

# COVID-19

## Response of EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies

### Supporting Member States and EU institutions to:


- ▶ meet the operational challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- ▶ gather expertise and provide analyses; and
- ▶ foster dialogue and learning between key stakeholders.





# COVID-19 RESPONSE

## Summary of main actions taken by EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies

During the pandemic, JHA agencies have supported Member States and EU institutions to ...

	MEET OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES	GATHER EXPERTISE AND ANALYSIS	FOSTER DIALOGUE AND LEARNING
<p><b>Promoting and protecting fundamental rights and gender equality</b></p>  <p>The logos for EIGE (European Institute of Gender Equality), FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights), and EUROJUST are displayed. EIGE features a stylized star and the number 10. FRA shows two figures and the EU flag. EUROJUST features a scale of justice.</p>	<p>Immediate support to stakeholders by establishing a dedicated webpage with <b>statistics</b> and EIGE's resources to highlight the <b>different realities women and men are facing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic (EIGE)</b></p> <p>Association with the <b>EAW coordination group</b> initiated by the Commission to facilitate exchanges of information in case of urgent need (e.g. COVID-19, ECJ rulings ...) <b>(Eurojust, FRA)</b></p>	<p>Study on the implications of COVID-19 for <b>women victims of intimate partner violence (EIGE)</b></p> <p><b>Analysis of the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 from a gender perspective (EIGE)</b></p> <p><b>Monthly bulletins</b> (April-June 2020; September- October 2020) on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on fundamental rights across the 27 EU Member States - in different areas of daily life, including work, education, travel and the judicial system. In addition to declarations of states of emergency, the bulletins look at certain population groups disproportionately affected by the pandemic, such as people with disabilities, older people, detainees, homeless people and victims of domestic violence; at issues such as xenophobic speech, harassment and violent attacks, disinformation and fake news relating to the virus; <b>Bulletin 2</b> had a special focus on <b>contact tracing apps</b>; <b>Bulletin 3</b> had a</p>	<p><b>Online public debate</b> on fair technologies to safeguard public health, drawing from FRA's Fundamental Rights Survey data and monthly bulletin on the impact of COVID-19 and contributions to public hearings of the European Parliament on the topic <b>(FRA)</b></p> <p><b>Raising awareness on the gender perspective</b> to the Covid-19 pandemic and providing <b>gender equality expert contributions</b> to events and discussions on the topic, organised by EU and MS institutions <b>(EIGE)</b></p> <p><b>Fundamental rights expert contributions</b> to public hearings, institutional events and discussions on the topic, organized by the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission <b>(FRA)</b></p> <p>Joint statement calling on the EU and Member States to bolster <b>measures</b></p>

	MEET OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES	GATHER EXPERTISE AND ANALYSIS	FOSTER DIALOGUE AND LEARNING
		<p>special focus on the <b>fundamental rights of older persons</b> in relation to responses to COVID-19; <u>Bulletin 4</u> had a special focus on <b>racism, asylum and migration, disinformation, and data protection and privacy</b>; <u>Bulletin 5</u> was dedicated to the impact of COVID-19 on <b>Roma and Travellers</b>; and <u>Bulletin 6</u> had a focus on <b>social rights</b> (FRA)</p> <p>Sex-disaggregated <b>statistics</b> that reflect the <b>impact of the pandemic on women and men</b> (EIGE)</p> <p>Gender impacts of COVID-19 on health as part of <b>Gender Equality Index 2021</b> (EIGE)</p> <p>FRA's Fundamental Rights Report 2021 will have a <b>focus section on the impact of COVID-19 on fundamental rights</b> (June 2021) (FRA)</p>	<p><b>to protect victims of domestic violence</b> (FRA, EIGE)</p> <p><b>'Stories of hope'</b> on social media from civil society partners, showing how they give essential support to at risk communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (until June 2020) (FRA)</p> <p><b>Dedicated webpage</b> on FRA activities on the impact of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on fundamental rights in the EU (FRA)</p>
<p><b>Managing Large-Scale IT Systems for Internal Security and Justice</b></p> 	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic did not affect the <b>continuity of the operations of the existing core systems</b> managed by the Agency. All systems (Eurodac, SIS II and VIS) have been available to Member States without interruption nor major incidents (eu-LISA)</p> <p>Furthermore, the development of new <b>information management architecture</b>, i.e. EES, ETIAS, ECRIS-TCN</p>	<p>Thorough <b>analysis and various documents issued on the impact of the COVID-19</b> pandemic on the Agency's operations and the development of <b>new systems and interoperability</b> (eu-LISA)</p> <p>Additional <b>studies</b> to define the long term strategy of the Agency subsequent to the pandemic and the lessons learned (eu-LISA)</p>	<p><b>Daily information</b> on the status of its operations provided to eu-LISA management and periodically to the European Commission (eu-LISA)</p> <p>Two <b>surveys</b> to Member States to collect information <b>concerning the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their national planning</b> with regard to EES, ETIAS and the Interoperability package (eu-LISA)</p>

