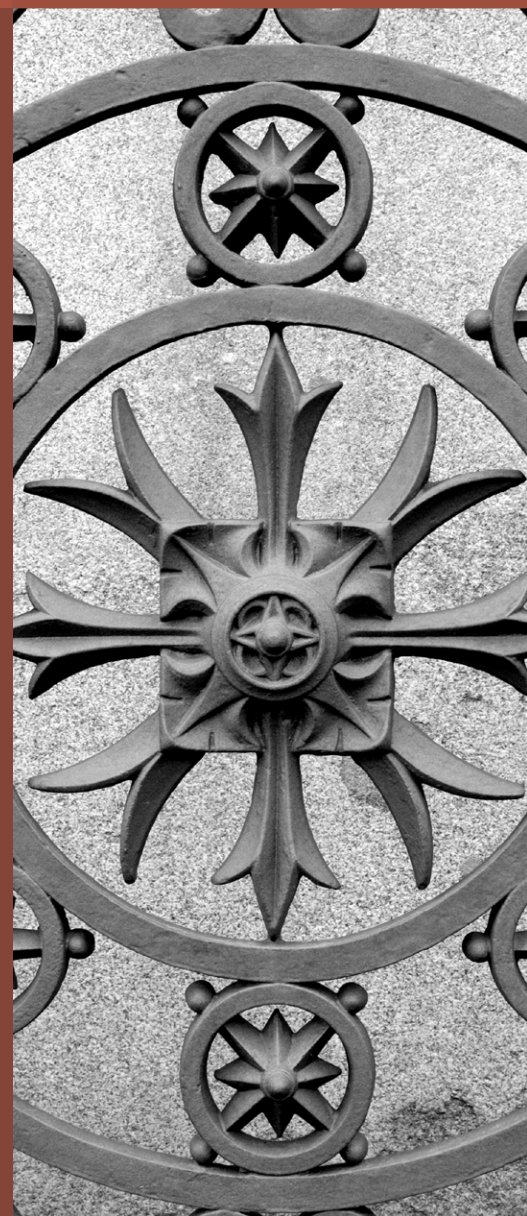


INFORMATION ON BANKNOTE COUNTERFEITING PUBLISHED BY CENTRAL BANKS AND ISSUING AUTHORITIES

Banknote Analysis Unit (NAC)

2024

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The aim of this report is, first, to identify which central banks and issuing authorities in the world publish quantitative information on banknote counterfeiting at the national level and, second, to provide a brief overview of the scope of this information. You can access all the information gathered by clicking on the links at the end of this report. For the study, only public national data usually published by central banks on their websites — i.e. information on counterfeit money, whether domestic or foreign currency, detected only in the country in question — have been taken into account.

Information on counterfeiting at the national level is not systematically reported by central banks. This may be because the bank does not wish to disclose these data or because the data are perhaps reported by another body (e.g. the police) in charge of combating counterfeiting in the country concerned. This report specifies which banks publish these data and which do not and, for the former, it states the period and currencies covered by the information published. Where published, the information always refers to the national currency and, occasionally, to other currencies as well.

The information was searched for in the sections that may relate to banknote counterfeiting on central banks' and issuing authorities' websites. Where information was not found, the content of these institutions' annual reports was systematically examined. The findings are presented below, grouped by continent.

For this report, a country is considered to have published information if it has done so in the past three years, i.e. since (and including) 2021, or if it has done so in its last published annual report, even before 2021.

1 Euro area countries

Of the 20 euro area central banks, 4 do not publish quantitative information on the amount of counterfeit euro banknotes detected domestically: France, Greece, Ireland and Luxembourg. The remaining 16 countries (80%) do publish information. Only Croatia, Slovakia and Latvia also publish data on other currencies. Table 1 summarises the latest information found for these 20 countries.

