

A study on smuggling of migrants: Characteristics, responses and cooperation with third countries

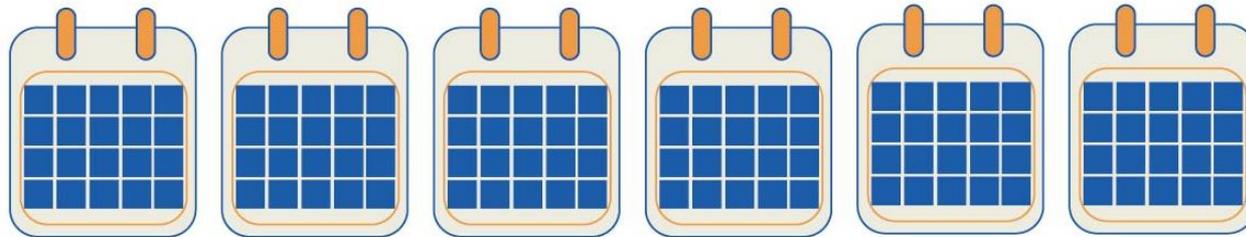
EMN lunch event, Brussels, 21 March 2016



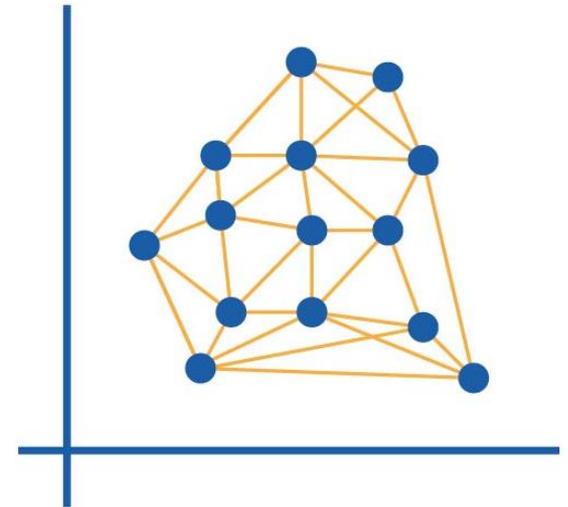
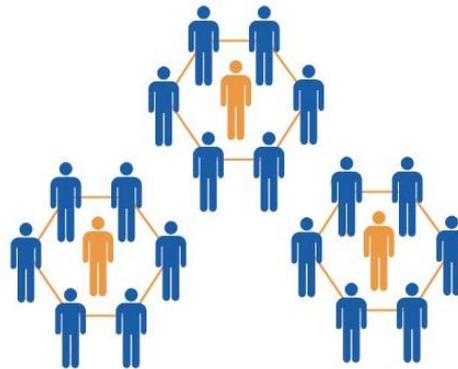
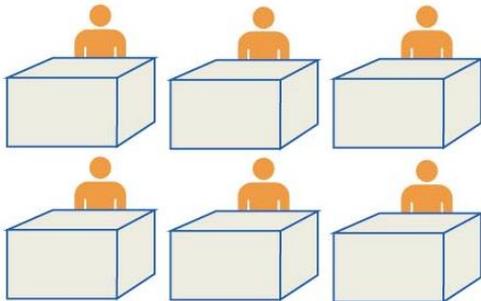
- This study was commissioned by the European Commission, DG Migration & Home Affairs on behalf of the European Migration Network
- The consortium undertaking this study was led by Optimicity Advisors and supported by ICMPD and ECRE.



