



EUROPEAN  
PUBLIC  
PROSECUTOR'S  
OFFICE

# The New Supranational Actor in the Fight against Corruption

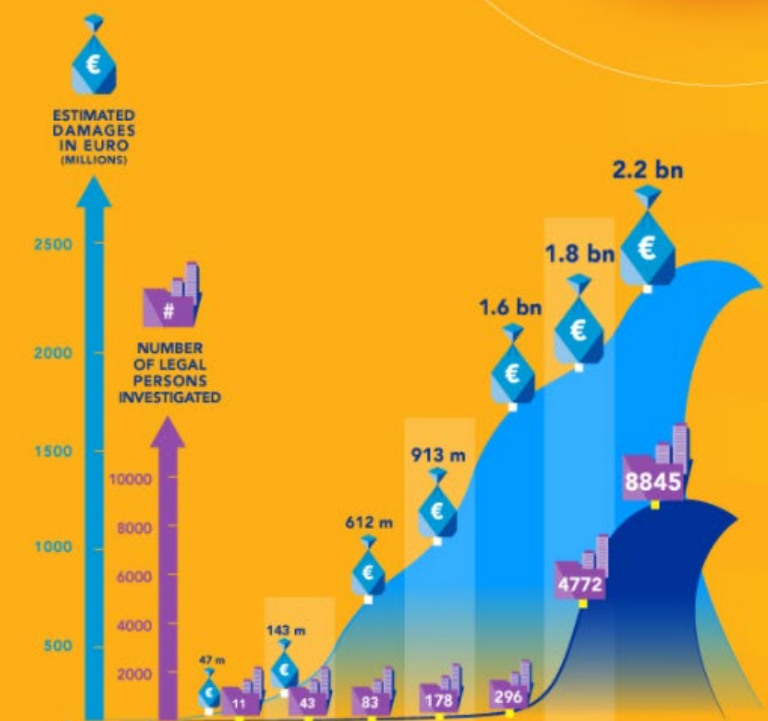
ICAC Hong Kong 22/05/2024

Protecting EU  
taxpayers' money  
from criminals

www

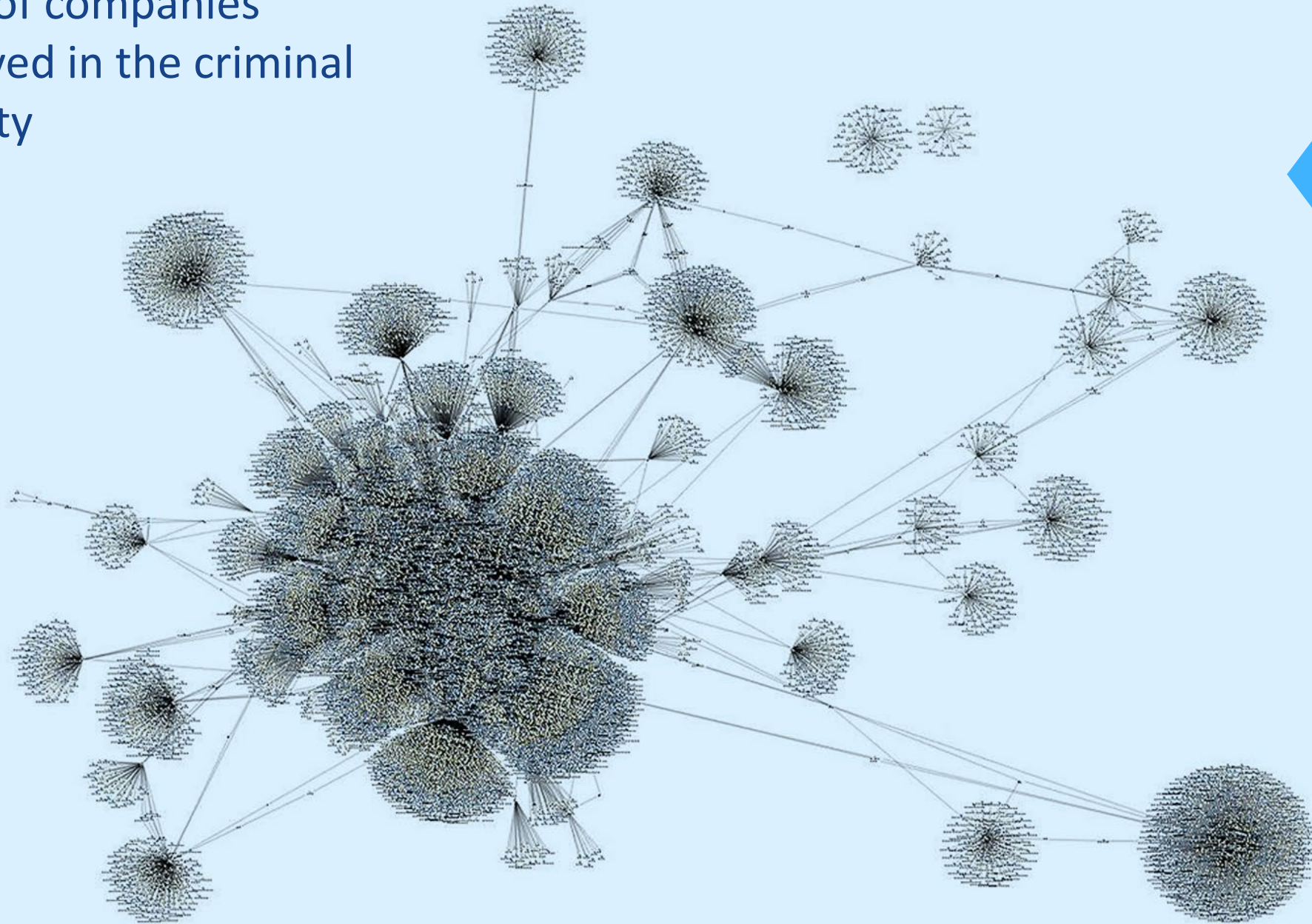


# EPPO flagship operation



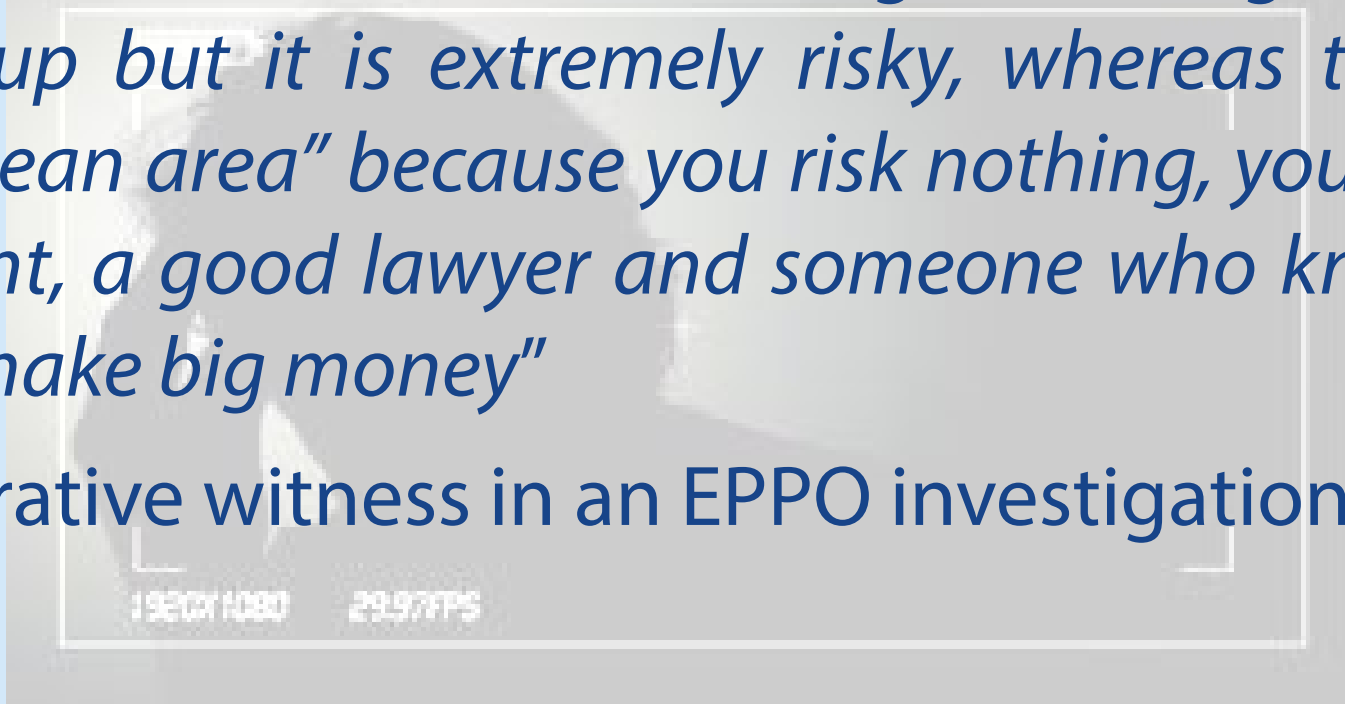


# Web of companies involved in the criminal activity



*“At least since 2017, when I was released from detention, the criminal group I belong to, and other criminal groups, have been focusing their activity on VAT Frauds and on EU Funds Frauds. Drug trafficking is still a major asset of the group but it is extremely risky, whereas these frauds are considered a “clean area” because you risk nothing, you just need to find an accountant, a good lawyer and someone who knows how to talk, and you can make big money”*

(Statement from a cooperative witness in an EPPO investigation.)





# Action days: results

❑ 312 house searches