	MEET OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES	GATHER EXPERTISE AND ANALYSIS	FOSTER DIALOGUE AND LEARNING
	<p>and interoperability components continued, and eu-LISA took various mitigation measures to soften the effect of COVID-19 (eu-LISA)</p> <p>All <b>meetings of the governance bodies of the Agency</b> as well as trainings on the use of the IT systems addressed to Member States took place as planned in videoconference format (eu-LISA)</p>	<p>Two <b>surveys to Member States</b> to collect information <b>concerning the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their national planning</b> with regard to EES, ETIAS and the Interoperability package (eu-LISA)</p> <p>The COVID-19 crisis confirmed the need for further digitalisation of justice. A <b>Digital Criminal Justice study</b> was carried out by the Commission in partnership with Eurojust and other agencies/bodies and was published on 14 September 2020. The main findings have been included in Justice Commissioner Reynders' broader digitalisation plans, as announced in his 'Communication on the Digitalisation of Justice in the EU' of December 2020. Based on information provided by the Member States on the impact of the measures taken by governments to combat the spread of COVID-19 on judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the European Union (and Iceland and Norway), most of the experienced issues could be easily overcome by having available appropriate digital tools, thereby allowing most of the cooperation to continue as normal (Eurojust)</p>	<p><b>Over 150 situation reports</b> and guidelines by a dedicated tactical Task Force issued for sustaining the continuous operations of the Agency while maximising the safety of staff, whereas the satisfaction rate with the regular COVID-19 communication was 89%, based on the respective survey (eu-LISA)</p> <p>Three dedicated <b>staff assemblies</b> organised by top management to staff on COVID-19 (eu-LISA)</p> <p><b>Two external newsletters</b> issued providing updates on the latest developments in the Agency's key activities as well as providing assurance on the continuous operations of the core systems and progress in the development of new systems and interoperability (eu-LISA)</p> <p>In order to take stock of the state of play of the development of the new information architecture and interoperability and bring together all relevant stakeholders, eu-LISA held its 7th Annual Conference and Industry Roundtable 2020 fully online due to COVID-19, attracting the largest audience ever (eu-LISA)</p>

## Managing EU external borders, asylum and migration



Uninterrupted **support to asylum authorities** in Greece, Cyprus, Italy and Malta continued and assistance was provided to put in place remote solutions or other solutions enabling ‘face to face’ processes to continue (EASO)

**Continued operational support** to the Member States along the EU’s **external land and sea borders** and **field deployments** in Greece, Italy, Spain, Cyprus and the Balkans region, with about 1000 officers deployed (Frontex)

Support to **relocation of unaccompanied minors** from Greece to participating Member States (EASO)

**Establishment of Europe’s first uniformed law enforcement service:** First 500 officers from 21 MS recruited and trained to start the deployment in January 2021 (Frontex)

**Health and safety of all officers deployed to operations is of top priority.** Frontex acquired **two tonnes of protective equipment** (including 30 000 face masks) and established a **strategic buffer of 250 000 masks** in case of a sudden PPE equipment market shortage (Frontex)

With commercial flights suspended and land borders closed, Frontex

Dissemination of a **daily COVID-19 Situation Report** with information from open sources including a map of COVID-19 **restrictions** imposed by the Member States and overview of the state of play of operational activities to national authorities, the European Commission and other European institutions (Frontex)

