

OLAF Unveils Fraud Committed by Greek Researcher



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European Law Forum: Prevention • Investigation • Prosecution

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News

On 5 May 2020, OLAF reported the [successful discovery of a fraud scheme set up by a Greek researcher](#). The researcher pretended to involve over 40 international researchers in a research project funded by the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA) with a grant of approx. €1.1 million. OLAF found evidence that the researchers were, in fact, not involved and that the Greek researcher had set up banking accounts – actually meant to pay the individual researchers – making herself the co-beneficiary, so that she was able to access the money. The investigation was concluded in November 2019. OLAF recommended that the ERCEA recover approximately €190,000 (the share of the €1.1m grant allegedly paid to the international researcher). The Greek authorities recommended initiating judicial proceedings against the persons involved.

OLAF Director General *Ville Itälä* stated that the case demonstrated yet again the importance of being able to access banking records in order to fight fraud successfully.

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