





Source		The most important events of the period [15/02/2023 - 14/03/2023]
1		Emerging trends and risks
1	US	<p>[02/March/2023] Cracking down on third-party intermediaries used to evade Russia-related sanctions and export controls.</p> <p>OFAC, US-DOJ & US-BIS issued a tri-seal compliance Note "Cracking down on third-party intermediaries used to evade Russia-related sanctions and export controls". The Compliance Note : 1/details how Russia uses third-party intermediaries and transshipment points to circumvent restrictions and obscure the true identities of Russian end users; 2/provides common (11)red flags that can indicate a third-party intermediary may be engaged in efforts to evade sanctions or export controls.</p> <p>https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/20230302_compliance_note.pdf</p>
1	US	<p>[27/February/2023] FinCEN Alert on Nationwide Surge in Mail Theft-Related Check Fraud Schemes Targeting the U.S. Mail</p> <p>Fraud, including check fraud, is the largest source of illicit proceeds in the United States and is one of the anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) National Priorities. The alerts details 1/Emerging Trends in Mail Theft-Related Check Fraud Schemes 2/associated Risks and Vulnerabilities; 3/Typologies of Mail Theft-Related Check Fraud and Associated Money Laundering; 4/ 10 Financial Red Flags.</p> <p>https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/shared/FinCEN%20Alert%20Mail%20Theft-Related%20Check%20Fraud%20FINAL%20508.pdf</p>
1	EPPO	<p>[17/February/2023] EPPO uncovers €40 million VAT fraud</p> <p>The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Milan (Italy) have seized assets and arrested six people, believed to be part of a criminal organisation, in a sting against a massive VAT fraud scheme involving several countries, with estimated losses of €40 million. At stake is a suspected VAT carousel fraud, a complex criminal scheme that takes advantage of EU rules on cross-border transactions between its Member States, as these are exempt from value-added tax (VAT). The complex investigation uncovered a labyrinthine network through which companies established in Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Poland and Slovakia sold electronics and computer equipment to shell companies in Italy, administered by figureheads, in order to evade the payment of VAT. According to the evidence, the goods were sold, under-priced, to companies in Italy, making it more difficult to identify the scheme and its perpetrators, while also increasing the illicit profits. Ultimately, the commodities were sold to regular Italian companies at very competitive prices, as well as to other companies in the EU, allowing for massive tax savings. The scheme also generated huge VAT credits in Italy, all leading to immense criminal profits that were then money laundered, according to the investigation.</p> <p>https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/eppo-uncovers-eu40-million-vat-fraud-six-arrests-and-seizures-sting-against-organised-crime</p>
1	Financial Stability Board	<p>[16/February/2023] The Financial Stability Risks of Decentralised Finance</p> <p>Decentralised Finance (DeFi) is an umbrella term commonly used to describe a variety of services in crypto-asset markets that aim to replicate some functions of the traditional financial system while seemingly disintermediating their provision and decentralising their governance. DeFi has integral connections to centralised crypto-asset trading, lending and borrowing platforms, through which participants exchange crypto-assets for one another or for fiat currency, often using stablecoins. This report describes 1/the DeFi ecosystem, its key elements and players, as well as the main products; 2/discusses financial vulnerabilities of DeFi, including those stemming from its specific features; 3/sketches possible scenarios for DeFi and the implications for financial stability; and 4/sets out additional work to analyse, monitor and address vulnerabilities in the DeFi ecosystem.</p> <p>https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P160223.pdf</p>
1	EUROJUST	<p>[16/February/2017] Crackdown on a criminal network dealing with waste trafficking and money laundering</p> <p>Supported by Eurojust and Europol, judicial and law enforcement authorities in Italy and Germany have dismantled an organised crime group suspected of illicit waste trafficking, false invoicing and money laundering in several European countries. Forty searches were carried out. The preventive seizure of assets worth EUR 90 million was ordered. The Agency also assisted the authorities in setting up and funding a joint investigation team into the case.</p> <p>https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/crackdown-criminal-network-dealing-waste-trafficking-and-money-laundering</p>




2	🔔	Warnings and reports, thematic analyzes of national and international authorities
2	FBI	<p>[13/March/2023] Internet Crime Report 2022</p> <p>The report analysis the main internet crimes and threats as follows : business email compromise, investment, ransomware and call center fraud and a lot of statistics regarding compliants and victims by crime types.</p> <p>https://www.ic3.gov/Media/PDF/AnnualReport/2022_IC3Report.pdf</p>
2	FATF	<p>[14/March/2023] FATF - Countering Ransomware Financing</p> <p>This FATF report analyses the methods that criminals use to carry out their ransomware attacks and how payments are made and laundered. Criminals are almost exclusively using crypto, or virtual assets and have easy access to virtual asset service providers around the world. The report proposes a number of actions that countries can take to more effectively disrupt ransomware-related money laundering. This includes building on and leveraging existing international cooperation mechanisms, given the transnational nature of ransomware attacks and related laundering. Authorities also need to develop the necessary skills and tools to quickly collect key information, trace the nearly instantaneous financial transactions and recover virtual assets before they dissipate. The multi-disciplinary nature of ransomware also means that authorities must extend their collaboration beyond their traditional counterparts to include cyber-security and data protection agencies. The FATF also finalized a list of potential risk indicators that can help public and private sector entities identify suspicious activities related to ransomware.</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/reports/Countering-Ransomware-Financing.pdf.coredownload.pdf</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/reports/Countering-Ransomware-Financing-Potential-Risk-Indicators.pdf.coredownload.pdf</p>
2	EU	<p>[13/March/2023] EU sanctions on Russia: Overview, impact, challenges</p> <p>The EU Parliament published a very useful and detailed summary of the sanctions regime against Russia. The report also contains an important section on the economic impact on Russia.</p> <p>https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2023/739366/EPRS_BRI(2023)739366_EN.pdf</p>
2	FATF	<p>[10/March/2023] FATF - Guidance on Beneficial Ownership of Legal Persons</p> <p>FATF agreed on tougher global beneficial ownership standards in its Recommendation 24 by requiring countries to ensure that competent authorities have access to adequate, accurate and up-to-date information on the true owners of companies. The guidance explains types and sources of relevant information, and mechanism and sources to obtain such information. This includes the multi-pronged approach, which consists of combining information from, among others, companies themselves, public authorities in a registry, or alternative mechanism if it ensures rapid and efficient access to beneficial ownership information.</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/guidance/Guidance-Beneficial-Ownership-Legal-Persons.pdf.coredownload.pdf</p>
2	EPPO	<p>[02/March/2023] European Public Prosecutor's Office Annual Report 2022</p> <p>The European Public Prosecutor Office Annual Report 2022 shows that the the most relevant predicate offense for money laundering in EU is cross-border VAT fraud. By the end of 2022, the EPPO had 1,117 active investigations with overall estimated damages of €14.1 billion, nearly half of which (47%) resulted from VAT fraud . VAT carousel fraud is the most profitable crime in the EU, costing around €50 billion annually in tax losses to the Member States. In terms of countries, the biggest estimated damage is recorded in Portugal €3billion followed by Romania €2 billion.</p> <p>https://www.eppo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-02/EPPO_2022_Annual_Report_EN_WEB.pdf</p>
2	FATF	<p>[27/February/2023] Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in the Art and Antiquities Market</p> <p>ATF published a new report: "Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in the Art and Antiquities Market". The report includes: 1/a list of risk indicators that can help public and private sectors entities identify suspicious activities; 2/ good practices that countries have taken to address the identified threats and vulnerabilities. The market of art, antiquities and other cultural objects has attracted criminals, organized crime groups and terrorists to launder proceeds of crime and fund their activities. Criminals seek to exploit the sector's history of privacy and the use of third-party intermediaries while terrorist groups can use cultural objects from areas where they are active to finance their operations.</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/reports/Money-Laundering-Terrorist-Financing-Art-Antiquities-Market.pdf.coredownload.pdf</p>

