

ABOUT FALCON

FALCON (Fight Against Large-scale Corruption and Organised Crime Networks) is a three-year Horizon Europe research project in the field of anti-corruption.

FALCON develops new data-driven indicators and AI-based tools to strengthen the global fight against corruption by following an evidence-based interdisciplinary approach. The FALCON tools are developed to assist law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and anti-corruption bodies in detecting corruption-related risks.

Use Case 1:
Procurement fraud

Use Case 2:
Sanction circumvention
by kleptocrats/oligarchs

Use Case 3:
Corruption schemes
at border crossings

Use Case 4:
Conflicts of interest of
politically exposed persons

FALCON
USE CASES

FALCON comprises 25 partners from 15 countries.

Coordinator: Jenny Adamopoulou,
Institute of Communication & Computer Systems (ICCS)
Duration: 09/2023 – 08/2026
Call/Topic: HORIZON-CL3-2022-FCT-01-05
Budget: € 5 080 455,00

STAY INFORMED



Visit our website or follow us on social media to stay updated and learn more about our project and our approach to fighting corruption.

<https://www.falcon-horizon.eu>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/falcon-horizon-eu>

FALCON CONSORTIUM

FALCON CONTACT

General Inquiries
Evgenia Adamopoulou
FALCON project coordinator

info@falcon-horizon.eu

Media Inquiries
Ulrich Pontes
FALCON communication officer

press@falcon-horizon.eu

© by Fraunhofer IOSB, 2026

FALCON is funded under the Horizon Europe Framework Program Grant Agreement ID 101121281. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Image: DNY59 / istockphoto.com



Funded by
the European Union

Schemes and Costs of High-Level Corruption

POLICY BRIEF I

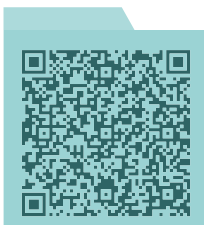
FALCON's first Policy Brief examines high-level corruption through the analysis of 63 case studies from more than 40 countries. It highlights how corruption schemes operate across borders, how illicit assets are concealed, and which vulnerabilities are exploited in areas such as public procurement, border management, and sanctions enforcement. The brief also presents data-driven corruption risk indicators that can help detect suspicious patterns at an early stage. By illustrating the economic and societal costs of corruption, it provides evidence-based policy recommendations to strengthen detection, enforcement, and international cooperation in the fight against corruption.



Leveraging AI in the Fight Against Corruption

POLICY BRIEF II

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can significantly strengthen anti-corruption efforts by helping authorities analyse large datasets, identify hidden patterns, and improve transparency. The FALCON Policy Brief focuses on the project's four use cases: border corruption, corruption in public procurement, conflicts of interest, and sanction circumvention. AI technologies can support investigations through anomaly detection, predictive analytics, and automated data analysis. To realise these benefits, policymakers should promote responsible AI adoption through clear governance frameworks, training, better data accessibility, and independent oversight mechanisms.



Combatting Corruption and Fraud in Public Procurement

POLICY BRIEF III

Public procurement is highly vulnerable to corruption due to complex procedures, large financial flows and fragmented oversight. FALCON's analysis shows that although EU procurement rules are robust, many lower-value contracts remain outside harmonised controls. The brief recommends stronger risk-based monitoring of sub-threshold tenders, broader use of interoperable e-procurement systems, AI-supported risk detection, tighter limits on direct awards, and stronger accountability mechanisms based on data-driven indicators. Together, these measures can increase transparency, reduce opportunities for abuse and strengthen corruption prevention across the procurement lifecycle.



Combatting Border Corruption

POLICY BRIEF IV

Border corruption can undermine even the most advanced border management systems by exploiting institutional, procedural and technological vulnerabilities. The FALCON Policy Brief shows how criminal networks continuously adapt to new controls and identifies measures to strengthen integrity at EU borders. Key recommendations include expanding digital procedures, reducing discretionary face-to-face interactions and manual data handling, deploying risk-based analytics and corruption indicators, and integrating corruption risk assessments into border security policies. Together, these measures can enhance transparency and resilience across EU border governance.



Combatting Sanction Circumvention

POLICY BRIEF V

This FALCON policy brief examines how sanction circumvention undermines the effectiveness of EU restrictive measures by exploiting regulatory gaps, intermediaries, and complex financial networks. It highlights key challenges, including fragmented data systems, inconsistent legal frameworks, and insufficient oversight of enablers. To address these risks, it recommends building an integrated EU data ecosystem, harmonising rules, strengthening supervision of intermediaries, and investing in advanced analytical tools and enforcement capacity. These measures aim to improve detection, prevent illicit asset transfers, and enhance coordinated EU responses.



Combatting Corruption of Politically Exposed Persons

POLICY BRIEF VI

This policy brief explores the corruption risks linked to Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) and highlights gaps in fragmented EU anti-corruption and anti-money laundering frameworks. It outlines how improved data integration, interoperable datasets, and cross-border cooperation can strengthen detection. The brief emphasises the importance of limiting discretionary procedures, enhancing oversight, and harmonising conflict-of-interest rules. It further demonstrates how AI-driven analytics and linked datasets can reveal hidden relationships, support risk detection, and enable more efficient, transparent and accountable anti-corruption action across the EU.

