

# *National experiences in countering firearms trafficking and illicit financial flows*



*Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation*

**Fighting illegal trafficking of firearms  
and monitoring SDG 16.4:  
from data collection to effective action**

UNODC-Italy side event  
III Review Conference UN PoA  
New York, 22 June 2018



## *Sustainable Development Goal 16.4*

**Target:** by 2030 significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime

From the **Agenda for Disarmament** “Securing our Common Future”:

*The widespread availability of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition is a key enabler of armed violence and conflict...*

## *National Contribution to SDG 16.4*

**Data** regarding actions undertaken by the Guardia di Finanza Corps during **2017**:

- In the fight against illicit traffics of firearms, the Corps has carried out **877 interventions**, denouncing 1085 individuals, out of which 123 put under arrest
- This set of activities resulted in the **seizure of 441 firearms** and over 4000 kg of gunpowder used for the production of fireworks

## *Actions linked to SDG 16.4*

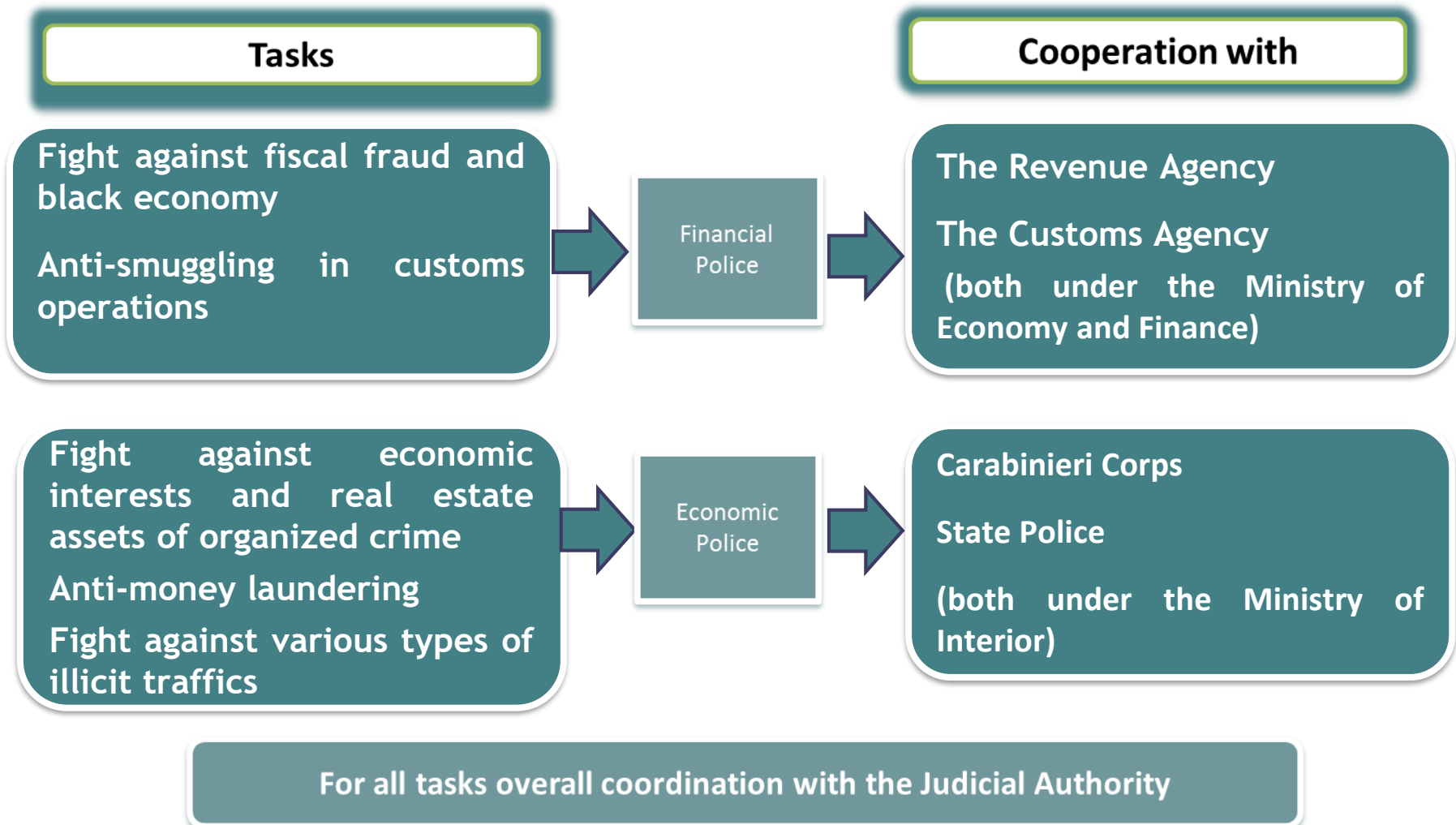
A dedicated Police Force - **Guardia di Finanza** - under the Ministry of Economy and Finance with law enforcements tasks related to illicit financial and arms flows

