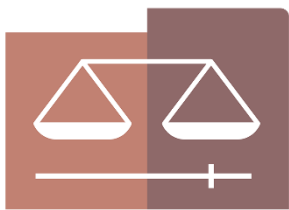




# Cross-border Digital Criminal Justice First Newsletter

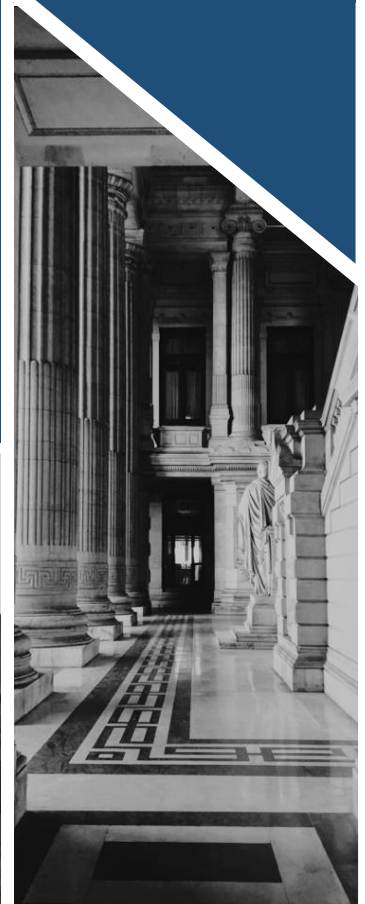
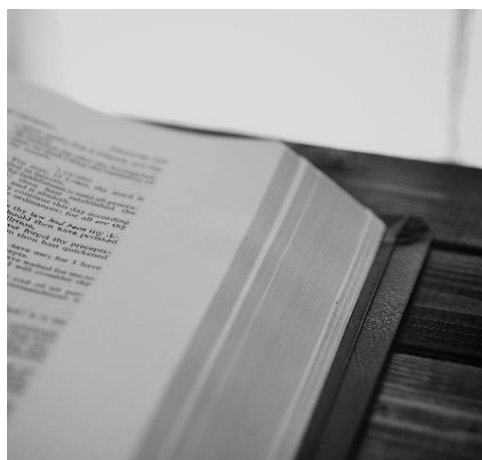
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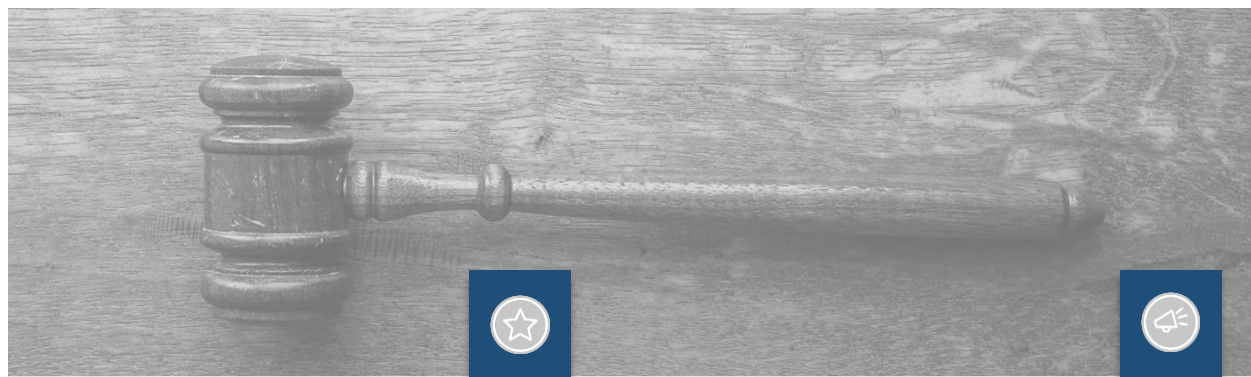


**EUROJUST**

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- Your contribution
- Zooming in: 'Criminal Justice in the Digital Age' event, 10.10.2019
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## Foreword by the European Commission

Dear reader,

The Digital Criminal Justice project that has been started is an important initiative for many reasons. The main one is that we need the prosecution authorities of the Member States to be able to communicate quickly and efficiently with each other and with Eurojust when it supports them in their investigations of serious cross-border crime. This affects us all, and Eurojust is uniquely placed to provide the support national authorities need.

