



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

SECURITY DOCUMENTS EXAMINATION



What are security documents?

The term “security documents” refers to **documents that incorporate specific elements intended to make them more difficult to counterfeit, falsify, alter or otherwise tamper with**. These elements include specific substrates (e.g. paper and polymer), different printing techniques (e.g. offset and intaglio) and particular inks (e.g. optical variable ink and fugitive ink).

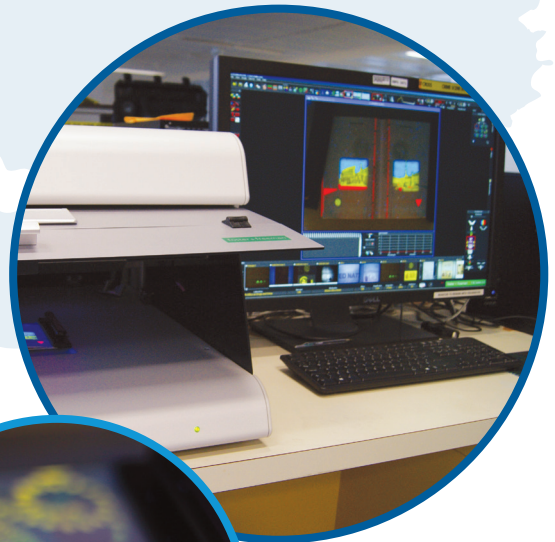
The most commonly encountered security documents are travel and identity documents such as **passports or national identity cards** as well as money, particularly **banknotes**.



Why is it essential to enhance security documents examination capacities worldwide?

Security documents are linked to several illegal activities classified as identity crimes or identity-related crimes. While the first activity encompasses crimes such as **identity-theft or the forgery of identity documents**, the latter includes **several forms of illegal transnational activities in which security documents or banknotes are misused for criminal purposes**. In fact, fraudulent documents are integral prerequisites for the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, mobility of terrorists, facilitation of the smuggling of drugs, weapons and other goods, and to commit cross-border crimes of all types.

The enhancement of security documents examination capacities is essential to assist Member States to **prevent and combat identity and identity-related crimes**.



How can UNODC assist Member States with the enhancement of security documents examination capacities?

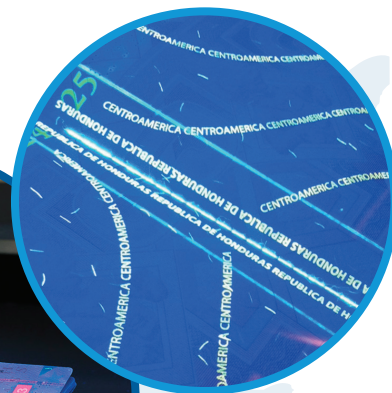
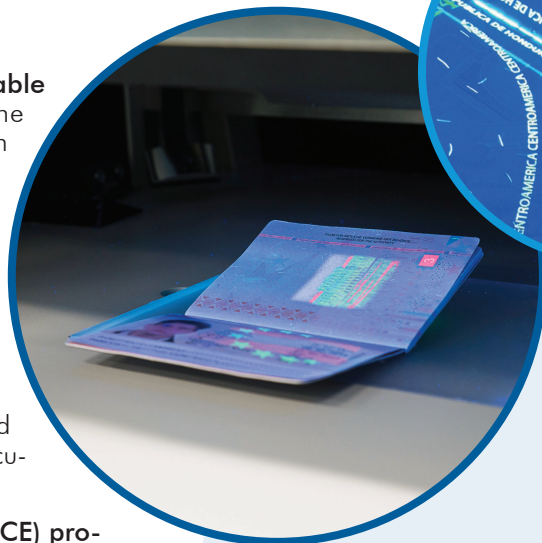
Upon request, UNODC furnishes **customisable on-site training programmes** on the examination of security documents, which can be tailored to meet the needs of beneficiary countries.

Access to **E-learning modules, available online** upon request by Member States, allows participants to gain or enhance their knowledge about document examination at their own pace. There are 4 modules available, focusing respectively on introductory aspects of security documents, security and printing techniques, security features and document fraud.

The **International Collaborative Exercise (ICE) programme** on security documents allow participants to test their ability to examine security documents by taking an online test and receiving feedback.

In addition, **numerous publications** of the UNODC scientific and forensic services programme, including manuals on document examination, are available online at:

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/scientists/index.html



Who should participate to the UNODC training services on security documents examination?

The UNODC training services on security documents were developed to raise the level of awareness of the use of fraudulent security documents and to increase basic and advanced knowledge on methodologies for recognizing such documents.

All stakeholders working in immigration and border control agencies, national forensic science laboratories or for the judiciary are thus targeted, i.e. **front-line law enforcement officers, border control officers, custom officers, forensic document experts and prosecutors.**





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If required, access to E-Learning modules, participation in the International Collaborative Exercises and on-site training programmes can be arranged subject to the availability of funds.

Requests for participating in the UNODC training services on security documents should be channelled through the office of UNODC's Country/Regional Representative. In countries/regions where no such office exists, please contact UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section at:

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