Provision of, in close cooperation with the Commission, DG HOME, and ECDC, an **operational guidance** for European border control authorities in support of the **lifting of temporary restrictions on non-essential travel to the EU** imposed due to COVID-19 at the end of June/beginning of July 2020 (Frontex)

Analyses of **how the asylum and reception authorities of EU+ Member States adapted their working methods** concerning remote asylum interviews, online asylum registrations, Dublin transfers, remote court hearings and management of reception centres, including the issuing of recommendations (EASO)

Publication of the annual **Risk Analysis for 2020 which provides a comprehensive picture of the situation** at Europe’s external borders and cross-border crime

**Network meetings** continued by videoconference, addressing various aspects of the asylum process as well as in relation to resettlement, including the challenges arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (EASO)

**Exchanging situational updates** with international partners and preparing new cooperation and capacity building activities **covering health-related measures at the borders** (Frontex)


**Recommendations** issued on remote solutions for parts of the **asylum process** to support Member States in facing the challenges resulting from restrictions imposed (EASO)

**Focus Group on migrant smuggling** initiative launched during the pandemic, at the request of the Council, to provide a platform for prosecutors to exchange good practices and discuss issues related to this topic (Eurojust)

**Practical guidance on border controls and fundamental rights** at the external land borders, also covering fundamental rights guidance relevant for border checks in the COVID-19 situation (July 2020) (FRA)

