



BIOSEC

BIODIVERSITY AND SECURITY



The
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European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

WILDLIFE TRADE AND TRAFFICKING

Europe, a silent hub of illegal wildlife trade

Illegal wildlife trade is often addressed as a problem of developing countries - yet the European Union also has plenty to do with it. The EU is above all a hub for trade routes of illicit wildlife products.

Source: <http://www.dw.com/en/europe-a-silent-hub-of-illegal-wildlife-trade/a-37183459> (20.01.2017)



‘If it flies, it dies.’ –

**The illegal bird trade from the Western Balkans
into the EU**

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News > UK > Home News

Organised crime finds a new type of contraband: goldfinches

John Lichfield | Friday 6 May 2016 13:26 BST | 0 comments

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/organised-crime-finds-a-new-type-of-contraband-goldfinches-a7016676.html>

BIRDS

Europe remains a major bird killer

Despite legal protection, birds are still illegally killed across migration routes – particularly in the Mediterranean. Experts are meeting this week in Manila to tackle this and other threats against migratory species.

Source: <http://www.dw.com/en/europe-remains-a-major-bird-killer/a-41049583>



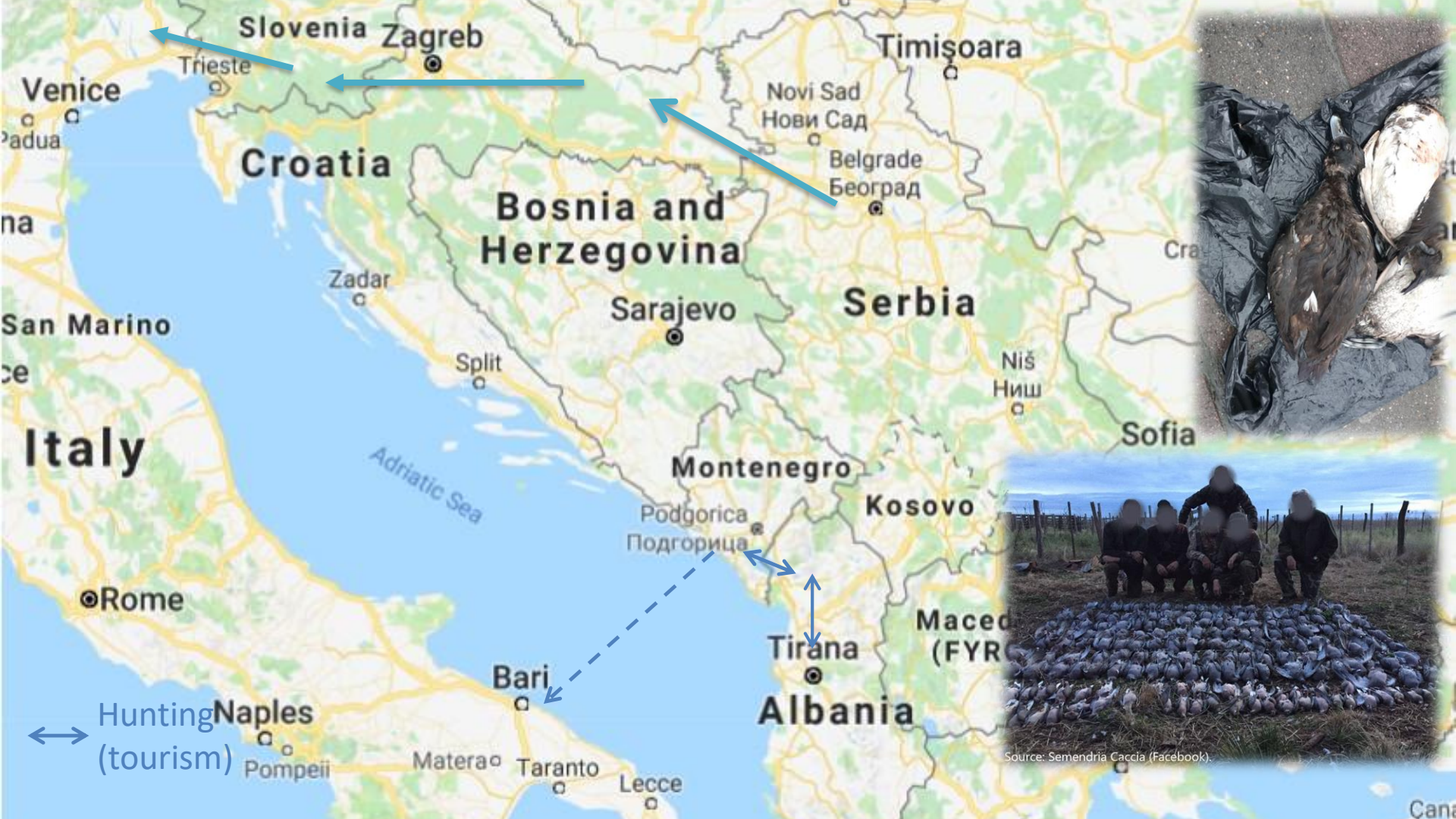
Source: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/protected-birds-%C3%A0-la-carte-thousands-of-rare-birds-illegally-sold-for-gourmet-food-business-in-italy>