2	IMF	<p>[25/February/2023] Elements of Effective Policies for Crypto Assets</p> <p>IMF Executive Board discussed the elements of effective policies for crypto assets. The main conclusions are: 1/widespread adoption of cryptoassets could undermine the effectiveness of monetary policy; 2/crypto assets should not be given official currency or legal tender status in order to protect monetary sovereignty and stability; 3/regardless of the approach, prudent and effective implementation of FATF standards on AML/CFT must be ensured. The paper sets forth a framework of 9 elements that can help members develop a comprehensive, consistent, and coordinated policy response.</p> <p>https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/PP/2023/English/PPEA2023004.ashx</p>
2	UN	<p>[22/February/2023] Thematic summary assessment of gaps in implementing key countering the financing of terrorism provisions of Security Council resolutions</p> <p>https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/thematic-summary-assessment-gaps-implementing-key-countering-financing-terrorism-provisions</p>
2	BIS	<p>[20/February/2023] Bank for International Settlements - Crypto shocks and retail losses</p> <p>Amid the high volatility of the past year in the crypto market marked by losses of more than \$1.8 trillion following the Terra/Luna collapse and the FTX bankruptcy, the price of many cryptocurrencies, including bitcoin and ether, has fallen by around 75%, the Bank for International Settlements has issued the bulletin "Crypto shocks and retail losses". The key takeaways are: 1/despite the cryptocurrency's large user base and substantial losses for many investors, the market turmoil of 2022 had noticeably little impact on broader financial conditions outside the crypto universe, underlining the largely self-referential nature of crypto as an asset class; 2/crypto trading activity has increased significantly in 2022, with large and sophisticated investors selling (right before steep price declines) and smaller retail investors buying.</p> <p>https://www.bis.org/publ/bisbull69.pdf</p>
2	EUROPOL	<p>[17/February/2023] Franco-Israeli gang behind EUR 38 million CEO fraud busted</p> <p>A criminal network involved in a large-scale of CEO fraud, which caused prejudice of around €38 million, has been dismantled by EUROPOL. The suspects laundered criminal proceeds through a pre-existing money laundering scheme involving multiple bank accounts in the EU, China and Israel. The total value of the seizures made by the authorities is estimated at about €5.5 million, of which €3 million from Portuguese bank accounts, €1.1 million from Hungarian bank accounts, €600,000 from Croatian bank accounts, €400,000 from Spanish bank accounts, €350,000 in virtual currencies.</p> <p>https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/franco-israeli-gang-behind-eur-38-million-ceo-fraud-busted</p>
3		Terrorism and International Sanctions updates
3	USA	<p>OFAC-Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List</p> <p>https://www.treasury.gov/ofac/downloads/sdnlist.pdf</p>
3	EU	<p>European Union Consolidated Financial Sanctions Lis</p> <p>https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fsd/fsf/public/files/pdfFullSanctionsList/content?token=n002g3ky</p>
3	UN	<p>United Nations Security Council Consolidated List</p> <p>https://scsanctions.un.org/consolidated/</p>
3	US	<p>[09/March/2023] OFAC - Iran-related Designations; Non-Proliferation Designations</p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 1 individuals and 44 entities</p> <p>https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230309</p>




3	US	<p>[08/March/2023] United States Obtains Warrant for Seizure of Airplane Owned by Russian Oil Company Valued at Over \$25 Million</p> <p>The United States of America obtained a warrant to seize a Boeing 737-7JU aircraft owned by PJSC Rosneft Oil Company (Rosneft), a Russian integrated energy company headquartered in Moscow, Russia headed by Igor Ivanovich Sechin. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York authorized the seizure, finding probable cause that the Boeing aircraft was subject to seizure based on violations of the Export Control Reform Act (ECRA) and the recent sanctions issued against Russia.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/united-states-obtains-warrant-seizure-airplane-owned-russian-oil-company-valued-over</p>
3	US	<p>[08/March/2023] OFAC - Iran-related Designations; Russia-related Designation Removal; Ukraine-related Designation Removal</p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 9 individuals and 3 entities</p> <p>https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230308</p>
3	EU	<p>[07/March/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/500 implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1998 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/501 amending Decision (CFSP) 2020/1999 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses</p> <p>9 persons and 3 entities related to gender-based violence including conflict-related sexual violence, offline and online are included in the list of natural persons, legal persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0500</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0501</p>
3	US	<p>[03/March/2023] OFAC - Global Magnitsky Designations; Russia-related Designations</p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 6 individuals</p> <p>https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230303</p>
3	US	<p>[02/March/2023] OFAC - Counter Narcotics and Iran-related Designations; Russia-related Designations Updates; Issuance of Iran-related General License and Guidance; Publication of Fraud Alert</p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 14 entities and 18 vessels</p> <p>https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230302</p>
3	US	<p>[01/March/2023] OFAC - North Korea Designations</p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 2 individuals and 3 entities related to DPRK Actors Illicitly Generating Revenue Abroad</p> <p>https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230301</p>
3	US	<p>[28/February/2023] OFAC - Counter Narcotics Designations and Designation Update</p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 1 individuals related to Mexico Cartels</p> <p>https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230228</p>