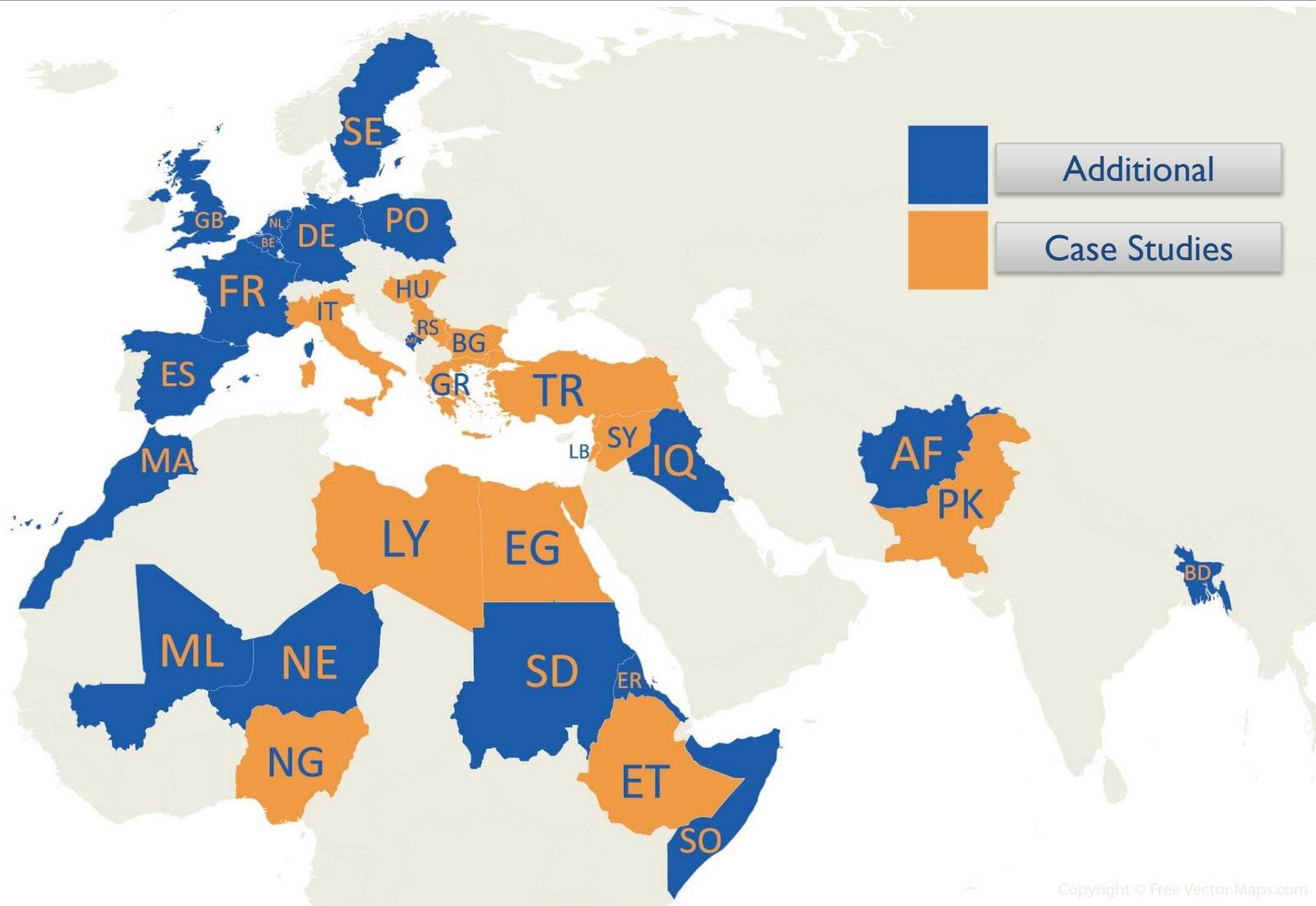
We undertook a rapid review of the dynamics of smuggling, institutions, policies and activities and co-operation with third countries.



Six months of Desk Research, Interviews, & Data Analysis to June 2015



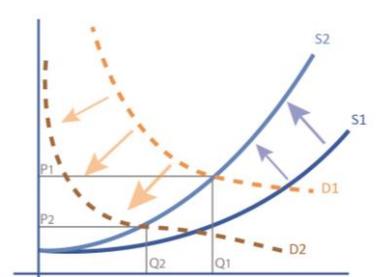
Geographical Coverage



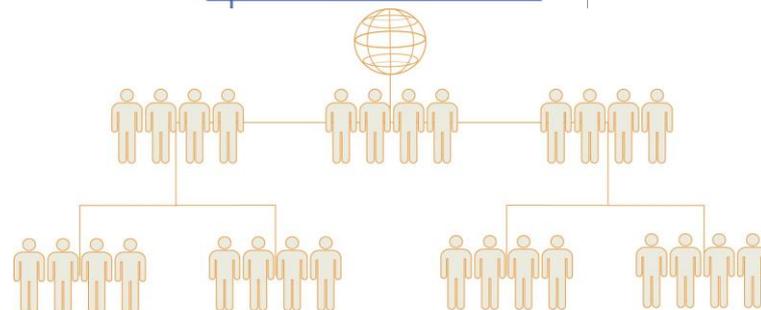
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Dimensions to consider in developing a conceptual framework for analysing policy responses in relation to the smuggling of migrants