Table 1
Summary of the information found for euro area countries

Country	Source (a)	Period (b)	Type (c)	Other currencies (d)	Ref (e)
Germany	Press releases	2024 H1	Statistics	No	1
Austria	2022 Annual Report	2002-2023	Statistics	No	2
Belgium	"Nombre de faux billets" section	2023	Statistics	No	3
Cyprus	2023 Annual Report	2023	Data	No	4
Croatia	2023 Annual Report	2013-2023	Statistics	USD, HRK	5
Slovakia	2023 Annual Report	2019-2023	Statistics	SKK, other	6
Slovenia	"Counterfeit Prevention" section	2015-2023	Statistics	No	7
Spain	"Anti-counterfeiting" section	2023	Statistics	No	8
Estonia	2023 Annual Report	2015-2023	Data	No	9
Finland	Website	2011-2023	Data	No	10
France		No information			
Greece		No information			
Ireland		No information			
Italy	"Counterfeit Banknotes" section	2017-2023	Statistics	No	11
Latvia	2023 Annual Report	2023	Data	No	12
Lithuania	2023 Annual Report	2023	Data	Yes, not specified.	13
Luxembourg		No information			
Malta	Press releases	2020 H2	Statistics	No	14
The Netherlands	Press releases	2011-2023	Statistics	No	15
Portugal	Press releases	2020-2023	Data	No	16

SOURCE: Devised by authors.

- a** Where on the website the most comprehensive information was found.
- b** The period covered by the data found in the reference ("Ref." column).
- c** Whether the information found is in the form of concise data ("Data") or more detailed statistics ("Statistics"). "Statistics" always include, at least, information by denomination.
- d** Whether data on currencies other than the national currency are published.
- e** Reference to the information source at the end of the report.

Regarding Table 1, the following should be noted:

Austria: Images and videos of counterfeit security features also used to be published, but the web page no longer exists. In addition, no counterfeiting data was published in its last 2023 annual report (17).

Croatia: On 1 January 2023 it adopted the euro as its sole official currency.

Spain: 2020 was the first year of publication.

Estonia: Estonia's Institute of Forensic Science publishes detailed information on euro banknote and coin counterfeiting, providing several images (18).

Ireland: Only information covering the period 2006-2015 was found (19).

Italy: To view the most recent data (2020-2023), the Italian language option must be selected. The English language option is only available for the period 2017-2021(11).

2 EU countries not in the euro area

Table 2 summarises the information found for the 7 countries

Table 2

Summary of the information found for EU countries not in the euro area

Country	Source	Period	Type	Other currencies	Ref.
Bulgaria	2023 Annual Report	2022-2023	Statistics	EUR, USD, other	20
Denmark	2023 Annual Report	2023	Data	No	21
Hungary	2020 Annual Report	2016-2020	Statistics	EUR	22
Poland	2020 Annual Report	2017-2020	Data	No	23
Czech Republic	Press releases	2019-2020	Statistics	EUR, USD, other	24
Romania	2023 Annual Report	2020	Statistics	No	25
Sweden	2023 Annual Report	2015-2021	Data	No	26

SOURCE: Devised by authors.

3 Non-EU countries

Table 3 summarises the latest information found for the 21 countries.

For the countries in this area, the following should be noted:

Switzerland: The Swiss Federal Office of Police publishes very detailed statistics on counterfeit coins and banknotes from all over the world detected in Switzerland. The data include the printing method used (44).

Table 3

Summary of the information found for non-EU countries

Country	Source	Period	Type	Other currencies	Ref.
Albania	2023 Annual Report	2017-2023	Statistics	No	27
Armenia	No information				
Azerbaijan	"Counterfeit Money" section	2006-2023	Statistics	No	28
Belarus	2023 Annual Report	2023	Data	EUR, RUB, USD, other	29
Bosnia- Herzegovina	"Public Relations" section	2021	Statistics	EUR	30
Scotland (a)	"Counterfeit Notes" section	2014-2023	Statistics	No	31
Wales	No information				
Georgia	2023 Annual Report	2019-2023	Statistics	EUR, USD, other	32
England	"Banknote Statistics" section	2009-2023	Statistics	No	33
Northern Ireland (a)	"Counterfeit Notes" section	2014-2023	Statistics	No	34
Iceland	No information				
Kosovo (b)	2023 Annual Report	2019-2020	Statistics	No	35
Liechtenstein	No information				
North Macedonia	2023 Annual Report	2022-2023	Statistics	AUD, CHF, DKK, EUR, GBP, NOK, SEK, USD	36
Moldova	2023 Annual Report	2022-2023	Statistics	No	37
Montenegro (a)	2023 Annual Report	2022-2023	Statistics	GBP, USD, EUR, DEM	38
Norway	2023 Annual Report (Banknotes and coins)	2019-2023	Statistics	No	39
Russia	"Statistics" section	2011-2023	Statistics	CNY, EUR, USD, UAH, SEK, AEB	40
Serbia	"Counterfeit Currency Report" section	2014-2023	Statistics	USD, EUR, other	41
Switzerland	2023 Annual Report	2022-2023	Data	No	42
Ukraine	2023 Annual Report	2018-2023	Statistics	EUR, CFR, USD	43

