



EUROJUST

The European Union Agency
for Criminal Justice Cooperation

EUROJUST ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Criminal justice across borders

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Acronyms and abbreviations

AAPA	Audiovisual Anti-Piracy Alliance	FTF	Foreign terrorist fighter
CAAR	Consolidated Annual Activity Report	GLACY	Global Action on Cybercrime
CTR	Counter-Terrorism Register	INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
CMS	Case Management System	IP	Intellectual property
EAW	European Arrest Warrant	J-CAT	Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce
EC3	European Cybercrime Centre	JHA	Justice and Home Affairs
EIO	European Investigation Order	JIT	Joint investigation team
EJCN	European Judicial Cybercrime Network	MENA	Middle East and Northern Africa
EJN	European Judicial Network	MLA	Mutual legal assistance
EJR	Eurojust Regulation	MOCG	Mobile organised crime group
EL PAcCTO	Europe Latin America Technical Assistance Programme against Transnational Organized Crime	OAP	Operational action plan
EMPACT	European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats	OCG	Organised crime group
ENPE	European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment	OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office
EPPO	European Public Prosecutor's Office	OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
EUFJE	European Union Forum of Environmental Judges	PIF	Protection of the financial interests of the European Union
EUIPO	European Union Intellectual Property Office	SIRIUS	Scientific Information Retrieval Integrated Utilisation System
EUROMED	Euro-Mediterranean Partnership	TCM	Terrorism Convictions Monitor
EUROPOL	European Union Law Enforcement Agency	THB	Trafficking in human beings

The statistics on Eurojust cases included in this report were produced on the basis of data contained in the Eurojust Case Management System. The numbers were extracted on 20 January 2020 and reflect the data available at that moment. Due to the ongoing nature of cases, possible discrepancies with previously reported numbers may exist, and statistics may be updated in the future.

Foreword

The year 2019 was marked by major legal, institutional and political changes. With the new Eurojust Regulation, we officially became the European Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation. This significantly transformed not only our governance structure, but also our external relations policy and data protection regime.

At the same time, we saw important shifts in the EU's political landscape. A new European Parliament was installed and a new European Commission took office. And while Brexit developments took place in quick succession, we signed an Agreement on Criminal Justice Cooperation with Denmark and welcomed Georgia and Serbia to the Eurojust family. We also started preparing for our future cooperation with the newly established European Public Prosecutor's Office.

Despite these important changes, we never lost sight of what matters most: the operational support we provide to prosecutors and judges in the Member

States. We managed to absorb a 17% increase in the demand for this support, bringing the total number of cases we dealt with last year to more than 8 000.

This included over 1200 cases involving a European Arrest Warrant, 2100 cases involving a European Investigation Order and 270 joint investigation teams. When we translate this to concrete impact on the safety of European citizens, we see that our support contributed to the arrests of nearly 2700 suspects, the seizure or freezing of €2 billion in criminal assets and the end of drug trades worth €2.7 billion.

While I am incredibly proud of the results that the Member States and Eurojust have collectively achieved in the past year, I am also acutely aware of the many challenges still ahead of us.

Digitalisation profoundly affects the criminal justice field, being both a catalyst of cross-border crime and part of the solution. The coming year will be decisive for our Digital Criminal Justice initiative, with which we aim to give prosecutors across the EU the modern digital tools they need to successfully work together.

Globalisation shows us that crime does not stop at the borders of the EU, so we will continue to strengthen our worldwide network of prosecutors in third States.

At the same time, we hope that the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework will reflect the Member States' dedication to the fight against organised crime and terrorism, and the trust that they have vested in Eurojust to provide them with the necessary support.

I face the future with confidence, knowing that judicial authorities can continue to rely on Eurojust's highly talented and motivated staff. They are the most valuable asset of this organisation and crucial for achieving our common goal of making Europe safer and ensuring that justice is done.

~ *Ladislav Hamran*, President of Eurojust




Eurojust Presidency (left to right):
Filippo Spiezia, Vice-President; *Ladislav Hamran*, President; *Klaus Meyer-Cabri*, Vice-President



The College &
staff of Eurojust
February 2020

- ↑ Polaris
Business centre
Training rooms
Interview rooms
Smoking rooms
Toilets
Lift
- Vega I & II
- ↓



Eurojust is a hub where national judicial authorities connect, work closely together and ensure solid judicial follow-up throughout the internal security chain, from the very start of the cross-border criminal investigation to the final verdict in court.

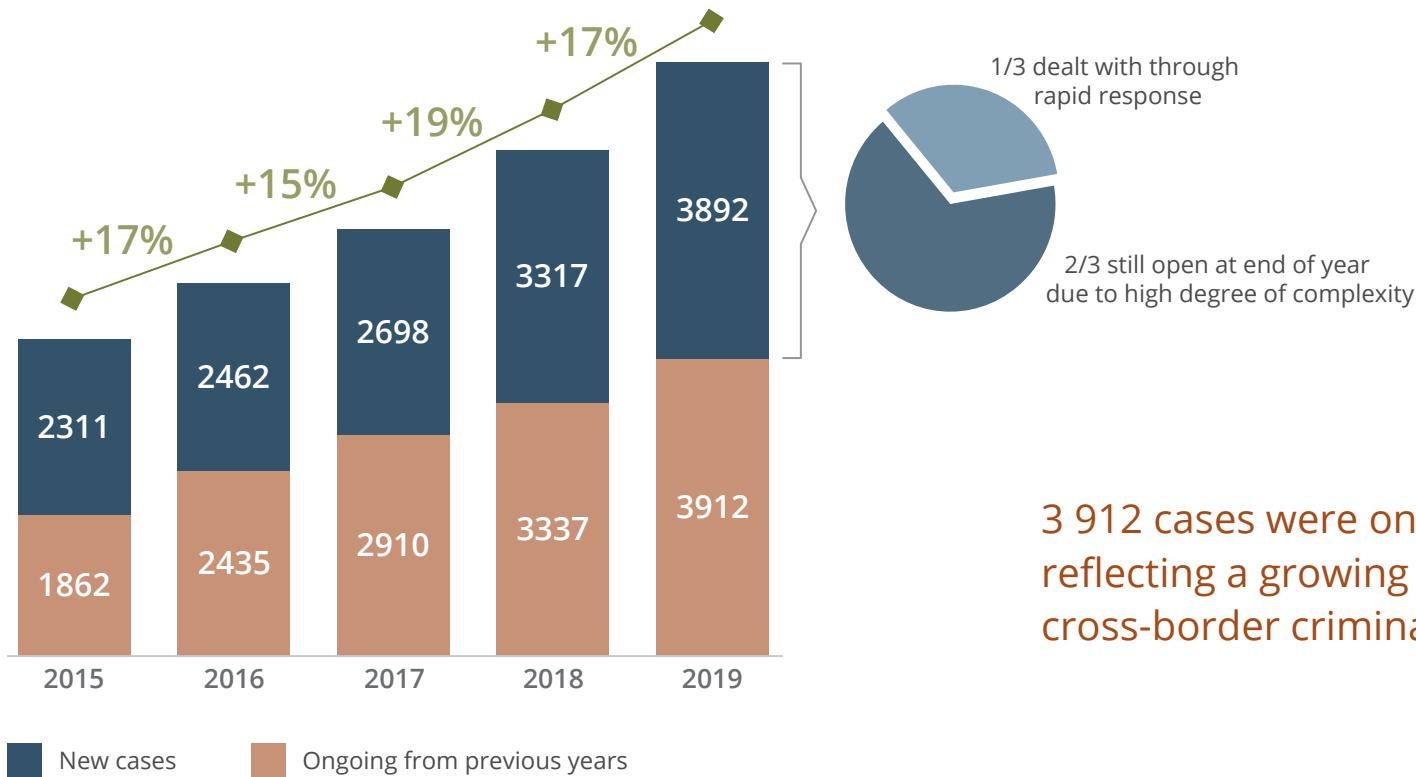
1 Practical support to 8 000 cross-border criminal investigations

During 2019, prosecutors from across the European Union and beyond turned to Eurojust for assistance in nearly 8 000 cross-border criminal investigations, an increase of 17% compared with 2018 in terms of total number of cases supported by the Agency.

About half – 3 892 – were new cases opened during 2019, a 9% increase compared with 2018. The other 3 912 cases were ongoing from previous

years, reflecting a growing level of complexity in cross-border criminal investigations, which increasingly last more than one year.

About one third of the cases that were newly registered during the year were also solved before the year ended, while two thirds were still active. This confirms a recent trend of cases referred to Eurojust becoming more and more complex and requiring support over longer periods.



3 912 cases were ongoing from previous years, reflecting a growing level of complexity in cross-border criminal investigations.

Combined number of cases opened by National Members representing the EU Member States at Eurojust and by Liaison Prosecutors representing States with a cooperation agreement with Eurojust

SCALE OF THE CHALLENGE



Prosecutors from across the EU turned to Eurojust for support in cross-border criminal investigations involving:

11 480 suspects

1 485 cases involving organised crime groups (OCGs)

€15.8 bn worth of damages

21 323 victims of crime

PRACTICAL SUPPORT

EUROJUST



1 093 rapid responses to judicial cooperation requests



1 384 large-scale operations

EFFECTIVE USE OF JUDICIAL COOPERATION TOOLS



1 277 European Arrest Warrant cases



2 146 cases with European Investigation Orders



270 joint investigation teams



3 746 mutual legal assistance cases

Operational outcomes 2019

Working together through Eurojust in 2019, national judicial and law enforcement authorities brought trade in illicit drugs worth EUR 2.7 billion to a halt.

About EUR 2 billion in criminal assets were seized or frozen.



2 686 suspects arrested and/or surrendered



800 agreements on where to prosecute a suspect



1 258 witnesses [207 video conferences]

€2.8 billion worth of drugs



28 585 kg cocaine



9 224 kg heroin



41 248 kg cannabis



788 133 kg synthetic drugs

€2 billion in criminal assets

+ 1 000s of




weapons



laptops and mobile phones



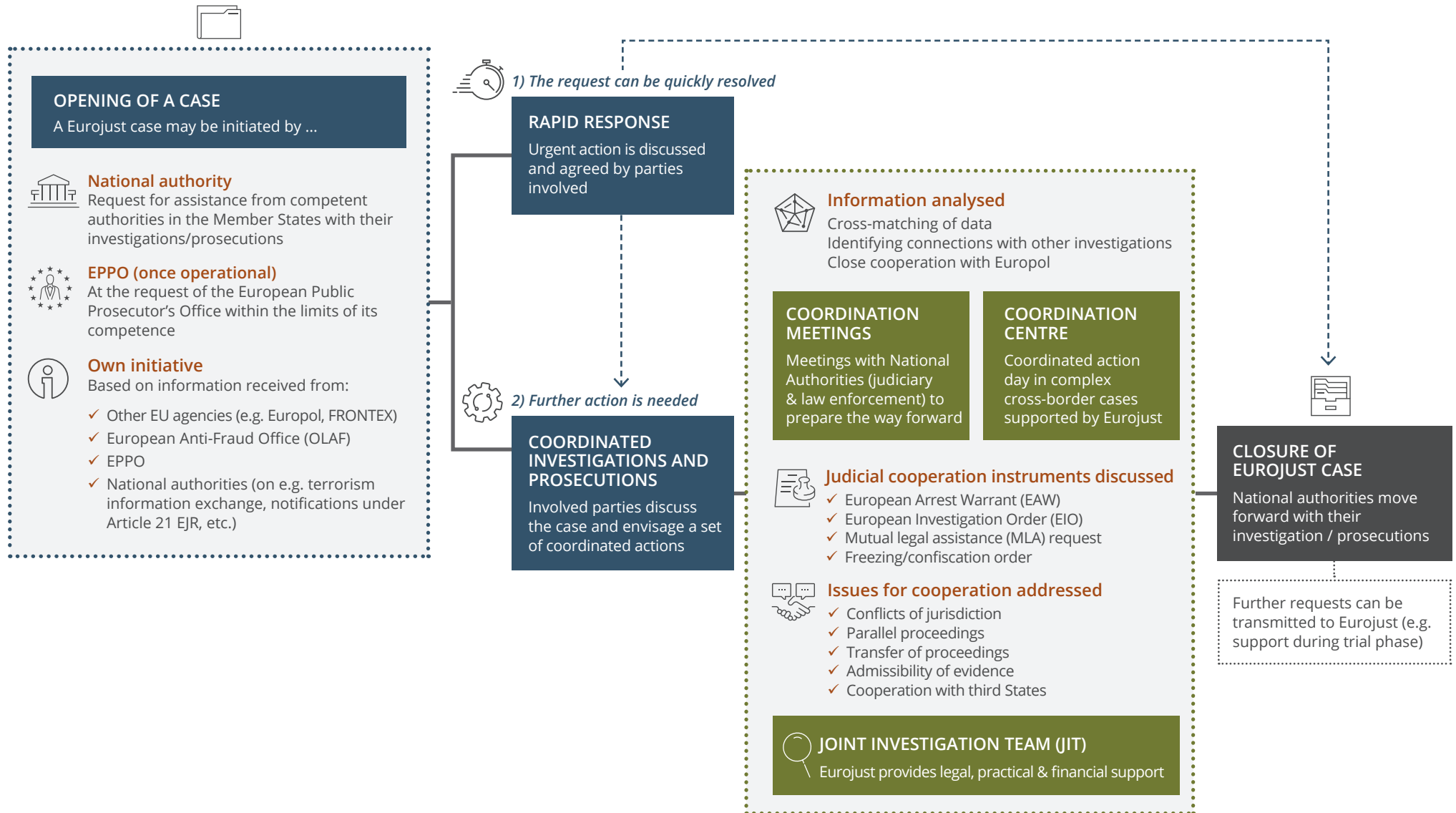
cars



“ These results show that Eurojust has gained full speed and is giving rapid judicial support and follow-up to requests from Member States. It is only through this kind of active cross-border coordination as well as the pivotal role of the Agency that we can really tackle international organised crime. ”

Didier Reynders, European Commissioner for Justice

Timeline of a Eurojust case



2 Tailor-made operational assistance at each stage of the criminal justice process

Prosecutors and investigative judges tackling serious cross-border crime need to quickly find the right counterpart, coordinate their investigations, efficiently exchange information and solve a range of practical issues that regularly arise when using EU judicial cooperation tools, including the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) and the European Investigation Order (EIO).

