

FRONTEX



Agency at a glance



EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

Frontex up close

Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, supports EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries in managing the EU's external borders and fighting cross-border crime.

With the newly created standing corps, Europe's first uniformed service, Frontex is present in the places where European countries need support, working together with them for a safer, more secure Europe.

European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps

For the first time, the European Union has its own uniformed service: the European Border and Coast Guard standing corps. It is composed of Frontex and EU Member States' officers who support national authorities facing challenges at their external borders.

Members of the standing corps will mainly work at the EU's borders. But if needed, they can be also deployed outside the EU to countries which request Frontex's help at their borders. Standing corps members share many of the powers of national border guards. They can verify a person's identity and nationality, allow or refuse entry into the EU and patrol between border crossing points.





We know

Frontex knows what is going on at the borders, where it is happening and how to react.

The agency constantly keeps an eye on the situation at Europe's borders and beyond, and assesses various types of risks. This analysis guides all our activities.

Frontex monitors, analyses and fuses information from a variety of sources. These include images and data from planes, drones and satellites,

as well as information from national authorities and open sources.

- 24/7 monitoring of external borders
- Situation and risk analysis reports
- Real-time streaming video from surveillance flights

With this knowledge, Frontex can help EU Member States spot potential weak points and reduce the vulnerability of Europe's external borders.

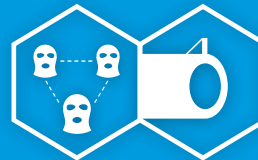
Fighting cross-border crime



Detecting stolen cars and fraudulent documents



Finding drugs and weapons smuggled into the European Union



Gathering information on criminal networks



Detecting people smuggling and trafficking in human beings across the borders



We support

Frontex helps EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries guarantee safe, secure and well-functioning external borders. The agency offers flexible operational support, sending officers and equipment such as planes and vessels where national authorities need them most. European standing corps officers play a key role in this process. They can be quickly deployed at EU's external borders and beyond.

The security of Europe's external borders is our priority. All along the borders, Frontex officers help national authorities fight crime.

This includes combatting smuggling of drugs, guns and stolen cars, along with trafficking in human beings and people smuggling. The agency's Centre of Excellence for Combatting Document Fraud has experts and equipment at its disposal to help spot fake documents that are often used to commit more crimes.

Events outside the European Union have a direct impact on our safety and security. This is why Frontex is also

active outside the EU, in places such as Albania, and has a network of liaison officers in Africa, the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Frontex is a key partner for EU Member States in returns of people deemed by national authorities to be staying illegally in Europe. These are people who received a return decision from courts or national authorities after exhausting all legal avenues to remain in the EU, or who have committed criminal offences or overstayed their visas.

Today, one of every 10 people returned from the EU are processed with Frontex support. The agency coordinates and finances return operations from Member States. It charters planes and books seats on commercial flights for returns. Frontex also makes the return process more effective by helping national authorities obtain travel documents and supporting cooperation with the authorities in the destination countries.



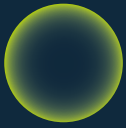
We build

Soon the agency's border and coast guard officers will be able to rely on their own equipment. The agency is moving forward with purchasing and leasing its own patrol cars, boats, planes and other gear.

One of the core tasks of Frontex is to identify innovative technologies that can be used for border control, including artificial intelligence, border checks

on-the-go and remotely piloted aircraft. The agency shares its findings with the national law enforcement authorities in the EU.