But neither national authorities nor Eurojust can work properly if they do not have up-to-date tools at their disposal to send and receive information. National prosecutors need to be able to easily request Eurojust's assistance and get a quick response. All this means that the time has come to see how we can modernise the current approach, and create simple, reliable and trustworthy digital tools to make sure that European and national authorities cooperate as well as possible.

This work is not limited to Eurojust alone – its aim is to look at the wider perspective of digital tools needed for effective criminal justice systems, and how these can be supported both politically and financially at the European level. This is why I think this initiative is particularly important for all professionals working in criminal justice. I am confident that we can make a concrete contribution on this issue, which will set the agenda for the years ahead. I would therefore encourage all of you to actively participate and share your ideas so that we can ensure that the next generation of digital justice systems will meet your requirements.

**Věra Jourová,**  
**Commissioner for Justice,**  
**Consumers and Gender**  
**Equality**



## Foreword by the President of Eurojust

Dear reader,

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Cross-border Digital Criminal Justice. This study represents an important milestone, not just for Eurojust but for thousands of prosecutors across the continent and beyond. For many years now, European prosecutors have been working with systems that were not designed to exchange information with their colleagues abroad or with Eurojust. At the same time, Eurojust's own information system still heavily relies on manual data entry and does not connect to other judicial databases.

If we want to increase our chances of bringing criminals to justice, modernising the way in which we share judicial information and evidence is not a luxury but a bare necessity. Prosecutors need to know if their colleagues across the border are investigating the same suspect, if there is a link to a larger criminal or terrorist network, or if there is evidence available abroad that might help them to secure a conviction.

The study that we are now conducting will help us translate this vision for the future of judicial cooperation into real, tangible measures. I hope that this newsletter will inspire you to share your thoughts and ideas on the matter, because the needs and expectations of our stakeholders will always remain the driving force behind this project. I very much look forward to the results of the study, but above anything else I look forward to the day when European prosecutors are finally equipped with the tools they need to better protect our fellow European citizens.

**Ladislav Hamran,**  
**President of Eurojust**





# Introduction to the Cross-border Digital Criminal Justice project

## Context

Information and evidence sharing between judicial authorities of EU Member States is crucial to effectively investigate cross-border criminal cases. Based on a note presented by Eurojust, Member States discussion in the Council has acknowledged the need to further enable information exchange under the concept of Digital Criminal Justice and provide the necessary support to the judicial community in order to do so.

A fast, reliable and secure IT infrastructure is hence required, which should be easily accessible, user-friendly, swift, secure (encrypted), automated and interoperable between national authorities, Eurojust and other Justice and Home Affairs agencies.

Currently, there is no structured and integrated information system to support operational exchanges between judges and prosecutors at

EU level. Appropriate tools are lacking to tackle serious cross-border crime and to enhance further the cooperation among involved national and EU entities.

This results in absence of real-time case-related information, which prevents identification of connected cases being investigated in more than one jurisdiction, and conflicts of jurisdiction, especially in cross-border cases. Additionally, prosecutors have to manually send case-related information to Eurojust which affects overall operational efficiency.