**Two strands of action** in line with the UN PoA recommendations:

- National inter-agency coordination
- Transnational cooperation at European, regional and global levels



# National inter-agency coordination



# Targets and assets



Drugs

Waste

Firearms

Human  
beings/  
migration

**DISARTICULATION OF TRANSNATIONAL  
CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH:**

**JUDICIAL POLICE  
INVESTIGATIONS**

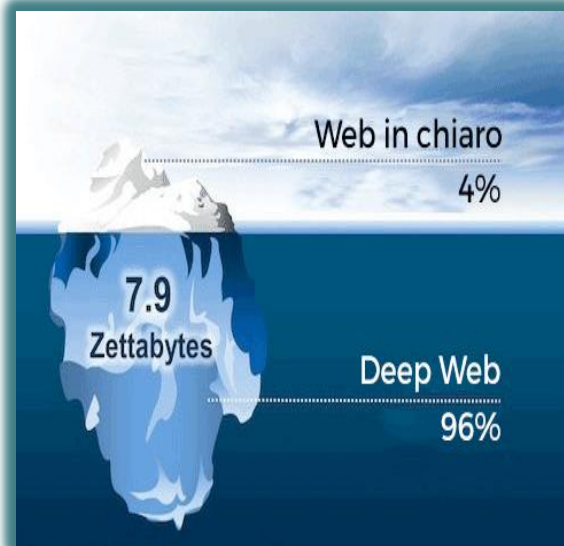
**PATROLLING OF  
TERRITORIAL SEA AND  
HIGH SEA**

**FULL INTEGRATION  
BETWEEN ASSETS DEPLOYED  
AT SEA AND INVESTIGATIVE  
STRUCTURES AT LAND**

# *Analysis of Illicit traffics of firearms*

- **Strict connection** across criminal activities in the field of trafficking of **drugs, firearms and human beings** and linkages with extremist non state actors and terrorist groups
- Considering their transboundary nature, illicit markets difficult to monitor: **intelligence info fragmented**
- Even though economically less profitable, illicit traffics of firearms is **strategically crucial** for organized crime

# Analysis of emerging challenges



Recent investigations have shown cases where firearms are sold in the so called “deep web” through “dark net markets”, which are accessible only through dedicated software, ensuring an high degree of anonymity and making rather difficult to identify those involved in the transaction.

Experience gained through investigations shows that vigilance should also be applied to legal on-line trade platforms for blank firing and deactivated firearms.



# *Transnational Cooperation*

**Exchange of information** with partners at multiple levels channeled through:

- the central Service for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Interior which is the interface with Interpol, Europol and Schengen Information System
- Liaison officers/legal *attachés* in the network of Embassies
- Informal agreements with corresponding Corps in partner countries

## *Case study: operation «Italian job»*

In January 2017, the Corps has arrested 5 individuals (4 Italians and 1 Libyan) involved in international trafficking of foreign-produced firearms through **triangulation** with third countries.



## *Case study: operation «Italian job»*

Different actors involved:

- Leading company based in Italy
- Intermediary company based in Ukraine
- Transfer of arms to Libya in violation of the UN arms embargo

Seized:

- 237.000 US dollars
- Ammunition
- 4-wheel “Hammer”



## *Case study: operation «Italian job»*

Triangulation needed to circumvent **national controls on exports of military equipment:**

- The leading company in Italy was not authorized to internationally trade weapons and has therefore activated a branch in third country
- National controls prevents any transfer of weapons to countries under embargo (Law nr. 185/1990 regarding provisions on controlling the export, import and transit of military goods fully in line with the Arms Trade Treaty and EU Common Position 2008/944/CFSP)

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*Thank you for your  
attention!*

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