	<p>transports the deployed officers with charter planes to ensure operational continuity and uses its planes to ship PPE equipment to all its operations (Frontex)</p> <p>Continued support to <b>pre-return activities</b> and <b>return operations</b>. Regular updates of restrictive measures adopted by non-EU countries and air companies. COVID-19 tests offered to all participants of return operations to ensure the highest level of safety. <b>Continued implementation of Frontex's new mandate: voluntary returns</b>, support to EURLO deployments, further development of the RECAMAS model and of the Agency's central IT platform on return, the preparation for the implementation of the Frontex Reintegration Programme, and the development of the framework for the deployment of return teams from the Standing Corps. Possibilities for quick adaptations regarding COVID-19 of national return case management systems offered to MSs (Frontex)</p> <p>Introduction of <b>remote interpretation</b> methods in operational areas conducted under the umbrella of the Framework Contract for Provision of Interpretation and Cultural Expertise Services signed in January 2020. Between April and December online</p>	<p>challenges, including the effect of the pandemic on border control (Frontex)</p> <p>Reports <b>on asylum trends and the impact of travel bans</b> and other emergency measures, which resulted in vastly reduced number of asylum applications lodged in the EU+ (EASO)</p> <p>Reporting on <b>fundamental rights challenges in the area of asylum, migration and borders</b> as part of FRA's regular migration bulletins (May, July, November 2020) (FRA)</p> <p>Reports on COVID-19 <b>risk factors in the main countries of origin</b> such as their demographic vulnerability, coping capacity, healthcare provision, doctors per capita, food insecurity etc. (EASO)</p> <p><b>Report on fundamental rights issues at the external land borders</b>, touching upon public health measures implemented at the borders in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, requested by the European Parliament (December 2020) (FRA)</p> <p><b>Frontex Operational Guidance on the lifting of temporary restrictions on non-essential travel to the EU imposed due to COVID-19</b>, prepared as a follow-up to the Council</p>	
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	<p>services (besides deployed interpreters) covered more than 200 bilingual profiles within joint operations (Frontex)</p> <p><b>Operation Retrovirus</b>, which aimed to prevent the negligent/illegal collection, transportation, management and eventual disposal of sanitary wastes produced in connection with the COVID-19 emergency. In the framework of Operation Retrovirus Frontex identified – similarly to the CBC Scenarios - <b>a number of key areas of concern to be translated into concrete follow-up actions for tailored operational response</b> (Europol, Frontex)</p> <p><b>Europol Guest Officers</b> continued to be deployed in the hotspots (Greece, Italy, Cyprus), performing Secondary Security Checks where these were necessary (Europol)</p> <p><b>Visits to the Eastern Aegean islands</b> in Greece to observe the treatment of new arrivals and their fundamental rights situation in the COVID-19 context (FRA)</p> <p><b>Support to capacity-building projects</b>, such as those in the Western Balkans or the <i>Southern Neighbourhood</i> using video-conferencing (Frontex)</p>	<p>Recommendation of 30 June 2020 (Frontex)</p> <p><b>FRA-Council of Europe note</b> on key human and fundamental rights at borders, also covering special measures in case of restrictions due to public health emergencies- published on 27 March 2020 (FRA)</p> <p>Contribution to <b>sanitary guidelines for border control</b> during the pandemic (Frontex)</p> <p>2020 <b>updated compilation of search and rescue vessels</b> in the Mediterranean Sea, held in ports due to COVID-19 restrictions or other reasons (FRA)</p> <p>In 2020 as part of the <b>digitalisation visa processing</b>, eu-LISA launched on the request of the Commission a <b>pilot project on the development of an online visa portal for the application of Schengen visas</b>. The Agency will design, develop and test a customer-friendly, secure and interactive prototype for the online visa application portal, including conducting an analysis of budgetary and legal requirements (eu-LISA)</p>	
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	<p><b>Joint guidelines on health and safety</b> updated with specific COVID-19-related measures to ensure the safety of personnel deployed in operations (EASO, Frontex, Europol)</p> <p>The <b>support through the large-scale IT systems</b> (Eurodac, SIS II and VIS) to <b>Member States in the operational management of EU external borders</b>, migration and asylum continued on a 24/7 basis despite the impact of COVID-19 (eu-LISA)</p>		
<p><b>Informing policy and practice on drugs and drug addiction in Europe</b></p>  <p>European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction</p>	<p>Immediate support to stakeholders by establishing a dedicated set of online resources and a briefing on the <b>implications of COVID-19 for people who use drugs and drug service providers</b> (EMCDDA)</p> <p>Continuation to operate the <b>EU Early Warning System</b> (EWS) on NPS (EMCDDA)</p>	<p>An <b>online</b> (continuously updated) <b>COVID-19 topic hub page and a resources page</b>, including <b>advice</b> to people who use drugs and professionals working in the drugs field (e.g. national bodies, associations, networks and NGOs) (EMCDDA)</p> <p><b>Monthly briefings</b> resulting from an EMCDDA ‘trendspotter’ study, launched in April to explore the impact of COVID-19 on the drug situation and responses to it. <b>Two trendspotter briefings:</b> <u>Briefing 1</u>: The impact of COVID-19 on drug services and help seeking in Europe; <u>Briefing 2</u>: The impact of COVID-19 on patterns of drug use and drug-related harms in Europe (EMCDDA)</p>	<p>A <b>Mini European Web Survey</b> on Drugs: COVID-19 launched in April and the results published in June 2020 (EMCDDA)</p> <p>Under the umbrella of IPA7 project – funded by the EU - <b>launch of ‘trendspotter’ study</b> to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on people who use drugs, drug markets and challenges for drug service provision in the Western Balkans (EMCDDA)</p> <p><b>Annual EMCDDA extended Reitox meeting</b> was attended by representatives of 48 countries from the EU, Western Balkans and ENP region and focused on the impact of COVID-19 on users, health services, markets and within the prison setting (EMCDDA)</p>



		<p><b>Two analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on drug markets</b> in 15 <i>European Neighbourhood Policy</i> countries were published under the umbrella of EU4MD project, funded by the European Union, in September and December 2020 (EMCDDA)</p> <p><b>Additional analysis on New psychoactive substances:</b> global markets, global threats and the COVID-19 pandemic — an update from the EU Early Warning System was published in December 2020 (EMCDDA)</p> <p><b>European drug report 2020</b> highlighting how COVID-19 disruption and a strong drug market bring new threats to health and security in Europe (EMCDDA)</p>	<p>Together with its national drug observatories, the EMCDDA analysed the responses taken by the EMCDDA national focal points to the COVID-19 crisis and the challenges met by the organisations and the strategies produced to overcome these challenges. A report from the <b>study</b> was published in December 2020 (EMCDDA)</p> <p>The <b>expert meeting on drug-related infectious diseases</b> organised in October 2020 analysed the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19 on drug users and harm reduction services involved in HIV, hepatitis and STI prevention, care and treatment (EMCDDA)</p> <p>A new <b>series of webinars</b> around the theme of COVID-19 were organised by the EMCDDA for external audiences. These included 6 webinars delivered between May and December 2020 on the impact of COVID-19 on the different interventions related to drugs in Europe (EMCDDA)</p>
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## Fighting cross-border crime



