



INTERPOL



PROJECT I-SOP (INTERPOL – STOP ONLINE PIRACY)

Coordinating a global cross-sector response to digital piracy

THE SITUATION

Online piracy affects many different types of digital content, such as software, music, TV, films and books. The illegal download and distribution of such content causes significant financial losses for the industries concerned, in turn affecting jobs and tax revenue.

It exposes consumers to related content that may be inappropriate or harmful, and can also be used to spread malware, Trojans and viruses which present clear security risks.

Online piracy is highly profitable to criminals and low risk, due to light penalties. Consumers are often unaware that profits from these crimes are linked to other criminal activities, such as money laundering, terrorist financing and human trafficking.

Organized Crime Groups involved in online piracy crimes frequently look like typical commercial companies, and are based on flexible structures, allowing them to adapt quickly to environmental changes.



PROJECT I-SOP

PROJECT SUMMARY

INTERPOL launched Project I-SOP in response to the sharp rise in digital piracy crimes prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns. Some countries reported an increase of more than 60 per cent in online piracy crimes in the 12 months from April 2020. In collaboration with the Republic of Korea's National Police and Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, INTERPOL is implementing a five-year project supporting enforcement actions, capacity building, research, and public awareness of online piracy and intellectual property (IP) crimes, such as trademark counterfeiting, copyright piracy and the online marketplaces used.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

INTERPOL delivers capacity building and coordinate operational activities to tackle online piracy in partnership with enforcement agencies, international organizations, academia and the private sector.

This is accomplished through INTERPOL's secure police communications system, I-24/7, criminal databases and the International IP Crime Investigators (IIPCIC) online training platform.

Project I-SOP draws on a range of expertise from specialized units at the INTERPOL General Secretariat, to coordinate operations, regional investigative and analytical case meetings, and other relevant events.

The range of activities includes:



ADVISORY GROUP

INTERPOL's Advisory Group on Digital Piracy provides strategic support to the I-SOP operational team. Made up of representatives from INTERPOL National Central Bureaus, specialized law enforcement units and experts from private sector organizations, it assists in the following ways:

- Advising on key existing and emerging threats;
- Identifying cases as well as strategic and tactical information;
- Developing and promoting innovative tactics and techniques;
- Facilitating the production of high quality INTERPOL notices.



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