1. Economics



2. Business



3. Social Organisation



There is an active market for migrant smuggling services



- Supply and demand responsive to price and quality
- Suppliers are able to differentiate between services and charge different prices
- Good suppliers are recommended by users

There are strong communication networks with social media playing a significant role

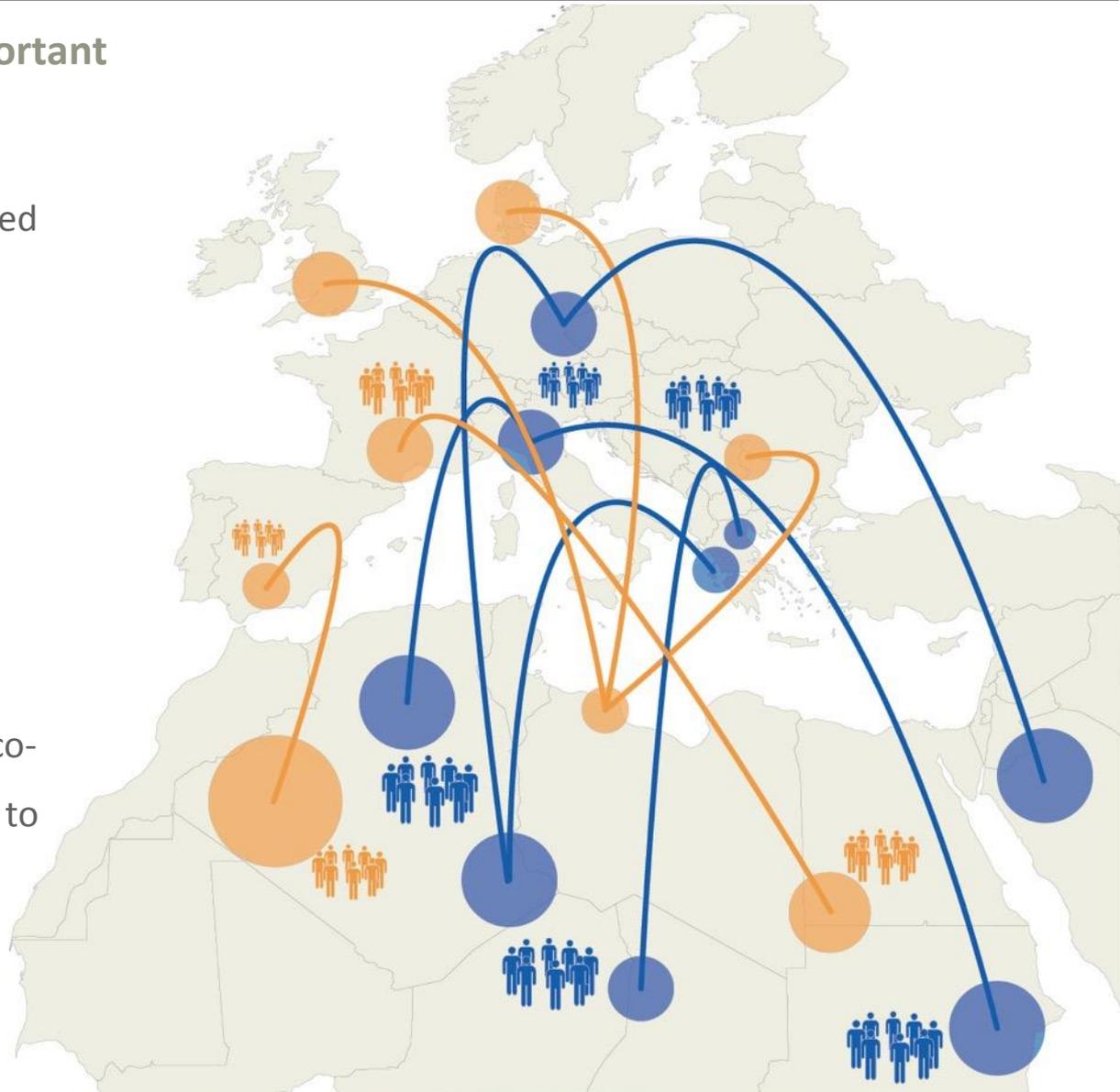
- Quick information sharing between buyer and seller through social networks/ pay-as-you-go phones
- Exchanging pictures of transport, false documents and maps of routes
- Information on completed legs of the journey