Eurojust is a hub where national judicial authorities connect, work closely together and ensure solid judicial follow-up throughout the internal security chain, from the very start of the cross-border criminal investigation to the final verdict in court.

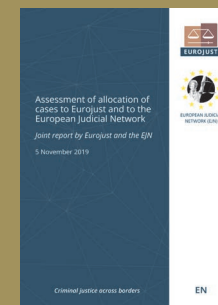
Each case is different and requires an individual approach.

Throughout the different stages of the cross-border criminal investigation, Eurojust therefore offers tailor-made operational support:

- ▶ A **rapid response**, sometimes completed within a matter of hours, including connecting with the key counterparts and preparation of formal judicial cooperation requests, including official translations.
- ▶ **Complex forms of assistance and coordination mechanisms**, which may be combined as required to support major operations:
 - Identification of the **key counterparts** that need to be involved, for example to coordinate parallel investigations;
 - the organisation of **case-specific coordination meetings**;
 - the formation of **joint investigation teams (JITs)**;
 - planning of **joint action days**, steered in real time from the coordination centre at Eurojust.

Depending on the nature of the request and the kind of support needed, judicial practitioners may also turn to the **European Judicial Network (EJN)**, which works through a network of Contact Points in the national authorities. The Secretariat of the EJN is hosted at Eurojust and ensures close cooperation with the agency, including the development of joint practical tools, drawing on these complementary competences:

In June 2019, Eurojust and the EJN published new guidance on the practical application of the European Investigation Order (EIO). The note, which will be regularly updated, identified best practice related to the four main phases of the lifecycle of an EIO (the issuing phase, the transmission phase, the recognition phase and the execution phase). Further, the note looks into issues related to the scope of the EIO Directive and its use vis-à-vis other co-existing legal instruments, the competent authorities, the content, form and language to be used and the use of specific investigative measures.



In November 2019, Eurojust and the EJN published a joint report and assessment regarding the allocation of cases to Eurojust and to the EJN, to support judicial practitioners in assessing whether Eurojust or the EJN should be allocated a particular case. The report highlights relevant recent experience, difficulties and best practice, and makes recommendations on which institution is best placed to provide assistance.

2.1 Rapid responses to 1 100 urgent judicial cooperation requests

In 2019, nearly 1 100 Eurojust cases were solved through a rapid response.

In some cross-border criminal investigations, judicial authorities must act rapidly to locate suspects in another country, demand a swift execution of an EAW or EIO, arrange the freezing of a bank account or ensure essential evidence is secured. In such cases, national authorities need to quickly make the right connections to authorities in another country, exchange information, understand the exact legal requirements and prepare the transmission

of judicial cooperation requests in the correct format, in conformity with national legislation. The National Desks at Eurojust are available via on-call services, operating 24/7, 365 days a year, for cases that require immediate, punctual response.

Rapid responses may also involve quick mobilisation of the various cooperation tools available through Eurojust, such as the organisation of a coordination meeting, to prepare for a full intervention within a short timeframe.

In some cross-border criminal investigations, judicial authorities must act rapidly to locate suspects in another country...



Coordination within 24 hours through the Hungarian and Belgian National Desks results in indictment of suspected member of the IS terrorist organisation for terrorism and mass murder.

December 2018: A Syrian national was arrested in Hungary when presenting false documents at Budapest Airport for a woman in his company, for which he was given a suspended short-term prison sentence.

March 2019: As the suspect was about to be expelled to Greece, where he had entered the European Union and enjoyed refugee status, new suspicions emerged that he was a member of the IS terrorist organisation in Syria where he allegedly took part in up to 20 executions in 2015.

Alerted through the on-call coordination, crucial evidence was exchanged within 24 hours, including necessary translations between the Hungarian and the Belgian Desks at Eurojust. The rapid procedure allowed the Hungarian authorities to detain the suspect for suspicion of committing terrorist activities, instead of executing the imminent judicial order to expel him to Greece.

July 2019: Following extensive Eurojust-led coordination among four Member States to resolve conflicts and gather and exchange incriminating evidence, the suspect was charged with terrorism, mass murder and crimes against humanity within four months of his true identity being established. The trial at the Budapest Municipal Court is ongoing.

#JusticeDone

Swift interaction between the Swedish and Spanish Desks at Eurojust enabled the **arrest, prosecution and conviction of a woman exploiting her five children** for the production and spreading of materials pertaining to sexual child abuse.



2019

The woman was sentenced to four and a half years in prison. A man who repeatedly had purchased the materials was sentenced to three and a half years.



August 2018

Through intensive cooperation between Europol and the Swedish and Spanish Desks at Eurojust, the suspect and the children were located in Malaga, Spain. Within weeks, the arrest and house searches were minutely prepared. At the time of the arrest, Swedish social services were closely involved in taking care of the children and ensuring their safe return.



2018

One of the main suspects, a mother of five who had forced her five own children to pose and perform sexual acts in front of a webcam, fled Sweden and took the children with her to an unknown location.



2016

An extensive investigation of a Swedish paedophile network was launched after a tip-off to the police. The suspects were producing and spreading films and photographs featuring the sexual abuse of a total of 12 minors in locations in Sweden as well as abroad, for subsequent sale via the Internet.

2.2 Case-specific coordination meetings in a secure environment

In complex investigations, Eurojust provides the possibility for National Members to organise case-specific coordination meetings to bring together prosecutors, investigative judges and law enforcement representatives working on a particular case. Coordination meetings also include representatives from third countries if these are involved in the investigation.



In 2019, National Members and Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust called 428 such meetings, an increase of 19% compared with the previous year (359).

Case-specific coordination meetings create an opportunity to meet face to face in a secure environment and with simultaneous interpretation, so each participant can speak their native language.

Eurojust has a dedicated team of Judicial Cooperation Officers who can provide legal advice, analysis and operational assistance upon request by the National Desks. Other support services include translations of key documents and financing for travel costs.

Europol is regularly involved, and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and other actors may also take part if they have an operational role in the case.

In such case-specific coordination meetings, the judicial authorities involved may:

- ▶ **exchange information and case files;**
- ▶ identify **parallel or linked investigations;**
- ▶ decide on the **most suitable framework for mutual cooperation**, including setting up of a JIT and the use of the EIO and EAW;
- ▶ solve **potential conflicts of jurisdiction** as early as possible in the investigation;
- ▶ agree **when and how to hit the criminal group**, in a coordinated manner.

Case-specific coordination meetings create an opportunity to meet face to face in a secure environment and with simultaneous interpretation, so each participant can speak their native language.

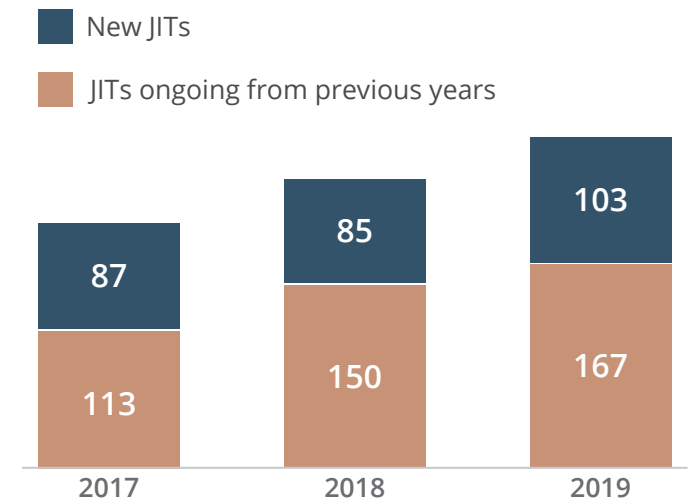
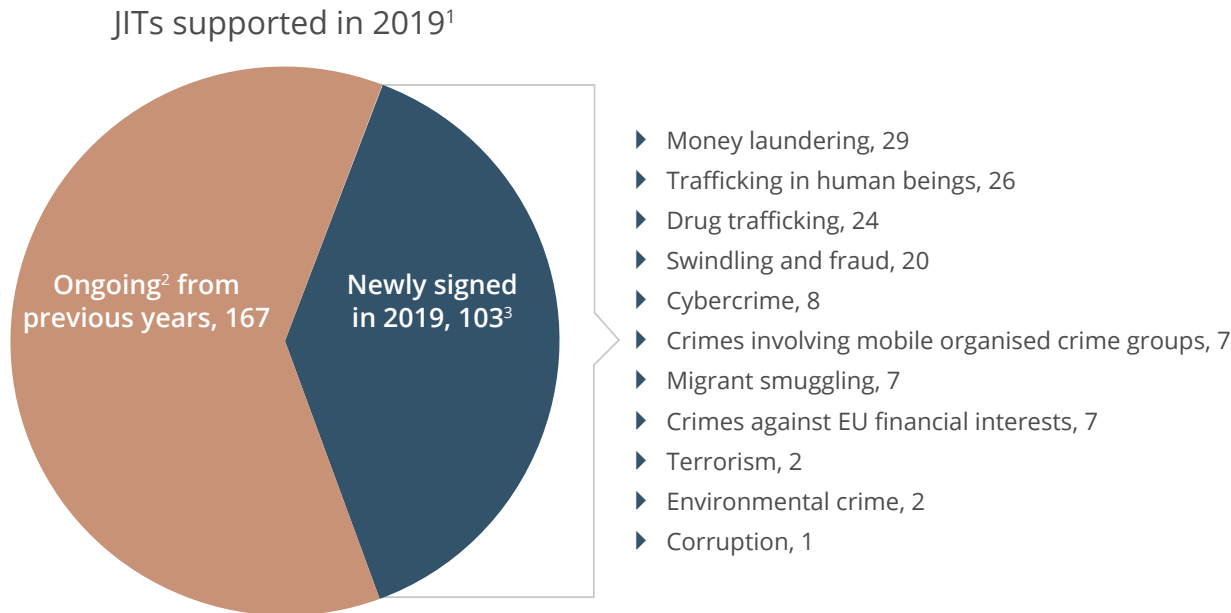
2.3 Support to 270 joint investigation teams

Eurojust provided financial and/or operational support to 270 JITs in 2019, representing a 35% increase in the level of support to JITs since 2017. 148 of the JITs active in 2019 were funded by Eurojust.

JITs offer national authorities the possibility to conclude an agreement enabling direct cooperation between judicial and law enforcement authorities

for a specific purpose and for a limited duration to carry out investigations in one or more of the States involved. This expedites and facilitates cooperation in comparison with traditional judicial cooperation instruments, by using technical and human resources in a more effective way and by directly collecting and exchanging evidence. The partners can cooperate in real time and may be present during investigative measures on each other's territories.

JIT partners can cooperate in real time and may be present during investigative measures on each other's territories.



¹ Eurojust support to JITs includes financial and operational support. Of the 270 JITs supported, 148 were funded by Eurojust.

² As of January 2020. Due to the ongoing nature of the cases, these figures may change after the reporting period.

³ One JIT can deal with more than one crime type.

To further promote the use of JITs in complex cross-border criminal investigations, Eurojust provides hands-on support to national authorities to establish JITs and has developed tailor-made model JIT agreements for crime types in which the investigations often have specific characteristics, including for migrant smuggling and cyberattacks. In January 2019, new guidelines on JITs with third States were published.

Eurojust also hosts the Secretariat of the Joint Investigation Teams Network that brings together JIT experts from national authorities to promote continuous learning and development of best practice.

Eurojust has developed tailor-made model JIT agreements for crime types in which the investigations often have specific characteristics, including for migrant smuggling and cyberattacks.

Main activities in 2019 included:

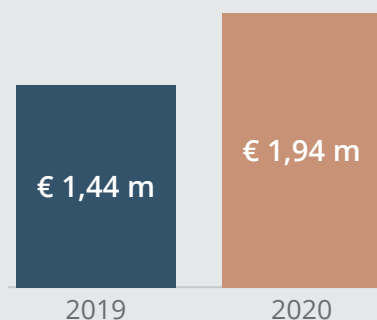
- ▶ On 5-6 June 2019, JIT experts met at Eurojust to explore **how to effectively deal with obstacles in cybercrime investigations** and maximise the potential of JITs to address this growing security concern;
- ▶ New user-friendly checklists for **setting up JITs with third States** and new tools including video tutorials explaining procedures for claiming reimbursements were drawn up in all EU languages.

2019: EUR 1.44 million in direct JIT funding and 35% increase in the budget planned for 2020

The JITs Network Secretariat is also in charge of managing Eurojust's JITs funding programme, which amounted to EUR 1.44 million in 2019. To meet the growing demand for JIT funding, the budget is set to increase by a further 35% in 2020, to EUR 1.92 million.

National judicial and law enforcement authorities use this financial support to cover costs for travel, interpretation and translation, and the transfer of items seized during JIT operations. Eurojust may also loan equipment, such as mobile telephones, laptops, mobile printers and scanners.

Funding for Joint Investigation Teams



2.4 Coordinated action days supported in real time from Eurojust's coordination centre

Complex coordinated operations may result in the planning of a joint action day with coordinated interventions in the countries involved in the case. Eurojust offers the National Desks at Eurojust access to a permanent infrastructure where they can monitor and support such simultaneous action in the field, in real time and with the assistance of Eurojust's Casework Unit. The coordination centre has secure data connections and makes it possible to centralise continuous contact between all judicial authorities and immediately analyse the information as it is reported from the field.

This allows for the possibility to solve new legal issues that often arise as the action unfolds, including responding to the need to issue (additional) EIOs, EAWs and freezing orders. The coordination centres are also open to participation by third States and to representatives of other actors with operational involvement, notably Europol.

In 2019, 27 action days were supported in real time from Eurojust's coordination centre, with operational outcomes linked to complex investigations ranging from different types of financial crime, migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings, cybercrime and drug trafficking.