3	EU	<p>[25/February/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/430 implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1998 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses</p> <p>8 persons and 7 entities related to Wagner Group’s activities are included in the list of natural persons, legal persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2020/1998.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0430</p>
3	EU	<p>[25/February/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/429 implementing Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine</p> <p>87 persons and 34 entities responsible for actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine added to the list of persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0429</p>
3	EU	<p>[25/February/2023] COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2023/427 amending Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia’s actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/434 amending Decision 2014/512/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia’s actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine</p> <p>Expands the list of entities directly supporting Russia’s military and industrial complex in its war of aggression against Ukraine, on whom tighter export restrictions regarding dual-use goods and technology as well as goods and technology which might contribute to the technological enhancement of Russia’s defence and security sector are imposed by adding 96 new entities to that list. Prohibits the transit via the territory of Russia of dual-use goods and technology and of arms exported from the Union. Extends the suspension of broadcasting licences in the Union of Russian media outlets Annex IV, VII, VIII, XI, XV, XXI and XXIII is amended.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0427 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0434</p>
3	EU	<p>[25/February/2023] COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2023/426 amending Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/432 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine</p> <p>Extended derogations from the asset freeze and from the prohibition on making available funds and economic resources and new reporting requirements</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0426 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0432</p>
3	US	<p>[24/February/2023] OFAC - Russia-related Designations and Designations Updates; Belarus Designations; Publication of Russia-related Determination; Issuance of Russia-related General Licenses and Associated Frequently Asked Questions</p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 21 individuals, 82 entities and 16 vessels. Among the listed entities are banks and financial institutions as CREDIT BANK OF MOSCOW; AKB METALLINVESTBANK; BANK SAINT PETERSBURG; BANK ZENIT</p> <p>https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230224</p>



3	EU	<p>[23/February/2023] COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/408 amending Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria</p> <p>Derogation regarding humanitarian assistance or to support other activities that support basic human needs.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0408</p>
3	US	<p>[22/February/2023] OFAC - Counter Narcotics Designations</p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 6 individuals and 6 entities related to Sinaloa-Mexico</p> <p>https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230222</p>
3	EU	<p>[20/February/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/379 implementing Regulation (EU) No 359/2011 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Iran</p> <p>COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION (CFSP) 2023/381 implementing Decision 2011/235/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Iran</p> <p>32 private individuals and 2 legal entities linked to [human rights violations in Iran] have been added to freezing list</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0379 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0381</p>
3	EU	<p>[20/February/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/378 implementing Regulation (EU) No 401/2013 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Myanmar/Burma</p> <p>COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/380 amending Decision 2013/184/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Myanmar/Burma</p> <p>9 private individuals and 7 legal entities linked to [human rights violations in Myanmar/Burma] have been added to freezing list</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0378 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0380</p>
3	UN	<p>[15/February/2023] Security Council Renews Travel Ban, Assets Freeze on Specific Individuals, Entities Threatening Peace in Yemen, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2675 (2023)</p> <p>Adopting resolution 2675 (2023) UN decided to renew until 15 November the measures imposed by paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014), relating to a travel ban and assets freeze. Also renewing various exemptions under the same resolution, members further decided to extend until 15 December the mandate of its Yemen Panel of Experts, which assists the committee charged with designating individuals and entities for the imposition of sanctions.</p> <p>https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15200.doc.htm</p>
3	EU	<p>[15/February/2023] COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2023/331 amending certain Council regulations concerning restrictive measures in order to insert provisions on a humanitarian exemption</p> <p>COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/338 amending certain Council decisions and common positions concerning restrictive measures in order to insert provisions on a humanitarian exemption</p> <p>The EU implemented the humanitarian exemption to UN sanctions set out by UNSC Resolution 2664 (2022) with respect to its Somalia, CAR, Yemen, Haiti, Iraq and Lebanon sanctions regimes.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0331 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0338</p>
4		EU ML/TF SupraNational Risk Assessment
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>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0554 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022SC0344</p>

5		Information and assessments by national authorities on risks at national level
5	ROMANIA	<p>The main findings and conclusions of the Romania ML/TF National Risk Assessment (NRA) was published on [22/November/2022]</p> <p>RO: http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Rezumat%20NRA%20Public.pdf EN: http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Summary%20of%20the%20National%20Risk%20Assessment%20Report%20on%20Money%20Laundering%20and%20Terrorism%20Financing.pdf</p>
6		Specific guidelines, guides, instructions or warnings
6	EU	<p>[08/March/2023] European Commission updated numerous FAQs related to the Russia sanctions regime.</p> <p>The updates cover: 08 March 2023: State-owned enterprises 03 March 2023: Aviation 28 February 2023: Specialised financial messaging services 27 February 2023: Oil price cap</p> <p>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</p> <p>https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/66e8fd7d-8057-4b9b-96c2-5e54bf573cd1_en?filename=faqs-sanctions-russia-consolidated_en.pdf</p>
6	EU	<p>[16/February/2023] Handbook of good practices in the fight against corruption</p> <p>The goal of this Handbook is to map a variety of anti-corruption practices in EU Member States that have proved to be useful in solving problems related to corruption, and which can inspire similar initiatives elsewhere. The handbook describes 27 good practices, one initiative per EU Member state with a positive impact in the prevention or repression of corruption. This can be either a practice that is established for years and has shown results or an innovative solution to either new or old problems.</p> <p>https://op.europa.eu/o/opportal-service/download-handler?identifier=df1a5278-ac18-11ed-b508-01aa75ed71a1&format=pdf&language=en</p>
6	UK	<p>[15/February/2023] GUIDANCE ON ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING For UK Art Market Participants</p> <p>The report includes: 1/a list of risk indicators that can help public and private sectors entities identify suspicious activities; 2/good practices that countries have taken to address the identified threats and vulnerabilities. The market of art, antiquities and other cultural objects has attracted criminals, organized crime groups and terrorists to launder proceeds of crime and fund their activities. Criminals seek to exploit the sector's history of privacy and the use of third-party intermediaries while terrorist groups can use cultural objects from areas where they are active to finance their operations.</p> <p>https://tbamf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/BAMF-AML-Guidelines-February-6th-2023.pdf</p>
7		Warnings, fines and convictions for violating the KYC/AML/CTF/Compliance legislation
7	US DOJ	<p>[09/March/2023] Former Goldman Sachs Investment Banker Sentenced in \$2.7B Bribery and Money Laundering Scheme</p> <p>Defendant Conspired to Violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and Commit Money Laundering in Connection with 1MDB Scheme. Roger Ng was sentenced for his role in a massive and egregious bribery and money laundering scheme involving the bribery of high-level foreign officials in Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates and theft of billions of dollars meant to benefit the Malaysian people. Between approximately 2009 and 2014, Ng Chong Hwa, aka Roger Ng, of Malaysia, and his co-conspirators laundered billions of dollars misappropriated and fraudulently diverted from 1MDB, including funds 1MDB raised in 2012 and 2013 through three bond transactions it executed with Goldman Sachs. As part of the scheme, Ng and his co-conspirators, including Tim Leissner, the former Southeast Asia Chairman and participating managing director of Goldman Sachs, conspired to and did pay more than \$1 billion in bribes to 12 government officials in Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates to obtain and retain lucrative business for Goldman Sachs, including the 2012 and 2013 bond deals.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-goldman-sachs-investment-banker-sentenced-27b-bribery-and-money-laundering-scheme</p>