Key finding: Diaspora

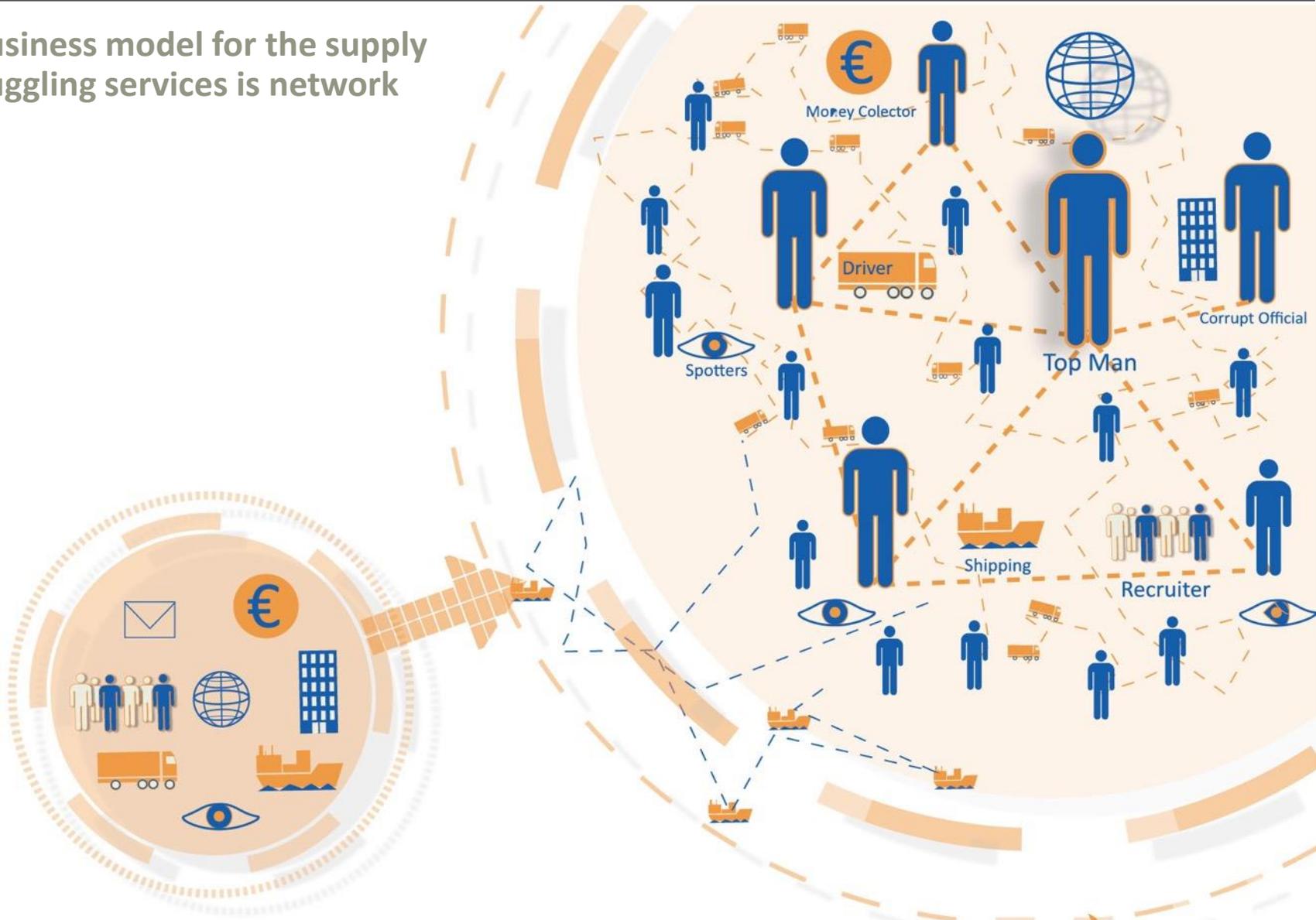
Family & diaspora play an important role in destination

- Family and diaspora are regarded as a more reliable source of information
- Government led information campaigns are less effective
- Work closely with diaspora to co-design information campaigns, to raise awareness about legal routes and the risks of using smugglers