Uninterrupted **24/7 support to national judicial and law enforcement authorities** to detect, investigate and prosecute serious cross border crime (**Eurojust, Europol**)

Uninterrupted **support to Joint Investigation Teams (JITs)** (**Eurojust, Europol**)

The signature of 30 **new JIT agreements**, publication of six new calls for proposals for **JIT funding and adjustments of funding procedures** in reaction to practitioners' needs. Receipt of 120 new funding applications and approval of 74 requests for extensions of JIT grants (**Eurojust**)

**200 mobile offices** provided to operational law enforcement staff (**Europol**)

**241 coordination meetings** were organised via secure video links and **15 joint action days** were supported by the deployment of a **Eurojust remote coordination centre**. Full support to **3501 new criminal cross-border cases registered** at Eurojust, including **146 COVID-19 related cases** (March-Dec). 961 cases involved third States of which 35 COVID-19 related cases. Liaison Prosecutors registered 269 cases and the UK 38 cases (**Eurojust**)

Support partners with **strategic analysis and thematic reports** on how criminals are adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic, including in relation to **cybercrime, disinformation, counterfeits, terrorism, migrant smuggling, financial and economic crime** and **Online Child Sexual exploitation** (**Europol**)

Regular mapping of the main **practical and legal issues** identified by national authorities during the pandemic relating to the issuing of **judicial cooperation instruments** such as **European Arrest Warrants (EAWs), European Investigation Orders (EIOs)** or requests for mutual legal assistance (MLA), as well as the procedures for the **transfer of sentenced persons** and **freezing and confiscation orders**. This mapping resulted into the issuing of **24 updates of the compilation "The impact of COVID-19 on judicial cooperation in criminal matters"** (**Eurojust and the EJM**)

Launch of the **Report on cumulative prosecution of FTFs** for war crimes and terrorism (**Eurojust and the Genocide Network**)

Supplement to the *European Drug Market Report* on **the impact** of the pandemic on the **drug market and**

**Online meetings** organised and/or hosted to facilitate exchange of information and good practices, including on **specific challenges encountered by prosecutors and investigative judges during the pandemic** – with the correspondents of the European Judicial Network (EJN), the European Judicial Cybercrime Network (EJCN), the European Intellectual Property Prosecutor's Network (EIPPN), the Network for investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (Genocide Network) and the national authorities involved in the implementation of the European Judicial Counter-Terrorism Register (CTR) (**Eurojust**)

**Public prevention and awareness safety campaigns** on the 'new normal' after COVID-19, cyber safety at home and safe teleworking (**Europol**)

'Virtual' organisation of the **5<sup>th</sup> EU Day Against Impunity for the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes** focussing on the emerging best practice to **combine terrorism and war crime criminal charges** (**Eurojust**)