7	UK FCA	<p>[08/03/2023] FCA takes further action against unregistered crypto ATMs in East London</p> <p>Crypto ATMs allow people to buy or convert money into cryptoassets. There are currently no crypto ATM operators registered with the FCA, which they must be to operate legally.</p> <p>https://www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-takes-further-action-against-unregistered-crypto-atms-east-london</p>
7	ROMANIA NBR	<p>[02/March/2023] CREDIT FIX IFN S.A. sanctioned by NBR</p> <p>The National Bank of Romania (NBR) sanctioned CREDIT FIX IFN S.A. with warning (Order of the first vice-governor of the BNR no. 11/25.01.2023) for not complying with the Romanian AML Law, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inadequate process of identification and verification of customers before starting the business relationship. <p>https://www.bnr.ro/Sanc%C8%9Biuni-emise-de-BNR-pentru-nerespectarea-legisla%C8%9Biei-incidente--20132.aspx#peloc</p>
7	ROMANIA NBR	<p>[23/February/2023] UniCredit Bank S.A. sanctioned by NBR</p> <p>The National Bank of Romania (NBR) sanctioned UniCredit Bank S.A. with a warning (Order of the first vice-governor of the BNR no. 6/09.01.2023) for not complying with the Romanian AML Law, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ineffective KYC internal control measures; - inadequate procedures regarding the ex ante SAR reporting to FIU; - ineffective AML monitoring scenarios ; - UBO identification deficiencies <p>https://www.bnr.ro/Sanc%C8%9Biuni-emise-de-BNR-pentru-nerespectarea-legisla%C8%9Biei-incidente--20132.aspx</p>
7	US DOJ	<p>[22/February/2023] Forsage Founders Indicted in \$340M DeFi Crypto Scheme First Charged Criminal Fraud Case Involving a DeFi Ponzi Scheme</p> <p>According to court documents, four Russian nationals founders of Forsage, a purportedly decentralized finance (DeFi) cryptocurrency investment platform, allegedly touted Forsage as a decentralized matrix project based on network marketing and "smart contracts," which are self-executing contracts on the blockchain. As alleged in the indictment, the defendants aggressively promoted Forsage to the public through social media as a legitimate and lucrative business opportunity, but in reality, the defendants operated Forsage as a Ponzi and pyramid investment scheme that took in approximately \$340 million from victim-investors around the world.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/forsage-founders-indicted-340m-defi-crypto-scheme</p>
7	US DOJ	<p>[21/February/2023] Ex-Mexican Secretary of Public Security Genaro Garcia Luna Convicted of Engaging in a Continuing Criminal Enterprise and Taking Millions in Cash Bribes from the Sinaloa Cartel</p> <p>He used his official positions to assist and help the violent Sinaloa drug cartel in exchange for millions of dollars in bribes: 1/facilitating the safe passage for the Cartel's drug shipments, 2/providing sensitive law enforcement information about investigations into the Cartel 3/ helping the Cartel attack rival drug cartels.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/ex-mexican-secretary-public-security-genaro-garcia-luna-convicted-engaging-continuing</p>
7	UK NCA	<p>[20/February/2023] Fund managers sentenced to 12 years for \$8m fraud</p> <p>Three fund managers have been sentenced to a total of 12 years and 3 months following their conviction for a fraud which resulted in losses of \$8.45 million to the Libyan Sovereign Wealth Fund. A seven year NCA investigation, which began after one of the fund managers, Frederic Marino, walked of a 2014 meeting with financial auditors and fled to Norway, found that Yoshika Ohmura, Aurelien Bessot and Marino had abused their positions to conduct fraudulent trades whilst managing the fund worth around 822m.</p> <p>https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/city-fund-managers-sentenced-to-12-years-for-8m-fraud</p>

7	ROMANIA NBR	<p>[17/February/2023] BSG CREDIT IFN S.A. sanctioned by NBR</p> <p>The National Bank of Romania (NBR) sanctioned BSG CREDIT IFN S.A. with warning (Order of the first vice-governor of the BNR no. 5/19.01.2023) for not complying with the Romanian AML Law, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - did not review the KYC internal regulation in 2021; - inadequate process of identification and verification of customers before starting the business relationship. <p>https://www.bnr.ro/Sanc%C8%9Biuni-emise-de-BNR-pentru-nerespectarea-legisla%C8%9Biei-incidente--20132.aspx#peloc</p>
7	UK GC	<p>[16/February/2023] The UK Gambling Commission (UKGC) has taken enforcement action against Blue Star Planet Ltd, which operates 10Bet.</p> <p>The investigation found failings in Blue Star Planet Limited's implementation of Anti-Money Laundering (AML) policies, procedures and controls. The regulatory settlement consists of: £620,000 payment in lieu of a financial penalty, and f£3,571.25 costs of investigating the case.</p> <p>https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/public-register/public-statement/detail/blue-star-planet-limited-public-statement</p>
7	UK FCA	<p>[15/February/2023] FCA takes action against unregistered crypto ATM operators in Leeds</p> <p>The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has used its powers to enter and inspect several sites around Leeds suspected of hosting illegally operated crypto ATMs.</p> <p>https://www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-takes-action-against-unregistered-crypto-atm-operators-leeds</p>
8		Threats, alerts and typologies
8	REPO Task Force	<p>[09/March/2023] Global Advisory on Russian Sanctions Evasion</p> <p>The Russian Elites, Proxies, and Oligarchs (REPO) Task Force, consisting of Finance Ministry and Justice or Home Ministry participation in each member jurisdiction (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Commission), has used their respective authorities to track Russian sanctioned assets and heavily restrict sanctioned individuals and entities from accessing the international financial system. The REPO Task Force published this advisory that contains the following typologies : the use of family members and close associates to ensure continued access and control; the use of real estate to hold value, benefit from wealth; the use of complex ownership structures to avoid identification; the use of enablers to avoid involvement, leverage expertise; and the use of third- party jurisdictions, false trade information to facilitate sensitive goods shipment to Russia.</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1141536/REPO_Joint_Advisory_FINAL.pdf</p>
9		Corruption Perception Indices and Country Reports
9	Transparency International	<p>2022 Corruption Perceptions Index was issued on [31/January/2023]</p> <p>The 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) was published by Transparency International. The global average remains unchanged for over a decade at just 43 out of 100. More than two-thirds of countries score below 50, while 26 countries have fallen to their lowest scores yet. 155 countries out of 180 have made no significant progress against corruption or have declined since 2012. Here is the score for some relevant countries from each risk class : Denmark 90(88in2021); Austria 75(74in2021); Lithuania 62(61in2021); Malta 51(54in2021); Romania 46(45in2021); Moldova 39(36in2021); Pakistan 27(28in2021); Somalia 12(13in2021). The average score of Western Europe&EU is 66, with max Denmark 90 and min Hungary 42.</p> <p>https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/Report_CPI2022_English.pdf</p>
10		Mutual evaluation reports or lists of states or jurisdictions that have KYC/AML/CTF deficiencies