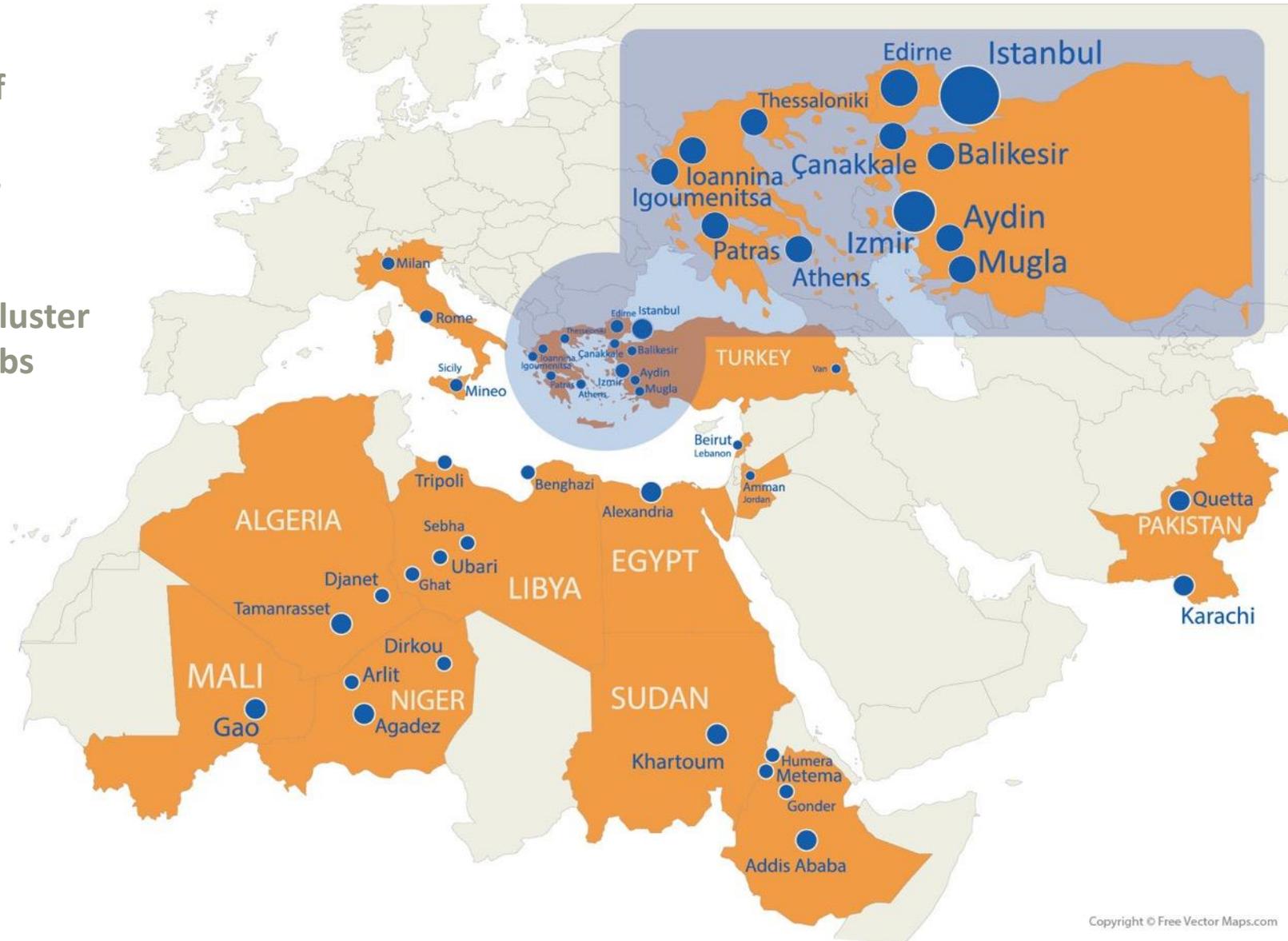
Key finding: Networks

The business model for the supply of smuggling services is network based



Key finding: Hubs

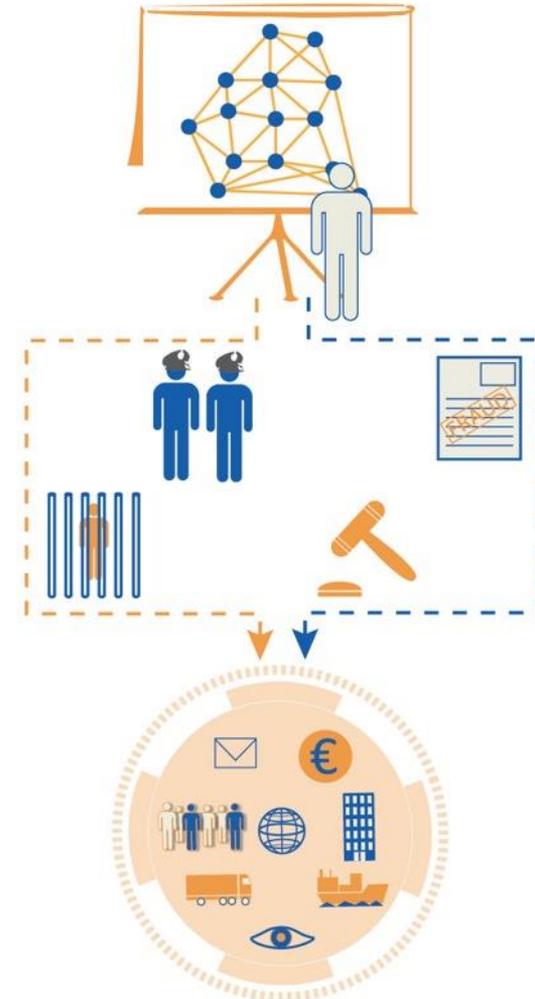
Where the intensity of smuggling activities is greatest, smuggling networks cluster to form Hubs