SOURCE: Devised by authors.

a Information published by the Association of Commercial Banknote Manufacturers. Banknotes issued by commercial banks.

b Country not in the euro area, but with the euro as its official currency.

4 Summary

Charts 1 and 2 summarise the data provided so far on national currencies and the euro respectively.

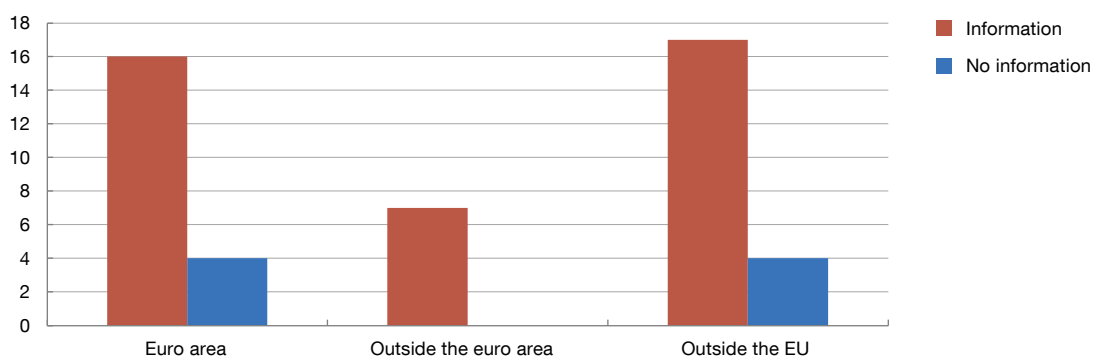
In total, 83% of European countries (40 out of 48) publish information on domestic currency counterfeiting at the national level.

In total, 39% of European countries outside the euro area (11 out of 28) publish information on euro counterfeiting at the national level.

Chart 1

Publication of information at the national level on countries' domestic currencies

1.a Number of European central banks publishing quantitative information on domestic currency counterfeiting at the national level

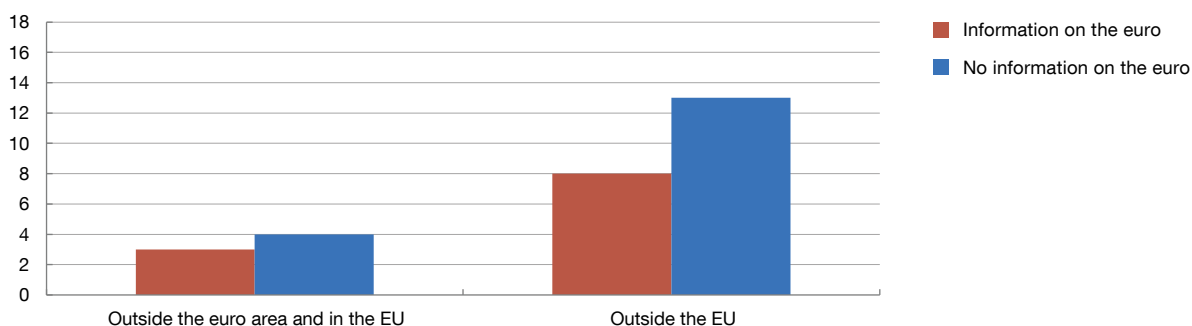


SOURCE: Devised by authors.

