Cross-border Digital Criminal Justice

Third Newsletter
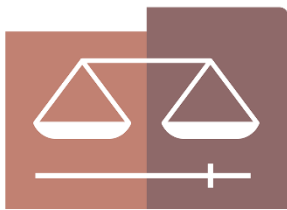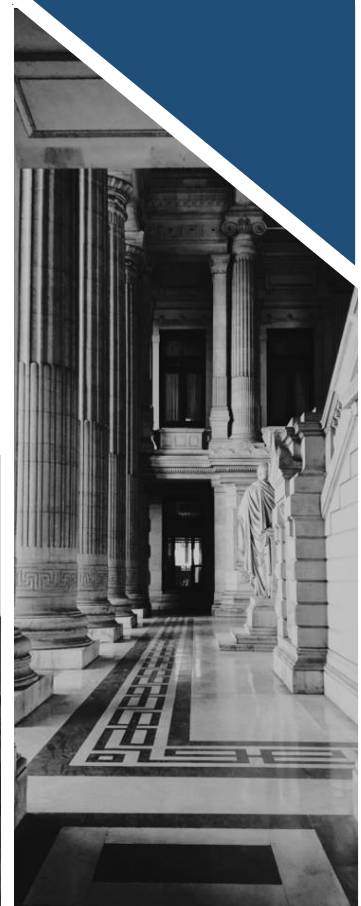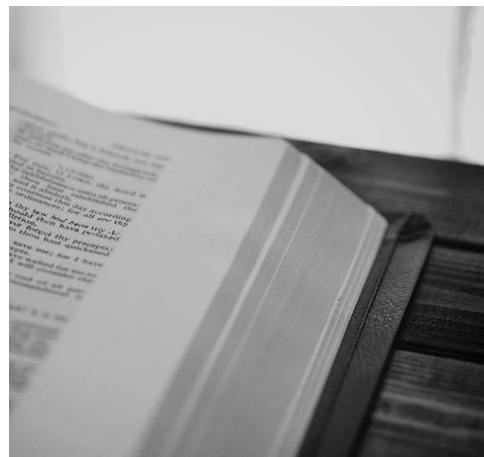
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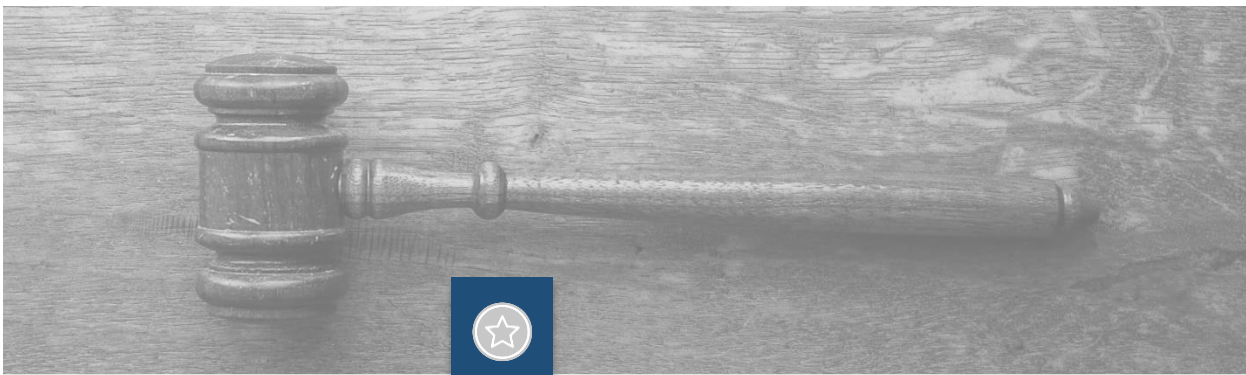
Dear reader,

This third newsletter on the Cross-border Digital Criminal Justice project brings you information regarding the activities conducted since the previous edition (November - December 2019).

Where we are today

The study's second phase is now closed. Therein, data was collected through: **strategic interviews** with various services of the European Commission, Eurojust, Europol, eu-LISA, Frontex and the EPPO; an **online web-based survey**; as well as **field visits** (Croatia, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and Romania) and **phone interviews** (France and Italy).

Besides these activities, an **Interim Report** was produced and an **Expert Group meeting** was held in Brussels on 13-14 January 2020. The key findings of this document and the meeting are provided below (section – Key findings and takeaways, p. 3).