Key finding: Comprehensive Policies

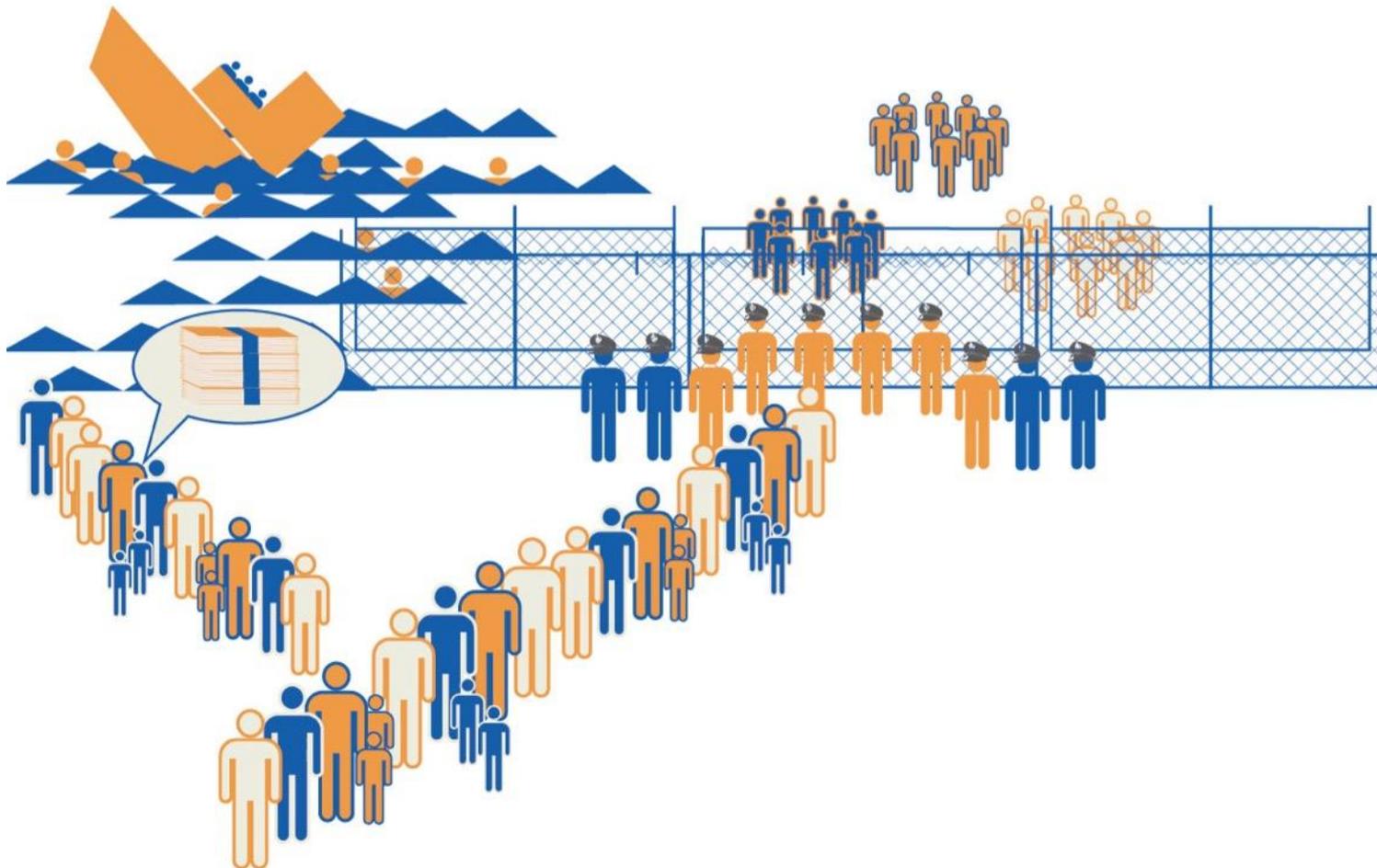
Operational activities to tackle supply are likely to be more effective if they are comprehensive and, based on the business model analysis, if targeted at the Hubs