Chart 2

Publication outside the euro area of information on the euro at the national level

2.a Number of European central banks outside the euro area publishing quantitative information on euro counterfeiting at the national level



SOURCE: Devised by authors.

The map below shows the European countries whose central banks publish quantitative information on banknote counterfeiting at the national level.

Publication by European central banks of quantitative information on banknote counterfeiting at the national level



Of the 38 countries in America, only 12 publish information on the amount of counterfeit domestic currency banknotes. Table 4 summarises the latest information found.

Table 4
Summary of the information found for American countries

Country	Source	Period	Type	Other currencies	Ref.
Antigua and Barbuda (a)			No information		
Argentina			No information		
Aruba			No information		
Bahamas	2022 Annual Report	2013-2022	Data	No	45
Barbados	2022 Annual Report	2022	Data	No	46
Belize			No information		
Bolivia	2022 Institutional Report	2022	Data	No	47
Brazil	"Estatística de Falsificação de Cédulas" section	2023	Statistics	No	48
Canada	"Banking and Financial Statistics" section	2018-2022	Statistics	No	49
Chile			No information		
Colombia			No information		
Costa Rica	"Banknotes and Coins" section	2015-2024	Statistics	No	50
Cuba			No information		
Curasao and Sint Maarten			No information		
Dominica (a)			No information		
Ecuador			Sin información		
El Salvador			No information		
United States			No information		
Grenada (a)			No information		
Guatemala			No information		
Guyana			No information		
Haiti	2019 Annual Report	2019	Data	USD	51
Honduras			No information		
Cayman Islands (b)	2023 Annual Report	2019-2023	Data	No	52
Jamaica	2023 Annual Report	2022-2023	Data	No	53
Mexico	"Banknotes and Coins" section	2018-2024	Statistics	Yes, not specified	54
Nicaragua	2022 Annual Report	2018-2020	Statistics	USD	55
Panamá			No information		
Paraguay			No information		
Peru			No information		

SOURCE: Devised by authors.

a ECCB (Eastern Caribbean Central Bank) countries, together with the United Kingdom territories of Anguilla and Montserrat.

b Data from the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority.

Table 4

Summary of the information found for American countries (cont'd)

Country	Source	Period	Type	Other currencies	Ref.
Dominican Republic			No information		
Saint Kitts and Nevis (a)			No information		
Saint Lucia (a)			No information		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (a)			No information		
Suriname	2015 Annual Report	2015	Data	No	56
Trinidad and Tobago			No information		
Uruguay			No information		
Venezuela			No information		

SOURCE: Devised by authors.

a ECCB (Eastern Caribbean Central Bank) countries, together with the United Kingdom territories of Anguilla and Montserrat.

Regarding Table 4, the following should be noted:

Barbados: Over the years, the amount of counterfeiting data published has decreased, and by 2023, no mention of this was made (57).

Canada: Includes an interactive, comprehensive, detailed and downloadable visualisation of statistics until 2022.

Costa Rica: Includes an Excel file at the end of the reference providing counterfeiting data.

United States: The Federal Reserve does not publish data on banknote counterfeiting in its annual reports. However, the United States Secret Service does publish a very brief overview of currency counterfeiting in its annual report (58).

Mexico: Includes interactive and very comprehensive visualisations, even on a monthly basis, of data on counterfeit coins, fine metals and banknotes, both domestic and foreign. The information is downloadable.

Of the 54 countries in Africa, only 10 publish information on the amount of counterfeit domestic currency banknotes. The central banks of Cape Verde and Morocco also publish information on counterfeit euros detected in the countries. Table 5 summarises the latest information found.

