Launched in 2004, CARIN (Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network) , launched in 2004, provides asset recovery practitioners from Police forces and the Judiciary a platform to discuss legal frameworks and operational challenges in all aspects of asset recovery.

CARIN is not a legal body but an informal network where all the contacts meet every year in an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The CARIN secretariat manages the contacts list, which is the basis of the network.

Since 2017, the European Commission has awarded CARIN with direct grants that which enables CARIN to sustain its work in developing asset recovery and asset management to a higher level and make AR investigations more effective.

The CARIN Steering Group – composed of nine jurisdictions – organises the AGM. Steering group members in 2019 are Belgium, Guernsey, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden, UK and USA

Europol is the permanent secretariat of CARIN. Eurojust and Europol are observers of the CARIN Steering Group. The CARIN Steering Group meets at least three times per year.

The CARIN Steering Group has a rotation concept whereby every year another jurisdiction holds the Presidency of CARIN. Romania currently has the 2019 presidency and will host the Annual General Meeting in Bucharest in October 2019.

All jurisdictions who were invited to the launch in 2004 together with the European Member states are members of CARIN. All jurisdictions who joined later are observers. CARIN has 37 members and 21 observers to date. Observers cannot be members of the CARIN steering group neither can they vote in the AGM. Nevertheless, decisions have CARIN always reached a consensus without a vote. When it comes to exchanging information and advice, there is no difference.

Currently CARIN has 58 jurisdictions, Andorra joined in 2018 and Belarus in early 2019.

Due to its proven efficiency, other regional networks have been are launched over the past years:

2009 RRAG Latin America (Spanish)

2012 ARINSA South Africa (English)

2013 ARIN-AP Asia Pacific (English)

2014 ARIN-EA East Africa (English)

2014 ARIN-WA West Africa (English –French)

2017 ARIN-CARIB Caribbean (English)

2018 ARIN-WCA West and Central Asia (English / Russian)

All these networks are based on the CARIN model, with similar structures between them.

Together the networks cover 164 jurisdictions, only few regions are not yet covered.

CARIN invites representatives from these regions to participate in its AGM and present their jurisdictions legal framework and efforts in asset recovery.

Continuity of the networks is crucial, therefore CARIN jurisdictions are asked to provide statistics annually and examples of good practice in order to promote the effectiveness of the networks.

In 2016, 26 jurisdictions have provided statistics.

In 2017, 30 jurisdictions have provided statistics.

In 2018, 34 jurisdictions have provided statistics.

UAE and China are the most requested countries outside of the networks.

For the first quarter of 2019, we have received statistics from 32 jurisdictions.

In this presentation, some examples on good cooperation within the networks are shown.

2014-2018 Spain – Guernsey

The following example will demonstrate that, at times, AR practitioners need to persist in their efforts for several years(maybe also state what for here – to fully complete an investigation?)

In 2010, a Spanish national was convicted in Spain for drug trafficking offences in connection to the importation of 1.200 kilos of cocaine.

During his imprisonment, his yacht that was registered to Guernsey registered company (LTD) was sold for 209.124,03 euro.

Since 2014, a Spanish company was holding these funds for the owner of the yacht, the Guernsey LTD. The owner of this Spanish company wanted to retire, but could not transfer the money to the Guernsey LTD as Guernsey had not permitted this company to establish a bank account in the country due to the criminal record of its beneficial owner (the convicted Spanish national)

The money, unless seized, could be lost or even recovered by the convicted Spanish national , who was released from prison approximately the same week Spanish authorities were able to reclaim the money.

In 2018, the amount was transferred to Spanish authorities by Guernsey authorities.

The he communication initiated by the CARIN contacts of Spain and Guernsey alongside the combined efforts of the Guernsey Authorities and different National Police Force Investigation Groups in Spain, prevented a convicted criminal of benefiting from his illicitly obtained assets.

The amount recovered will be used to cover part of the civil liability of 2.516.000 euro in the criminal case.

Good practices

2017

Denmark – Dominican Republic

In February 2017, the Danish Police had arrested two criminals for trafficking 50 kilos of methamphetamine. Information provided on the matter indicated that they owned real Estate in the Dominican Republic.

Even before the launch of ARIN-CARIB, Danish colleagues got in contact with the Prosecutor’s office of the Dominican Republic who managed to identify and seize the property.