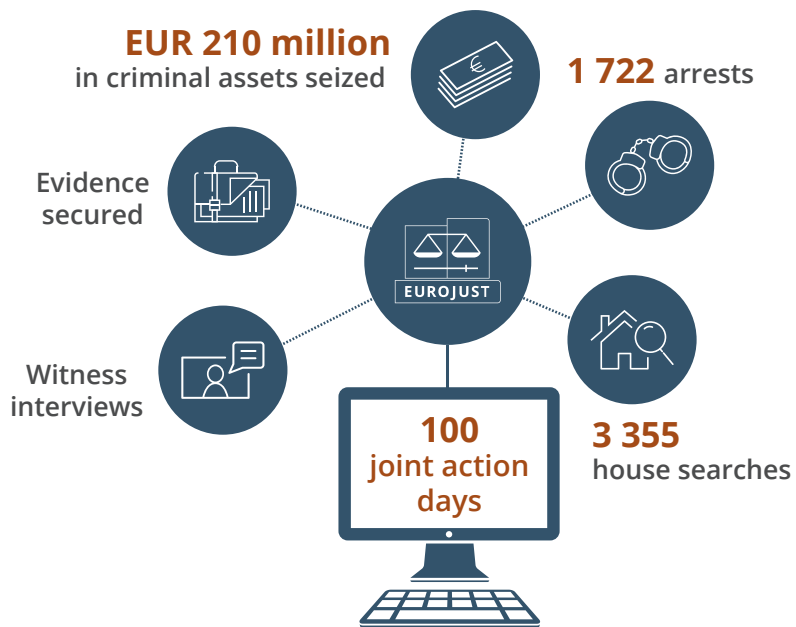


The coordination centre has secure data connections and makes it possible to centralise continuous contact between all judicial authorities and immediately analyse the information as it is reported from the field.



The **action day on 18 September 2019** marked an important milestone, being the **100th coordination centre** supported through Eurojust since 2011. The action day led to the dismantling of an international criminal network committing massive fraud with pay-TV, causing damages estimated at approximately EUR 6.5 million and jeopardising the existence of many legal providers of pay-TV. This case is an example of how organised crime groups (OCGs) expand their illegal activities to large-scale violations of audiovisual copyright.

The joint actions on 18 September 2019 were the result of complex investigations conducted by prosecutors from Naples and Rome, with the support of the National Desks at Eurojust and with the participation of judicial and police authorities from Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, France and the Netherlands. The coordination through Eurojust resulted in fast execution of various EIOs and freezing orders, ensuring more than 200 servers located in Germany, France and the Netherlands were simultaneously taken down, to disrupt all criminal activities at once. Forensic copies of the seized servers' contents were made, to ensure they became admissible evidence (e.g. to show that the protected TV content was illegally channelled through the servers) in any subsequent criminal judicial proceedings against the members of the OCG.



100 coordination centres at Eurojust since 2011

The first coordination centre at Eurojust was held in 2011 at the initiative of the French Desk. The coordination centre concerned the smuggling of irregular migrants by a criminal network active in six countries. The 100 action days supported through Eurojust since then have had considerable operational impact, including over 1 700 coordinated arrests and 3 300 searches by national judicial and law enforcement authorities. More than EUR 210 million in cash, luxury cars and jewellery were frozen or seized during these operations. The actions have supported national authorities in stopping serious criminal organisations affecting more than 2 400 victims and halting criminal activities worth nearly EUR 2 billion.



Halting criminal activities, worth
EUR 2 billion



and delivering justice for
> 2 400 victims of crime

2.5 In-depth analysis of rulings by the European Court of Justice affecting the use of the EAW

Eurojust regularly analyses how the European Court of Justice (ECJ) rules on the use of the European Arrest Warrant (EAW.) On 27 May 2019, a headline-grabbing judgment by the Court immediately spurred Eurojust into action. It established that German public prosecution offices are not in a position to use EAWs since they were found not to have a sufficiently independent status. The ruling had far-reaching implications for the daily interaction between judicial authorities.

A country-by-country overview was quickly drawn up in close coordination with the EJN, the Council Secretariat and the Commission. It contains concise information on the position of public prosecutors in each Member State, and on which national authority is ultimately empowered to decide on EAWs, and clarifies whether national law affords public prosecutors a guarantee of independence from the executive branch.

This practical tool helped executing judicial authorities to take informed decisions and ensure operational continuity, including for about 150 EAWs pending execution at the time of the rulings of 27 May 2019.

In November 2019, Eurojust and the EJN again revised the document to take into account further developments, including the adoption of new legislation in the Netherlands.

A further update is planned in early 2020 to also address judgments by the ECJ in October and December 2019, which have further nuanced the judgments from 29 May 2019, particularly in relation to the requirements of 'independence' and 'effective judicial protection' under the EAW.



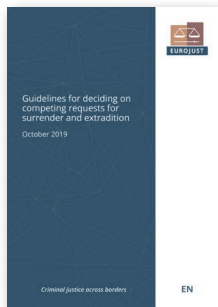
As of November 2019, the reach of the EAW also extends to **Norway** and **Iceland**. The agreement between the EU and Iceland and Norway on the surrender procedure closely mirrors the provisions of the EAW Framework Decision and will allow for easier and faster surrender of suspects and convicted persons.

Both countries have a cooperation agreement with Eurojust, and the Norwegian Liaison Prosecutor, who is permanently stationed at Eurojust, facilitated Norway's participation in 105 joint operations throughout 2019.

[The country overview provides] concise information on the position of public prosecutors in each Member State, and on which national authority is ultimately empowered to decide on EAWs, and clarifies whether national law affords public prosecutors a guarantee of independence from the executive branch.

2.6 Supporting national authorities with competing requests for surrender or extradition

During transnational criminal investigations, different States will sometimes issue competing requests for surrender or extradition. The ultimate decision regarding competing EAWs is made by the competent national authorities of the executing Member State. However, early consultation between the concerned national authorities is likely to produce a better outcome and is regularly discussed in cases coordinated through Eurojust.



Eurojust's updated *Guidelines for deciding on competing requests for surrender and extradition* was published in October 2019 and is available in all official EU languages.

This flexible tool outlines different factors to consider when deciding which request to execute, as well as the support available through Eurojust to resolve incidences of competing requests.

Early consultation between concerned national authorities is likely to produce a better outcome and is regularly discussed in cases coordinated through Eurojust.



Deciding where to prosecute an international contract killer

A contract killer of Serbian and Hungarian dual nationality was suspected of committing three proven murders, connected to drug trafficking crimes in Amsterdam, Budapest and Belgrade. The contract killer, who remained at large, was therefore wanted in two EU Member States and in one third country (Serbia).

On 1 March 2019, following an intensive judicial cooperation via Eurojust, the suspect was arrested and successfully searched for evidence in Prague. The Czech authorities had to decide which surrender/extradition request they should prioritise and serve the evidence seized.

The National Desks at Eurojust quickly arranged a close dialogue between the countries concerned, advised on a possible transfer of proceedings to avoid potential conflicts of jurisdiction, and offered round-the-clock translation and transmission of EAW's and EIO's.

Following the agreement to transfer the Dutch proceedings to Hungary, the joint conclusion set up and disseminated by Eurojust suggested Hungary was best placed to prosecute. As Serbia was not legally in a position to either try the Dutch case or surrender its case to Hungary, the suspect was subsequently surrendered to Hungary upon the decision of the Czech Municipal Court in Prague and Minister of Justice. The suspect has since been charged and awaits trial in Budapest. If convicted, he may be surrendered to Serbia following his term served in Hungary.

3 A gateway to 52 jurisdictions around the world

Criminals cross both internal and external EU borders. Close cooperation with third States is therefore crucial in addressing the challenges of more complex crimes that grow due to globalisation and digitalisation, particularly in the field of illegal migration, trafficking and counterterrorism.

In 2019, Eurojust continued to expand its close-knit international network, which forms a true gateway for prosecutors around the European Union to 52 jurisdictions worldwide.

The network of Contact Points grew during 2019 from 47 to 52 countries, following the addition of Armenia, Belarus, China, Uruguay and San Marino.

Eurojust signed two new cooperation agreements, which unlock the possibility to systematically exchange operational information including personal data, with Serbia and Georgia.

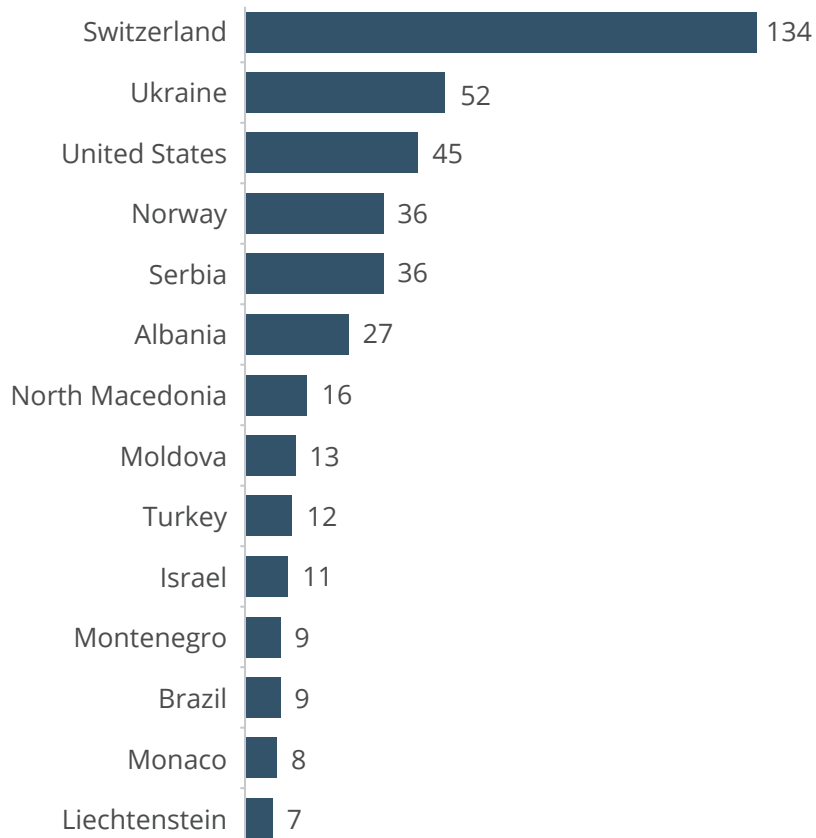
In August 2019, the United States posted a second Liaison Prosecutor to Eurojust, specialised in cybercrime. The same month saw the appointment of Switzerland's second Liaison Prosecutor to Eurojust, with significant experience in international mutual legal assistance.



In 2019, Eurojust signed two new cooperation agreements, which unlock the possibility to systematically exchange operational information including personal data, with Serbia and Georgia.

In 2019, third States were involved in 1574 Eurojust cases (opened by EU Member States) – a 15% increase compared to 2018.

The three third States most often requested to participate in new Eurojust cases were Switzerland, Ukraine and the United States.



Countries with a Liaison Prosecutor can also take the initiative to open Eurojust cases. In 2019, the Swiss Liaison Prosecutor opened 150 cases, followed by Norway (68 cases opened) and Ukraine (22 cases opened).

“ In two complex and extremely important criminal investigations in Montenegro in 2019, it was very valuable to work through Eurojust. One case was opened towards Cyprus and led to the initiation of the organisation of a coordination meeting, and another case was opened towards the Republic of Croatia. Both led to the swift completion of judicial cooperation requests submitted to the competent judicial authorities, which were of great importance for the further course of the criminal proceedings. ”

Jelena Đaletić, State Prosecutor of Montenegro and Liaison Prosecutor at Eurojust

The new Eurojust Regulation that entered into force on 12 December 2019 aligns Eurojust’s external relations with the principles introduced in this field by the Treaty of Lisbon. As a consequence, Eurojust no longer has the ability to negotiate and conclude cooperation agreements.

A four-year strategy for further developing Eurojust’s international reach is in consultation with the European Commission. It includes a list of third States and international organisations with which Eurojust has identified an operational need for cooperation.

As a result of the special protocols applicable to Ireland, the United Kingdom and Denmark, each of these States has a different legal position.

- ▶ **Ireland** has opted in to the Eurojust Regulation and thus remains a full Eurojust member.
- ▶ **Denmark** and Eurojust signed an Agreement on Criminal Justice Cooperation in October 2019, and Denmark now has a Representative to Eurojust with full participation in operational work.
- ▶ In the summer of 2019, the **United Kingdom** opted in to the new Eurojust Regulation. As of 1 February 2020, the status of the UK at Eurojust is in line with the Withdrawal Agreement.

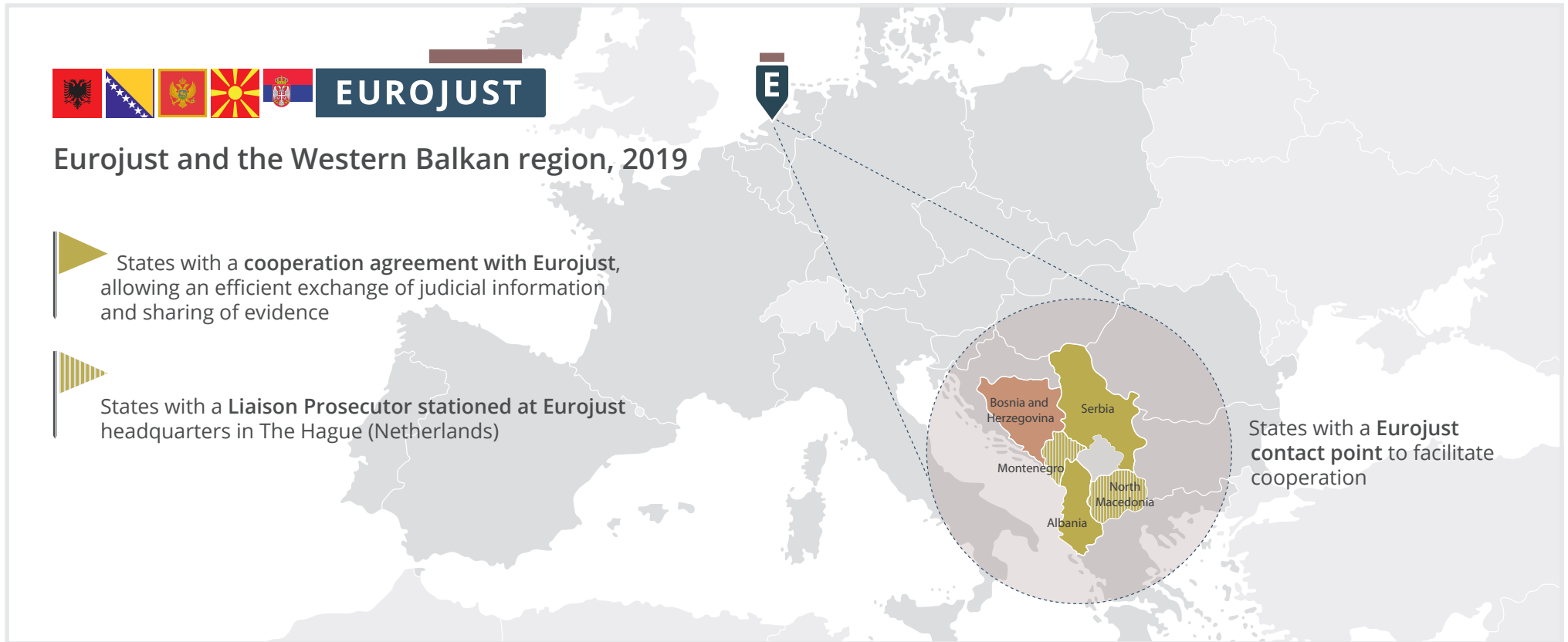
With the signature of a new cooperation agreement with Serbia, Eurojust further reinforced its operational and strategic involvement with the Western Balkan region, adding to cooperation agreements already in place with North Macedonia (2008), Montenegro (2016) and Albania (2018).