Table 5
Summary of the information found for African countries

Country	Source	Period	Type	Other currencies	Ref.
Angola		No information			
Algeria		No information			
Benin (a)		No information			
Botswana		No information			
Burkina Faso (a)		No information			
Burundi	2023 Annual Report	2023	Data	No	59
Cape Verde	Executive Board's Report 2021	2019-2021	Statistics	EUR	60
Cameroon (b)		No information			
Chad (b)		No information			
Comoros		No information			
Côte d'Ivoire (a)		No information			
Egypt		No information			
Eritrea		No information			
Ethiopia		No information			
Gabon (b)		No information			
Gambia		No information			
Ghana		No information			
Guinea	2023 Annual Report	2022-2023	Data	No	61
Guinea-Bissau (a)		No information			
Equatorial Guinea (b)		No information			
Kenya		No information			
Lesotho		No information			
Liberia		No information			
Libya		No information			
Madagascar		No information			
Malawi		No information			
Mali (a)		No information			
Morocco	Rapport annuel sur les... 2023	2019-2023	Statistics	EUR, USD	62
Mauritius		No information			
Mauritania		No information			
Mozambique		No information			
Namibia	2023 Annual Report	2019-2023	Statistics	No	63
Niger (a)		No information			

SOURCE: Devised by authors.

- a Member country of the Central Bank of West African States or BCEAO (Banque Centrale des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest).
b Member country of the Bank of Central African States or BEAC (Banque des États de l'Afrique Centrale).

Table 5

Summary of the information found for African countries (cont'd)

Country	Source	Period	Type	Other currencies	Ref.
Nigeria	Currency Operations Department Annual Report 2020	2017-2020	Statistics	No	64
Central African Republic (b)			Statistics		
Republic of the Congo (b)			Statistics		
Democratic Republic of the Congo			Statistics		
Rwanda	2023-2024 Annual Report	2018/2019-2023/2024	Data	No	65
São Tomé and Príncipe			Statistics		
Senegal (a)			Statistics		
Seychelles			Statistics		
Sierra Leone			Statistics		
Somalia			Statistics		
Swaziland	2023-2024 Annual Report	April 2023-March 2024	Statistics	No	66
South Africa	2023-2024 Annual Report	April 2023-March 2024	Data	No	67
Sudan		No information			
South Sudan		No information			
Tanzania		No information			
Togo (a)		No information			
Tunisia		No information			
Uganda		No information			
Djibouti		No information			
Zambia	2023 Annual Report	2021-2023	Statistics	No	68
Zimbabwe		Statistics			

SOURCE: Devised by authors.

a Member country of the Central Bank of West African States or BCEAO (Banque Centrale des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest).

b Member country of the Bank of Central African States or BEAC (Banque des États de l'Afrique Centrale).

Of the 46 central banks and issuing authorities in Asia, only 10 publish information on the amount of counterfeit domestic currency banknotes. No information was found on foreign currency counterfeits detected in these countries (except in Cambodia). Table 6 summarises the latest information found.

Table 6
Summary of the information found for Asian countries

Country	Source	Period	Type	Other currencies	Ref.
Afghanistan		No information			
Saudi Arabia		No information			
Bangladesh		No information			
Bahrain		No information			
Brunei		No information			
Bhutan		No information			
Cambodia	2023 Annual Report	2023	Data	USD	69
Qatar		No information			
China		No information			
North Korea		No information			
South Korea	2023 Annual Report	2021-2023	Statistics	No	70
United Arab Emirates		No information			
Philippines	2022 Annual Report	2022	Data		71
Hong Kong		No information			
India	2023-2024 Annual Report	2021/2022 - 2023/2024	Statistics	No	72
Indonesia	2020 Annual Report	2020	Data	No	73
Iran		No information			
Iraq		No information			
Israel		No information			
Japan	Police report	2015-2021	Data		74
Jordan		No information			
Kazakhstan	2023 Annual Report	2022-2023	Statistics	No	75
Kyrgyzstan	2023 Annual Report	2022-2023	Data	No	76
Kuwait		No information			
Laos		No information			
Lebanon		No information			
Macao (a)		No information			
Malaysia	2023 Annual Report	2022-2023	Data	No	77
Maldives		No information			
Mongolia		No information			
Myanmar (Burma)		No information			
Nepal		No information			

SOURCE: Devised by authors.

a The Monetary Authority of Macau is the de facto central bank of the special administrative region of Macau.

b Only information up to 2015 was found (79).