	<p>Special <b>operational rooms</b> prepared at Europol HQ to continue large-scale operations on High Value Targets (Europol)</p> <p>Delivering on <b>high-profile operations</b>, such as Op. EMMA; the recent crackdown of a drug ring smuggling cocaine from Brazil into Europe; the takedown of dark web vendors leading to 179 arrests and a Europe-wide operation to tackle unlawful sanitary waste disposal (Op. Retrovirus) (Europol)</p> <p><b>Guidelines on Operational Support</b> during COVID-19 pandemic to guide the execution of core business activities despite the physical restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines covered the <b>use of secure video conferencing systems</b> to allow prosecutors to still meet and discuss cooperation strategies on common cases during the pandemic (Eurojust)</p> <p><b>Connection</b> of more than 2200 competent authority to the <b>Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA)</b> (Europol)</p> <p>Launch of the <b>European Financial and Economic Crime Centre (EFECC)</b> on 5 June (Europol)</p>	<p><b>organised crime - joint publication (EMCDDA, Europol)</b></p> <p>Special <b>report</b> COVID-19 and drugs – <b>Drug supply via darknet markets</b> to understand the impact of these developments on drug markets (EMCDDA)</p> <p><b>Production of series of situational assessments on the cross-border crime related COVID-19 impact</b> for the use of EU Member States border control authorities <b>covering the smuggling of illicit and excise goods</b> including smuggling of forged medical devices, tests and sanitary products (Frontex)</p> <p><b>Assessment of the COVID-19 impact on document fraud - related cross border crime scenarios</b> to support the decision-making of the European Border and Coast Guard and the relevant authorities at both national and European levels in preventing, detecting and combating document fraud (Frontex)</p> <p><b>Digital Evidence Situation Report</b>, which provides a picture of the status of access of EU Member States to e-evidence held by foreign-based OSPs (e.g. volume of requests, main reasons for refusal or delay, main challenges in the process, etc.) -</p>	<p>Organisation of the <b>16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the JITs national experts</b>. The JITs Network Secretariat organised the meeting for the first time online. The main topic was “Solution for challenging JITs – JITs in the digital era” (Eurojust, Europol)</p> <p>Development of a <b>Quick Check Brochure and Operational Handbook</b> for Advanced Level Document Officers to support them in the fight against <b>document fraud</b> (Frontex)</p> <p>Facilitating good practice exchanges of law enforcements COVID-19 Out of Mandate related issues (via Europol <b>Platform for Experts – EPE</b>) (Europol)</p> <p>Support to the Commission in analysing business needs concerning <b>digitalisation of judicial cooperation</b>, as revealed by the pandemic - <b>Digital Criminal Justice</b>. The findings have been included in Justice Commissioner Reynders’ ‘Communication on the Digitalisation of Justice in the EU’ of December 2020 (Eurojust)</p> <p>Support <b>ALDOS (Advanced Level Document Experts) in Hotspots</b> promoting specific awareness sessions on identity and document</p>
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	<p>In March, <b>Serbia seconded a Liaison Prosecutor</b> to Eurojust, followed by <b>Georgia</b> in June (Eurojust)</p> <p>The <b>Europol Innovation Lab</b>, based on calls from the Council and the EU Police Chiefs, established a Core Group on secure communication channels in partnership with the German Federal Police (Europol)</p> <p>Internally, a <b>new video conferencing application</b> (Ops Talk) was introduced, which also allows for the exchange of operational data up to the classification level EU Restricted. The number of users and virtual rooms within this application has been upgraded (Europol)</p> <p>Staff was provided with <b>technical equipment and secure connections</b> to work remotely since the day of the lockdown (Eurojust)</p> <p><b>Creation of a forum to discuss the state of play of ongoing operational activities</b> with the Member States and Schengen Associated Countries in order to better coordinate the activities during COVID-19 (Frontex)</p> <p><b>Focus on detection of smuggling of illicit and excise goods</b> including smuggling of forged medical devices, tests and sanitary products (Frontex)</p>	<p>SIRIUS joint deliverable (Eurojust, Europol)</p> <p>Preparation of <b>three scenarios on the possible ways for the pandemic to develop and thereby impact the cross-border crime (CBC)</b>. There were supported by a series of situational assessments: the CBC scenario on “Medical devices, tests and sanitary products”, the CBC scenario on “Smuggling of illicit goods”, the CBC Scenario on the effects of “COVID-19 on document fraud”, and the CBC Scenario on “Smuggling of illicit goods via sea”. The <b>recommendations</b> from the first scenario were translated into concrete follow-up actions for tailored operational response, triggering preventive and repressive measures against international serious and organised crime groups exploiting the COVID-19 situation (Frontex)</p> <p>eu-LISA took over the <b>operational management of ECRIS Reference Infrastructure (RI)</b> in April 2020. Since the takeover, eu-LISA has updated the communication protocol, streamlined the communication channels and initiated evolutive changes to the software. The mandatory update was released at the end of 2020 with a view to being implemented by all Member States by February 2021.</p>	<p>fraud as well as settle equipment (VSC400) in one hotspot (Frontex)</p> <p>A dedicated <b>web page</b> on COVID-19 and <b>drug markets</b> (EMCDDA)</p> <p>A <b>webinar</b> on COVID-19 and drug supply via <b>darknet markets</b> (EMCDDA)</p> <p>Within the <b>SIRIUS project</b>,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurojust and Europol conducted an <b>online live webinar</b> introducing the SIRIUS project and key concepts related to cross-border access to e-evidence (available on CEPOL’s platform);</li> <li>- Eurojust, the JITs Network Secretariat and Europol created a <b>series of 6 e-learning episodes discussing specific aspects of cross-border access to e-evidence</b>, such as possible types of requests and the concept of “emergency” according to different OSPs (available on CEPOL’s platform);</li> <li>- Eurojust organised <b>virtual workshop with the judicial authorities of Ireland and United States</b>, to develop special products on cross-border access to e-evidence processes when Irish/US legal entities are involved;</li> <li>- Eurojust and Europol co-organised <b>Virtual Events</b> (as a substitute to the Annual Conference) over the course</li> </ul>
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	<p>Extension of the successful pilot project on <b>Investigation Support Activities for Cross-Border Crime</b> focusing on countering drugs trafficking at sea and the continuing support to Member States provided in detecting and investigating related cases (Frontex)</p> <p><b>Document fraud detections</b> - remote support to Advanced Level Document Officers who work in operational areas and helping to report document fraud (Frontex)</p> <p>Promotion of 24/7 helpdesk support to the field operations (Frontex)</p> <p><b>Continuation of Operation Tayrona</b>, targeting trafficking of drugs at sea within the EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT (Europol, Frontex)</p>	<p>With all the upgrades, ECRIS RI will remain an important application used by Member States for exchanging information on criminal convictions. By this, it contributes to the digitalisation of justice domain that has increased relevance in the COVID context (eu-LISA)</p>	<p>of three days to the members of the Advisory Board and representatives of LEA and judiciary (Eurojust, Europol)</p>
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## Providing training