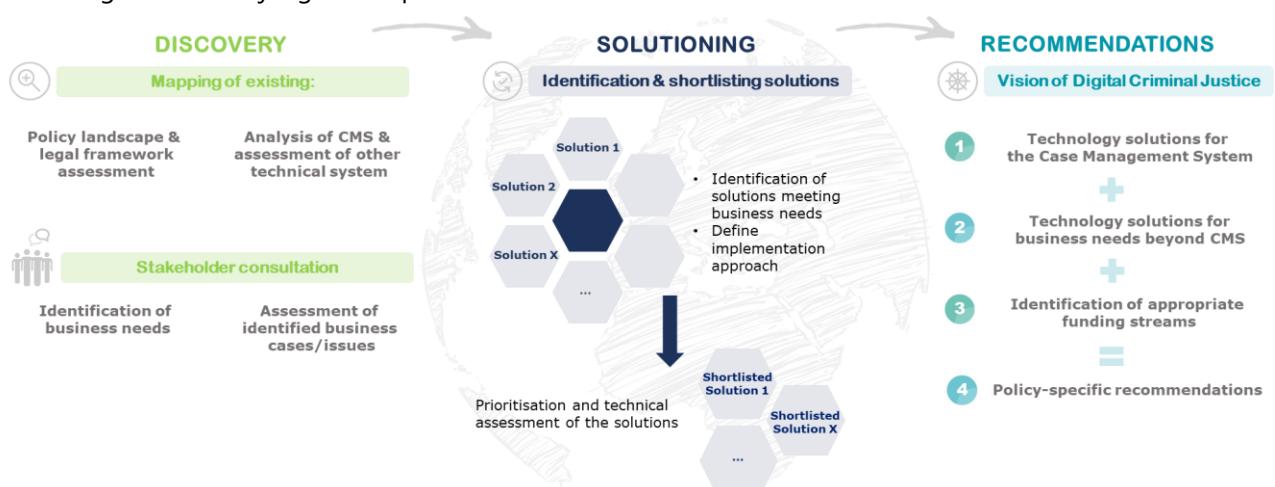
## The project

This project aims to assess the business needs of the EU judiciary community working on criminal cases, and exploring relevant technological solutions.

In particular, the project has the following objectives:

1. Analysis of the current policy landscape within the Member States and at EU level (status quo)
2. Assessment of the business needs of the stakeholders (problem definition)
3. Identification and detailed examination of the most promising possible solutions
4. Preparation of appropriate recommendations

The figure below displays the study logic behind this project.



## Timeline and milestones

The project started in July 2019 and will last until February 2020. Throughout the three phases, the study team will conduct several data collection activities in order to gather the necessary insights for the successful completion of the project.

Besides the key activities and events displayed in the timeline below, there are three main milestones:

1. **First Interim Report:** this first deliverable on the revamp of Eurojust's Case Management System will provide initial estimations concerning the costs of the revamped Eurojust's Case Management System;
2. **Second Interim Report:** this second deliverable will contain:
  - An assessment of the policy environment
  - A thorough assessment of the business needs of judicial practitioners
  - Possible scenarios and specific solutions to be further investigated
3. **Final Report:** this last deliverable will provide a comparative assessment and a ranking list of the different initiatives analysed, together with the priority, their respective effectiveness and costs efficiency, also indicating the expected timeframes for their development and any risk they might entail.

All deliverables will be available in our [Confluence Space](#).

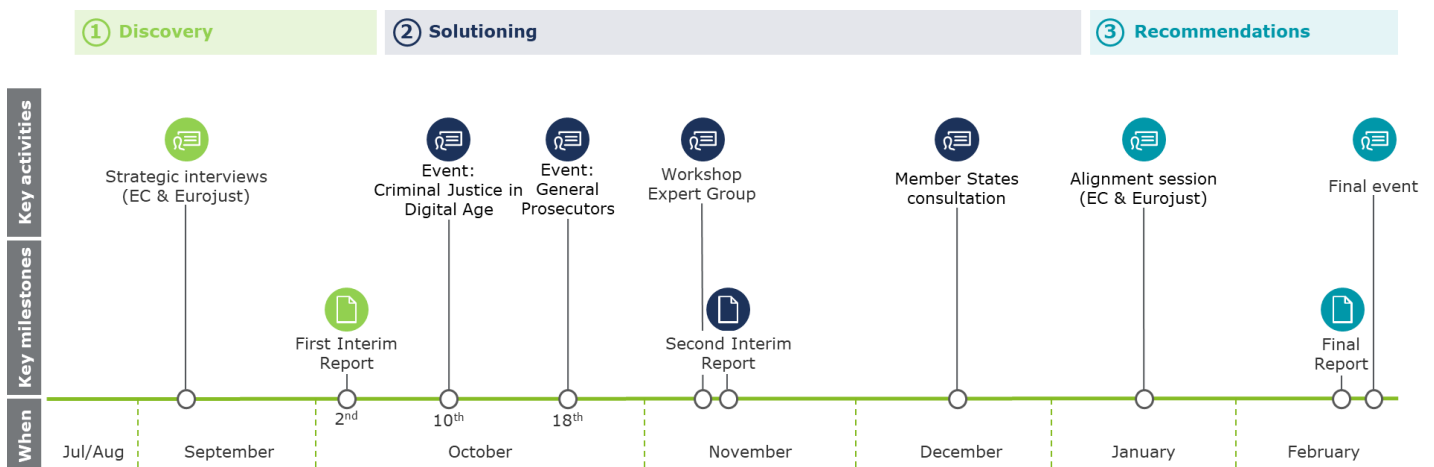
## Where we are today

We are currently finalising the first phase of our study. This implies that we have conducted several strategic studies at the European Commission and Eurojust.