Liaison Prosecutors from North Macedonia and Montenegro have already been posted to Eurojust, and Serbia and Albania are expected to appoint Liaison Prosecutors in the course of 2020.

Eurojust is also a key partner in the Ministerial Conference of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) 2014-2020.

In the period from January 2015 through 2019:

- ▶ Serbia and Eurojust worked together on 149 cases involving serious organised crime, with offences ranging from money laundering, drug trafficking, swindling and fraud to crimes against life, limb and personal freedom;
- ▶ Serbia attended 22 Eurojust coordination meetings;
- ▶ Serbia participated in seven joint investigation teams (JITs), most of which involved drug trafficking cases, and took part in two joint action days supported through Eurojust's coordination centre.



4 Support to regional judicial cooperation initiatives

Latin America

The objective of the five-year Europe Latin America Technical Assistance Programme against Transnational Organized Crime (EL PACCTO) is to strengthen capacities and facilitate international cooperation in Latin American countries. In 2019, representatives of Eurojust regularly attended meetings organised within the framework of EL PACCTO, and Eurojust may serve as a model agency for international judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the Latin America region.

Middle East & Northern Africa

Since 2016, Eurojust has developed a network of nine Contact Points with countries in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region. The involvement of countries in the MENA region in Eurojust's casework is also on the rise, and includes the participation of Libya, Lebanon and Israel.

In January 2019, Eurojust hosted the EUROMED Forum of Prosecutors General, which aims to enhance international judicial cooperation between EU Member States and Southern partner countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia).

5 Close cooperation with EU partners

As a centre of expertise in cross-border judicial cooperation, Eurojust stays in close contact with key actors in the EU's institutional structure, including the European Commission, relevant Council working parties, the LIBE committee in the European Parliament, the European External Action Service, and with partner agencies in Justice and Home Affairs (JHA).

Over the course of 2019, Eurojust was actively involved in the debates shaping the policies and tools for the fight against serious cross-border crime at EU level. As a privileged partner of the future European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), Eurojust closely followed the preparatory steps taken for its establishment.

As co-leader in several Operational Action Plans (OAPs) within **EMPACT, the European multidisciplinary platform against major criminal threats**, such as criminal finances/asset recovery, migrant smuggling and cybercrime, Eurojust contributed to a solid judicial dimension in the operational response within this important programme throughout 2019.

As a centre of expertise in cross-border judicial cooperation, Eurojust stays in close contact with key actors in the EU's institutional structure.

Since the judiciary and police play complementary roles in criminal investigations, Europol and Eurojust continued to closely cooperate on operational work and analytical projects.

January 2019: Joint Eurojust/Europol **report of the observatory function on encryption**. The report, the first of its kind, responds to the need to continuously explore and assess the technical and legal challenges posed by the criminal use of encryption to hide illicit activities.

July 2019: Joint Eurojust/Europol report **identifying and categorising current developments and common challenges in combating cybercrime**.

October 2019: The third annual jointly organised **SIRIUS conference** took place at Europol and gathered more than 300 judicial and law enforcement authorities from 40 countries, as well as representatives from Google, Microsoft, eBay, Cloudflare and Twitter, to address issues and challenges when conducting Internet-based investigations.

November 2019: Eurojust, Europol and the Audiovisual Anti-Piracy Alliance (AAPA), representing companies involved in the provision of protected audiovisual services, joined forces to improve the sharing of expertise to **tackle audiovisual piracy** via IPTV networks. During a two-day seminar hosted at Eurojust, more than 70 judicial and law enforcement authorities from EU Member States and representatives from the two EU agencies discussed how to close the technical knowledge gap between national authorities and organised crime groups (OCGs).

The **European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)** was closely involved in 10 Eurojust cases in 2019 and in several high-level OLAF-Eurojust meetings. The two bodies agreed to make early contact to assess the need for coordination and ensure judicial follow-up to OLAF's administrative investigations.



In 2019, representatives from OLAF approached the Italian authorities about a bribery case involving an Italian company attempting to coerce public officials in North Macedonia into abusing the rules for a tender procedure linked to an EU-funded project.

Italian authorities opened a case in Eurojust, which made it possible to alert North Macedonian authorities about the suspicions. A coordination meeting at Eurojust and the opening of parallel investigations in the two countries resulted in a joint action day:

- ▶ several searches in Italy and North Macedonia;
- ▶ one high-level public official arrested in North Macedonia.

Cooperation in this case is still ongoing, since both national authorities are exchanging the evidence collected in their own countries.


Together with the **European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)**, in January 2019 Eurojust hosted the second high-level meeting on a joint strategy related to intellectual property (IP) crime. EUIPO and Eurojust are exploring the possibility of providing earmarked financial support to Eurojust in cases involving IP crime, including the support of joint investigation teams (JITs). In 2019, there were six active JITs involving EU partners and Member States investigating IP crimes.

“ *The anti-fraud institutional landscape will change significantly once the EPPO begins functioning. OLAF and Eurojust, which will be privileged partners of the EPPO, will continue to work closely together as part of a multi-tiered system to ensure a high level of protection of the European Union's financial interests and of Europeans.* ”

Ville Itälä, Director-General of OLAF

EU actors for criminal justice across borders

Prosecutors across the EU are turning to Eurojust for:



EUROJUST

Rapid response (24/7) to judicial cooperation needs

Coordinated cross-border operations at Eurojust premises

Establishment and funding of **joint investigation teams (JITs)**

Advice and facilitation with the application of **European judicial instruments** (EAWs, EIOs, MLA requests)

Through its cooperation agreements, Liaison Prosecutors and contact points, Eurojust unlocks **global access to 52 jurisdictions**



OPERATIONAL RESULTS

Solving conflicts of jurisdiction

Arrests and surrenders

Seizures of drugs and weapons

Securing evidence

Seizure/freezing of criminal assets

CRIME TYPES

- Terrorism
- Cybercrime
- Organised crime
- Crimes against life and limb
- Trafficking in human beings
- Drug trafficking
- Migrant smuggling
- Environmental crime
- Intellectual property crime
- Corruption
- Money laundering
- Swindling and fraud
- Other serious cross-border crimes

PIF crimes:

- Non-EPPO Member States
- Fraud against EU budget < € 10 000
- VAT fraud < € 10 million
- Involvement of non-EU countries
- Cases where the EPPO does not exercise its competence

European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)



Administrative inquiries into irregularities of the EU budget

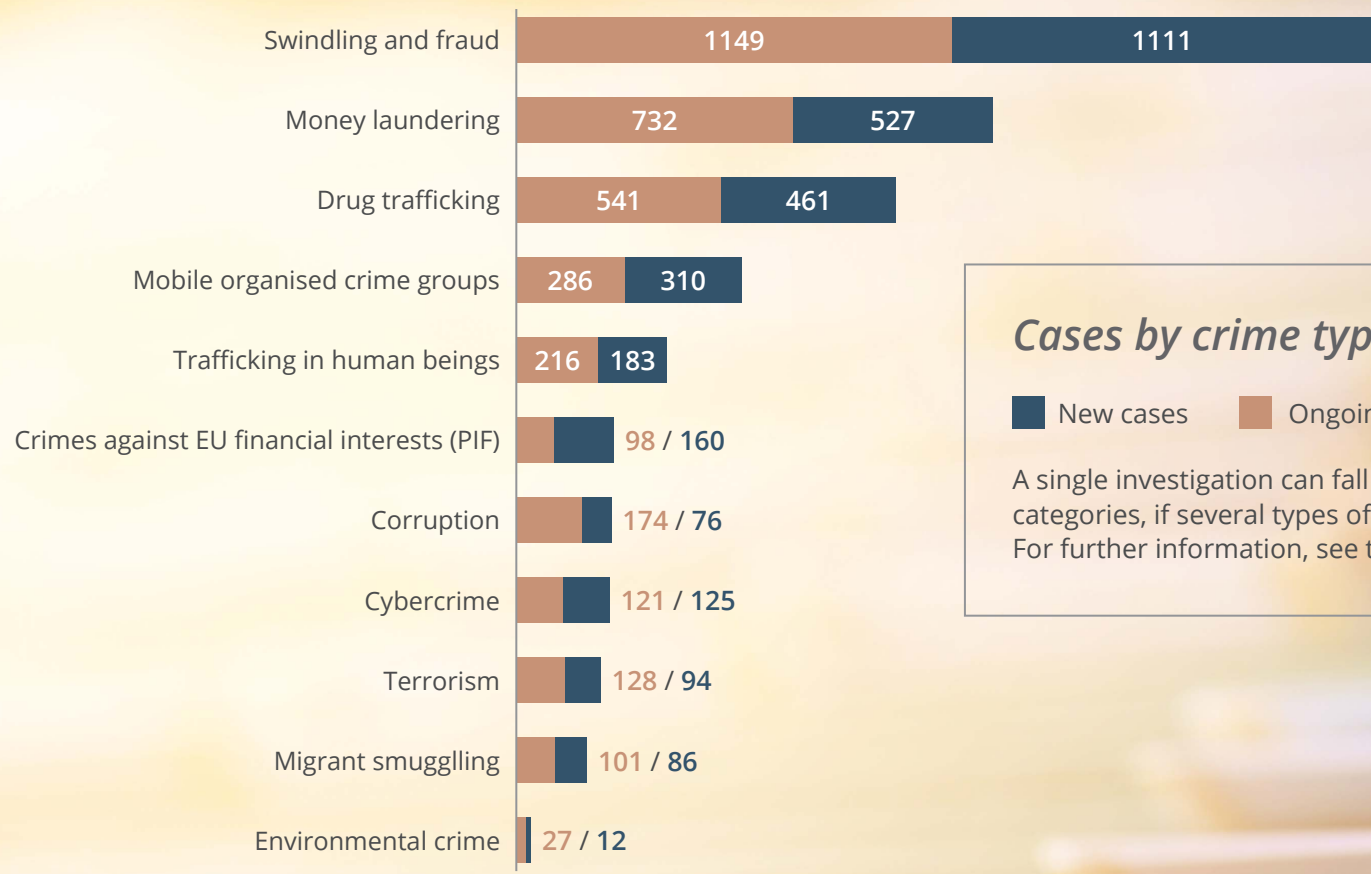
European Public Prosecutor's Office



PIF crimes
Crimes against EU financial interests

privileged partnership





Cases by crime type in 2019

■ New cases
 ■ Ongoing from previous years

A single investigation can fall into several crime categories, if several types of crime are concerned. For further information, see the Data Annex.

Eurojust’s casework is demand-driven, and the five main crime types concerned in new cases registered in 2019 were fraud, money laundering, drug trafficking, investigations targeting mobile organised crime groups (MOCGs) and trafficking in human beings.

6 Eurojust casework in 2019*

6.1 Economic crime

In 2019, national judicial and law enforcement authorities seized or froze around EUR 2 billion in operations coordinated through Eurojust.

Economic crimes often have a cross-border element: criminals move their assets to other countries to try to avoid freezing or confiscation orders. Working together to trace, freeze and confiscate money that has been acquired by breaking the law is therefore a strategic priority in the European Union's fight against organised crime and a major focus of Eurojust's casework.

Economic crime covers a wide range of offences, including swindling, fraud, tax evasion, money laundering and corruption, as well as environmental crime and intellectual property crime.

Criminal investigations primarily tackling some other form of crime, such as drug trafficking, terrorist activities or trafficking in human beings (THB), usually also include economic crimes, such as money laundering.



2019 – MONEY LAUNDERING

1 259 CASES

(527 new cases,
732 ongoing from previous years)

73

JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS

(30 new, 43 ongoing)

137

CASE-SPECIFIC
COORDINATION MEETINGS

6

COORDINATED ACTION DAYS



2019 – SWINDLING AND FRAUD

2 260 CASES

(1 111 new cases,
1 149 ongoing from previous years)

63

JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS

(21 new, 42 ongoing)

112

CASE-SPECIFIC
COORDINATION MEETINGS

12

COORDINATED ACTION DAYS

Working together to trace, freeze and confiscate money that has been acquired by breaking the law is a strategic priority in the European Union's fight against organised crime and a major focus of Eurojust's casework.

* The data in this chapter reflects cases and joint investigation teams (JITs) that were both newly established in 2019 and ongoing from previous years.

ASSET RECOVERY

The 4 central stages



Tracing

The process by which investigators "follow the money" by examining the revenue generated by criminal activity and following the revenue trail.

Freezing

Temporarily retaining property, pending a final decision in the case. It prevents the assets from being destroyed, transformed, removed, transferred or disposed of before the case is closed.

Confiscation

Stops the criminals from accessing the property, which is permanently taken away.

Disposal

The actual recovery of the criminal assets. The confiscated assets can revert to the State or be returned to the victims.



Taking down a fraud and money laundering network in Germany and Italy

In 2015, *German authorities* initiated an investigation against 14 members of an OCG suspected of a scam with fraudulent investments targeting 60 investors and causing damages of EUR 12 million. Some of the OCG members were suspected of also operating in *Italy*, where a separate investigation was launched.