10	EU	<p>EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes was issued on [14/February/2023]</p> <p>The EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes has been updated. The black list contains the following countries: 1/American Samoa; 2/Anguilla; 3/Bahamas; 4/British Virgin Islands(new); 5/Costa Rica(new); 6/Fiji; 7/Guam; 8/Marshall Islands(new); 9/Palau; 10/Panama; 11/Russia(new); 12/Samoa; 13/Trinidad and Tobago; 14/Turks and Caicos Islands; 15/US Virgin Islands; 16/Vanuatu. For the grey list see Annex II</p> <p>https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6375-2023-INIT/en/pdf</p>
10	EU	<p>[24/February/2023] The high-risk third countries list with strategic deficiencies has been updated</p> <p>The Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1675 regarding high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies has been updated by C.D.Reg. 2023/410 as follows: exit : Nicaragua, Pakistan & Zimbabwe, new entries: D.R.Congo, Gibraltar, Mozambique, Tanzania & United Arab Emirates.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0410 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1675</p>
10	FATF	<p>[24/February/2023] FATF has reviewed and published the black and gray lists</p> <p>FATF has reviewed and published : - the lists of jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action, list remained unchanged : North Korea; Iran; Myanmar; - list of jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring.,the updates are: 2 countries exit : Cambodia and Morocco and 2 countries enter in the list : Nigeria and South Africa. The list contains 23 countries : 1/ Albania [Feb.20] 2/ Barbados [Feb.20] 3/ Burkina Faso [Feb.21] 4/ Cayman Islands [Feb.21] 5/ Congo[Oct.22] 6/Gibraltar [Jun.22] 7/Haiti [Jun.20] 8/Jamaica [Feb.20] 9/Jordan [Oct.21] 10/ Mali [Oct.21] 11/ Mozambique [Oct.22] 12/ Nigeria [Feb.23] 13/Panama [Jun.19] 14/Philippines [Jun.21] 15/Senegal [Feb.21] 16/South Africa [Feb.23] 17/South Sudan[Jun.21] 18/Syria [Feb.10] 19/Tanzania [Oct.22] 20/Turcia [Oct.21] 21/ Uganda [Feb.20] 22/United Arab Emirates [Feb.22] 23/Yemen [Feb.10]</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/Call-for-action-February-2023.html https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/Increased-monitoring-february-2023.html</p>
10	FATF	<p>[20/February/2023] FATF consolidated countries assessment ratings</p> <p>This table provides an up-to-date overview of the FATF ratings that assessed countries obtained for effectiveness and technical compliance with the 40 recommendations.</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf/documents/4th-Round-Ratings.xlsx.coredownload.inline.xlsx</p>
10	FATF	<p>[20/February/2023] Norway's progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</p> <p>The country has been upgraded on two recommendations: Recommendation 6, originally rated Partially Compliant is upgraded to Largely Compliant. Recommendation 16, originally rated Partially Compliant is upgraded to Compliant.</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fur/Follow-Up-Report-Norway-2023.pdf.coredownload.pdf</p>
10	FATF	<p>[17/February/2023] Hong Kong, China's progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</p> <p>The country has been upgraded on one Recommendation. Recommendation 28 is upgraded from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant.</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fur/Follow-Up-Report-Hong-Kong-China-2023.pdf.coredownload.pdf</p>
11		Relevant information from credible and reliable organizations

11	Global Initiative	<p>[22/February/2023] New front lines - Organized criminal economies in Ukraine in 2022</p> <p>Before February 2022, Russian and Ukrainian organized crime formed the strongest criminal ecosystem in Europe. Having developed along similar lines in the 1990s, Russian and Ukrainian criminal groups and networks controlled a lucrative transnational smuggling highway between Russia and Western Europe that carried gold, timber, tobacco, coal, counterfeit/untaxed goods, humans and drugs. At the more politically connected end of the spectrum, corrupt officials and criminal bosses from both countries exploited Ukraine's role as a transit country for Russian gas to siphon off millions of dollars, while Ukraine's oligarch class exerted a strong grip over the country's economic, political and information spheres. This report explores the changing dynamics in the political economy of Ukrainian organized crime up till December 2022 and maps how the criminal landscape has adapted to the new situation.</p> <p>https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/New-frontlines-organized-criminal-economies-in-Ukraine-in-2022-GI-TOC-February-2023.pdf</p>
11	Global Initiative	<p>[17/February/2023] The grey zone: Russia's military, mercenary and criminal engagement in Africa</p> <p>The report published by Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime published helps to shed light on the complex dynamics between Russia, its oligarchs, and its criminal networks and how they interact with African governments, businesses, and populations. This report draws on research conducted since July 2022, as well as other sources from across the continent, providing a comprehensive overview of the Wagner Group's operations in Africa</p> <p>https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/J-Stanyard-T-Vircoulon-J-Rademeyer-The-Grey-Zone-Russias-military-mercenary-and-criminal-engagement-in-Africa-GITOC-February-2023-.pdf</p>
11	ICIJ	<p>[16/February/2023] European court reverses course to rule in favor of LuxLeaks whistleblower</p> <p>A former auditor convicted of leaking documents that exposed industrial-scale tax dodging in Luxembourg has won the right to be recognized as a whistleblower rather than a criminal. The leaked files contributed to the investigation by ICIJ and other media partners in the Luxembourg Leaks project in 2014. ICIJ's investigation showed how hundreds international brands received secret deals in Luxembourg that allowed many to slash their global tax bills. The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights considers that the public interest in the disclosure of that information outweighed all of the detrimental effects.</p> <p>https://www.icij.org/investigations/luxembourg-leaks/european-court-reverses-course-to-rule-in-favor-of-luxleaks-whistleblower/</p>
12		Information from statistical organizations and academia
13		Relevant information on ML/FT risks from mass - media
13	Mass-media	<p>[10/March/2023] Barcelona, former presidents face corruption charges over referee payments scandal</p> <p>Prosecutors in Spain confirmed Friday they have filed corruption charges against Barcelona and the club's former presidents Sandro Rosell and Josep Maria Bartomeu for payments made to the former vice president of the refereeing committee. Ex-club executives Oscar Grau and Albert Soler are also listed among the defendants, along with former referee Jose Maria Enriquez Negreira, whose company received almost €7 million (\$7.5 million) from Barca from 2001 to 2018. Barca say the payments made to Negreira's company, Dasnil 95 SL, were for "technical reports on refereeing" and argue such services are common at the top end of the game.</p> <p>https://www.espn.com/soccer/barcelona-espbarcelona/story/4897395/barcelona-former-presidents-face-corruption-charges-over-referee-payments-scandal</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[10/March/2023] Fifa bribery case: One ex-Fox employee convicted and another acquitted</p> <p>A former Fox executive was convicted Thursday of paying tens of millions of dollars in bribes to nab broadcasting rights to the World Cup and other top soccer matches. A second ex-executive was acquitted. A Brooklyn federal jury deliberated four days before returning the verdicts. Hernan Lopez, the former CEO of Fox International Channels, was convicted. Carlos Martinez, who headed the Latin America affiliate, was acquitted.</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/football/2023/mar/10/fifa-bribery-case-verdict-fox-executives</p>


