

THE EUROPEAN UNION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

Illegal E-Waste Export from the EU to Africa: The Case Studies of Nigeria and Ghana

Author: Laura Garcia Martínez (1529759)
Tutor: Juan Pablo Soriano Gatica

UAB Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

1. INTRODUCTION

Illicit e-waste export is one of the foremost challenges the EU faces due to:

- The rapid expansion of the electronic industry
- The heavy environmental and health impacts
- Its links to other types of organized crimes (e.g. migrant smuggling and money laundering).

This report aims to respond the following question:

"What can the EU do in order to improve its action in tackling illegal e-waste trafficking in Europe and Africa?"

2. METHODOLOGY

With the object of providing recommendations, this report studies the EU legal framework, and focuses on the case studies of Nigeria and Ghana. Of these, main actors, drivers, legal framework, and links to other crimes are considered.

This investigation was conducted by adopting the **qualitative research method of documentary analysis**, since key aspects like processes, dynamics and resources cannot be quantified. **Case studies** were selected as, despite its transnational nature, e-waste trafficking especially affects certain locations.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- ❑ Illicit e-waste shipment is loosely organized through a coordinated approach.
- ❑ A wide range of actors are involved. Among them we highlight:
 - Mafia groups (e.g. Camorra, Cosa Nostra)
 - enable the transit
 - connections with customs and corrupt officials
 - Waste Scrap and Waste Disposal Firms
 - Mislabelling e-waste as UEEE
 - Transport Actors
 - Having smuggles as clients

❑ Key drivers:



PROFITS



LAX LAW
ENFORCEMENT



DIGITAL DIVIDE



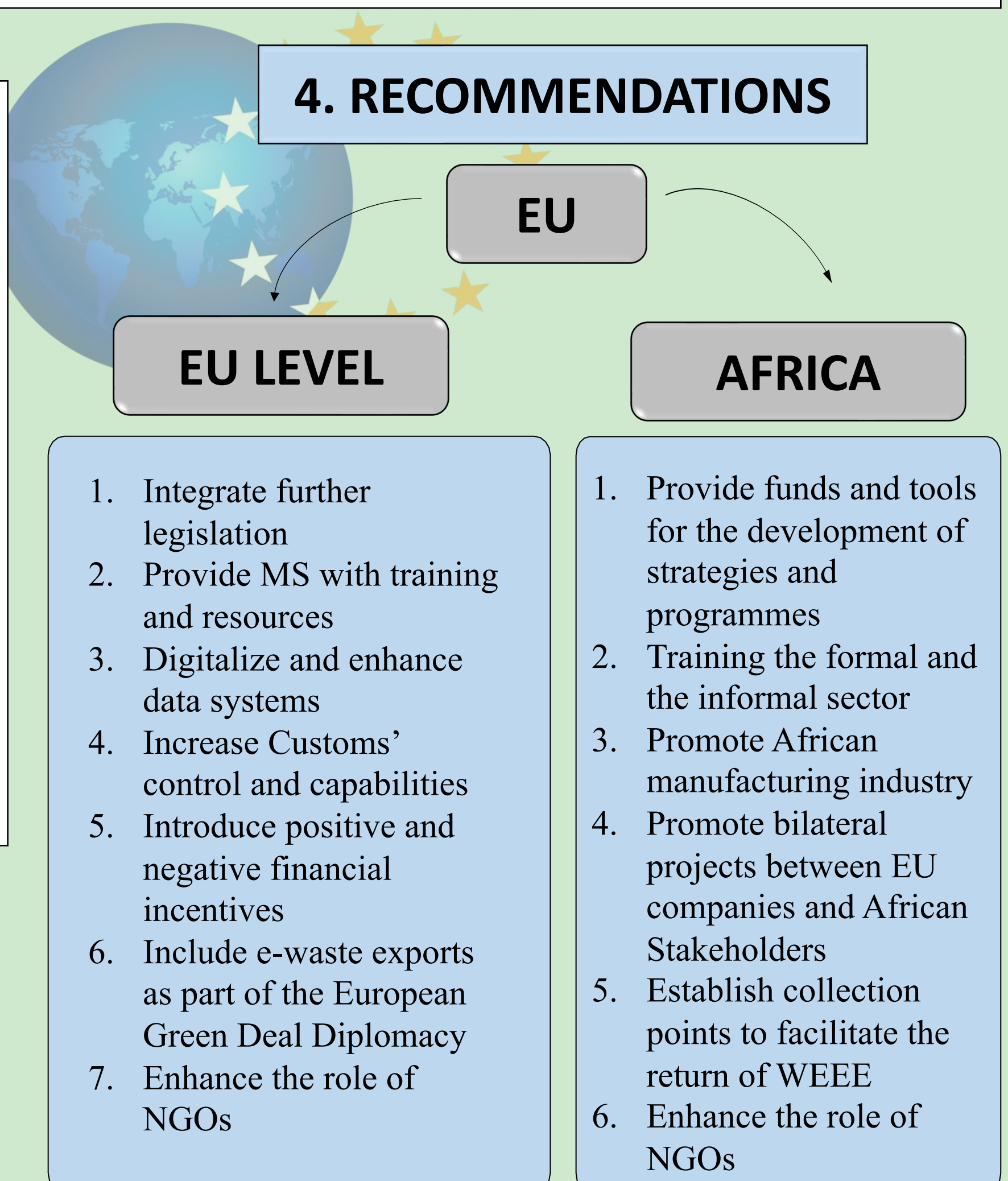
SOURCE OF
EMPLOYMENT

Picture 2. Broken televisions, computers and keyboards transported to Ghana



Source: Daily Mail Online

4. RECOMMENDATIONS



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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