



## Call for Proposals for Financial Assistance to Joint Investigation Teams

(2018/6)

### Objectives and scope

1. Providing technical and financial support to joint investigation teams (JITs) is part of Eurojust's mission to stimulate and improve the coordination of investigations and prosecutions in cross-border criminal cases, as defined by Article 3 of Council Decision 2002/187/JHA of 28 February 2002 as amended by Council Decision 2009/426/JHA of 16 December 2009 (the 'Eurojust Decision'). According to Article 25a of the Eurojust Decision, the Secretariat of the Network for Joint Investigation Teams is located at Eurojust. This action grant will enhance the use of JITs by ensuring that financial and other organisational constraints linked to the cross-border nature of the case do not hinder the establishment and operational needs of a JIT. A further benefit comes from the ability of Eurojust, through its involvement in JITs and funding applications, to gain valuable information on the operation, needs and effectiveness of JITs as a whole.
2. Eurojust will financially support JITs with a maximum amount of EUR 350,000 between 2 October 2018 and 31 December 2018.
3. To comply with the co-financing principle, Eurojust will reimburse 95% of the total eligible costs under this call for proposals. This means that the amount stipulated in the Award Decision will be reimbursed fully only in the event that this amount constitutes less than or equal to 95% of the total eligible costs. An amount of at least 5% of the total eligible costs shall be borne by the national authorities of the Member States.
4. Through these grants, Eurojust provides support to the following actions:
  - meetings of the JIT, participation in investigative measures carried out in the territory of another State,
  - interpretation during activities of the JIT, including during investigative measures, and translation of evidentiary material, procedural or case-related documents, and
  - Cross-border transfer of seized items, evidentiary material, procedural or case-related documents.
5. Eligible costs related to these actions are the following:
  - travel and accommodation costs,



- interpretation and translation costs, and
- transport costs

Travel and accommodation costs will be reimbursed on the basis of the following unit costs, within the meaning of Article 124 of [Regulation 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation 165/2002](#)<sup>1</sup>:

Nature of travel/accommodation (*)	Applicable unit costs
Return flight within EU	EUR 280 per person
Return flight to and from non-EU States	EUR 340 per person
Return flight to and from overseas States/territories	EUR 880 per person
Return trip by car (EU/non-EU)	EUR 180 per vehicle
Return trip by train/bus (EU/non-EU)	EUR 230 per person
Return trip by boat (EU/non-EU)	EUR 80 per person
Accommodation (EU/non-EU)	Country-specific rate, according to the list published on Eurojust's website - <a href="#">JITs funding document library</a> - Section 'unit costs and ceilings'.
<p><b>(*) For the purposes of applying travel unit costs, the point of departure and final destination will be taken into account.</b></p> <p><b>(**) For the purposes of calculating this unit cost, one car shall be deemed to carry up to three passengers. As such, the unit cost of EUR 180 will be reimbursed on the basis of multiples of three passengers (with four to six passengers being reimbursed EUR 360 and so on).</b></p>	

Logistical support is also provided through the lending of equipment (mobile telephones with communication costs included, laptops, mobile scanners and printers) for the duration of the JIT, including possible extensions.

Eurojust does not therefore seek to finance the entirety of a JIT, but only those costs arising from the cross-border dimension of the investigation.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> For example, the following JIT costs are excluded: staff expenditure, insurance for seconded members of the JIT, expenditure on communication interception, expenditure arising from seized assets (except transport costs), expenditure on office accommodation, and expenditure on technical equipment necessary for the encrypted exchange of data.



6. To enable reasonable distribution and achieve the objectives of JITs funding, a ceiling of EUR 50,000 has been set for each application.
7. Actions of JITs for which financial assistance is sought should take place between 2 October 2018 and 31 December 2018. No extension of the action period is possible.

### **Submission of applications**

8. To obtain financial assistance from the Eurojust budget, the representative of the competent national authority involved in the JIT (a JIT leader or a JIT member) submits the application using Eurojust's JITs Portal and electronic application System (hereinafter referred to as 'JITs-PS'), accessible from Eurojust's website.
9. An application submitted via the JITs-PS is considered received by Eurojust when it reaches its server.
10. Applicants can request assistance with the application process by sending an e-mail to [jits@eurojust.europa.eu](mailto:jits@eurojust.europa.eu). Please be aware that, to enable a smooth processing of submitted applications, support cannot be guaranteed on the last day of the application period.
11. The application must include sufficient detail of actions for which funding is sought and their justification, as well as an adequate explanation of equipment needed, to enable the Evaluation Committee to consider the submitted application. All sections of the application form must be completed.

