

## Call for Proposals for Financial Assistance to Joint Investigation Teams (2021/4)

### Objectives and scope

1. Providing technical and financial support to joint investigation teams (JITs) is part of Eurojust's mission to stimulate and improve the coordination of investigations and prosecutions in cross-border criminal cases, as provided by Articles 2 and 4 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1727 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust), and replacing and repealing Council Decision 2002/187/JHA (Eurojust Regulation). According to Article 48 of the Eurojust Regulation, the Secretariat of the Network for Joint Investigation Teams is located at Eurojust. This action grant will enhance the use of JITs by ensuring that financial and other organisational constraints linked to the cross-border nature of the case do not hinder the establishment and operational needs of a JIT. A further benefit comes from the ability of Eurojust, through its involvement in JITs and funding applications, to gain valuable information on the operation, needs and effectiveness of JITs as a whole.
2. Eurojust will financially support JITs with a maximum amount of EUR 470,000 between 02 July 2021 and 01 October 2021.
3. To comply with the co-financing principle, Eurojust will reimburse 95% of the total eligible costs under this call for proposals. This means that the amount stipulated in the Award Decision will be reimbursed fully only in the event that this amount is less than or equal to 95% of the total eligible costs. An amount of at least 5% of the total eligible costs shall be borne by the national authorities of the Member States.
4. Through these grants, Eurojust provides support to the following actions:
  - meetings of the JIT;
  - participation in investigative measures carried out in the territory of another State;
  - cross-border transport of seized items, evidentiary material, procedural or case-related documents;
  - the JIT's evaluation or actions in relation to investigative or judicial procedures directly deriving from the JIT in which its result is to be used.
5. Eligible costs related to these actions are the following:
  - travel and accommodation costs;
  - interpretation (including during investigative measures) and translation costs (including of evidentiary material or procedural or case-related documents), and

- transport costs.

Travel and accommodation costs will be reimbursed on the basis of the following unit costs, following the principles set out in Article 181 of [Regulation \(EU, Euratom\) 2018/1046](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014 and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

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

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

Eurojust does not therefore seek to finance the entirety of a JIT, but only those costs arising from the cross-border dimension of the investigation<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> For example, the following JIT costs are excluded: staff expenditure, insurance for seconded members of the JIT, expenditure on communication interception, expenditure arising from seized assets (except transport costs), expenditure on office accommodation, and expenditure on technical equipment necessary for the encrypted exchange of data.

6. Any financing is necessarily subject to the limited availability of funds. To enable reasonable distribution and achieve the objectives of JITs funding described above, a ceiling of EUR 50,000 has been set for each application.
7. Actions of JITs for which financial assistance is sought should take place between 02 July 2021 and 01 October 2021.
8. The action period may be extended for an additional three months through a request for an extension submitted to the JITs Network Secretariat. The request, using the [official template](#), must be submitted at least one working day<sup>2</sup> before the end date of the action period indicated in the Award Decision. The submission of a request for an extension precludes the submission of a new funding application for the same action period (to prevent double funding) unless the new funding application relates to exceptionally urgent measures that had not been foreseen in the previous application.

### **Submission of applications and admissibility criteria**

9. Any application for financial assistance must be submitted using Eurojust's Joint Investigation Teams Portal and electronic application system<sup>3</sup>, accessible from Eurojust's website (hereinafter referred to as the 'JITs-PS').
10. An application submitted via the JITs-PS is considered received by Eurojust when it reaches its server and the receipt is confirmed by the automatic message from the JITs-PS.
11. The application must be complete - including description of the JIT, planned activities and foreseen costs.
12. The application must identify at least one bank account of a public institution of a State involved in the JIT that is already known and acknowledged by Eurojust<sup>4</sup>.
13. The application must be received by Eurojust on the day of the deadline at the latest. Applications will be acknowledged by Eurojust by e-mail, indicating the date of receipt.
14. Only one application for the same JIT will be sent within one application deadline. In case of submission of multiple applications from the same JIT, Eurojust invites the applicant(s) to confirm which of the applications is relevant and withdraw the other application(s) within the given deadline. If no confirmation is received within the given deadline, only the latest

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<sup>2</sup> Working days are defined as Monday to Friday except for public holidays adopted pursuant to Article 61 of the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and Articles 16 and 91 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union (CEOS), laid down by Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68. The deadline for submission of the request for extension for awards in this call is 11 May 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Should the applicant encounter technical difficulties with the electronic system, s/he should contact the JITs Network Secretariat at [JITs@eurojust.europa.eu](mailto:JITs@eurojust.europa.eu).