Eurojust supported the creation of a **joint investigation team (JIT)**, which brought together various law enforcement and judicial authorities specialised in financial investigations.

Two coordination meetings, in which *Spain* also took part, were hosted at Eurojust. Over time, *Switzerland* and *Portugal* also became involved.



January 2019: **Joint action day** monitored in real time from Eurojust's coordination centre, based on the execution of European Investigation Orders (EIOs), freezing orders and European Arrest Warrants (EAWs).

In February 2019, Eurojust published the *Casework in Asset Recovery at a glance* report, which identifies difficulties and challenges experienced during investigations and prosecutions, describes how Eurojust helped national authorities, and offers best practice throughout the four stages of cross-border asset recovery (tracing, freezing, confiscation and disposal), each of which require tailor-made judicial measures.

The report is based on Eurojust's rich casework experience involving cross-border asset recovery investigations in the period between 2014 and March 2018.

- ▶ Freezing of bank accounts and seizure of luxury cars and jewellery;
- ▶ Bank safes searched in Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Portugal;
- ▶ Large quantities of evidence secured;
- ▶ Two suspects arrested in Spain and two in Germany.

Stopping online fraud exceeding EUR 3 million in Ireland and Finland



June – July 2019

Three suspects were convicted in Finland for aggravated money laundering and forgery, with sentences between 12 and 27 months.

Another nine suspects were arrested in Ireland. Five people were charged, one of whom pleaded guilty. The remaining four were remanded in custody pending trial.

A large number of items were seized, including fake documentation, equipment for document forgery, laptops and cash.



April 2019

Finland and Ireland coordinated the investigation through Eurojust and agreed on a prosecutorial strategy that included the collection and exchange of evidence to ensure solid prosecution, and prepared for a speedy execution of MLA requests. Europol assisted the national authorities in cross-checking data and identifying the victims of the fraud.



2018

The members of an OCG set up fake online trading platforms offering unknowing customers non-existent goods, including luxury cars, tractors, expensive jewellery and watches, or services such as accommodation. With the OCG using forged documentation, numerous bank accounts in Ireland and Finland were used to receive the payments, which were then transferred to other bank accounts. Members of the OCG finally withdrew the illegal proceeds, exceeding EUR 3 million, from cashpoints in various European countries.



Stopping large-scale tax evasion through luxury car sales, assets worth EUR 1.1 million seized in Slovenia



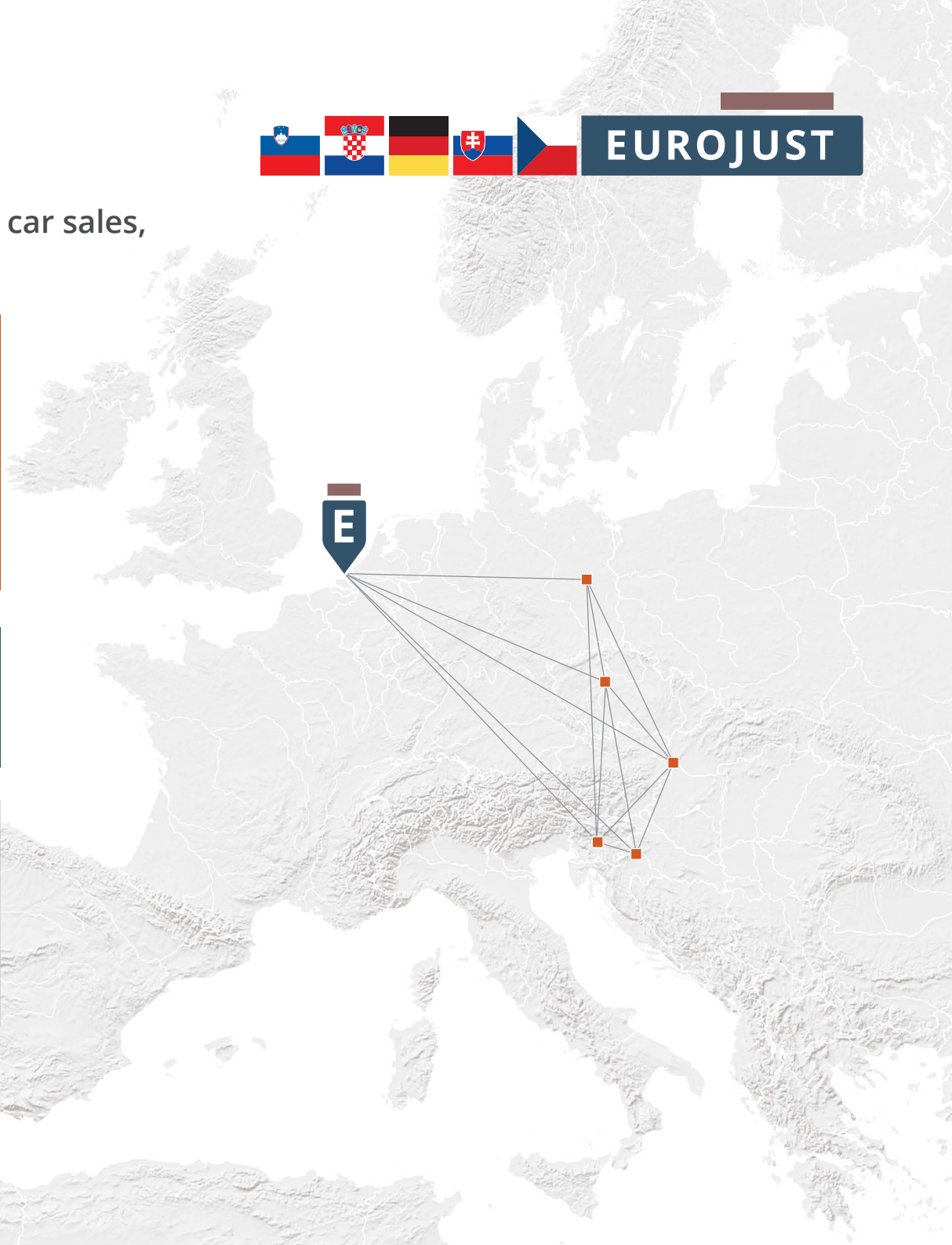
January 2019
 Eight persons were apprehended and 60 houses searched in Slovenia, involving 130 police officers.
 Simultaneous house searches were made in Germany and Croatia. Six persons were arrested and remanded in custody in Croatia.
 Real estate, bank accounts and securities worth EUR 1.1 million were temporarily seized in Slovenia.



Working together through Eurojust, the national authorities coordinated *European Investigation Orders* (EIOs) and house searches, and ensured fast-track overnight coordination of search warrants and execution of house searches in Croatia.



2016 – 2018
 An OCG, operating in Slovenia, Croatia, Germany, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, committed large-scale tax evasion by purchasing luxury cars in Germany and re-selling them in other EU countries. They evaded paying up to EUR 3 million in VAT and other car sale-specific taxes in Croatia and Slovenia through the use of 'missing trader' companies.



6.2 Environmental crime

International criminal networks are rapidly expanding their activities in environmental crime

Environmental crime covers activities that breach environmental legislation such as illegal export of dangerous waste, trafficking of pesticides and trafficking in wildlife species. These crimes cause significant harm or risk to the environment, human health or both, and undermine efforts in the European Union and beyond to improve the environment through legislation. Environmental crime is also often a highly organised crime carried out in connection with other criminal acts, such as forgery of documents and money laundering, and generates substantial illegal profits.

In 2019, Eurojust opened 12 cases on environmental crime, which led to the organisation of 11 case-specific coordination meetings, one joint action day supported in real-time from Eurojust's coordination centre, and two new JITs.

To respond to these developments, Eurojust and the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE) organised a two-day conference in October 2019. Almost 100 specialists from all over the world, including from INTERPOL, the European Commission and the European Union Forum of Environmental Judges (EUFJE), then gathered at Eurojust.

“ *The European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment is a growing network of European prosecutors, sharing learning and best practice, establishing good case law and developing training opportunities in relation to the prosecution of environmental crime across Europe. Working with Eurojust and other partners, we will help to deliver better environmental regulation and a healthier, more sustainable environment.* ”

Anne Brosnan, President of the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment



2019 – ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

39 CASES

(12 new cases,
27 ongoing from previous years)

6

JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS

(2 new, 4 ongoing)

11

CASE-SPECIFIC
COORDINATION MEETINGS

1

COORDINATED ACTION DAY

Operation Carpatos: Tackling an organised crime group involved in illegal fishing, tax evasion and money laundering



May 2019

Simultaneous actions by national authorities in Romania, Spain, France, Italy, Hungary and Portugal were supported through a coordination centre at Eurojust, including real-time coordination of three EIOs from Romania towards Hungary.

Operational results included 250 searches, the arrest of 13 suspects, and the seizure of 11 boats and 30 tonnes of illegally caught fish.



Two coordination meetings were held at Eurojust with the participation of Europol, to exchange information, decide on the investigative and prosecutorial strategies and resolve judicial and operational issues. Europol assisted the investigations with cross-matching of information and demonstrating links to France and Italy.



2018

National authorities of Romania initiated a criminal investigation into a cross-border OCG involved in illegal fishing, tax evasion and money laundering. Spanish authorities launched a parallel investigation into the same OCG, followed by authorities in Italy and France.



6.3 Drug trafficking



According to the EU Drug Markets Report 2019, the illicit drug market has a total retail market value of around EUR 30 billion and is a growing cross-border threat to the health, safety and security of European citizens.

Not only are drugs big business, representing a major source of income for OCGs, but the drug market is also rapidly evolving and is often linked to other crimes, such as money laundering and various forms of aggravated violence.

To tackle drugs trade, judicial authorities need to work closely with law enforcement, customs authorities and authorities specialised in economic crime. It is also essential to engage with judicial authorities in third countries as early as possible in the investigation and involve authorities from both producer, transit and consumer markets along the drug trafficking route.

In 2019, national judicial and law enforcement authorities tackled EUR 2.7 billion worth of illicit drugs trade in operations coordinated through Eurojust. Drugs trafficking was the focus of more than 1 000 Eurojust cases, of which 461 cases were newly registered during the year.

Sometimes, when a consignment of illicit drugs is detected, investigators make use of a **controlled delivery**. This means allowing the consignment to go forward under the control and surveillance of law enforcement officers in the countries of transit to secure evidence against the organisers.

Controlled deliveries require extremely close cooperation between judicial and law enforcement authorities during the preparation stage as well as during execution.

To further support national authorities in conducting this investigative measure, Eurojust also contributed to the **online handbook on controlled deliveries** developed by the Council of Europe's Pompidou Group in cooperation with Europol, INTERPOL and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

In 2019, national judicial and law enforcement authorities tackled EUR 2.7 billion worth of illicit drugs trade in operations coordinated through Eurojust. Drugs trafficking was the focus of more than 1 000 Eurojust cases, of which 461 cases were newly registered during the year.

Stopping the trafficking of a heroin substitute in France, Poland and Ukraine, including the planning and execution of a controlled delivery



May 2019

Joint actions, monitored from Eurojust's coordination centre, resulted in the arrest of 9 suspects, 20 house and car searches, the seizure of cash and equipment, and the seizure of more than 7 200 pills with an estimated total street value of EUR 100 000.



February 2019

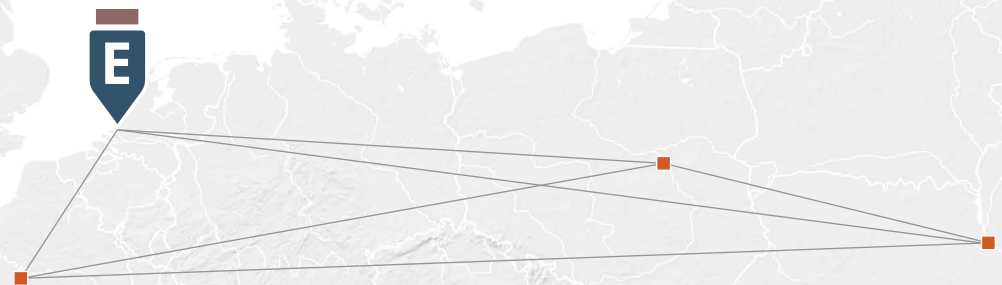
A coordination meeting at Eurojust resulted in the swift creation of a joint investigation team (JIT) with funding from Eurojust, which helped in aligning the investigations, the planning and execution of a controlled delivery and detailed planning of the use of judicial cooperation tools.

Over the course of the operation, more than 150 magistrates and law enforcement officers were deployed across the various States.



2018

Parallel investigations into an OCG trading in a heroin substitute took place in France, Ukraine and Poland.





Drug trafficking network taken down through close cooperation between Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the UK

2018

Norwegian authorities initiated an investigation into a large OCG linked to a Dutch transport company involved in smuggling large quantities of drugs by truck from Morocco via Spain and then widely redistributing them.

Eurojust supported the formation of a joint investigation team between Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

Across five coordination meetings, the authorities shared information, made strategic decisions, reached agreement on the best place to prosecute and gathered evidence.

December 2019



Coordinated arrests by national authorities in Germany, Denmark, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK and Norway.

Seizures in all countries of a combined total of 4 tonnes of hashish, 200 kg of amphetamines, 64 kg of cocaine, 45 kg of MDMA and 25 kg of heroin.

#JusticeDone

- ▶ A Norwegian court sentenced one of the main suspects to 19 years' imprisonment and confiscated more than EUR 4.5 million
- ▶ A Danish court sentenced two suspects to two and six years' imprisonment, respectively
- ▶ A German court sentenced one perpetrator to eight years' imprisonment for the possession of illicit drugs

6.4 Terrorism



Many of the terrorist attacks on European soil in recent years have quickly spurred complex investigations on a multilateral scale. The terrorist group or network may have been active in more than one Member State or had international links. The terrorists also often combine various forms of serious criminal activity, including money laundering, human trafficking, migrant smuggling and terrorism financing.

A large number of victims have been of foreign nationality, meaning judicial authorities from all concerned countries need to immediately work closely together to make sure victims of terrorist attacks and their families receive comprehensive protection, support and assistance.

