

RUSSIA'S CRIME-TERROR NEXUS

**Criminality as a Tool
of Hybrid Warfare
in Europe**





THE OPENING SHOT

"This is the war that is happening in the shadows.. we should speak what it really is - that is state-sponsored terrorism that Russia and also Iran are carrying out against Europe."


Kaja Kallas

WHO ARE THE EUROPEAN JIHADIS?

Project Midterm Report

We already had
one "crime-
terror" nexus..





...but there is now a new one
threatening Europe.



Hybrid warfare then?



Hybrid warfare now?

Setting the scene

1. "the law is like a telephone pole - you cannot jump over it but you can always go around it."
2. "everyone, in reality, steals just a little bit. And no one wants to obey the law. This is the real world."
3. The fall of the Soviet Union as "the single most important case of the exponential growth in organised crime that we have seen around the world [...] Almost overnight, it provoked a chaotic scramble for riches and survival."

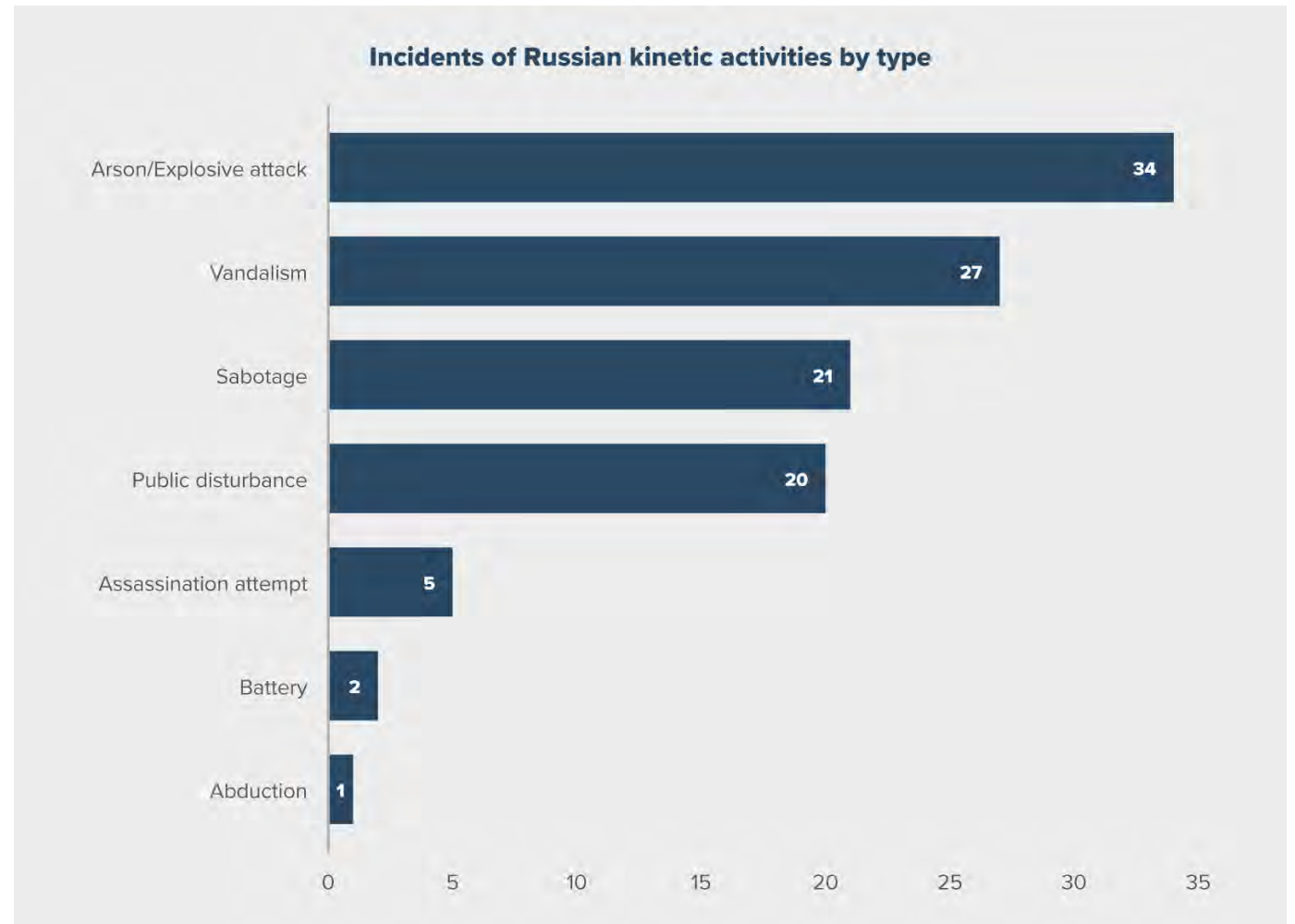
The first nexus

1. Sanctions evasion as "state policy" and a subject taught at universities.
2. 11-17% or 6.5-10 billion.
3. Kazakhstan, air balloons, anthracite.
4. Emergence of the *spook-gangster nexus*: "We combat both but sometimes it is the same person."
5. Going global = going criminal ("fun-house of Russia heads to Donbas" + Wagner in Africa).

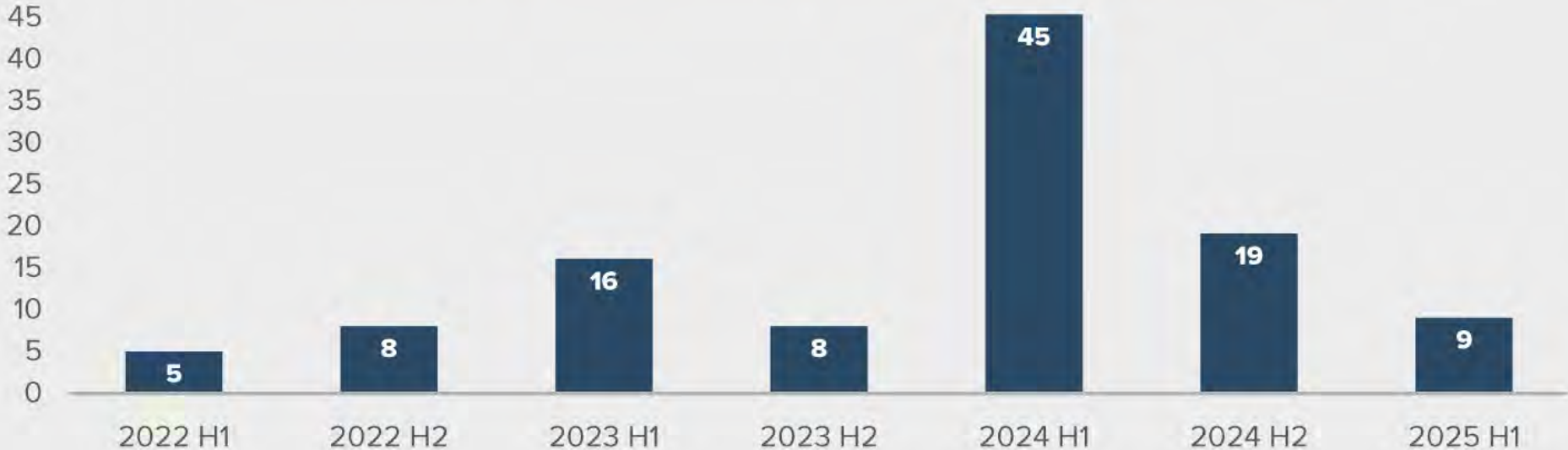


The other nexus

What happened?