❑ **EUR 67 000 000 seized** (so far):

- 529 bank accounts
- Shares of 21 legal persons seized
- 81 real estate properties
- 31 luxury cars
- Over €2.5 million in cash
- 104 luxury watches
- AirPods for an estimated value of €2 million

❑ **24 arrests in Portugal, Italy and France**





*Without the EPPO, this kind of operation would have taken years to prepare – or more likely, would never have taken place. Operation Admiral is a clear demonstration of the advantages of a transnational prosecution office.*

Laura Codruța Kövesi  
European Chief Prosecutor



# THE EPPO: A GAME-CHANGER

As a supranational prosecution office, the EPPO has an unprecedented capacity to investigate and prosecute financial crime, using its 'helicopter view'. It can:

- ▶ carry out investigations across all participating Member States in a coordinated manner,
- ▶ rapidly exchange information,
- ▶ ensure the fast freezing or seizure of assets and, where necessary, request arrests.

# CENTRAL OFFICE - OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

DATA VALID ON 31 DECEMBER 2023

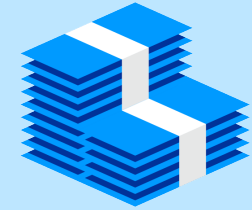


2023  
Opened investigations

1 371



€12.28 billion



Estimated damage

1 927

All active investigations

€19.27 billion

Estimated total damage

VAT

of which are active VAT fraud investigations

339

€11.5 billion

Estimated total damage



545  
Active investigations with a cross-border dimension

1 097

Decisions to assign measures to assisting EDPs in a different participating Member State



€1.5 billion  
Freezing orders granted in 2023



# Single office - two levels

## ▶ The central level:

- ▶ the European Chief Prosecutor,
- ▶ 22 European Prosecutors
- ▶ dedicated technical and investigative staff.

## ▶ The decentralised level:

- ▶ European Delegated Prosecutors located in the participating Member States.



The **central level** supervises the investigations and prosecutions carried out at the **national level**.