The growing complexity for judicial authorities dealing with terrorism is reflected in a steady number of new

terrorist cases coordinated through Eurojust’s National Members and Liaison Prosecutors in recent years, rising from 84 to 94 new cases in 2019. In 2019, ongoing investigations coordinated through Eurojust focused on achieving justice for the victims of terrorist acts, cracking down on extremist propaganda or following up on individuals suspected of preparing or attempting to commit a terrorist crime, being members of a terrorist group or financing terrorism.

In addition to operational support, Eurojust launched the Counter-Terrorism Register, organised several major meetings including on battlefield evidence and cumulating of charges of terrorism and war crimes for returning foreign fighters, and published the annual *Counter-terrorism Report* and the *Terrorism Convictions Monitor* (TCM), an overview of terrorism-related judgments across the Member States.

The terrorist group or network may have been active in more than one Member State or had international links. The terrorists also often combine various forms of serious criminal activity, including money laundering, human trafficking, migrant smuggling and terrorism financing.



EUROJUST

Successive strikes by judicial and law enforcement authorities and online service providers to disrupt terrorist online propaganda

2017

Coordinated strike led by Spanish Guardia Civil with support of Europol, Eurojust and the USA targeting part of the web assets and infrastructure of Amaq, the news agency of the so-called Islamic State (IS). The seized servers allowed for the identification of radicalised individuals in 133 countries, and the detection of more than 200 million accesses to IS propaganda content by 52 000 possible consumers.

2018

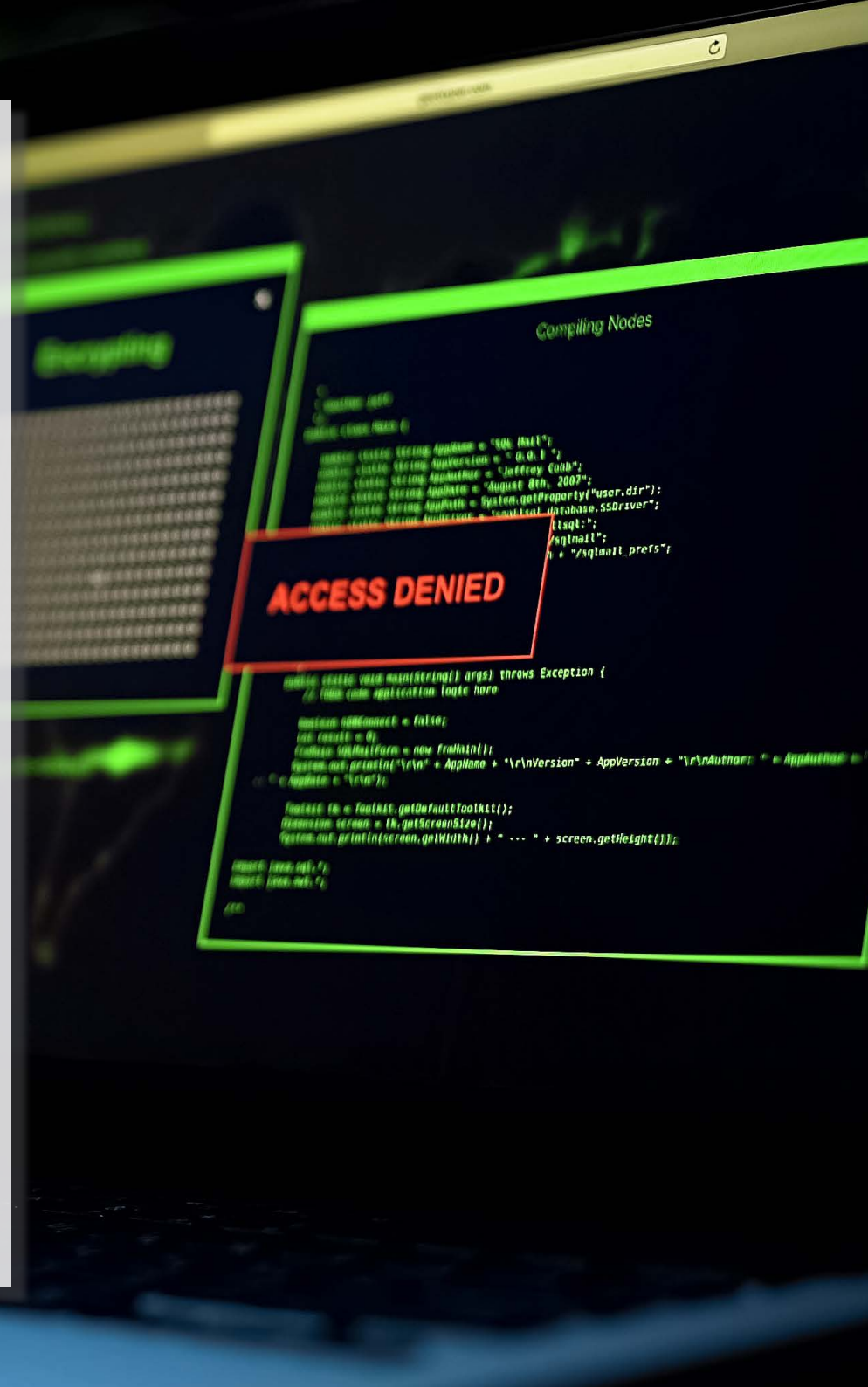
Multinational operation led by the Belgian Federal Prosecutor's Office, together with the Belgian Federal Judicial Police of East Flanders, with the support of Europol's EU Internet Referral Unit, Eurojust and EU Member States, finally took down the web infrastructure of IS, forcing the terrorist propagandists to rely heavily on social media and messaging applications to reach a wider audience online.

November 2019

Action days led by the Belgian Investigating Counter-Terrorism Judge and the Belgian Federal Prosecutor's Office, together with the Belgian Federal Judicial Police of East Flanders, and involving 12 Member States and nine online service providers, were coordinated through the European Union Internet Referral Unit of Europol and supported by Eurojust.

The strikes focused on the social media networks used by the IS media operatives:

- ▶ referral of a total of more than 26 000 items of IS-supporting content;
- ▶ arrest in Spain of an individual suspected of being part of the core disseminators of IS terrorist propaganda online.



On 1 September 2019, the Judicial Counter-Terrorism Register was established at Eurojust

The initiative to create the Counter-Terrorism Register (CTR) was taken by the Ministers of Justice of France, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in November 2018.

The initiative is based upon existing rules allowing for the sharing of information (Council Decision 2005/671/JHA) and has been set up with the support of the European Commission, the Special Committee on Terrorism of the European Parliament and the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.

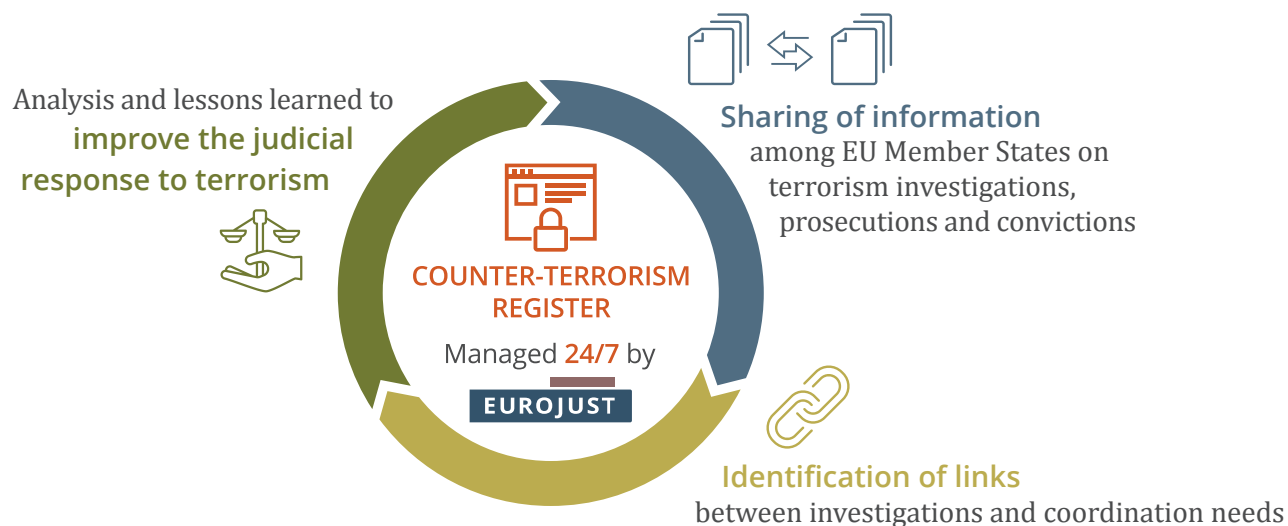
The CTR operates on a 24-hour basis, centralises key judicial information to establish links in proceedings against suspects of terrorist offences, and provides proactive support to national judicial authorities. This information enables prosecutors to coordinate more actively and to identify the suspects or networks being investigated in specific cases with potential cross-border implications.

In the first months of operation, the CTR spurred a sharp increase in information sharing on counterterrorism proceedings provided by the Member States.

A first evaluation will be carried out during 2020.

“ In fighting terrorism, we must avoid all blind spots. The experience we have gained in the case related to the terrorist attacks in Paris and Saint-Denis on 13 November 2015 has shown the necessity of having a complete overview of all the ongoing judicial proceedings in the Member States. With the CTR at Eurojust, we will have the tool that we need at operational level to support the coordination of investigations in terrorism cases. ”

Frédéric Baab, French National Member and Chair of Eurojust's Counter-Terrorism Team, 2014-2019



Prosecutors discussed how to deal with foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) returning to Europe, including how suspects of terrorist activities can receive higher sentences if charges of terrorism are combined with acts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide or other offences.

Dealing with returning foreign terrorist fighters

At the Annual Meeting of the national correspondents for Eurojust for terrorism matters in June 2019 and the meeting of the Genocide Network held at Eurojust in November 2019, prosecutors discussed how to deal with FTFs returning to Europe, including how suspects of terrorist activities can receive higher sentences if charges of terrorism are combined with acts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide or other offences.

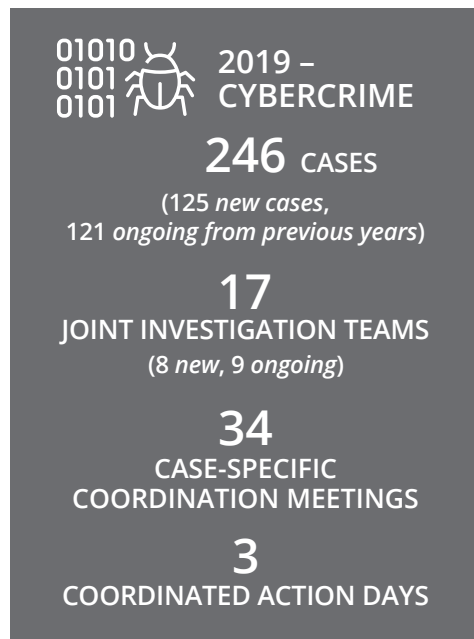
A crucial element in this process is the collection of battlefield evidence.

In 2017, Eurojust, in close cooperation with the national correspondents for Eurojust for terrorism matters and the Genocide Network, began mapping best practice and challenges in the use of information collected by the military from armed conflict zones as evidence in terrorism and/or war crimes proceedings and/or as the basis for opening criminal investigations or prosecutions. This cooperation intensified throughout 2019, with Eurojust working with the U.S. Government Battlefield Information Project, a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Defense, to support the use of battlefield information collected by military personnel (in Syria and Iraq) in counter-terrorism cases in civilian courts. The project fosters close cooperation between the authorities in the USA and the EU Member States in operational counter-terrorism matters.

“ Many countries are struggling to find a way to bring to justice the perpetrators of horrendous crimes committed across the globe. In this struggle, it is important to think ‘outside the box’. We have to be inventive and find new ways to ensure that justice is done, not forgetting the rule of law. The discussions during today’s meeting show that much is already being accomplished, and that there is a common ambition and will to hold the perpetrators of these crimes responsible for their actions. This is a good basis for all the work that lies ahead. ”

Tom Laitinen, Finnish State Prosecutor

6.5 Cybercrime



Judicial and law enforcement authorities encounter a number of specific challenges when tackling cybercrime. The need for assisted, coordinated cooperation has driven a sharp increase in referrals of cybercrime cases to Eurojust during the past few years.

- ▶ There is a **growing overlap** between crimes that originate on the Internet and cyber-enabled crimes such as **terrorism, child abuse** and **money laundering**.
- ▶ The physical location of the perpetrators, the criminal infrastructure or electronic evidence cannot easily be established and are often **located in different countries** and regularly outside EU borders, leaving no single country naturally leading an investigation.
- ▶ The **victims** of cyberattacks may be numerous, located in the European Union or even spread out over several continents.
- ▶ Cooperation with the **private sector** is vital for combating cybercrime, yet no standardised rules of engagement are in place.
- ▶ There are **big differences between national legal frameworks**, which have been developed with traditional crimes and with only existing technologies in mind.
- ▶ Electronic **data is dispersed, often encrypted** and easily moved or lost during the course of the investigation.
- ▶ **Large quantities of information and electronic evidence** need to be swiftly shared between law enforcement and the judiciary.

The National Desks and coordination tools at Eurojust make a big difference. They can serve as a bridge-builder and focal point to proactively coordinate the investigation...

In an increasing number of cybercrime cases, such as in Operation Cepheus, which culminated in the successful takedown of an international infrastructure distributing spyware to more than 14 500 buyers all over the world, the National Desks and coordination tools at Eurojust make a big difference. They can serve as a bridge-builder and focal point to proactively coordinate the investigation, find solutions to exchange data and evidence within applicable legal frameworks, assist the authorities in pooling technical and human resources, and meticulously plan coordinated actions. They also assist in the swift creation and funding of JITs, including with the use of a specific cybercrime JIT template made available to make it as easy as possible.

Operation Cepheus: International crackdown on RAT spyware, which took control of the personal computers of unsuspecting victims all over Europe and other parts of the world

 As far back as 2018, Australian authorities had been investigating a powerful computer hijacking tool, the Remote Access Trojan (RAT) Imminent Monitor. Sold for as little as USD 25, it took full remote control of a victim's computer, stealing data and passwords and watching the victims via their webcams. The spyware was sold to more than 14 500 buyers across Europe and all over the world, and subsequently deployed by users in 124 countries.



