

# COVID-19 PROFITEERING - ORGANISED PROPERTY CRIME



## KEY FINDINGS

Various types of schemes involving thefts associated with organised property crime have been adapted by criminals to exploit the current situation. This includes the well-known 'nephew' or 'grandchild' trick and scams involving the impersonation of representatives of public authorities.

Commercial premises and medical facilities are expected to be increasingly targeted for organised burglaries.

The level of activity of criminals involved in organised property crime is expected to further increase during the crisis.

## OUTLOOK

The same types of thefts using deception encountered during the COVID-19 crisis have existed before, but criminals have adapted their *modi operandi* to the current situation. The number of attempts involving these types of thefts and scams is likely to increase across the EU.

While all EU citizens are at risk of being victimised, it appears certain fraud schemes are particularly targeting vulnerable members of society, such as the elderly. Fraudsters also approach victims at home by pretending to be law **enforcement or healthcare officials offering testing for COVID-19 and other** pretences to enter homes and steal valuables.