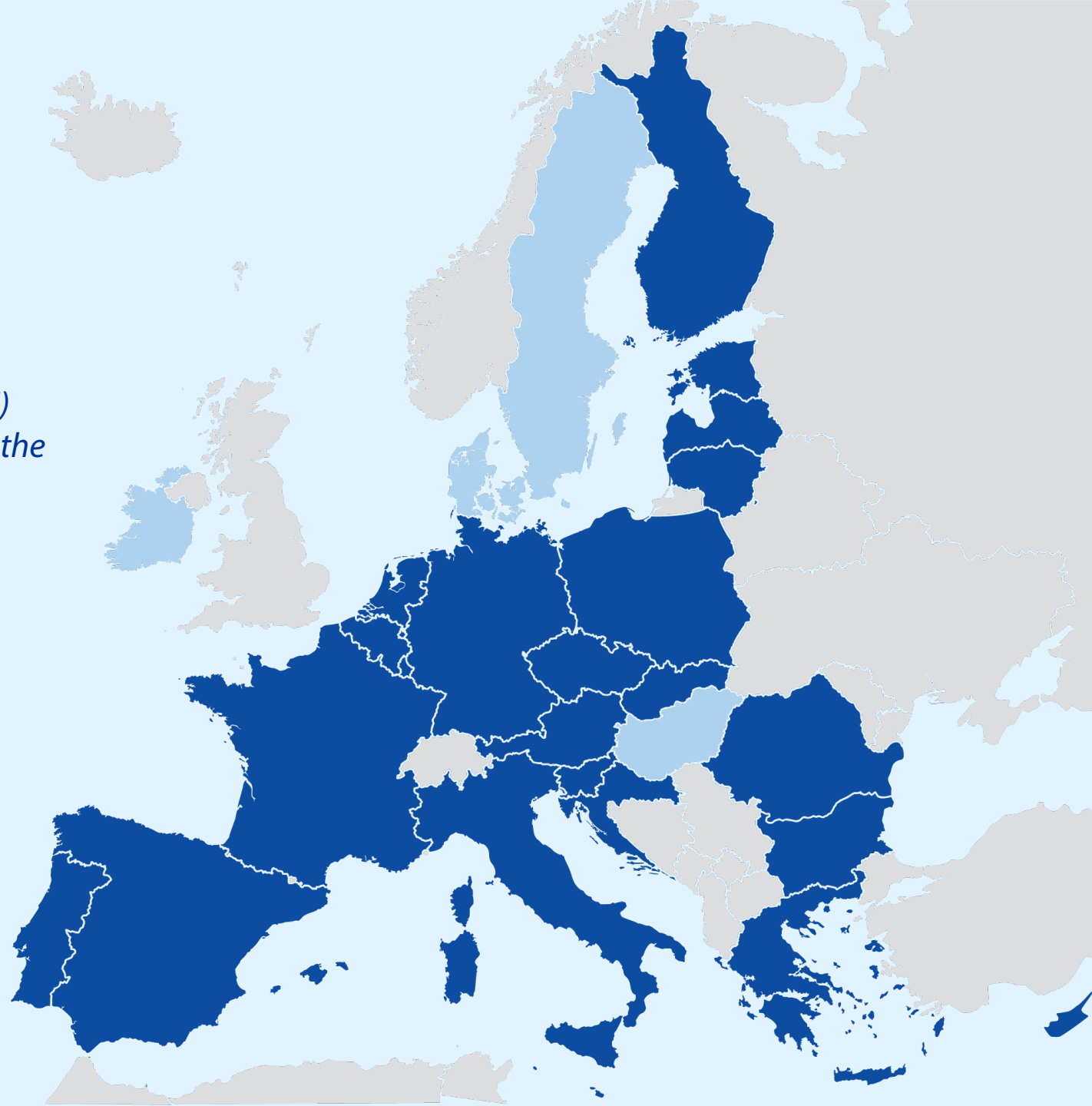
# WHICH MEMBER STATES PARTICIPATE IN THE EPPO?

To date, **twenty-three** EU Member States participate in the enhanced cooperation

*Poland's participation was confirmed by COM Decision (EU) 2024/807 of 29 February 2024, which entered into force on the twentieth day after publication.*