Table 6

Summary of the information found for Asian countries (cont'd)

Country	Source	Period	Type	Other currencies	Ref.
Oman		No information			
Pakistan		No information			
Singapore		No information			
Syria		No information			
Sri Lanka	2022 Annual Report	2022	Data	No	78
Thailand		No information			
Taiwan		No information			
Tajikistan		No information			
East Timor (b)		No information			
Turkmenistan		No information			
Türkiye		No information			
Uzbekistan		No information			
Vietnam		No information			
Yemen		No information			

SOURCE: Devised by authors.

a The Monetary Authority of Macau is the de facto central bank of the special administrative region of Macau.

b Only information up to 2015 was found (79).

Regarding Table 6, the following should be noted:

Malaysia: A chart is published comparing the number of domestic currency counterfeits with the following: AUD, CAD, EUR, NZD, THB. The amounts are those reported by the relevant central banks and do not reflect the number of counterfeits detected in Malaysia.

Türkiye: The “Counterfeit Banknotes” section includes images of authentic and counterfeit security features. In a different part of the same section, searches of known counterfeit banknotes by series number can be conducted. However, no data on amounts were found (79).

Of the 15 central banks and issuing authorities in Oceania, 6 publish information on the amount of counterfeit domestic currency banknotes. No information was found on foreign currency counterfeits detected in these countries. Table 7 summarises the latest information found.

Table 7
Summary of the information found for the countries of Oceania

Country	Source	Period	Type	Other currencies	Ref.
Australia	"Statistical Tables" section	2003-2023	Statistics	No	80
Fiji	2023-2024 Annual Report	August 2023 - July 2024	Statistics	No	81
Overseas Issuing Institute ^(a)			No information		
Marshall Islands			No central bank (currency: AUD)		
Solomon Islands	2023-2024 Annual Report	2023	Statistics	No	82
Kiribati			No central bank (currency: AUD)		
Micronesia			No central bank (currency: AUD)		
Nauru			No central bank (currency: AUD)		
New Zealand	2022-2023 Annual Report	2021/2022 - 2022/2023	Data	No	83
Palau			No central bank (currency: AUD)		
Papua New Guinea			No information		
Samoa	2022-2023 Annual Report	2018-2023	Statistics	No	84
Tonga			No information		
Tuvalu			No central bank (currency: AUD)		
Vanuatu	2020 Annual report	2020	Data	No	85

SOURCE: Devised by authors.

a French public institution responsible for issuing money in New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna and French Polynesia.

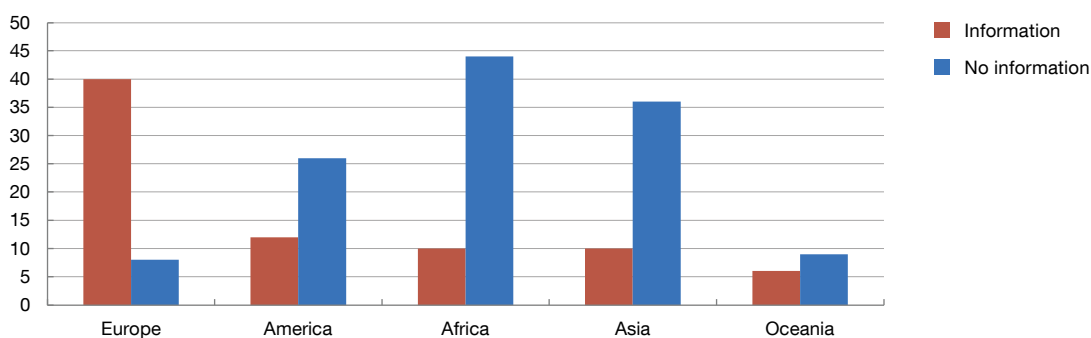
VI SUMMARY

Charts 4 and 5, and Table 8 summarise the information found worldwide.

Chart 4

Publication of information at the national level worldwide

4.a Number of central banks or issuing authorities worldwide publishing quantitative information on domestic currency counterfeiting at the national level



SOURCE: Devised by authors.

