



KNOWLEDGE OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW  
AS A MEANS OF COMBATING  
TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME



CONSIGLIO  
NAZIONALE  
DEL  
NOTARIATO

## Press Release

# NOTARIAT LAUNCHES EU EDUCATION PROJECT TO COMBAT TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

*Rome 28 October* - The presentation took place in Rome today of the European training project for combating organised crime, aimed at judges, notaries, lawyers and legal scholars; it was developed by the **Italian Notarial Foundation and co-financed by the European Commission**.

The project has been implemented in **partnership** with national and international institutions including the **Ministry of Justice**, the **National Agency for the Administration and Disposal of Assets Confiscated from Organised Crime**, the **National Anti-Mafia Directorate**, **UNICRI** (the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute) and the **General Council of the Spanish Notariat**.

For the first time, a professional order, that of the Notaries, will carry out an international training project on the subjects of the **fight against money-laundering**, the **handling of assets confiscated from organised crime** and the **war on terrorism** by way of seminars, e-learning, conventions and research in conjunction with the national and international institutions that are charged with these questions. Professionals, and notaries by way of advance controls on the legality of real estate transactions and the setting up of companies, report suspect operations that may involve the laundering of dirty money.

**Snapshot of the phenomenon.** Human trafficking, counterfeiting of brands, suspect financial operations and drug trafficking are amongst the main types of transnational crime from which organised crime derives the profits that must be laundered. According to UNICRI (the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute) every year in Europe there are 250,000 victims of human trafficking, the value of counterfeit goods is about Euro 8.2 billion, more than Euro 1.5 billion is netted by credit card fraud and worldwide corruption costs approximately Euro 1000 billion.

Organised crime has an ever more international dimension in Italy as well. According to data supplied by the IT reporting office of the National Anti-Mafia Directorate, there is increasing involvement of foreigners in the type of associative crimes falling under Article 51 Paragraph 3 bis of the Code of Criminal Procedure, that is to say crimes dealt with by the District Anti-Mafia Offices coordinated by the National Anti-Mafia Directorate: they increased from 3,883 in 2009 to 4,153 in 2010. As of September 2011, 2,123 crimes had been committed but normally towards the end of the year there is an extremely rapid upward trend.

**The Project.** The Italian Notarial Foundation, within the "Criminal Justice" program financed by the European Commission, is busy implementing the project entitled "*Knowledge of European Union law as a means of combating transnational organised crime*". The Project is divided into three phases:

1. both practical and theoretical training sessions on subjects of a general nature (system of sources and their operation) as well as of a specialist character (combating money-laundering, handling of assets confiscated from organised crime, the fight against terrorism and the so-called "blacklist", cross-border insolvencies and criminal implications) to be held in Italy/other EU countries and remotely via seminars and e-learning;
2. meetings to encourage the exchange of best practices at a national level;
3. documentary research through accessing and including in the system data bases existing in Europe.

"We are very proud to be leading a European project intended to further knowledge in the struggle against money-laundering" declared Giancarlo Laurini, President of the Italian Notarial Foundation. "It will allow professionals to play a more decisive role, alongside national and international institutions, in combating organised crime".

**For further information and press accreditation:**

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