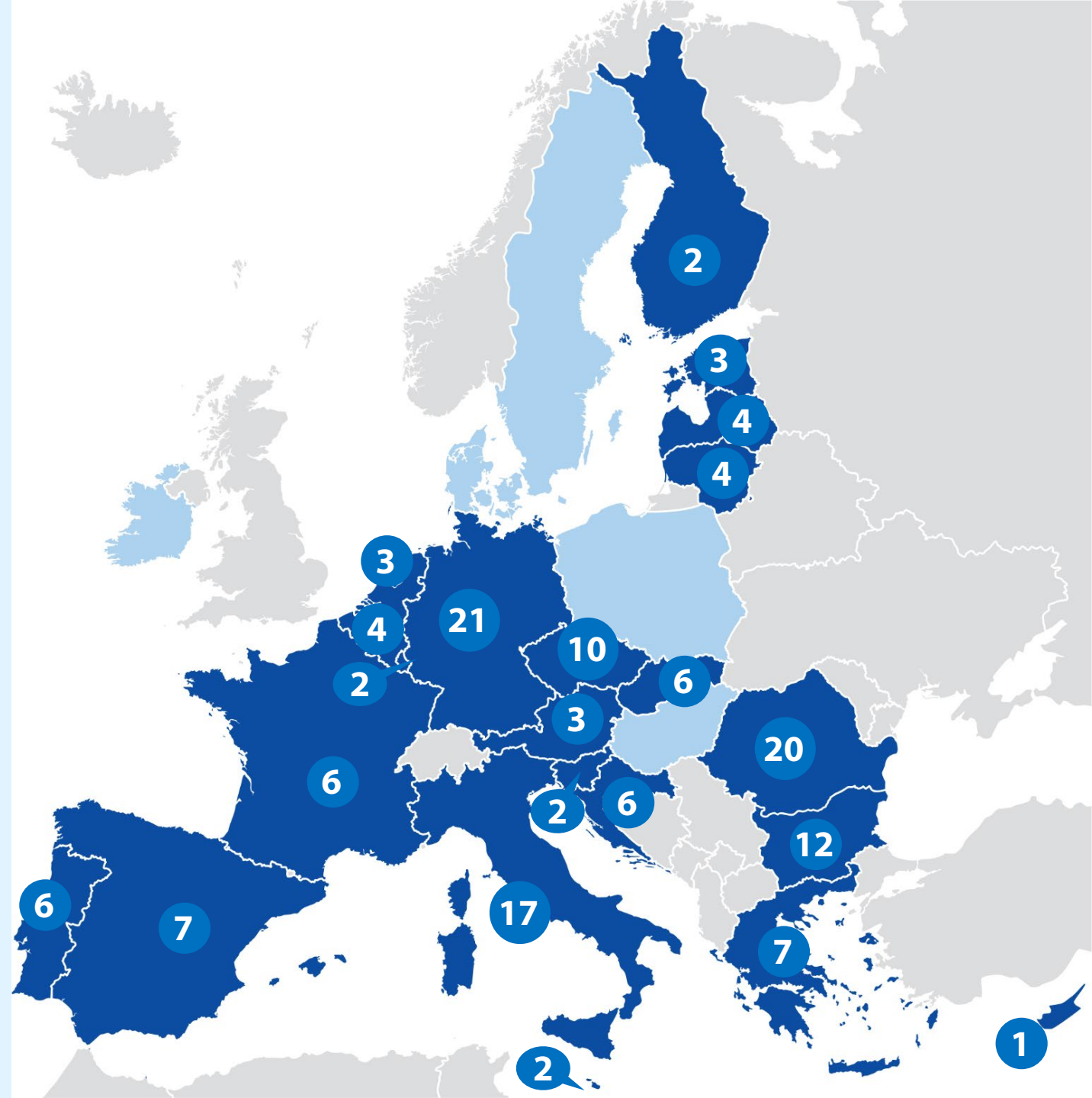
**Four** EU Member States do not (yet) participate:

- Sweden** expressed its intention to join by the end of 2024 and it is in an advanced stage of preparations for participating in the EPPO.
- Denmark** does not take part in the AFSJ (Protocol no. 22 to TFEU): it cannot take part in any EU Regulations, unless the Denmark Constitution and the Protocol are amended;
- **Ireland** has an opt in/out to the AFSJ (Protocol no. 21 to TFEU): it may decide to opt-in and join the EPPO
- **Hungary**: sovereign decision not to join yet; may join the EPPO later.



# EUROPEAN DELEGATED PROSECUTORS

● Current number of European Delegated Prosecutors: 148  
(25 March 2024)





# Material competence of the EPPO\*



**Expenditure and customs fraud.**



**VAT fraud** involving two or more Member States and total damages of at least €10 million.



**Corruption** that damages the financial interests of the EU.



**Misappropriation** of EU funds or assets by a public official.



**Money laundering** involving property derived from these crimes.



**Participation in a criminal organisation** with focus on PIF offences.



Any other **'inextricably linked'** offences.

\*As provided for in the PIF directive and the EPPO Regulation.

# EPPO Territorial Competence

- Offences committed, **in whole or in part**, in a participating Member State.
- Offences committed **anywhere by a national** of a participating Member State (provided that the respective Member State has jurisdiction) **or by an EU official** (provided that a Member State has jurisdiction).



# EPP0's cooperation with non-participating Member States and non-EU countries







*„We must not be afraid of dreaming the seemingly impossible if we want the seemingly impossible to become a reality“*

Vaclav Havel





**THANK YOU**

***<https://www.eppo.europa.eu>***