £1m taken from his account, a court heard. In total, almost £1.5m of "dirty money" was channelled through Ian Robertson's law firm in Paisley, the High Court in Glasgow was told.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-64055643">https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-64055643</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[22/December/2022]</b> UAE fines six companies \$871,000 for breaking anti-money laundering law</p> <p>The companies were fined following inspections by the Ministry of Economy to monitor the operations of designated non-financial businesses or professions that are subject to its supervision. The companies were fined "for their failure to adhere to the internal policies and controls established to combat crime, engaging in suspicious business relationships, and failure to adopt necessary measures to limit the risks of crime in the field of work", the report said.</p> <p><a href="https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/economy/2022/12/21/uae-fines-six-companies-871000-for-breaking-anti-money-laundering-law/">https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/economy/2022/12/21/uae-fines-six-companies-871000-for-breaking-anti-money-laundering-law/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[21/December/2022]</b> UK orders Russian oligarch-linked fund to sell internet firm, citing security</p> <p>The UK government has ordered investment fund LetterOne (L1), which was founded by Russian oligarchs targeted by Western sanctions, to sell UK regional internet provider Upp for national security reasons. Russian oligarchs Mikhail Fridman and Petr Aven, whom the UK targeted with sanctions in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, announced in March that they were stepping down from the investment fund they co-founded in 2013.</p> <p><a href="https://www.scmp.com/news/world/europe/article/3204044/uk-orders-oligarch-linked-investment-fund-sell-internet-firm-upp-national-security-reasons">https://www.scmp.com/news/world/europe/article/3204044/uk-orders-oligarch-linked-investment-fund-sell-internet-firm-upp-national-security-reasons</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[21/December/2022]</b> Russia and Iran Are Building a Trade Route That Defies Sanctions</p> <p>Russia and Iran are building a new transcontinental trade route stretching from the eastern edge of Europe to the Indian Ocean, a 3,000-kilometer (1,860-mile) passage that's beyond the reach of any foreign intervention. The two countries are spending billions of dollars to speed up delivery of cargos along rivers and railways linked by the Caspian Sea.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2022-russia-iran-trade-corridor/">https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2022-russia-iran-trade-corridor/</a></p>



13	Mass-media	<p><b>[20/December/2022]</b> Bank of Russia to Test International Crypto Payments With Companies</p> <p>The Central Bank of the Russian Federation (CBR) intends to trial international trade settlements with cryptocurrencies, the monetary authority's First Deputy Chairman Olga Skorobogatova announced. Government institutions in Moscow have been working to expand the regulatory framework for digital financial assets to cover decentralized cryptocurrencies. The central bank has been a strong opponent to their legalization in Russia but has softened its stance amid Western restrictions over the invasion of Ukraine, that have limited the country's access to global finances and markets.</p> <p><a href="https://news.bitcoin.com/bank-of-russia-to-test-international-crypto-payments-with-companies/">https://news.bitcoin.com/bank-of-russia-to-test-international-crypto-payments-with-companies/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[20/December/2022]</b> Israeli Authorities Empowered to Seize Crypto from 150 Wallets</p> <p>The ruling was issued by Tel Aviv's Magistrate Court according to Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz has already authorized the seizure of \$33,500 worth of crypto from digital wallets connected to Gaza-headquartered Islamic militant group, Hamas. Since January 2019, the Palestinian militant organization began to make appeals to their supporters, inciting them to show solidarity by donating Bitcoin (BTC). With such donations, Hamas was sure that it would evade sections and outgrow financial isolation.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bitcoininsider.org/article/198065/israeli-authorities-empowered-seize-crypto-150-wallets">https://www.bitcoininsider.org/article/198065/israeli-authorities-empowered-seize-crypto-150-wallets</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[19/December/2022]</b> Exclusive: Crimea showers Syria with wheat, Ukraine cries foul</p> <p>Using a low-profile fleet of ships under U.S. sanctions, Syria has this year sharply increased wheat imports from the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea that Russia annexed from Ukraine, a sign of tightening economic ties between two allies shunned by the West. With sanctions making it more complicated for Syria and Russia to trade using mainstream sea transport and marine insurance, the two countries are increasingly relying on their own ships to move the grain, including three Syrian vessels that are subject to sanctions imposed by Washington, the data shows.