In the framework of the Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT), Australian authorities were supported by Eurojust and Europol in building an intensive, coordinated investigation with involved judicial and police authorities across Europe.



Working as one team, the authorities shared investigative data, pooled technical and human resources and mapped out the respective legal possibilities for each country, such as their ability to hack servers.

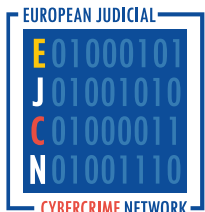
“ From the outset of this investigation, the level of engagement and service delivery from Eurojust was nothing short of outstanding. The collective knowledge and experience of the Eurojust liaison officers and their reach into the prosecution networks throughout Europe resulted in expedient legal advice and multilateral cooperation with EU partners. Eurojust's involvement proved integral to the success of this complex and sensitive operation. ”

Tim Davis, Australian Federal Police,
Representative of Australia at the J-CAT

November 2019

During an international coordinated action week, judiciary and law enforcement authorities targeted both users and the IT infrastructure involved in spreading the malware in Australia, Belgium, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, where 59 IT items were seized, and the United Kingdom.

The action resulted in the complete takedown of the Imminent Monitor infrastructure, bringing the extensive damages caused by the IM-RAT to a halt.



In addition to the operational support, Eurojust hosts the meetings of the **European Judicial Cybercrime Network (EJCN)**, which gathers prosecutors and investigative judges specialised in cybercrime cases from most EU Member States. Further, Eurojust has a Seconded National Expert posted within the **European Cybercrime Centre (EC3)** at Europol, which enables cooperation between judiciary and law enforcement actors at a European level. Through a number of high-level meetings and reports, Eurojust fostered dialogue around key themes related to cybercrime in 2019:

September 2019

At the **GLACY conference** hosted at Eurojust in September 2019, organised by Eurojust and the Council of Europe, over 100 experts focused on dealing with cross-border investigations of **online sexual violence against children** on the Darknet.

October 2019

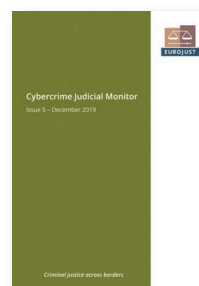
The annual **SIRIUS conference**, co-organised by Eurojust and Europol, gathered over 300 judicial and law enforcement authorities from 40 countries, as well as representatives from Google, Microsoft, eBay, Cloudflare and Twitter, to address issues and challenges faced when conducting Internet-based investigations.

October 2019

In the annual Consultative Forum at Eurojust, Prosecutors General of the EU Member States focused on **how to optimise digital information sharing** and exchange of e-evidence, and addressed the issues of loss of location and loss of data in criminal cases due to the borderless nature of cybercrime.

April and November 2019

During the plenary meetings of the **European Judicial Cybercrime Network**, experts discussed practical solutions to deal with challenges such as the takedown of malicious domains, direct cross-border access to electronic evidence and spontaneous exchange of evidence in cross-border cybercrime investigations and other questions on how to apply existing legal provisions to a globally connected environment.



Cybercrime Judicial Monitor (CJM)

The 5th CJM was published in December 2019. It highlights recent legislative developments and case law in relation to cybercrime, cyber-enabled crime and e-evidence.

This issue takes an in-depth look at the handling of cryptocurrencies in investigations and judicial proceedings.

#JusticeDone



Joint investigation team leads to 20 convictions in major phishing scam case in Romania and Italy



April 2019

The Tribunal of Milan sentenced the accused to serve between two and five years in prison and to pay a combined fine of almost EUR 9 000. Various assets with a total value of up to EUR 138 000 were also confiscated. In addition, the defendants were sentenced to pay damages to the victims.



March 2018

A joint action day, monitored from Eurojust's coordination centre and supported by mobile offices deployed by Europol in the field, resulted in 20 arrests and 24 house searches during which documents, IT devices, drugs and other materials were seized.



2017

A JIT was set up swiftly by the parties with support and funding from Eurojust, and three coordination meetings were organised during which Eurojust provided advice and assistance on how to prevent conflicts of jurisdiction, arrange exchange of evidence and prepare judicial measures. Europol provided tailored intelligence analysis.



2016

The Romanian and Italian authorities detected an OCG using spear phishing e-mails that impersonated correspondence from tax authorities that allowed them to steal online banking credentials from hundreds of victims. They then transferred more than EUR 1 million in total from the victims' accounts and withdrew the money from cash points.

The highly organised OCG used an encrypted chat application and was also suspected of money laundering, aggravated violence, drug and human trafficking, prostitution and participation in a criminal organisation.



6.6 Migrant smuggling



Migrant smuggling crimes are committed by connected OCGs working in trafficking rings, often ruthlessly endangering the life and limb of the migrants throughout the journey by land, air or sea. These crime groups regularly also engage in related forms of crime, such as offering a “smuggling service package” that can include illegal attempts to obtain citizenship of an EU Member State. Others turn on their customers and make them victims of human trafficking for modern slavery.

The migrant smuggling investigations coordinated through Eurojust in 2019, often in close cooperation with Europol, aimed to cover criminal activity along all major migrant smuggling routes to the European Union. To connect the dots, the involvement of authorities from all countries concerned by each cell in the migrant smuggling ring was essential, including the countries of origin and transit outside Europe, such as Libya, and the EU countries of destination.

The collection of evidence is particularly challenging on the high seas and therefore a point of regular attention. Another key focus was on effective seizure and confiscation of the assets and uncovering links between migrant smuggling and other forms of crime, including money laundering and sham marriages.

12 JITs focusing on migrant smuggling cases, of which seven were newly signed, received logistical and/or financial support during 2019. Eurojust constantly promotes the use of the tailor-made JIT model agreement to facilitate the formation of further JITs in migrant smuggling.

These crime groups regularly also engage in related forms of crime, such as offering a “smuggling service package” that can include illegal attempts to obtain citizenship of an EU Member State. Others turn on their customers and make them victims of human trafficking for modern slavery.

Eurojust is an active partner in the migrant smuggling inter-service working group created by the European Commission in 2019, and in the implementation of the Action Plan.

One important action is the creation of a new focus group of prosecutors and investigative judges involved in fighting migrant smuggling, supported by Eurojust's Anti-Trafficking Team and judicial cooperation specialists. The experts will be meeting regularly to exchange best practice and deepen the work on analysis of national legislation. For example, the legislation on sham marriages, which are used to try to illegally acquire residency in EU countries, differs considerably from one EU Member State to another.

Eurojust has prepared an in-depth case report analysing investigations of sham marriages, which will be presented in 2020.

Throughout 2019, Eurojust participated in 19 EMPACT Operational Actions (OAs) covering the main migrant smuggling routes to the EU, and was co-leader in three OAs.

“ Migrant smuggling is a crime that not only violates the integrity of European borders but also offends human dignity. The wish of thousands of people for a better future away from conflict zones is being financially exploited by migrant smuggling networks that have no respect for human life.

Eurojust has the necessary tools to give a coordinated response to the phenomenon, by engaging the national judicial and law enforcement authorities and targeting the criminal networks in their entirety. More referrals of migrant smuggling cases to Eurojust means more victims saved and more criminals brought to justice. ”

Filippo Spiezia, Vice-President of Eurojust and Chairman of Eurojust's Anti-Trafficking Team



Simultaneous action against an organised crime group smuggling migrants from the Middle East to the EU



November 2019

In a synchronised joint action, 78 police officers from Germany and 65 police officers from Romania searched 13 houses in Germany and Romania.

Four people were detained in Romania and one in Greece. 14 cell phones, two computers, bank account documentation and various pieces of identification were seized.



A JIT with financial and logistical support provided by Eurojust was formed in November 2018 among Germany, Romania, the UK and Hungary, with the participation of Eurojust and Europol.

Two coordination meetings were held at Eurojust to prepare for the action day. Europol supported the actions by analysing data.



2018

National authorities from Germany, Romania, Hungary and the UK started investigating the activities of 36 people suspected of smuggling at least 580 migrants, earning more than EUR 2 million for their services. The smugglers travelled with the groups from Iran, Iraq and Syria, via Turkey and Greece, to Romania, where they were loaded into containers and transported on trucks bound for Germany via Hungary and the Czech Republic.





Stopping migrant smuggling by leisure boats on the Adriatic Sea

Since November 2018, a migrant smuggling ring had been transporting 140 migrants from the west of Greece via the Strait of Corfu to the southern Italian coast. Migrants, including minors under the age of 13, paid up to EUR 6 000.

In early 2019, two coordination meetings to exchange information and evidence were held at Eurojust. Eurojust encouraged national authorities to set up a JIT, which was created in March, becoming the first of its kind between the two countries to investigate a case of migrant smuggling.

In December 2019, Greek and Italian authorities held a joint action day, coordinated from Eurojust's premises and supported by the European Migrant Smuggling Centre and Joint Operations Team MARE of Europol, which actively supported the operation by providing intelligence and sharing information.

Eight suspects were arrested, and 13 searches took place to secure evidence. Nine migrants, including minors, ready to be transported by the smugglers, were found.



Dismantling criminal gang recruiting Portuguese women into sham marriages

2015: Belgian authorities discovered a suspicious increase in the number of mixed marriage certificates in Ieper, Belgium. A criminal group was suspected of organising sham marriages, with Portuguese women recruited to marry Pakistani men they had never met. In return, the women received a cash payment. The couples travelled to Belgium to marry, where the women did not stay. They occasionally returned to Belgium for police and immigration checks.

Three coordination meetings were held at Eurojust between Portuguese and Belgian authorities, and a JIT was set up in December 2017 with the participation of Europol, and with funding from Eurojust.

January 2019: Joint action conducted simultaneously in Ieper and Brussels, Belgium and in Lisbon and the Algarve, Portugal. 17 suspects were arrested and 18 house searches executed in Belgium; three suspects were arrested and eight house searches conducted in Portugal. Dozens of forged documents and numerous items of IT equipment were seized along with large quantities of cash. 43 irregular migrants of Pakistani origin were found in Belgium.

6.7 Trafficking in human beings



2019 – TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

399 CASES

(183 new cases,
216 ongoing from previous years)

62

JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS

(26 new, 36 ongoing)

53

CASE-SPECIFIC
COORDINATION MEETINGS

4

COORDINATED ACTION DAYS

Trafficking in human beings (THB) affects millions of innocent people around the world and involves severe exploitation and violation of fundamental human rights. Human traffickers commit shocking acts such as forced labour, child trafficking and forced prostitution, often exploiting vulnerable individuals with limited education or financial means. Crimes are typically committed by OCGs which may have ample resources and sophisticated ways of working, and whose profits may be hard to track and to confiscate.

Human traffickers commit shocking acts such as forced labour, child trafficking and forced prostitution, often exploiting vulnerable individuals with limited education or financial means.

National authorities drew on the coordination through Eurojust of nearly 400 THB cases in 2019 to effectively deal with the transnational nature, complexities and sensitivities of THB cases. The cases fostered effective information exchange to identify, locate, protect and support victims of THB and initiate parallel investigations in the countries where victims are recruited, exploited and transported through or moved to, including non-EU States. 23% of JITs supported by Eurojust in 2019 focused on THB cases, with a steady increase in the participation of third States.

Modern slavery trafficking ring busted in France and Bulgaria

In February 2019, the Specialised Jurisdiction (JIRS) of Lyon undertook an investigation into an OCG involved in trafficking 167 people for labour exploitation in French vineyards, as well as in money laundering. A parallel investigation into the same criminal group was initiated by the Bulgarian Specialised Prosecutor's Office.

The two countries swiftly set up a JIT through Eurojust, which mobilised more than 80 French investigators, as well as several Bulgarian police officers, to safely and rapidly exchange vital information on the national investigations, and agree on and implement a common strategy. Europol provided analytical and operational support. During several joint action days in September 2019, monitored from Eurojust's coordination centre, one French and three Bulgarian suspects were arrested and heard in France, and numerous searches were carried out in Bulgaria.



Dismantling a criminal group trafficking women in Romania, Spain and the Czech Republic



December 2019

A joint action day was carried out by judicial and law enforcement authorities in Romania, Spain and the Czech Republic, with Eurojust playing a coordinating role and enabling the successful execution of several EIOs, and Europol supporting law enforcement officers in the field.

Operational results included the arrest of 14 suspects, 11 house searches, and the seizure of assets.

Nine young women forced into prostitution for the benefit of the criminal network were located and brought to a place of safety.

Further coordination will be necessary to tackle jurisdictional issues.



2018

Criminal proceedings were opened in Romania by the Public Prosecutor's Office in Constanta, and in Spain by the Investigating Court number 5 in Valencia, in coordination with the Valencia Provincial Prosecutor's Office, as well as national police authorities, against a criminal network recruiting young women in Romania. These women were often drugged, threatened or severely physically abused, and trafficked several times into other countries, including Spain and the Czech Republic, to work as prostitutes. The women were regularly moved, making detection difficult.

Year at a glance 2019



1 August

Lilja Limingoja took up her official duties as National Member for Finland



1 May

Dagmāra Skudra joined Eurojust as the new National Member for Latvia



1 August

Tanja Bucher was appointed new Liaison Prosecutor for Switzerland



7 October

Eurojust and Denmark signed an agreement on judicial cooperation

12 December

Eurojust became the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation



EUROJUST

15 April

Eurojust officially introduced a new visual identity

March

June

September

November

April

May

August

October

December



1 March

Laura Vaik took up her duties as the new National Member for Estonia



6 June

Ireland opted in to the new Eurojust Regulation



1 August

Rachel Miller Yasser was appointed Liaison Prosecutor for the United States, assisted by Richard Green, who has a special focus on cybercrime cases

1 September

Baudoin Thouvenot became the new National Member for France at Eurojust



5 November

Klaus Meyer-Cabri, National Member for Germany at Eurojust, was re-elected Eurojust Vice-President



29 March

Eurojust signed a cooperation agreement with Georgia



20 August

Margarita Šniutytė-Daugėlienė joined Eurojust as the new National Member for Lithuania



12 November

Eurojust signed a cooperation agreement with Serbia

7 Becoming the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation

Eurojust was created in 2002 as the EU Judicial Cooperation Unit and has since operated on the basis of a Council Decision. On 12 December 2019, Eurojust entered a new phase in its development as it became the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation, with the application of the Eurojust Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2018/1727) as the new legal basis and the following main novelties:

- ▶ A **new governance structure**, with an Executive Board of six members;
- ▶ A **new data protection regime**, adapted to the revised EU legal framework on data protection: application of both Regulation 2018/1725 (applicable to all EU institutions, agencies, bodies) to the processing of administrative personal data, with a new chapter on operational personal data as “lex generalis”, and the Eurojust Regulation as “lex specialis” with regard to the processing of operational personal data. The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) became responsible for the external supervision of Eurojust’s compliance with both Regulations;

- ▶ Alignment of Eurojust’s **external relations** with the principles introduced in this field by the Treaty of Lisbon;
- ▶ A strengthened role of the European and national Parliaments in the **democratic oversight** of Eurojust’s activities;
- ▶ A new relationship between Eurojust and the **European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO)** based on mutual cooperation within their respective mandates and competences, and the development of operational and management links.