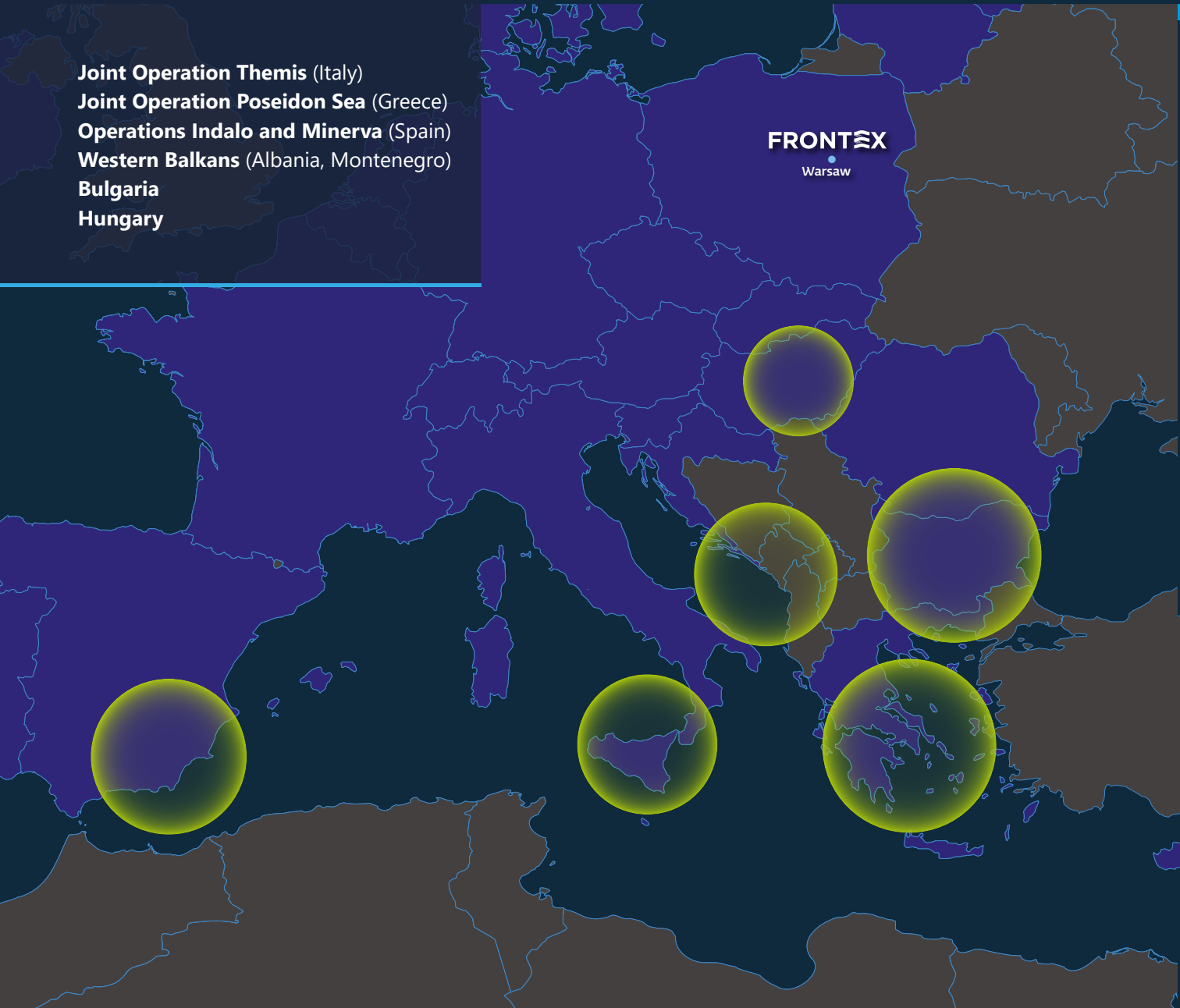
Frontex also aims to ensure the highest border control standards across Europe, training hundreds of officers every year.



Areas of key Frontex operations

Joint Operation Themis (Italy)
Joint Operation Poseidon Sea (Greece)
Operations Indalo and Minerva (Spain)
Western Balkans (Albania, Montenegro)
Bulgaria
Hungary

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Warsaw



Looking forward

Starting in 2022, Frontex will run the central unit of ETIAS – the European Travel Information and Authorisation System. The new system will enhance the security of the Schengen Area by carrying out early screening of people who can travel to the EU without a visa.

Frontex will play a crucial role in ETIAS by helping to verify travel authorisation applications, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It will also make sure that the system spots potential threats to the safety of all Europeans.

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