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/russian-annexed-crimea-showers-syria-with-wheat-ukraine-cries-foul-2022-12-19/">https://www.reuters.com/world/russian-annexed-crimea-showers-syria-with-wheat-ukraine-cries-foul-2022-12-19/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[19/December/2022]</b> Global Drug Conspiracy Used Binance To Launder Millions In Crypto, DEA Investigation Finds</p> <p>A methamphetamine and cocaine gang operating across the U.S., Mexico, Europe and Australia used the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchange Binance to launder tens of millions in drug proceeds, according to an ongoing investigation by the US Drug Enforcement Administration. Between \$15 and \$40 million in illicit proceeds may have been funneled through Binance, the DEA alleged.</p> <p><a href="https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2022/12/19/mexican-drug-gang-money-laundering-over-binance-crypto-exchange/">https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2022/12/19/mexican-drug-gang-money-laundering-over-binance-crypto-exchange/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[19/Decembrie/2022]</b> Malta, the Mafia's 'El Dorado': report finds billions laundered through Malta</p> <p>A study commissioned by German MEP Martin Schirdewan presented to the EP covers only seven years and states the €4 billion figure is merely the 'tip of the iceberg'. The German journalist and MEP made specific note of how, as early as 2015, assassinated Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia described online gaming as the "ideal solution" for laundering massive amounts of income Italian mafia clans have made from their global cocaine trade. From the €6.7 billion in total assets that were confiscated across some 100 investigations examined by the study, €4 billion alone came from investigations into online gaming related to Malta.</p> <p><a href="https://theshiftnews.com/2022/12/19/malta-the-mafias-el-dorado-report-finds-e4-billion-laundered-through-malta/">https://theshiftnews.com/2022/12/19/malta-the-mafias-el-dorado-report-finds-e4-billion-laundered-through-malta/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[15/December/2022]</b> Microsoft Bans Crypto Mining on Its Online Services Without Permission</p> <p>Tech giant Microsoft won't allow its customers to mine cryptocurrencies on its online services without prior written permission, according to a policy update that came into effect on Dec. 1. This isn't the first time a tech giant has banned crypto mining in its online platform. Google has similar policy in place – prohibiting mining without the company's prior written permission. Google said last year that most of the "malicious actors" have used compromised cloud accounts to mine crypto, and earlier in 2022 added a mining malware threat detection service for compromised accounts in its cloud service. Amazon's AWS also prohibits crypto mining for its 12-month free trial. Customers could be charged a fee if they chose to mine on AWS and may have their accounts suspended.</p> <p><a href="https://www.coindesk.com/tech/2022/12/15/microsoft-bans-crypto-mining-on-its-online-services-without-permission/">https://www.coindesk.com/tech/2022/12/15/microsoft-bans-crypto-mining-on-its-online-services-without-permission/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[15/December/2022]</b> American jury awards BTA Bank more than £218 million in trial over Ablyazov's theft and money laundering</p> <p>The defendant, Triadou SPV, is a shell company created and controlled by Ablyazov's son-in-law Ilyas Khrapunov, which received more than USD \$70 million in money stolen from BTA, which it invested in real estate in New York City and elsewhere in the United States.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eureporter.co/world/kazakhstan/2022/12/15/american-jury-awards-bta-bank-more-than-218-million-in-trial-over-ablyazovs-theft-and-money-laundering/">https://www.eureporter.co/world/kazakhstan/2022/12/15/american-jury-awards-bta-bank-more-than-218-million-in-trial-over-ablyazovs-theft-and-money-laundering/</a></p>

13	Mass-media	<p><b>[15/December/2022]</b> German anti-money laundering chief resigns amid row over backlog</p> <p>Over the past months, German media reported that the FIU was sitting on a backlog of more than 100,000 unprocessed suspicious activity reports that had been growing since early 2020. This was at odds with a statement Schulte gave to parliament in February, when he stated that there was no processing delay. The government acknowledged last week in an answer to a written inquiry by an opposition MP that the FIU did not disclose the backlog to the Financial Action Task Force, an intergovernmental organisation that from November 2021 to June 2022 evaluated Germany's anti-money laundering controls.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ft.com/content/93873543-e6ca-44eb-b64e-c33f857c6c59">https://www.ft.com/content/93873543-e6ca-44eb-b64e-c33f857c6c59</a></p>
14		<p><b>Legislative changes</b></p>
14	RO ASF	<p><b>[10/January/2023]</b> The KYC/AML/CFT Regulation no.13/2019 issued by Romanian Financial Supervisory Authority has been updated by Regulation no.18/2023 published in Official Gazeta no.26/10.01.2023</p> <p>The new provisions enter into force within 30 days from the date of publication (09.02.2023). It should be emphasized that the regulation introduces a new annex that establishes the content of the annual report of Compliance Officer.</p> <p><a href="https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/220791">https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/220791</a></p> <p>See what the main changes are in last month's file, EXL row 148 : <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ySFb5-8xXQJYC_VaZvenN0UTIAJbrqQrWn5DTie02s8/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ySFb5-8xXQJYC_VaZvenN0UTIAJbrqQrWn5DTie02s8/edit?usp=sharing</a></p>