AIMS:

- (a) Understand the socio-economic and political interests sustaining demand and supply patterns;
- (b) Analyse how different stakeholders respond to the illegal bird trade;
- (c) Examine how the illegal bird trade relates to other forms of crime.





Slovenia Zagreb

Venice

Trieste

Croatia

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo

Serbia

Novi Sad
Нови Сад

Belgrade
Београд

Timișoara

Zadar

Split

Niš
Ниш

Sofia

Italy

Adriatic Sea

Montenegro

Kosovo

Podgorica
Подгорица

Tirana

Albania

Macedonia
(FYROM)

Bari

Naples

Pompeii

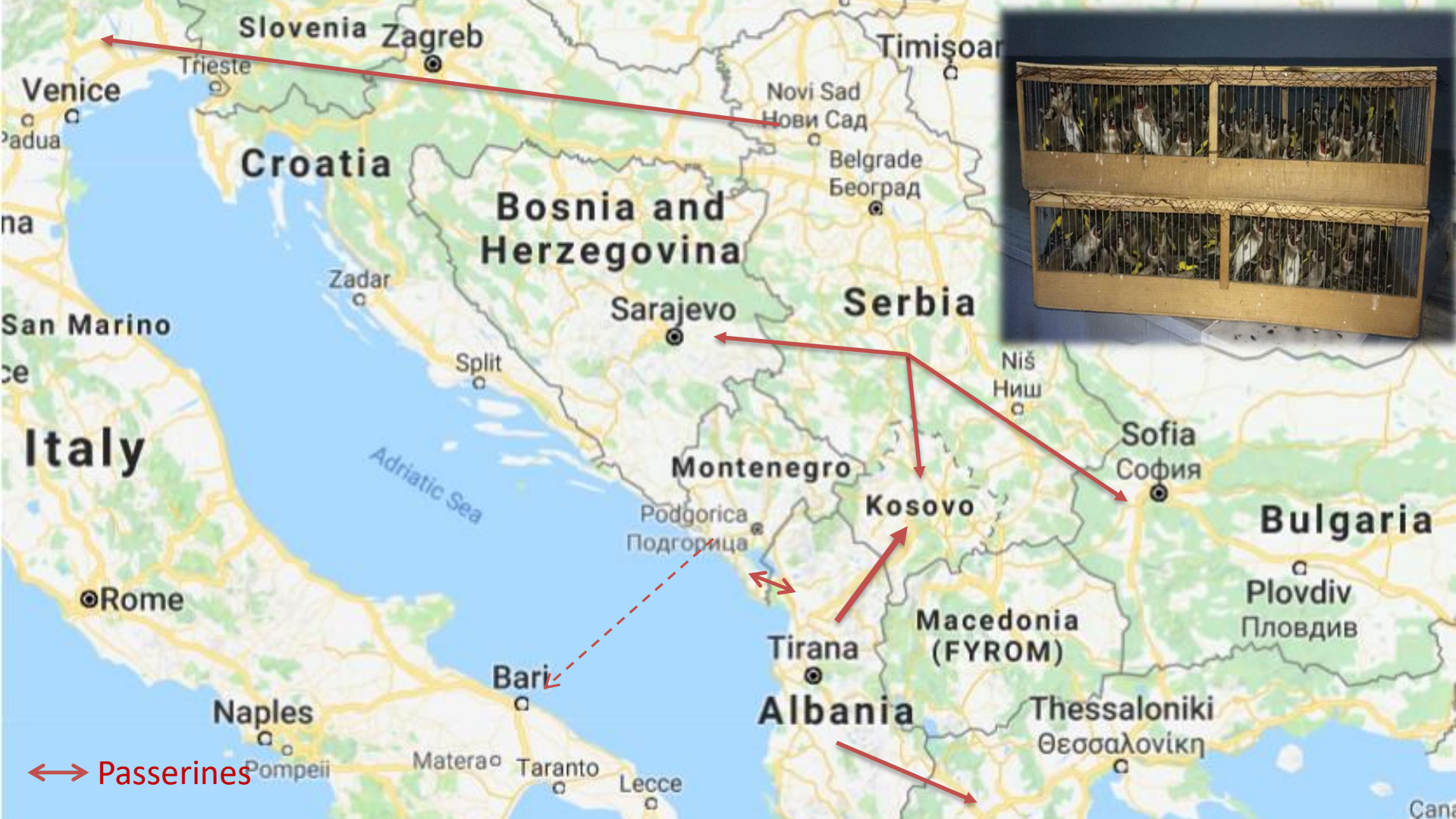
Matera

Taranto

Lecce

Hunting (tourism)

Source: Semendria Caccia (Facebook).