- Policies on supply should be targeted at hubs
- Law enforcement, prosecution of smugglers, focused approach on the means of smuggling (document fraud and transportation), and business disruption activities should all be combined
- Policies that are unilateral and not comprehensive simply serve to alter the route



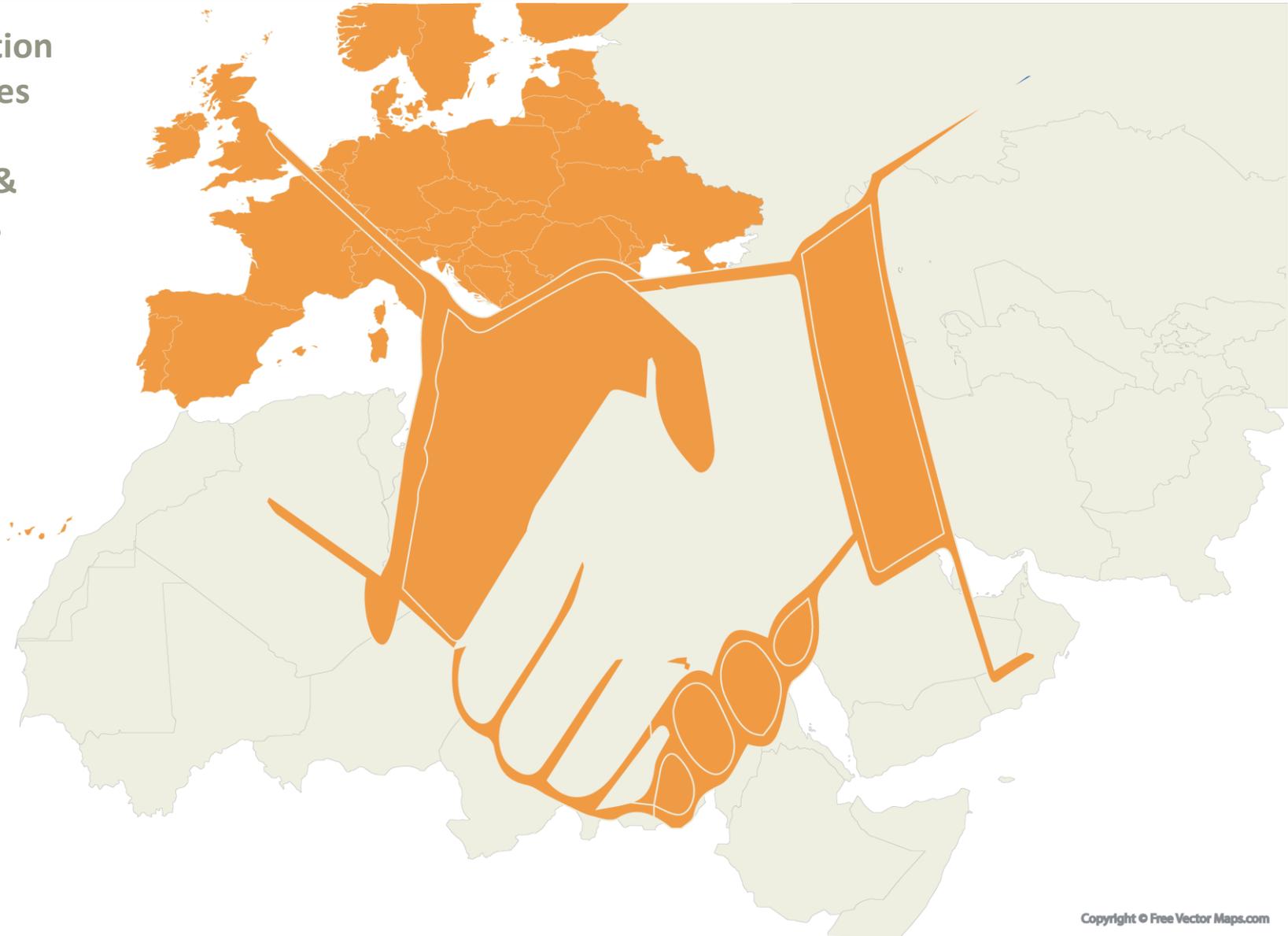
Key finding: Supply Sensitive Policies

Policies and related activities that only tackle the supply of migrant smuggling could drive up prices or increase risks faced by migrants