<sup>4</sup> Should the communicated bank account prove not to be already known and acknowledged by Eurojust in accordance with the applicable financial rules, the applicant will be requested to provide a completed Financial Identification Form for this account within a set deadline. In such case, award of a grant will only be made once this condition is fulfilled.

application of the JIT will be accepted for further evaluation and the other application(s) will be rejected.

15. JITs are not allowed to submit an application in two consecutive calls unless the application relates to exceptionally urgent actions that do not overlap with the already awarded actions and could not have been anticipated in the framework of the previous application or at the same time as a request for an extension.
16. Applicants can seek support in the application process by sending an e-mail to [jits@eurojust.europa.eu](mailto:jits@eurojust.europa.eu). Please be aware that to enable a smooth processing of submitted applications, support cannot be guaranteed on the last day of the application deadline.

### Eligibility criteria

17. The applicant must prove the existence of a JIT by providing a copy of the signed JIT agreement (edited to exclude any identifying data), including possible extensions<sup>5</sup> (unless a copy of the signed JIT agreement and an extension covering the action period of this call for proposals have already been provided for in a previous application).

### Selection criteria

18. The application for financial assistance must be submitted by the JIT leaders or by one JIT leader or JIT member of a Member State with delegated authority, in his/her professional capacity, to demonstrate the professional competencies required to participate in a JIT. The JIT leader may delegate the submission of an application to another person with relevant professional competency (i.e. JIT National Expert, Eurojust College Member, Europol Liaison Officer).

### Award criteria

19. Eligible applications will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee. Eligible applications will be ranked, taking into account the following award criteria.
  - 1) investigation of a terrorist offence and/or of a crime identified as a priority in the [Council Conclusions on setting the EU's priorities for the fight against organised and serious international crime between 2018 and 2021](#) or other serious cross-border crimes which Eurojust is competent to deal with;
  - 2) number of States involved;
  - 3) number of previous successful applications submitted to Eurojust by the JIT;

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<sup>5</sup> If the JIT has already expired and funding is sought for the purposes of the evaluation or in relation to investigative or judicial procedures directly deriving from the JIT in which its result is to be used, a copy of the last extension available before the closure of the JIT will be provided.

If the JIT expires before the end of the relevant action period, it should be indicated in the application whether the JIT will be extended or whether funding is requested also for purposes of the evaluation or in relation to investigative or judicial procedures directly deriving from the JIT in which its result is to be used.

- 4) execution rate of previous grants awarded by Eurojust, if applicable<sup>6</sup>;
- 5) complexity of the JIT<sup>7</sup>; and
- 6) purpose of the actions and justification of estimates<sup>8</sup>.

20. A maximum of 10 points can be awarded for each of the six criteria. Each application can receive a maximum total of 60 points. Proposals attaining an individual score of 2 points or less for criterion 5 or 6 will not be considered for the award of a grant.

21. Eurojust will decide upon the actual amounts and equipment awarded for each application, taking into account the ranking, available funds, number of applications received, availability of equipment and the amount sought in each application. The decision is then communicated to the JIT (i.e. to the contact person mentioned in the application).

### Timeframe

22. The deadline for applications is 31 May 2021.

23. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation of their application not later than 18 June 2021.

24. If the application is successful, a specified amount will be reserved pending the submission of a request for reimbursement within the fixed deadline. A request for reimbursement must be submitted, together with the supporting evidence, by a competent authority of a State involved in the JIT, in accordance with the terms and conditions applicable to Eurojust's financial support to JITs activities, no later than 01 November 2021. No reimbursement will be made if the request for reimbursement arrives after the deadline.

25. For all queries, please e-mail: [jits@eurojust.europa.eu](mailto:jits@eurojust.europa.eu).

26. **For additional information on the Terms and Conditions applicable to this call for proposals, please see the *Terms and conditions applicable to Eurojust's financial assistance to the activities of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs)*, accessible on Eurojust's [website](#).**

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<sup>6</sup> The period covering the EU Member States lockdowns shall not be taken into account when calculating the execution rates of previously awarded grants.

<sup>7</sup> The complexity of the case is assessed in relation to several aspects, such as level of organisation of the criminal network, number of suspects/victims possibly involved, number and difficulty of investigative measures carried out by the JIT, number or value of assets to be recovered, importance of financial damages resulting from the offences.

<sup>8</sup> The importance of the action is assessed in relation to several aspects, such as justification of the action to be funded in view of operational needs of the JIT, the importance of the expected outcome of the action, clear relation of costs to the described actions.