

Operation Black Marble

Guardia di Finanza - ITALY



OECD International Academy for Tax Crime Investigation
Investigative Techniques for the Cash Economy | October 2021



Background: Guardia di Finanza

3 strategic goals:

- Tax evasion and fraud. Auditing businesses and investigating financial crime.
- Monitoring and protecting domestic and EU public spending, supporting the Court of Auditors.
- Fighting financial activities of criminal organisations.

60,000 people in the force.

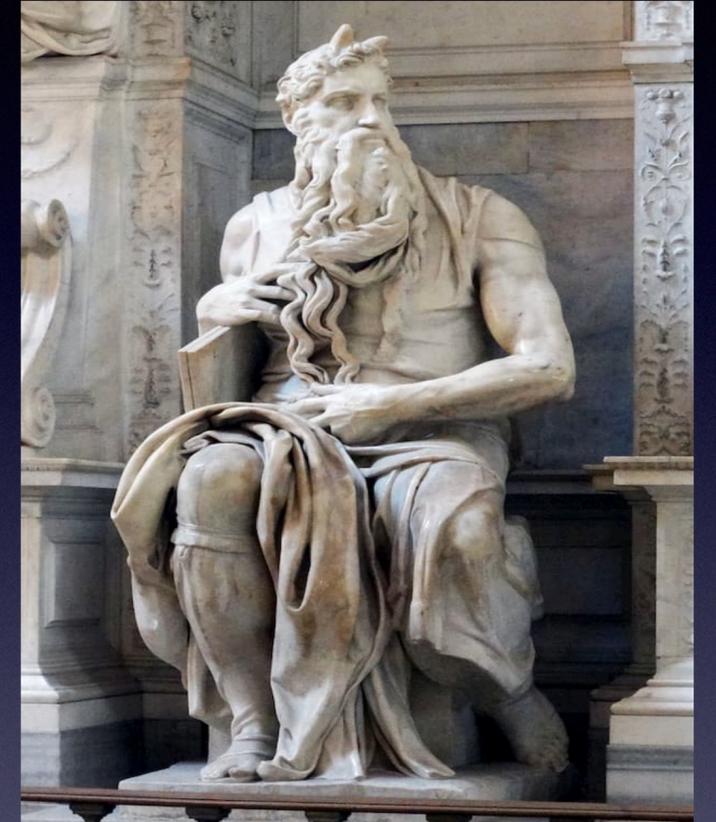
Considerable powers and access to information so we can act quickly and independently; logistic resources.



Carrara and the marble sector

Mosè

- Average block €300,000
- 2020: worth €1.5 billion to the Carrara economy



Michelangelo sculptures:



David





Case Study

- John and sons were in frequent contact with the Bangladeshi community and a hawala system.
- Sons made frequent trips to Milan
- Involvement of “Michael”, high-profile financial expert
- Cartel of 19 marble companies in the Carrara area
- Hawala system used for exports to companies in Bangladesh with John charging a 5% commission