2018

France – Ukraine

'King of the Castle' is an investigation into a Ukrainian national, wanted by police in Ukraine since 2015 in connection with a major fraud and forgery case involving Defense ministry property in the Black Sea port cit. The Ukrainian national lead a 'lavish' life in a French Burgundy chateau, surrounded by works of Salvador Dali and a vintage Rolls Royce Phantom.

The case of the King of the Castle started with a complaint about labour exploitation to the French Gendarmerie against the owner of medieval castle Chateau de la Rochepot in the wine growing region Côte d’Or. Following the collection of background information, investigators discovered a Luxembourg company had bought the castle. A Ukrainian national was identified as the UBO of the Luxembourg company.

In September 2018, France requested information on the suspect to Ukraine and the Analytical Project Asset Recovery via Europol. Both French and Ukrainian CARIN contacts were involved in the exchange of information. The CARIN police contact in Ukraine provided valuable information on the ultimate owner. He was wanted in Ukraine for alleged large-scale corruption but had managed to evade justice by producing "forged death certificates" in two different regions in Ukraine.

By October 2018, the Ukrainian national had been arrested, 4 million euros in value have been seized in France. In Ukraine, the corruption investigation can be re-opened.

Denmark – South Africa

In October 2018,the Danish authorities discovered a fraud in the National Board of Health and Welfare. A 64-year old employee had been transferring public funds equivalent to at least 15 million euros to her bank account for 16 years.

 She invested in racehorses transferring money to Netherlands, South Africa and UK.

It was later discovered that the fraud had begun in 1993 involving the equivalent of another 18 million euros. According to the investigation, at least 274 money transfers were made during the period.

It is unclear as to how the money was stolen, but it appears that the main suspect had privileged access to the Danish government welfare agency’s computer system.

Prior to the discovery of this fraud, the suspect had left the country. Since the investigators knew she had a son living in South-Africa, they requested (through ARINSA) help in freezing bank accounts sending out an MLA for the arrest of the suspect.

The investigators travelled the same day and 24 hours later the suspect was both located and arrested. Within the following four days the suspect was brought before the court to be extradited. Her lawyer read a statement saying that she was willing to fly home, meaning no formal extradition was needed. When she was arrested in Johannesburg she was carrying 648,700 rand in cash ($46,000) in her possession which was confiscated.

Her adult son could travel back to Denmark where he faced criminal charges for handling stolen goods.

He was arrested Oct. 30 as he was about to leave the country with two diamonds in his luggage.

Newspaper:

A senior civil servant stole $17 million from the Danish welfare agency where she worked for 40 years — money intended to help the most vulnerable people, including the homeless and disabled — and is the subject of an international hunt, the authorities said this week.

Officials have not publicly named the suspect, a 64-year-old who was described as a “trusted employee” of the National Board of Health and Welfare, but the Danish news media have identified her as Anna Britta Troelsgaard Nielsen, who headed a department within the agency and last year received a medal for her service from Queen Margrethe II.

Examples on fast, effective and successful exchanges between networks & time zones.

2018

Lithuania CEO fraud

On the 18th of July 2018 around 17:00, the CARIN Secretariat received a phone call due to a CEO fraud in Lithuania. The Lithuanian CARIN contact was in need of contacts in Hong Kong to freeze a bank account. In Asia, it was already midnight but with the contact details of the Hong Kong Asset recovery specialists of the CARIN secretariat and the help of another CARIN contact, they were able to reach out immediately.

On the 20th of July 2018 around 12:00, the Interpol office in Lithuania received confirmation that the account in question was frozen (temporarily, admin procedure).

The anti-deception coordination centre also got involved. The representative of the victim company will be involved directly for the recovery procedure. Presumably, the money was still in the account and the remainder of the investigation will likely be solved via Ministry of Justice with an MLA.

2019

Tanzania – China

Through Whatsapp, the CARIN secretariat received a request from the Tanzanian contact in ARIN-EA (who met each other in the ARIN-EA AGM in Rwanda in November 2018) to receive contact details of Asset recovery contacts in China in order to ask assistance in a corruption investigation.

The details of the ARIN-AP secretariat were provided via WhatsApp whereby the request was sent to ARIN-AP on 10 April 2019 at 12:13 and the contact details were provided on 11 April 2019 at 03:36.

Within 16 hours including time difference.

CARIN Strategy

CARIN has developed a strategy, which consist of 4 pillars (read from the slide)