13	Mass-media	<p>[08/03/2023] Lithuania seizes Lukoil product shipments that tried to bypass sanctions</p> <p>Lithuania seized over 30 wagons of sanctioned products by Russia's oil giant Lukoil and returned them back to Belarus. Three more wagons are detained at the border.</p> <p>https://www.lrt.lt/en/news-in-english/19/1931952/lithuania-seizes-lukoil-product-shipments-that-tried-to-bypass-sanctions</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[08/March/2023] Wagner chief's mom wins court case against EU sanctions</p> <p>Wagner group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin's mother won a court case against sanctions at the European Union's second highest court Wednesday. The General Court ruled that merely being a family member of Russian President Vladimir Putin's ally Prigozhin wasn't enough of a reason to be put on a sanctions list and annulled Violetta Prigozhina's listing.</p> <p>https://www.politico.eu/article/wagner-group-mother-yevgeny-prigozhin-win-court-case-against-eu-sanctions/</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[07/March/2023] UK allowed sanctioned Abramovich associate to sell £16m mansion</p> <p>A close associate of Roman Abramovich was given permission by the Treasury to sell his Surrey mansion for £16m, a month after the government designated him for UK sanctions and froze all his assets. The sale, to the chief executive of a Singapore hotels group, completed on 17 May 2022, according to Land Registry records.</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/mar/07/uk-roman-abramovich-associate-sell-mansion-eugene-tenenbaum</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[06/March/2023] SANCTIONS DO NOT WORK': RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES ABOUT SANCTIONS IN THE EU, IN UKRAINE, AND IN RUSSIA ITSELF</p> <p>Three organisations recently took a closer look at disinformation about sanctions. European Digital Media Observatory and its fact-checking network analysed sanctions-related disinformation in the EU, while two Ukrainian organisations (StopFake and Texty) looked at the Russian and Ukrainian media ecosystem, respectively. Our main findings include that pro-Kremlin disinformation on sanctions tailors its narratives to different audiences. In the EU, sanctions disinformation focusses on dividing the EU and its member states. Inside Russia, disinformation tends to allege that sanctions have strengthened Russia.</p> <p>https://euvsdisinfo.eu/sanctions-do-not-work-russian-disinfo/</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[04/March/2023] Covert cameras and alleged hacking: how bust payments company Wirecard 'hired spies and lawyers to silence critics'</p> <p>Covert cameras and alleged hacking: how bust payments company Wirecard 'hired spies and lawyers to silence critics'. Matthew Earl is a founder and fund manager at Shadowfall, a hedge fund that focuses on short-selling, or betting that the price of shares will fall. His surveillance had been ordered by Wirecard AG, a German payments company and member of the Dax index of blue-chip companies, that Earl had alleged (anonymously) was a fraud. Four years later it collapsed.</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/mar/04/covert-cameras-alleged-hacking-how-bust-payments-company-wirecard-hired-spies-lawyers-silence-critics</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[03/March/2023] Oligarch's lawyers say UK caused serious hardship by freezing assets</p> <p>A Russian-born billionaire who is a close associate of the former owner of Chelsea FC, Roman Abramovich, has launched a legal challenge against UK government sanctions imposed on him in response to Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. The case is the first to be launched in the British courts by an individual with sanctions following the invasion of Ukraine, and could serve as a test case for other oligarchs seeking to overturn restrictions such as travel bans or asset freezes. Eugene Shvidler has accused the Foreign Office (FCDO) of "significant errors" in its decision to target him with an asset freezing order and a ban on any aircraft or ships that he owns entering British territory.</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/mar/03/oligarchs-lawyers-uk-caused-serious-hardship-freezing-assets-eugene-shvidler</p>

13	Mass-media	<p>[02/March/2023] Swiss prosecutors charge four bankers with helping to hide Vladimir Putin's millions</p> <p>Four bankers will stand trial in Zurich next week accused of helping a man known as "Vladimir Putin's wallet" deposit millions of Swiss francs in Switzerland. The four men, who worked at Gazprombank (GZPRI.MM), will appear at Zurich District Court on March 8 accused of lacking diligence in financial transactions. The defendants are accused of having "failed to exercise due diligence to ascertain the identity of the beneficial owner", of the funds, according to the indictment seen by Reuters. Swiss media said the amount involved in the case was around 50 million Swiss francs (\$53 million).</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/swiss-bankers-face-trial-accused-helping-putins-friend-transfer-cash-2023-03-01/</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[02/March/2023] Televisa Agrees to \$95M Settlement in FIFA Bribery Case</p> <p>The major Mexican broadcaster agreed to pay \$95 million in a settlement with a group of investors. The investors said that a bribery scandal damaged Televisa's brand and hurt its stock price, which has fallen 50% over the past 12 months. Televisa is accused of bribing FIFA to secure World Cup rights in 2018, 2022, 2026, and 2030. The broadcaster has denied the allegations. The claim came out in a case against 21st Century Fox, which is also accused of bribing FIFA officials to win media rights.</p> <p>https://frontofficesports.com/televisa-agrees-to-95m-settlement-in-fifa-bribery-case/</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[28/February/2023] Rockwool investigated by Danish authorities over potential EU sanction breaches</p> <p>Rockwool is under investigation over a potential breach of European Union sanctions, Danish authorities said, following a media report that alleged the insulation maker's products were used in Russian military equipment.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/rockwool-investigated-by-danish-authorities-over-potential-eu-sanction-breaches-2023-02-28/</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[28/February/2023] Russian banks play down impact of latest Western sanctions</p> <p>The United States and Britain last week added several Russian banks to their sanctions list, while the European Union cut off more banks from the SWIFT global payments system, among them online lender Tinkoff and the private Alfa Bank, both on Russia's list of systemically important credit institutions. Those sanctioned last week have responded in a largely relaxed manner, with some saying disruption will be limited and others restricting foreign currency transactions or suspending euro trading on brokerage accounts. Tinkoff, owned by TCS Group Holding, said it was suspending euro trading, but that the measures would not affect its more than 26 million customers.</p> <p>https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/russian-banks-play-down-impact-155849915.html</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[27/February/2023] Swiss regulator investigates 12 banks in Lebanese central banker corruption case</p> <p>Switzerland's financial regulator has investigated 12 banks for suspicious of money laundering amid corruption allegations against Lebanese central banker Riad Salameh and launched enforcement proceedings against two of them. The Salameh brothers are allegedly transferred \$330 million to Swiss accounts (HSBC, UBS, Credit Suisse, Julius Baer, EFG, Pictet, Bank Audi and BankMed are mentioned) via the offshore company Forry Associates registered in the British Virgin Islands.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/business/swiss-regulator-investigates-12-banks-lebanese-central-banker-corruption-case-2023-02-27/</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[27/February/2023] How the Biggest Fraud in German History Unravalled</p> <p>The tech company Wirecard was embraced by the German elite. But a reporter discovered that behind the façade of innovation were lies and links to Russian intelligence. Jan Marsalek, Wirecard's C.O.O., who embezzled tens of millions of dollars from the company, rented a secret mansion near the Russian consulate in Munich, where he held meetings with spies and government officials.</p> <p>https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/03/06/how-the-biggest-fraud-in-german-history-unravalled</p>