The following table shows the same information expressed in percentage terms.

Table 8

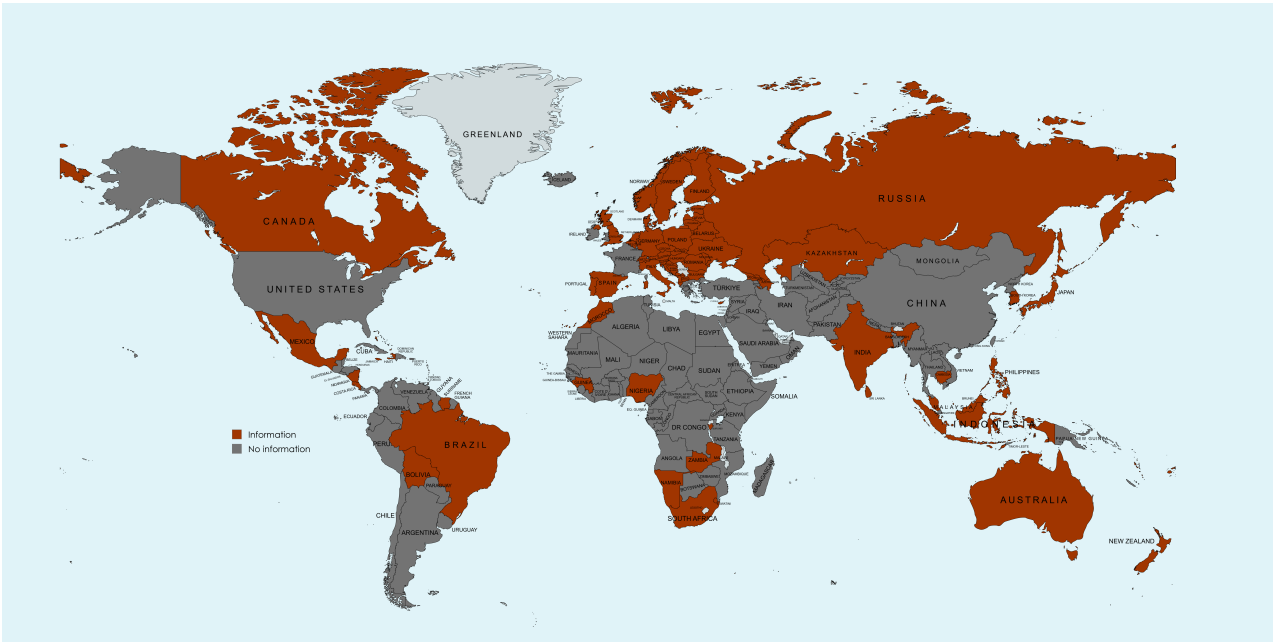
Percentage of central banks or issuing authorities publishing quantitative information on domestic currency counterfeiting at the national level, by continent

	Publication of information (%)
Europe	83.3
America	31.6
Africa	18.5
Asia	21.7
Oceania	40.0
World	38.8

SOURCE: Devised by authors.

Regarding how the data are reported, at least about 39% of the institutions publishing information do so, directly on websites and 61% in one of their annual reports.

Chart 5
Publication of quantitative information on banknote counterfeiting at the national level by central banks and issuing authorities worldwide



SOURCE: Devised by authors.

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(Including the page number in the case of reports and the date of the last visit in the case of websites)

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- 39 https://www.norges-bank.no/globalassets/upload/statistikk/sedler_mynter/arsrapport-setlar-og-myntar-2023.pdf?v=03052024131508 (p.10)
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ISO 4217 codes of the currencies mentioned in this report

AUD: Australian dollar

CAD: Canadian dollar

CHF: Swiss franc

CNY: Chinese yuan

CZK: Czech koruna

DEM: Deutsche mark

EUR: Euro

GBP: Pound sterling

HRK: Kuna (Croatia)

NZD: New Zealand dollar

RUB: Russian ruble

SEK: Swedish krona

SKK: Slovak koruna

THB: Thai baht

TRY: Turkish lira

USD: US dollar