

Fact Sheet No. 5 – European Judicial Network (EJN)

A. General Information	
Name of Partner	European Judicial Network in Criminal matters
Date of constitution	1998
Legal Basis	Council Decision 2008/976/JHA of 16 December 2008. (Created by the Joint Action 98/428 JHA of 29 June 1998)
Legal Seat	Maanweg 174, 2516 AB, The Hague, Netherlands
Website	http://www.ejn-crimjust.europa.eu/ejn/
B. Goals of the Partner	
<p>The EJN aims to create more effective judicial co-operation, particularly in combating serious crime, by means of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acting as active intermediaries to facilitate judicial co-operation;• Providing legal and practical information to competent local authorities including through our website;• Providing support with requests for judicial cooperation;• Creating a European Union judicial culture; and• Cooperating with other Judicial Networks, third countries and judicial partners. <p>The main goals of the EJN towards the facilitation of judicial co-operation are also achieved through the useful website and its judicial tools such as the Atlas, Fiches Belges, Library and Compendium. Part of the judicial training of the contact points and practitioners is to know how to handle those tools.</p> <p>The Council Decision states that the EJN shall organize periodic meetings of the Member States' representatives. The members of the EJN would meet in order to get to know each other, to gather knowledge on the legal systems of each one and implementation of EU measures, and to provide a forum for discussion of practical and legal problems encountered by the Member States.</p> <p>The plenary meetings are organised at least three times a year as follows: one Plenary meeting, commonly called the "Regular Meeting" is held in The Hague and is initiated by the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council. The other two plenary meetings are organised by the Member State holding the Rotating Presidency of the Council, and should be held in their respective Member State.</p>	
C. Membership structure of the Partner – Overall number of current members (with a breakdown by nationalities)	
<p>The EJN is composed of contact points from the 28 EU Member States, from EU candidate countries (FYROM, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey) and EU associated</p>	

countries (Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), as well as of the European Commission and of a Secretariat based in The Hague.

The EJM contact points are designated by each Member State among: central authorities in charge of international judicial co-operation, judicial authorities and other competent authorities with specific responsibilities in the field of international judicial co-operation, both in general and for certain forms of serious crime, such as organized crime, corruption, drug trafficking or terrorism.

The appointment of contact points takes place according to the constitutional rules, legal traditions and internal structure of each country. The only condition is that it provides effective coverage for all forms of crimes throughout the country.

The result is the existence of almost 400 national contact points across Europe, together with the sub-networks.

Among each Member State's contact points a National Correspondent and a Tool Correspondent are appointed; the former being responsible for the functioning of the Network within their own Member State and for the contacts with the Secretariat; the latter being responsible for the updating of information of their Member State and of the EJM website. Once a year both a National Correspondent Meeting as well as a Tool Correspondent Meeting is organized.

D. Governance and bodies of the Partner

Article 2 (8) of the Council Decision provides that the EJM Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the network. Furthermore, Articles 7 and 9 empower the EJM Secretariat with providing and updating judicial informatics tools on the EJM website. The EJM Secretariat represents the EJM in close consultation and coordination with the Member State, which holds the Presidency of the EU Council, and with the EJM Trio Presidencies.

The main tasks of the EJM Secretariat are:

- Enabling the EJM contact points to fulfil their tasks;
- Setting up, maintaining and improving the EJM website and its operational e-tools;
- Disseminating information to the contact points and stakeholders on the EJM activities and on judicial co-operation;
- Ensuring representation and establishing relations with other Judicial Networks and structures in the field of judicial co-operation within and beyond the EU.

The EJM Secretariat is composed of a Secretary to the EJM, a secretariat coordinator, two legal specialists and a webmaster and an assistant of the Secretary to the EJM.

As the managerial body of the Network, the EJM Secretariat enjoys autonomy, as stated in paragraph 20 of the Council Decision 2008/426/JHA of 16 December 2008 on the strengthening of Eurojust.

E. Brief resume of the judicial training activities developed (if applicable) by the Partners

The EJM has been dealing with judicial training for a long time through different actors (EJM contact points, the Secretariat) and through different means (in addition to

seminars and training events also through the EJM website about tools on judicial cooperation):

- The EJM contact points are experts of judicial cooperation in criminal matters and are in close contact with the practitioners in their Member States as they are part of them,
- The EJM meetings provide fora for discussions (incl. in training matters),
- The EJM Secretariat acts as a bridge between the practitioners and judicial training providers (by i.e. analyzing questionnaires & feedback from the contact points and by being regularly involved in seminars),
- Due to its decentralized and horizontal structure, the EJM reaches the widest platform of criminal law practitioners within the EU (judges, prosecutors, ministries of justice and is completely decentralized).

F. Highlight of the Partners' statutory provisions that make reference to judicial training / Concerns of the Partner referring to judicial training

Already its first legal basis, Article 4 (2) of the Joint Action provided for that one of the functions of the EJM contact points are to act as trainers and experts in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters:

"The contact points shall provide the legal and practical information necessary to the local judicial authorities in their own country, to the contact points in the other countries, to the local judicial authorities in the other countries, to enable them to prepare an effective request for judicial cooperation or to improve judicial cooperation in general".

G. Brief resume of the trends of cooperation and/or regular contacts established by the Partner with major Judicial Networks involved in the current project

Over the years of existence the EJM has had contacts with other judicial Networks and similar structures. Being a pioneering Network the first operational judicial Network, the EJM has also played an active role in creating Networks in other parts of the world. The EJM has become a worldwide respected voice in the field of judicial cooperation, and a model for similar Networks and structures established within the EU and in neighborhood regions of Europe and overseas. The advantages of such a structure of judicial cooperation to fight transnational crime have been considered as the main argument for establishing similar judicial Networks.

The EJM Secretariat considers that it is its duty to assume any steps needed in order to strengthen EJM's capacity to tackle crime; and this infers the support to global networking as well as informal cooperation with other partners having the same goal and working together in a decentralised and informal manner.