13	Mass-media	<p>[24/February/2023] Former Wallonia minister guilty of laundering money through Malta and corruption in Africa</p> <p>A former minister of Wallonia and mayor of Waterloo, Belgium – Serge Kubla – was given a two-year suspended sentence for money laundering through Malta and corruption involving the Democratic Republic of the Congo, its natural resources and bribes to enter the country’s gaming and lotteries sector. The Belgian courts also meted out a €60,000 criminal fine and ordered the confiscation of €600,000 of the former politician turned consultant’s assets. The investigators looked into Socagexi Ltd, a shell company created in Malta by Serge Kubla through which he billed a Duferco company – the Liechtenstein-based Ironet – for ‘consultancy fees’ of €260,000 per year since 2009.</p> <p>https://theshiftnews.com/2023/02/23/former-wallonia-minister-guilty-of-laundering-money-through-malta-and-corruption-in-africa/</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[23/February/2023] Russian warlord passed UK money laundering checks with mother’s utility bill</p> <p>A sanctions-hit Russian warlord who has been accused of human rights abuses around the world was able to pass UK anti-money laundering checks by submitting a utility bill in the name of his 81-year-old mother. Leaked emails seen by the Financial Times show that London-based law firm Discreet Law in 2021 requested identification documents from Yevgeny Prigozhin, founder of the Wagner mercenary group, as part of anti-money laundering checks, before taking him on as a client. At the time the Wagner boss, whose fighters have been accused of crimes including mass executions and rape, was under sanctions by the US, EU and UK and had been placed on the FBI’s most wanted list of international fugitives.</p> <p>https://www.ft.com/content/3e1b5bc5-090c-434d-84e4-ca2b120cf089</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[23/February/2023] Lebanese PM seeks to block judge who charged banks, documents show</p> <p>Lebanon's prime minister has asked the security forces not to act on orders by a judge who recently brought charges against two banks, documents seen by Reuters showed, in what critics said was a fresh case of political meddling in the judiciary. Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati wrote to Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi on Wednesday asking that the security forces "not carry out decisions issued by" prosecutor Ghada Aoun. He said Aoun's decision was "an overstepping of authority". Mawlawi also issued a directive on Wednesday, which was seen by Reuters, telling Lebanon's General Security directorate and the Internal Security Forces not to act on Aoun's orders. Aoun has been pursuing investigations in Lebanon's financial sector since it collapsed in 2019 following decades of corrupt government, profligate spending and financial mismanagement.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/lebanese-pm-seeks-block-judge-who-charged-banks-documents-show-2023-02-23/</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[23/February/2023] Lebanon central bank governor faces corruption charges</p> <p>Lebanese authorities have charged the governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon (Riad Salameh) his brother and his assistant with money laundering, forgery, illicit enrichment and violation of tax laws. The charges are related to the embezzlement of \$300 million from Banque du Liban between 2002 and 2015. Authorities in Switzerland, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein are also investigating Mr Salameh and his brother over similar allegations.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-64746658</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[22/February/2023] Bulgarian Investigators Claim 'Cryptoqueen' Was Murdered in 2018</p> <p>The hunt for the infamous “CryptoQueen,” Ruja Ignatova, took a dark turn as an investigation by Bulgarian news outlet Bird reported that she was killed in 2018, citing documents reportedly found in the possession of a murdered Bulgarian police official. Ignatova was head of the multimillion-dollar OneCoin scam and disappeared after allegedly fleecing investors out of as much as \$5 billion in 2017. She was added to international fugitive lists, including the FBI’s ten most wanted and Europe’s most wanted list.</p> <p>https://decrypt.co/121879/bulgarian-investigators-claim-cryptoqueen-ruja-ignatova-was-killed-in-2018</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[22/February/2023] Mexico's ex-security minister Genaro García Luna convicted of drug trafficking</p> <p>Genaro García Luna, once Mexico's security minister, was found guilty of taking millions of dollars from Mexico's biggest crime group, the Sinaloa drug cartel. Prosecutors said the former head of the Mexican equivalent of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation accepted millions of dollars stuffed in briefcases and delivered by members of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán's Sinaloa drug cartel. García Luna, who moved to the US after leaving office, is the highest-ranking Mexican official ever to be tried in the US.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-64726724</p>

13	Mass-media	<p>[21/February/2023] A Romanian Mafia Boss Allegedly Stole Millions From Cancun Tourists</p> <p>Mihai Alexandru Preda had card-cloning devices installed in cash machines around the region, and allegedly made millions of dollars stealing from tourists. Mihai Alexandru Preda is said to be a leader of the Romanian mafia as well as the "Riviera Maya Gang," which has reportedly been operating in top tourist resorts such as Cancun, Tulum and Playa del Carmen since 2016, according to Mexican officials. Preda had installed over 100 card-cloning devices in ATMs around the region, from where he made over \$3 million dollars, according to a press release by Mexican General Attorney's Office.</p> <p>https://www.vice.com/en/article/5d3ngn/cancun-romanian-mafia-mihai-alexandru-preda-florian-tudor</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[21/February/2023] Belarus fertilisers sanction-busting schemes revealed</p> <p>Grodno Azot is the only Belarusian facility to produce carbamide fertiliser and has been under EU sanctions since December 2021. BIC journalists found out that Grodno Azot uses a shell company, Grikom, managed by Viktor Rusak, to bypass EU sanctions and export fertilisers in the EU. In October 2022, the Belarus Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade granted a one-time export license to supply carbamide to the little-known Belarusian company Technospectreiding. The buyer was the Emirati firm DP World Commodities and Logistics FZE, sharing the registration address with the Dubai port operator, DP World. Journalists from Siena found documents showing that Technospectreiding was planning to supply 30,000 tonnes of carbamide to the Emirates worth €15 million.</p> <p>https://www.euractiv.com/section/europe-s-east/news/belarus-fertilisers-sanction-busting-schemes-revealed/</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[20/February/2023] What are 'golden visas' and which EU countries hand them out?</p> <p>Golden visas offer the opportunity for wealthy people to essentially 'buy' the right to residency - sometimes without even having to live in the country. And their popularity in the European Union is growing as people look to move away from political decisions such as Brexit that may limit their rights. In 2022, the European Commission called on EU governments to stop selling citizenship to investors. Such a scheme would pose risks as regards security, money laundering, tax evasion, terrorist financing, corruption and infiltration by organised crime, and would be incompatible with EU norms.</p> <p>https://www.euronews.com/travel/2023/02/20/what-is-a-golden-visa-and-why-are-some-countries-giving-them-up-for-good</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[20/February/2023] Two arrested as global bank probe gathers pace</p> <p>Two men have been arrested as part of a multi-million-pound tax fraud investigation involving UK customers of a collapsed Puerto Rican bank. The pair were arrested on suspicion of tax evasion and money laundering as part of an investigation that is linked to the collapsed Puerto Rican-based Euro Pacific Bank (EPB). The Puerto Rico Office of the Commissioner of Financial Institutions (OCIF) suspended the operations of the bank in June 2022, and it has since entered a liquidation process. The bank had been at the centre of a global probe by the Joint Chiefs of Global Tax Enforcement (J5). HMRC, which is a founding member of the J5, announced in July 2022 that it was using its full range of civil and criminal powers to investigate the tax affairs of hundreds of UK customers linked to EPB. This was followed in September with HMRC writing to around 600 people in the UK who used the bank to urge them to check their tax position and make any necessary corrections.</p> <p>https://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/hm-revenue-customs-hmrc/pressreleases/two-arrested-as-global-bank-probe-gathers-pace-3234475</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[20/February/2023] U.S. sanctions authority probes Raiffeisen on Russia</p> <p>The United States' sanctions authority has launched an inquiry into Raiffeisen Bank International over its business related to Russia, increasing scrutiny of the Austrian lender that plays a critical role in the Russian economy. Responding to questions from Reuters, the bank said it had received a request from the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in January to "clarify payments business and related processes maintained by RBI in light of the recent developments related to Russia and Ukraine." OFAC had asked Raiffeisen for details of its exposure in Russia, the partially occupied Donbas, Ukraine and Syria, including about the transactions and activity of certain clients, a source told Reuters.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/business/us-sanctions-authority-asks-raiffeisen-about-business-related-russia-2023-02-17/</p>