HONG KONG
€100,000
Invoice: €30,000

ANTIGUA
€80,000
€20,000

SEYCHELLES
€100,000
€25,000

RUSSIA
€150,000
€45,000

€70,000
undeclared

€60,000

€75,000

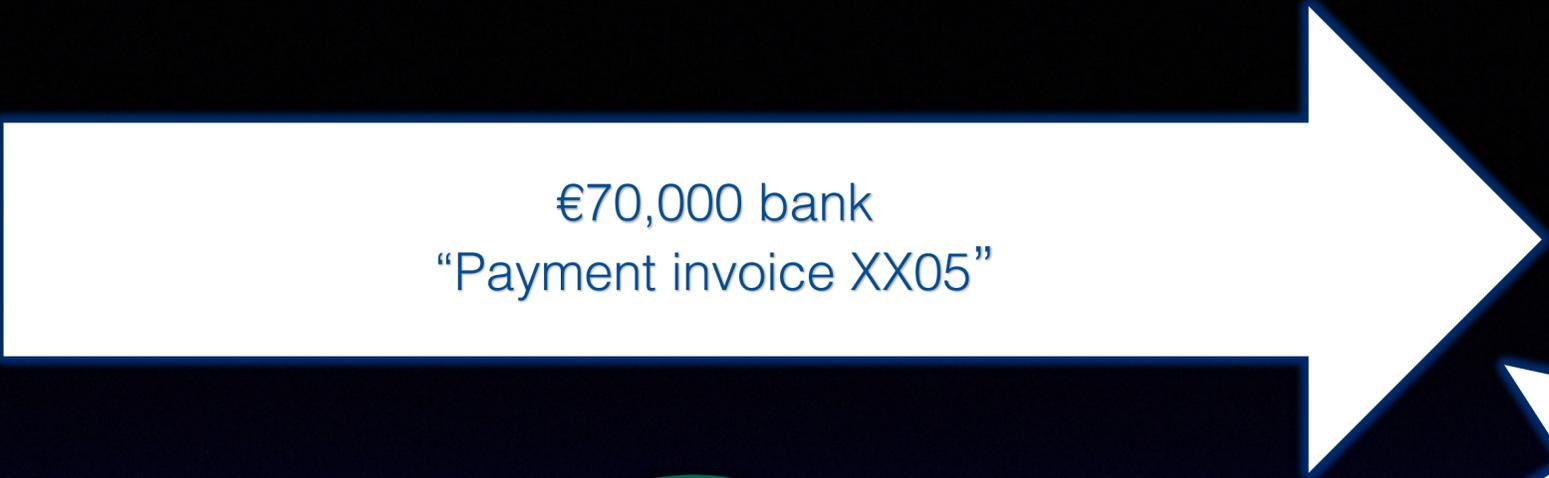
€105,000



x 19
companies



DUBAI MARBLE TRADERS

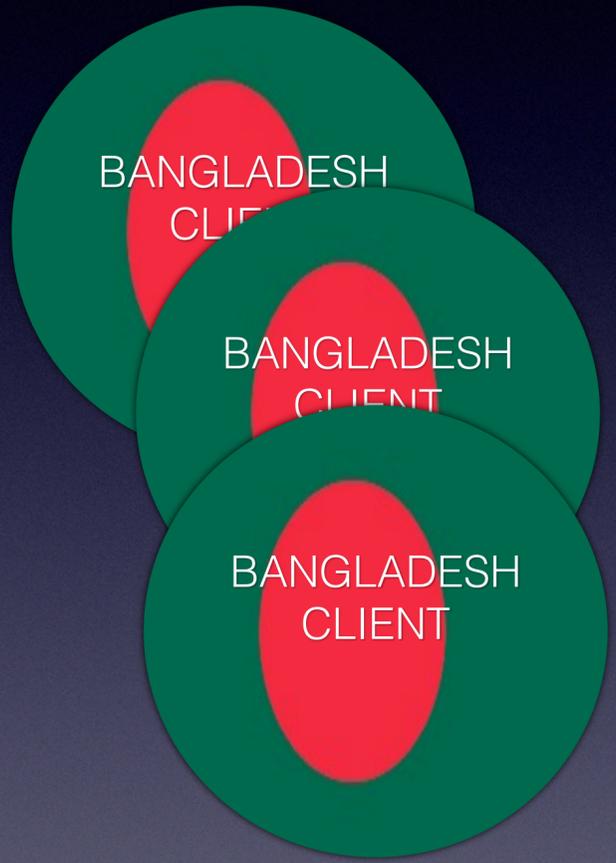


€70,000 bank
"Payment invoice XX05"



MAGIC MARBLE

Bangladesh Bathrooms
buys €100,000 marble
from Magic Marble



BANGLADESH CLIENT

BANGLADESH CLIENT

BANGLADESH CLIENT



€30,000 bank
"Payment invoice XX05"



€70,000 via hawala

Magic Marble creates an invoice number XX05
Total: €100,000, issued to Bangladesh Bathrooms but NOT sent
Registered correctly and appears in Magic Marble's books

Magic Marble issues an identical invoice (number XX05) to Bangladesh Bathrooms.
This is sent to Bangladesh Bathrooms but NOT registered.
Total: €30,000

Results



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

- €2 million in tax evasion + €1 million money laundering
- 30 people charged with tax evasion and money laundering in Italy
- 8 people charged for using the hawala system

ADMINISTRATIVE RESULTS

- €87 million undeclared company income
- €6 million personal income undeclared
- €3 million VAT evasion
- 394 illegal money transfers via hawala

QUESTIONS?