European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction



FRONTEX

EUROPOL

Enable Member States to continue **training and education of law enforcement officials** among lockdown conditions through utilisation and prioritisation of CEPOL's available e-infrastructure and online tools (CEPOL)

Contributions to **awareness raising sessions on the fundamental rights impact of COVID-19** focusing on, for example, the impact on children's access to education, equality and non-discrimination, older people's rights and data protection (FRA)

Due to COVID-19 the entire face-to-face training portfolio of eu-LISA was converted in **e-learning** format from March onwards, with the exception of one face-to-face training session delivered in pre-pandemic period. The current training offer includes a high variety of e-learning products, learning modules, e-courses and webinars on large scale IT systems. 17 e-learning modules are available on eu-LISA Learning Management System (LMS) covering all major aspects of eu-LISA training curricula. In 2020, 7 webinars were delivered with 734 participants. The e-learning offer on eu-LISA LMS was consulted in total by 1214 registered users, of which 829 were unique trainees (eu-LISA)

Completed **analysis of operational training needs** that have become apparent during this crisis within the **EMPACT** structure (CEPOL)

Completed **analysis of operational training needs** on domestic violence and child abuse as a consequence of COVID-19 lockdown (CEPOL)




On top of its own outreach, CEPOL provided infrastructure to **train on-line 3723 law enforcement officials** by 6 Member States under the COVID-19 Task Force until 30 September (CEPOL)

**Training sessions** - 4702 individuals (8662 participations) enrolled (Jan-Dec) (EASO)

Dedicated **webinars** designed to **address the new training needs related to the pandemic**: on remote personal interview, supporting staff wellbeing during COVID-19 and communication and provision of information to asylum seekers (EASO)

Temporary replacing **face-to-face training sessions** as a consequence of COVID-19 pandemic and adaptations of training sessions which continued to be delivered via webinars. Adaptation of the existing training material and development of new tools, in order to support the comprehensive delivery of trainings for as long as the current restrictions are in place (EASO)

A new series of **webinars** to help those working in the drugs field deal with COVID-19. These are held every second Wednesday of the month. Six

  			<p>virtual seminars have been organised to date (EMCDDA)</p> <p>Launch of <b>online courses for border and coast guard officers</b> (Frontex)</p> <p><b>Online awareness course for border guards to deal with infectious diseases</b> while performing border checks and surveillance (Frontex)</p> <p><b>New webinar series</b> on topical matters affected by COVID-19 (CEPOL), including a webinar for law enforcement on the <b>impact of COVID-19 on EU drug markets</b> (CEPOL, EMCDDA, Europol)</p> <p>CEPOL Online conference on <b>“Policing the pandemic”</b>, in co-operation with the Croatian Presidency (CEPOL, Eurojust, Europol, Frontex)</p>
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