Because **Denmark** is not bound by the Eurojust Regulation, on 11 December a cooperation agreement between Denmark and Eurojust took effect. The Danish Desk has been replaced by a Representative and a Deputy, as well as an Assistant who may attend College meetings as an observer without voting rights and may exchange information with the National Desks.

Ireland has opted in to the Eurojust Regulation and remains a full member of Eurojust.

“Improving the fight against cross-border crime by enhancing Eurojust’s operational capabilities was the guiding principle for the European Parliament’s position on the new Eurojust Regulation. A new governance structure helps Eurojust concentrate on its established and effective operational tools and become more proactive. The cooperation with Europol, Frontex, OLAF and the soon-to-be-established EPPO will be enhanced. At the same time, the European Parliament has made sure Eurojust has a robust data protection regime taking into account the nature of Eurojust’s mandate. This new legal framework will help Eurojust be fit for purpose in the 21st century.”

Axel Voss, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur for the European Parliament on the Eurojust Regulation

With the new Eurojust Regulation, the College of Eurojust, consisting of National Members from EU Member States and one Commission representative when the College exercises its management functions, is, among others, responsible for:

- ▶ adopting the **budget, annual and multi-annual programming** and the **annual report**;
- ▶ **electing** the President and Vice-Presidents and appointing the Administrative Director.

An **Executive Board** has been established to assist the College, consisting of:

- ▶ Eurojust's **President**, currently *Ladislav Hamran*, National Member for Slovakia, and **two Vice-Presidents**, currently *Klaus Meyer-Cabri*, National Member for Germany, and *Filippo Spiezia*, National Member for Italy;
- ▶ a representative of the **European Commission**;

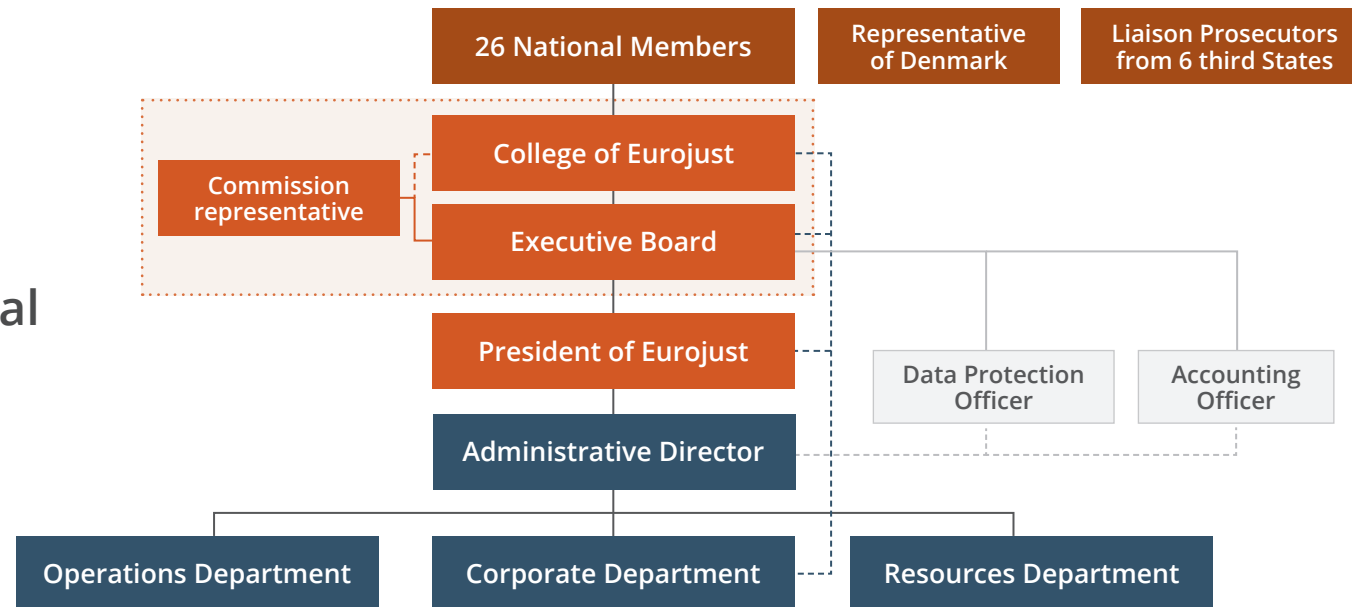
- ▶ **two other College Members** designated on a two-year rotation system. *Olivier Lenert*, National Member for Luxembourg, and *Solveig Wollstad*, National Member for Sweden, have been appointed for the first two-year period.

The **Administrative Director**, currently *Nick Panagiotopoulos*, attends the meetings of the Executive Board without the right to vote.

The Executive Board is responsible for:

- ▶ taking certain **administrative decisions** (e.g. adopting and implementing rules of the Staff Regulations, financial rules, anti-fraud strategy);
- ▶ reviewing certain **administrative documents** before they are submitted to the College;
- ▶ establishing or modifying **internal administrative structures**.

Eurojust's organisational structure



8 Agency management, staff and budget

By increasing efficiencies, sharpening priorities and further streamlining its organisation, Eurojust was able to respond to all requests for operational support from national authorities during the course of 2019. The final allocated 2019 budget was EUR 38.91 million, and for the fourth consecutive year, Eurojust achieved a budget execution rate in excess of 99%.

By the end of 2019, Eurojust had 320 post-holders, including:

- ▶ 28 **National Members**, assisted by 53 **Deputies and Assistants** seconded from the judicial authorities of the Member States to Eurojust, performing the core operational activities and together forming Eurojust's College, which also performs the function of Management Board;
- ▶ 239 staff members worked in Eurojust's Administration, reporting to the Administrative Director:
 - the **Operations Department** provides operational and administrative support to the National Desks, including to casework and through the preparation of expert meetings, best practice tools, reports, and data management;
 - the **Corporate Department** supports the organisation of College meetings and the College's handling of governance matters and relationships with third States and institutional relations (including through a Liaison Office in Brussels, which was established as a pilot project in September 2019), and supports the Agency's external and internal communication activities;

Quick stats about Eurojust staff in 2019



70% women, 30% men



26 EU nationalities



59 staff with a legal / analytical profile

- the **Resources Department** provides IT services, ensures the security of the Eurojust building as well as facility management and serves the management of the Agency's budget, business planning and reporting, human resource management and legal services.

The Administrative Director's **Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR)** provides a detailed overview of all activities, as included in the Eurojust Work Programme for 2019, budget execution and staffing policies, as well as the implementation of internal controls and risk management. The 2019 CAAR and the Eurojust College Assessment thereof will be submitted to the budgetary authority by 1 July 2020.

The final allocated 2019 budget was EUR 38.91 million, and for the fourth consecutive year, Eurojust achieved a budget execution rate in excess of 99%.

9 In pursuit of Digital Criminal Justice for the 21st century

In recent years, the Member States have heavily invested in state-of-the-art information gathering and sharing tools for law enforcement authorities and EU Home Affairs agencies. They are now able to exchange and process operational information in a structured, secure and fully automated way.

Law enforcement and judicial cooperation are two sides of the same coin, and information exchanged between police authorities today should become admissible evidence in court tomorrow. In the coming years, investments in law enforcement cooperation are expected to lead to more complex cross-border cases requiring a judicial follow-up, for which the Member States need to be adequately equipped.

Eurojust presented a first general outline of the need for Digital Criminal Justice across the EU to ensure a safer Europe at the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)

Council on 6-7 December 2018. Digital Criminal Justice refers to a fast, reliable and secure information exchange infrastructure in the field of judicial cooperation between national authorities, Eurojust and other JHA agencies.

Following these discussions and in close cooperation with Eurojust, the European Commission has initiated an in-depth study during 2019, which is currently in progress and is expected to be completed in 2020. The conclusions will be presented at the JHA Council in the first half of 2020.

The study includes an assessment of existing solutions at EU level and the technical, legal and financial analysis for implementation, with a focus on delivery within the next five years.



To foster dialogue between judicial practitioners and policy makers, Eurojust and the Council Secretariat organised a high-level conference on *Criminal Justice in the Digital Age* in Brussels in October 2019.

Photo © European Council

Data Annex

Overview of cases in 2019 involving Member State National Desks

MEMBER STATE National Desk	Cases initiated by the National Desk				Participation in cases initiated by other Desks		Participation in joint activities/meetings	
	New in 2019	Number of countries involved		Ongoing from previous years	New in 2019	Ongoing from previous years	Coordination meetings	Joint investigation teams
		2	3 or more					
COLLEGE	1	-	1	5				
Belgium	74	51	23	90	187	329	82	31
Bulgaria	160	148	12	191	177	176	21	8
Czech Republic	119	107	12	195	125	140	34	30
Denmark	46	42	4	101	76	136	31	15
Germany	383	331	52	259	562	670	125	45
Estonia	38	30	8	27	33	65	13	7
Ireland	48	43	5	60	75	111	16	2
Greece	208	204	4	353	115	164	20	3
Spain	190	162	28	145	428	566	93	14
France	238	181	57	370	395	477	137	52
Croatia	75	70	5	14	91	105	7	-
Italy	374	285	89	382	350	409	106	49
Cyprus	10	10	-	21	74	202	9	-
Latvia	51	44	7	24	64	115	25	9
Lithuania	40	30	10	38	80	119	20	12
Luxembourg	14	13	1	49	74	136	6	-
Hungary	207	169	38	126	120	176	25	16
Malta	6	6	-	32	64	107	5	2

Netherlands	162	134	28	176	292	440	120	28
Austria	183	163	20	158	206	240	29	11
Poland	172	156	16	147	293	314	47	25
Portugal	116	105	11	91	106	145	23	2
Romania	171	139	32	178	251	295	76	55
Slovenia	151	134	17	82	80	79	15	8
Slovakia	142	136	6	120	114	173	12	26
Finland	49	46	3	33	43	73	12	7
Sweden	146	122	24	151	86	129	35	16
UK	69	59	10	124	451	515	96	75
TOTAL	3643	3120	523	3742	*	*	*	*

Overview of cases in 2019 involving Liaison Prosecutors

LIAISON PROSECUTOR	Cases initiated by the Liaison Prosecutor				Participation in cases initiated by other Desks		Participation in joint activities/meetings	
	New in 2018	Number of countries involved		Ongoing from previous years	New in 2019	Ongoing from previous years	Coordination meetings	Joint investigation teams
		2	3 or more					
Montenegro	2	2	-	1	10	10	1	-
North Macedonia	5	3	2	-	16	14	3	-
Norway	68	59	9	50	37	62	24	10
Switzerland	150	127	23	115	134	282	49	15
Ukraine	22	19	3	4	55	47	23	9
USA	2	-	2	-	47	101	25	-
TOTAL	249	210	39	170	*	*	*	*

* These columns cannot be summed up, since more than one National Desk can be requested to participate in a single case, and coordination meetings and JITs are often co-organised.












Casework, meetings and joint activities in the priority crime areas, 2016-2019




Crime types	Cases (sum of new cases and ongoing cases from previous years)				Coordination meetings				Joint investigation teams (sum of newly established JITs and ongoing JITs from previous years)				Coordination centres / action days			
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019
TERRORISM	124	178	191	222	18	14	20	24	6	13	12	8	-	1	-	-
CYBERCRIME	151	176	219	246	13	9	28	35	8	7	10	17	-	1	2	3
MIGRANT SMUGGLING	133	153	157	187	12	15	17	24	11	14	12	12	-	2	3	2
SWINDLING AND FRAUD	1462	1643	1929	2260	44	75	87	112	38	46	52	63	5	7	7	12
MONEY LAUNDERING	760	869	1044	1259	66	86	94	137	36	44	49	73	4	5	6	6
DRUG TRAFFICKING	620	724	901	1002	41	40	78	81	25	29	42	53	1	4	-	2
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS	206	289	344	399	33	57	43	53	31	51	56	62	-	-	-	4
CRIMES AGAINST THE FINANCIAL INTERESTS OF THE EU (PIF CRIMES)	135	144	159	258	11	14	13	17	2	2	11	8	1	3	2	2
ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME	12	19	36	39	-	3	6	8	-	2	4	6	-	1	-	1

Casework involving EIOs and EAWs in 2019

Judicial tools	New cases in 2019	Ongoing from previous years	Total
European Investigation Order (EIO)	1423	723	2146
European Arrest Warrant (EAW)	703	574	1277

Cases by crime type in 2019

Crime type	New	Ongoing ¹	Total	Projection ²
SWINDLING AND FRAUD	1111	1149	2260	
MONEY LAUNDERING	527	732	1259	
DRUG TRAFFICKING	461	541	1002	
MOBILE ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS (MOCG) ³	310	286	596	
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS	183	216	399	
PIF CRIMES ⁴	160	98	258	
CORRUPTION	76	174	250	
CYBERCRIME	125	121	246	
TERRORISM	94	128	222	
MIGRANT SMUGGLING	86	101	187	
ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME	12	27	39	

 Upward trend  No major shift expected  Downward trend

¹ As of January 2019. Due to the ongoing nature of the cases, the figures in this column can change after the reporting period.

² The projection for 2019-2021 of the need for judicial cooperation in these crime areas is based on casework trends over the previous 5 years.

³ Itinerant criminal networks operating across the European Union, usually specialised in crime areas such as burglary, robbery of armoured vehicles, and metal theft.

⁴ Crimes against the financial interests of the European Union for which Eurojust retains competence, as defined in the infographic on page 27.

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