

Cartel Working Group Workplan 2025-26

CWG Mission

The mandate of the Cartel Working Group (CWG) is to address the challenges of anti-cartel enforcement, including the prevention, detection, investigation and punishment of cartel conduct. At the heart of antitrust enforcement is the battle against hard core cartels directed at price fixing, bid rigging, market allocation and output restriction.

Current Co-chairs

Competition Agency	Agency representative names	Contact emails
New Zealand NZCC	Grant Chamberlain	Grant.Chamberlain@comcom.govt.nz
UK CMA	Louise Banér	Louise.baner@cma.gov.uk
Hungary GVH	Botond Horváth	Horvath.Botond@gvh.hu
India CCI	K.D. Singh	cci-kdsingh@cci.gov.in
Ireland CCPC (Project Lead)	Joseph Walser	JosephWalser@ccpc.ie
Azerbaijan SSACMC (Project Lead)	Gulustan Naghiyeva	gulustan.naghiyeva@competition.gov.az

CWG Strategic Goals

1. Boosting competition authorities' ability to detect, investigate and punish cartel conducts, including in a digital environment.
2. Fostering convergence by sharing expertise among competition authorities and NGAs and identifying good practices in different areas of anti-cartel enforcement.
3. Improving the ability to engage in international enforcement cooperation.
4. Supporting inclusiveness by encouraging new members to join the CWG, assisting newer agencies, as well as enhancing the involvement of NGAs.
5. Ensuring that existing CWG work products are updated and promoted in order to facilitate their implementation by ICN members and NGAs.

Section One: New CWG Projects to be Initiated in 2025-26

Pursuant to CWG's strategic goals, the following new projects will be initiated in the 2025-26 ICN year.

Cartels Workshop (Korea)			
Description	Total Project Duration	Final Work Product Output(s) and anticipated Delivery Date(s)	Lead Contact Details
Supporting Korea in the running of the Cartels Workshop and agency-only Digital Forensic Workshop, including finalising the agenda and identifying speakers.	1 year	12-14 November: Workshop	lgcdoogle2@korea.kr
Project Milestones:			
Milestone Date	Work product deliverable	Description	
31 August	Website launched	KFTC and KMOJ will launch event website which will provide all details of agenda, registration accommodation and visa requirements	
31 August	Expressions of interest	Emails sent out to all members and registered NGA's to nominate for speakers	
19 September	Expression of interest closes		

The following new project is under consideration (and may be initiated in the 2025-26 ICN Year)

CWG Webinar on algorithmic collusion and tackling cartels involving AI – to be confirmed.			
Description	Total Project Duration (milestones below)	Final Work Product Output(s) and anticipated Delivery Date(s)	Lead Contact Details

<p>Practical aspects of detection/enforcement and/or the substantive analysis of these types of cartels and the basis for finding liability.</p> <p>The Webinar focuses in particular on younger agencies with smaller budgets</p> <p>NOTE: algorithmic collusion and AI will be covered extensively in the CWG Workshop in Korea. The CWG Co-Chairs are continuing to keep this Webinar under consideration depending on demand from the membership after the Workshop for the time being</p>	TBC	Webinar	TBC
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Section Two - Update of Existing CWG Projects

CWG Anti-Cartel Enforcement Manual (ACEM)			
Description	Project Status and Total Duration	Upcoming work product activities and anticipated timings/dates	Lead contact
<p>Project to update Chapter 1 on Raids of the Anti-Cartel Enforcement Manual. The project will extend into further consolidating/updating the compilation of all good practices in the manual and review and refresh ICN CWG pages to make existing work products accessible.</p>	<p>The final work product is an updated Chapter of Anti-Cartel Enforcement Manual on Raids. It was completed May 2025 and is available on the ICN CWG page. The project will be completed on 16 July 2025 with a webinar focusing on several new topics covered in the Chapter. The webinar will also cover practical tips and good practices for relatively less experienced agencies.</p>	<p>June and July 2025: Webinars (multiple time zones) on the revised "Chapter 1 – Raids of the Anti-Cartel Enforcement Manual"</p> <p>Dates TBA: Extended review of the ACEM and ICN CWG webpage</p>	<p>UK CMA</p> <p>Sil.vankordelaar@cma.gov.uk</p>

Proactive Detection Toolkit project and Back to Basics program- <u>NEW Project Output: Handling whistleblowers and informants (Webinar)</u>		
Description: This Webinar will focus on practical considerations on handling whistleblowers and informants, both for less experienced agencies and for more experienced agencies. The CWG Co-Chairs will endeavour that the speakers represent a diverse range of agencies, including smaller agencies.		
Total Project Duration	Anticipated Final Work Product Output(s) and anticipated Delivery Date(s)	Lead contacts
One year	Webinar on “Handling whistleblowers and informants” will include practical considerations (for example, if also doing surveillance or in cooperation with other agencies)– Early December 2025	New Zealand NZCC Grant.Chamberlain@comcom.govt.nz
Project Output Milestones		
Milestone Date	Work output deliverables	Description
TBA	TBA	TBA
Proactive Detection Toolkit project and Back to Basics program - <u>NEW Project Output: Proactive detection and/or evidence review using new technologies/data (Webinar)</u>		
Building on the very successful webinar held in February and March 2025 “Call me maybe – proactive detection of cartels using email and messaging data”. This Webinar will focus in part on simple proactive detection tools for younger/smaller agencies which are relatively less expensive.		
Total Project Duration	Anticipated Final Work Product Output(s) and anticipated Delivery Date(s)	Lead contacts
One year	Webinar on “Proactive detection and/or evidence review using new technologies/data” – date TBA	TBA