13	Mass-media	<p>[19/february/2023] Onecoin Cryptoqueen's Ex-boyfriend Gets 5 Years in Prison</p> <p>Gilbert Armenta, the ex-boyfriend of crypto pyramid Onecoin's founder Ruja Ignatova, has been sentenced in the United States. According to court documents, he helped launder \$300 million of proceeds from one of the largest Ponzi schemes in crypto history. In 2018, Armenta, now 59, pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit wire fraud, money laundering and extortion, all in connection with Onecoin. He cooperated with prosecutors in the investigation into the scam for about two years but later committed other crimes, violating the agreement. Founded in 2014, Onecoin operated as a global multi-level-marketing network, which was based on a cryptocurrency that never really existed as such, despite being advertised as the 'Bitcoin killer.' According to Onecoin's own documents, more than 3 million people invested over \$4 billion in Onecoin since 2016.</p> <p>https://news.bitcoin.com/onecoin-cryptoqueens-ex-boyfriend-gets-5-years-in-prison/</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[18/February/2023] Ireland ends golden visa for foreigners after 10 years</p> <p>Irish authorities have cancelled the Immigrant Investor Programme (IIP), putting an end to a scheme that bestowed residency on foreigners willing to invest millions of euros in Ireland. The IIP is the equivalent of the golden visa scheme in other nations. Simon Harris, Ireland's Minister of Justice, confirmed the cancellation and stressed that the government had been quietly reviewing the scheme for some months and only arrived at the decision after taking several factors into account. Allegations of corruption and other unlawful practices have trailed the scheme established in 2012 to attract foreign investors and boost the Irish economy. Mr Harris noted that the cancellation took into consideration the disposition of international organisations towards the golden visa scheme.</p> <p>https://gazettengr.com/ireland-ends-golden-visa-for-foreigners-after-10-years/</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[17/February/2023] Portugal Ends Golden Visa Program, After Ireland And Before Spain</p> <p>One of the most sought-after Golden Visa programs in Europe granting Portuguese residence to non-EU nationals in return for buying real estate and other investments in the country has been officially terminated. The decision to end the granting of golden visas in exchange for investment, which gives wealthy people residency permits and access to the European Union's borderless travel zone, was announced on February 16 by Portugal's Prime Minister, Antonio Costa. His government, he said, will stop issuing new golden visas in order to "fight against price speculation in real estate."</p> <p>https://www.forbes.com/sites/ceciliarodriguez/2023/02/17/portugal-ends-golden-visa-program-after-ireland-and-before-spain</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[17/Ferbruary/2023] U.S. sanctions authority probes Raiffeisen on Russia</p> <p>The United States' sanctions authority has launched an inquiry into Raiffeisen Bank International over its business related to Russia, increasing scrutiny of the Austrian lender that plays a critical role in the Russian economy. Responding to questions from Reuters, the bank said it had received a request from the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in January to "clarify payments business and related processes maintained by RBI in light of the recent developments related to Russia and Ukraine." OFAC had asked Raiffeisen for details of its exposure in Russia, the partially occupied Donbas, Ukraine and Syria, including about the transactions and activity of certain clients, a source told Reuters. The U.S. agency had requested a reply by February, said that person, adding that Raiffeisen's lawyers negotiated an extension, pledging to answer the questions in three tranches of information to be sent to in early April, May and June.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/business/us-sanctions-authority-asks-raiffeisen-about-business-related-russia-2023-02-17/</p>
13	Mass-media	<p>[16/February/2023] Slovak prosecutor charges central bank chief Kazimir</p> <p>A Slovak prosecutor filed charges against Slovak central bank governor and European Central Bank policymaker Peter Kazimir over bribery allegations, TASR news agency and other local media reported on Thursday. The prosecutor's office said on its Facebook page that charges were filed against an individual, P.K., without naming him directly. Kazimir has denied any wrongdoing in connection with the allegations. The central bank declined to comment. "The indictment concerns suspicion of corrupt criminal activity in connection with tax audits against several commercial companies," the prosecutor's statement said. In October 2021 the euro zone country's Special Prosecutor's office charged Kazimir with a "corruption-related crime" but withdrew the charge last June pending a review.</p> <p>https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/slovak-prosecutor-charges-central-bank-163004561.html</p>

13	Mass-media	<p>[16/February/2023] British fintech champion accused of 'systematic' failings over anti-terror checks</p> <p>The British financial technology pioneer Railsr has been accused of gross anti-terror finance and money laundering failings at its Lithuanian subsidiary as it races to find a buyer. Railsr, formerly known as Railsbank and backed by Visa, is facing investigation by authorities at the Bank of Lithuania, which has accused one of its businesses of "grossly and systematically violating" rules to stop illegal payments. The start-up provides so-called embedded finance, offering financial software, payments tools and card services to other fintech apps, some of which have millions of customers. Railsr previously acquired the assets of the UK arm of Wirecard, the German financial technology giant which collapsed in 2020 in one of Europe's biggest accounting scandals.</p> <p>https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2023/02/16/british-fintech-champion-accused-systematic-failings-anti-terror/</p>
14		Legislative changes

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