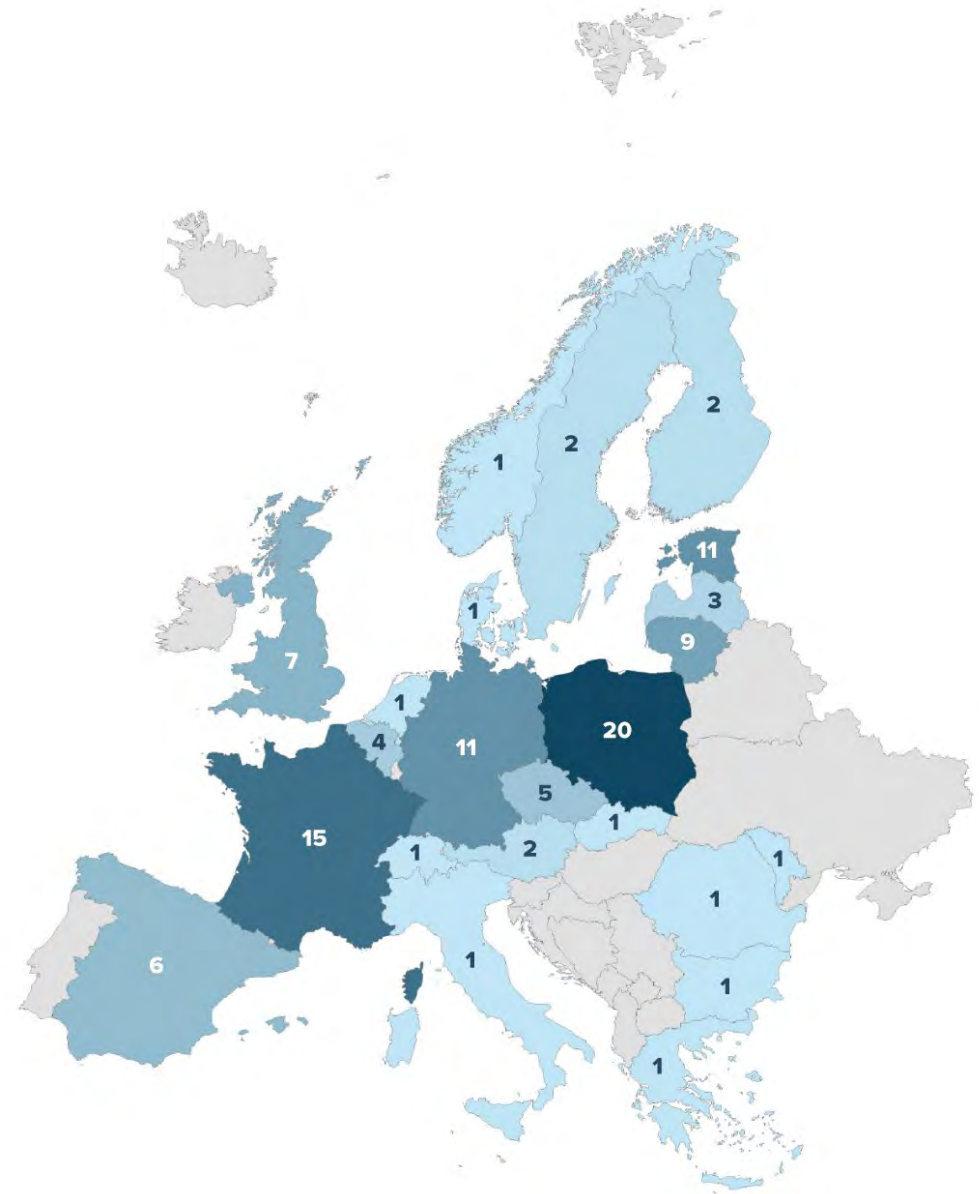


Development of Russian kinetic activities over time (2022-2025)



When?

Where?



Who did it?



Who did it?

1. Male.

2. Average age: 30.

3. Sometimes couples with kinship and friendship playing a role.

4. From "post-Soviet" countries.

5. Some strike at home, others go abroad (almost a 50-50 split).

6. It's money that motivates them.

7. Cognitive warfare.

8. Criminal backgrounds with subcontracting going on + prisons.

9. Battlefield experience.

10. Subversives and football hooligans.

11. Online and via telegram but...

12. Intermediaries tasked with construction of networks.

Ideas on tackling the threat

1. Focus on risk bubbles.
2. Tell "them" about the risk.
3. Follow the not always obvious red flags.
4. "It is crime, stupid."
5. It really is about sanctions.

**Thank you for
your attention.
Questions?**