

Venice: Operation "Stop Fake" against child pornography

Operation "Stop Fake" by the Postal and Communications Police in Venice led to the identification of dozens of paedophiles in various countries, who were being chased since 2013.

The specialist officers of the Postal and Communications Police, coordinated by the National Center for Combating Online Child Pornography (Cncpo) in Rome, snared a paedophile network and seized a vast amount of child abuse material.

During the operation, 26 searches were carried out in Italy, in collaboration with the Postal and Communications Police offices in Abruzzo, Campania, Emilia Romagna, Lazio, Lombardy, Marche, Apulia, Sardinia, Sicily, and Tuscany, where cyber investigators had to sift through several hundred gigabytes of data.

All this resulted in the seizure of thousands of child porn images and videos, and in the arrest of an individual. Moreover, 26 paedophiles were identified in the US, UK, Germany, France, Belgium, Poland, Mexico, Argentina, Russia, Spain, and the Czech Republic, and were reported to the judicial authorities of their countries.

The investigations were initiated after a search carried out in the framework of another police operation against child pornography in 2013. From the analysis of the electronic mailboxes of a paedophile police officers found that this person had dozens of contacts on the Internet referable to boys and girls.

The suspect used many social networks, such as Facebook, Netlog, MSN Spaces, Badoo, and others, pretending to be a girl, who was looking for other children's photos.

While searching, he came across dozens of "fakes", that is, web users who hide behind a false digital identity, posing as children themselves. So he made contact with them and started exchanging child pornography. On one occasion, two paedophiles threw off their masks and kept sharing illegal material.

However, based on the analysis of the material seized, further developments are expected in the investigations into the vast phenomenon of digital child pornography.

Italian

24/07/2014