Wealth, not poverty

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Complex profit networks

Delicacies (e.g. *polenta ucelli*)

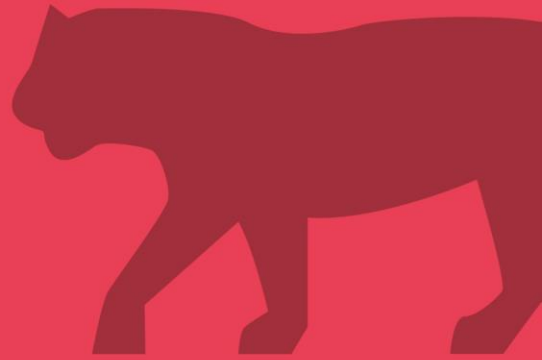
Trophy hunting

Tradition / Pleasure / Sports



Source: <http://www.dw.com/de/flinten-fallen-netze-die-jagd-auf-zugv%C3%B6gel/a-4866411>





**Enforcement is key –
but highly problematic.**

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“Sometimes we spend 48 hours searching like crazy, calling people on the telephone to get us real data because **if we just turn in things like, you know, 'a guy with blond hair as killed some ducks there', nothing is going to happen.** So, we have to work really undercover and everything to get the real data.”

- *Anonymous*





The legal enables the illegal.

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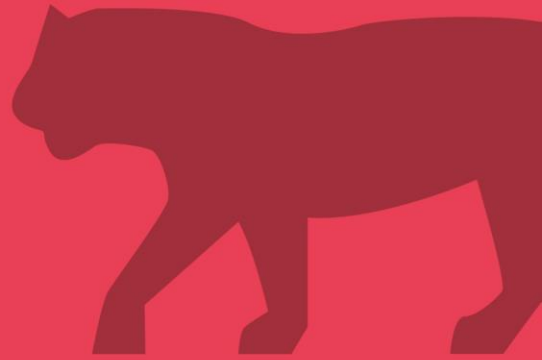
“So, there are travel agencies that organise these trips to these locations and ... the people that are paying to go there are not aware properly of the national legislation and ... don't show a lot of respect to the national legislation. And suddenly the people who organise these trips don't pay special attention to it either. **And that means that in certain locations there is quite heavy things going on linked to hunting tourism.**” – *Anonymous*



“It's all happening under the cover and these people who are actually organising illegal hunting, illegal training, everything, **they are just putting money in their pockets. There's nothing legal here.**” – *Anonymous*

“... it goes hand in hand: **drug dealing, bird trafficking and prostitution.** So, when hunting tourists come to the country and they always say, **‘they get the full package’**, like bird shooting during the day, and then prostitutes during the evening and drugs and all sorts.” – *Anonymous*



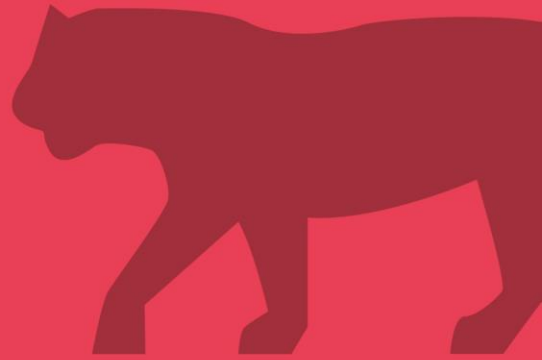


**General perception:
Organised crime is involved.**

“Police is now working much better than they used to do and since our telephone number is always open, ... they can also leave their questions ... So, from time to time, they will ring us up and say, '**oh, sorry, we just popped in a place where some drug dealer was reported. We went in, we found some drugs, but there were also loads of cages with wild birds**'.”

- *Anonymous*





Outlook – *‘Geopolitics matter.’*

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“And we can see clearly that we had an ... upwards trend of any kind of bird crime, of illegal killing, and trapping, and poisoning and trade. **This may be partially due to [the fact that] we pay more attention and that way we get more data.** But at the same time the number of cases reported, the number of cases found in the wild ... shows that there is clearly an increasing trend. “

- *Anonymous*



“It is important to see what the trend [is] and how it affects not only the ecosystems, but **how it decreases the credibility of the EU being able to protect itself and apply its [own] laws.** “

- *Anonymous*





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