In addition, we have completed a thorough desk research to map and assess all relevant documentation to the project. This exercise has allowed us to sharpen our understanding on the legal and policy environment.

Lastly, we have conducted a first high level costs assessment exercise on the revamp of Eurojust's Case Management System. This preliminary analysis will be further fine-tuned in the coming months, following stakeholder consultation via different tools.

Based on the previous, we prepared our First Interim Report.





## Your contribution

### Our Confluence Space

In order to ensure a seamless communication with this community, an online platform has been set up: our Confluence Space.

You will find a brief introduction to the study – section **About the project**

Through this platform you will be able to have a direct access to the deliverables produced in the framework: electronic newsletters, and final promotional video clip - section **What's new?**

You will have access to the main outcomes of the study, i.e. the three reports (First Interim Report, Second Interim Report, and Final Report - section **Deliverables**

You will be able to share your experience and exchange your point of view with us and other practitioners - section **Forum**

Feedback is a gift and we are happy to receive yours! A permanent feedback form will be available in the platform - section **Give us your feedback**

Useful information is available explaining how to use the Confluence Space – section **User Guidelines**

How can I access the Confluence Space?

- Create your personal EU login ([here](#))
- Request access to the Confluence Space by sending an email to [EU-DIGITAL-CRIMINAL-JUSTICE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EU-DIGITAL-CRIMINAL-JUSTICE@ec.europa.eu)
- We will then grant you access
- Enjoy our Confluence Space [here!](#)

## Upcoming events

Besides the Confluence Space, a range of events will be organised. These will bring the perfect opportunity to meet and exchange knowledge.

You will be informed about the upcoming events both via the Confluence Space or the newsletter. A short description (i.e. topic, audience), together with the date and location of the event will be provided.

### ***First Event: Criminal Justice in the Digital Age***

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Location:** Brussels

**Audience:** Judicial practitioners, EU policy makers, civil society, IT and other experts, media

**Description:** Eurojust, in partnership with the Finnish Presidency, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission, is organising an event on ***Criminal Justice in the Digital Age***.

### ***Second Event: 14th Meeting of the Consultative Forum of Prosecutors General and Director of Public Prosecutions of the Member States of the EU***

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Location:** Eurojust Premises, Den Haag

**Audience:** Prosecutors General of the EU Member States

**Description:** The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Forum is co-chaired by the Romanian and Finnish Presidencies, in cooperation with Eurojust. The focus of this year meeting is on "How to ensure criminal justice in cyberspace and How to cooperate in the digital world", with a particular focus on the new legislative package on e-evidence and on digital criminal justice.



# Zooming in: Criminal Justice in the Digital Age

## Description of the event

**Digitalisation** is rapidly transforming our world and profoundly affects the **criminal justice field** in the European Union, both positively and negatively. It is a catalyst to cross-border criminal activity, including terrorism and cybercrime, but also offers a wealth of new opportunities to effectively fight crime.

Together with partners worldwide, Europe has to **define and adopt solutions for both law enforcement and judicial authorities**, to remain effective in the pursuit of justice as part of an effective security chain.

This event will provide an opportunity to reflect on the **needs for digitalisation of criminal justice cooperation** in Europe and **possible solutions at hand**. Judicial **practitioners** will explain the opportunities and challenges in using digital tools in cross-border investigations in concrete cases, including examples of **cybercrime** and **anti-mafia investigations**.

## Practicalities

Some **practical details** about the event:

**Timing:** 14:00-17:00

### Agenda:

- Opening session
- Keynote addresses
- Panel 1: How can we maximize the opportunities to make use of the data to ensure EU internal security?
- *Coffee break*
- Panel 2: How can prosecutors use digital tools to cooperate in cross-border investigations, without compromising sensitive data?
- Digital Criminal Justice study presentation
- Wrap-up



## Contact

### Stay in touch

We will provide you this newsletter every two months via our [Confluence Space](#).

For any enquiry related to the Digital Criminal Justice, please provide your feedback in our [Confluence Space](#).

### Follow us

Additional information on our organisations can be found here:



Follow the European Commission on social media:



Follow Eurojust on social media:

