

How can OLAF cooperate with Eurojust?

The purpose of OLAF-Eurojust cooperation is to enhance the fight against fraud, corruption or any other criminal offence or illegal activities affecting the EU's financial interests.

The cooperation will take place with due regard for transparency, complementarity of tasks and coordination of efforts.

OLAF's Mission: Detect, investigate and work towards stopping fraud with EU funds.

OLAF's mandate is to:

- i) conduct (external and internal) independent investigations into fraud, corruption and irregularities involving EU funds;
- *ii)* investigate serious **misconduct by EU staff** and members of the EU institutions, thereby contributing to strengthening citizens' trust in the EU institutions; and
- iii) develop EU policies to counter fraud.

OLAF investigates under administrative law and issues recommendations to national judiciaries and EU authorities, but does not prosecute; it can support or help coordinate national authorities and it can participate in a support capacity in JITs.

OLAF may collaborate in accordance with its competences and tasks either at its own request or on the initiative of Eurojust.

This collaboration includes, in particular, the exchange of Case Summaries with a view to identifying appropriate cases requiring cooperation, the exchange of operational information, participation in operational meetings, and the provision of mutual assistance and advice.

OLAF can bring added value to Eurojust by:

- Specialist knowledge with cases involving the EU budget
- Internal/EU staff investigations
- Digital forensics
- Access to databases and information possessed or managed by OLAF
- Knowledge of practicalities regarding EU law and financial procedures
- Coordination between the national administrative authorities
- Expertise provided to judicial authorities
- Evidence from an OLAF investigation to be used in a criminal case
- Participation in a JIT

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Eurojust supports EU Member States by:

- Stimulating and improving the coordination of cross-border investigations and prosecutions;
- Assisting in the prevention and resolution of conflicts of jurisdiction;
- -Facilitating the execution of EU and international mutual legal assistance instruments, such as the European Arrest Warrant, confiscation and freezing orders;
- Facilitating and supporting JITs;
- Bringing national authorities together and coordinating simultaneous action through coordination meetings and coordination centres;
- Coordinating and facilitating requests for judicial cooperation to and from third States;
 and
- Providing expertise on judicial challenges in cases involving serious and organised crime.

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Eurojust can bring added value to OLAF by:

- Improving coordination and information flow between national prosecution and judicial authorities
- Improving cooperation concerning the execution of international mutual legal assistance instruments
- Establishing contact with national authorities in other Member States or third States involved in a case
- Organising coordination meetings to bring national authorities and OLAF together
- Identifying the relevant judicial authority competent to deal with a criminal investigation linked to an OLAF case
- Assisting national authorities in possible judicial follow-up to OLAF recommendations
- Supporting the setting up and financing of joint investigation teams

Contact:

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