### **Eligibility criteria**

12. Your application must contain the following elements and fulfil the following requirements:
  - ✓ completed application submitted via the appropriate medium;
  - ✓ copy of the signed JIT agreement (edited to exclude any identifying data), including possible extensions<sup>3</sup> (unless a copy of the signed JIT agreement and an extension covering the action period of this call for proposals have already been provided in a previous application);
  - ✓ a completed Financial Identification Form<sup>4</sup> of a public institution of a State involved in the JIT (unless the application identifies at least one bank account of a public

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<sup>3</sup> If the JIT has already expired and funding is sought for the purposes of the evaluation or in relation to investigative or judicial procedures derived directly from the JIT in which its result is to be used, a copy of the last extension available before the closure of the JIT shall be provided.

<sup>4</sup> Available at <http://www.eurojust.europa.eu/doclibrary/JITs/jits-funding/Pages/fif.aspx>



- institution of a State involved in the JIT that is already known and acknowledged by Eurojust<sup>5</sup>);
- ✓ deadline for receipt of the application has been respected;
  - ✓ action for which the funding is sought is to be executed during the corresponding timeframe;
  - ✓ only one application for the same JIT to be submitted within one application deadline; and
  - ✓ a JIT that received funding within the framework of a call for proposals cannot apply for funding in the call for proposals that immediately follows (unless the application relates to exceptionally urgent actions that do not overlap with the previously awarded actions and could not have been anticipated in the framework of the previous application).

### Selection criteria

13. The application for financial assistance must be submitted by the JIT leaders or by one JIT leader or JIT member of a Member State with delegated authority, in his/her professional capacity, to demonstrate the professional competencies required to participate in a JIT.

### Evaluation

14. All applications received within the relevant application deadline will initially be assessed by Eurojust according to the eligibility and selection criteria.
15. Eligible applications will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee<sup>6</sup> and ranked, taking into account the following **award criteria**:
- (1) investigation of a terrorist offence and/or of a crime identified as a priority in the Council conclusions on setting the EU's priorities for the fight against organised and serious international crime between 2018 and 2021<sup>7</sup>;
  - (2) number of States involved;
  - (3) number of previous successful applications submitted to Eurojust by the JIT;
  - (4) execution rate of previous grants awarded by Eurojust, if applicable;
  - (5) complexity of the JIT; and
  - (6) purpose of the actions and justification of estimates.

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<sup>5</sup> Should the communicated bank account prove not to be already known and acknowledged by Eurojust in accordance with the applicable financial rules, the applicant will be requested to provide a completed Financial Identification Form for this account within a set deadline. In such case, award of a grant will only be made once this condition is fulfilled.

<sup>6</sup> The Evaluation Committee is composed of a Eurojust National Member (or one Deputy or Assistant) and two Eurojust staff members.

<sup>7</sup> Conclusions available at <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9450-2017-INIT/en/pdf>.



16. A maximum of 10 points can be awarded for each criterion, with a total of 60 per application. Proposals attaining an individual score of 2 points or less for criterion 5 or 6 will not be considered for the award of a grant.
17. The Evaluation Committee will consider the actual amounts and possible equipment for each application, taking into account the ranking, available funds, number of applications received, availability of equipment and the amount sought in each application.
18. The decision is then communicated to the JIT (i.e. to the contact person and JIT leaders(s) mentioned in the application).

### **Timeframe**

19. The deadline for applications is 10 September 2018.
20. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation of their application not later than 28 September 2018.
24. If the application is successful, a specified amount will be reserved pending the submission of a request for reimbursement within the fixed deadline. A request for reimbursement must be submitted, together with the supporting evidence, by a competent authority of a State involved in the JIT, in accordance with the terms and conditions applicable to Eurojust's financial support to JITs activities, no later than 1 February 2019. No reimbursement will be made if the request for reimbursement arrives after the deadline.
25. For all queries, please e-mail [jits@eurojust.europa.eu](mailto:jits@eurojust.europa.eu).
26. **For additional information on the Terms and Conditions applicable to this call for proposals, please see the terms and conditions applicable to Eurojust's financial support to JITs activities, accessible on Eurojust's website, [JITs funding document library](#), section entitled 'Terms and conditions'.**