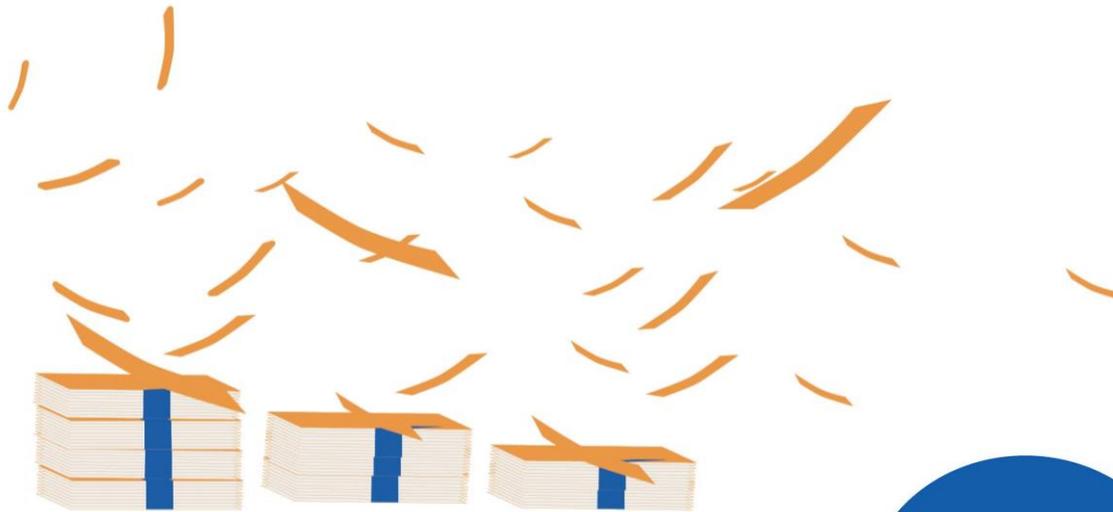


Key finding: Coordination

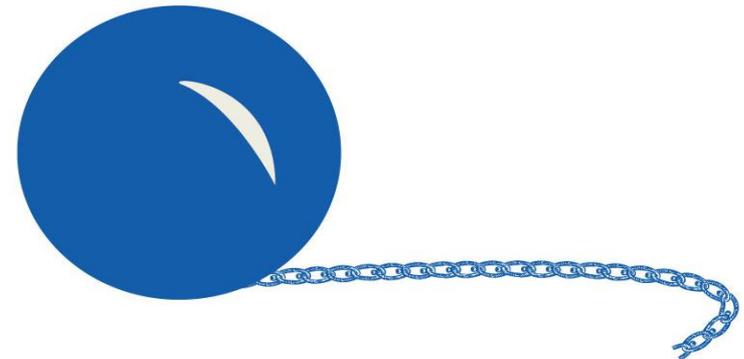
Coordination
of activities
across
agencies &
borders is
essential



Migrants become particularly vulnerable to exploitation and human rights violations when they run out of money



- Smuggling operations may sometimes lead to a trafficking situation, other forms of exploitation, and human rights abuses along a migrant's journey.
- Migrants who do not have means become more vulnerable



We need to improve our understanding of the predictive impact of policy by:

- gathering further information on the relationship between price, quantity and risk for different migrant populations and different markets.
- researching the Hubs rather than routes and hence improving our understanding the dynamics of Hubs: how they form, develop and function and how they compare and contrast.
- researching and mapping the financial flows and how these can best be disrupted to undermine the business model.
- measuring and sharing information on the effectiveness of specific policy tools and the contextual drivers which mitigate or mediate impact.
- improving our understanding of secondary movements of migrants within Europe and the role of smuggling networks.
- deepening our knowledge of the role of communications and technology within the market and the business model.

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Link to the study report:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/study_on_smuggling_of_migrants_final_report_master_091115_final_pdf.pdf

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