The project is now in its third phase, during which the study team is preparing the **Final Report**, which will include an in-depth assessment of the key solutions for the implementation of Cross-border Digital Criminal Justice.

The assessment will focus on the following dimensions: technical, security, legal and data protection, as well as a funding plan. Based on this analysis, the Final Report will provide a set of **recommendations**, including a roadmap for the implementation of the solutions.

The Final Report will be discussed in detail during the second Expert Group meeting to be held in Brussels towards the end of April 2020.

The figure presented below provides the timeline of past and future activities on Cross-border Digital Criminal Justice.
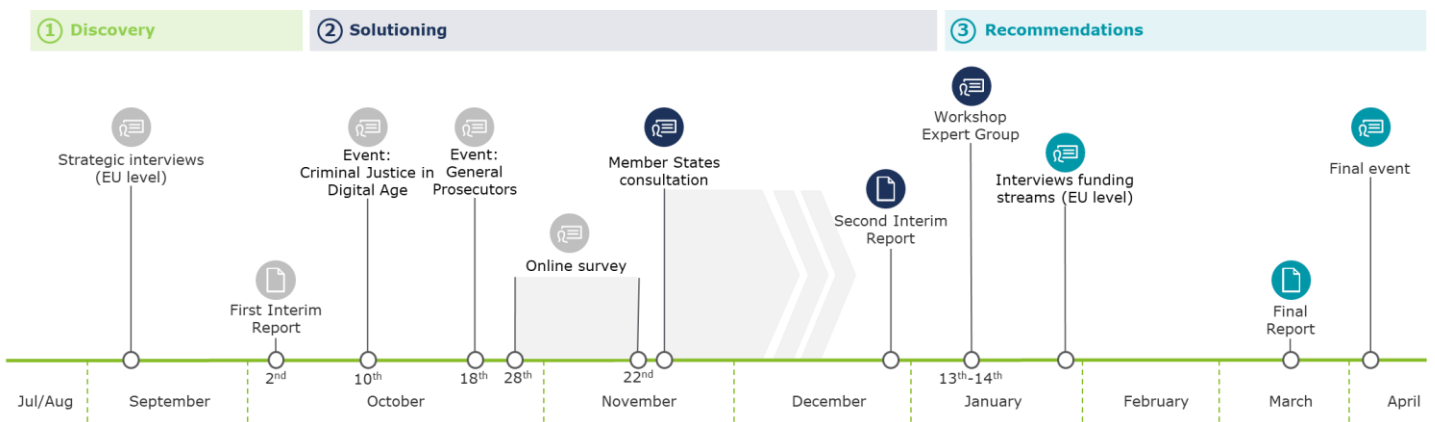
Key findings and takeaways

Second Interim Report

The goal of the Second Interim Report was to identify and summarise the business needs and constraints of the key stakeholders, whilst providing an outline of the possible high level (IT or other) solutions to cover these business needs and address the challenges mapped. The report also assessed the status quo of the policy and legal background to adequately highlight the business needs and establish correlated solutions.

The business needs for the five core stakeholders in the project (national prosecutors/investigative judges, national authorities, EU agencies and EU bodies, Eurojust, and JIT members) are listed in the report. Overarching business needs include: the access to information, interoperability, secure exchange of information, and data quality and management.

A number of potential solutions in response to the aforementioned business needs were identified. The solutions were categorised in components of a **conceptual architecture** for the Cross-Border Digital Criminal Justice ecosystem, which are all presented in the report. The determined components and its corresponding solutions were presented to the Expert Group meeting.

The Second Interim Report is available in the Confluence Space (Deliverables section).

Expert Group meeting

The first **Expert Group meeting on Cross-border Digital Criminal Justice** took place on the 13-14 January 2020 in Brussels. Numerous stakeholders were invited, including national experts from the Member States, DG JUST, DG HOME, Eurojust, Frontex, OLAF, EDPS, Europol and the EPPO. The intent of this Expert Group meeting was mainly to debate the business needs and the identified solutions described in the Second Interim Report.

During the first day, the business needs of the different stakeholder groups were presented to the audience for discussion and validation.

The conceptual architecture was explained to the participants, with attention for its three main domains: the external domain (including a JIT Collaboration Platform, the EU systems ECRIS-TCN and SIS II, and EU agencies and bodies), the Eurojust domain (core CMS, JIT Admin Portal, EJN Criminal tools, and the Action Days collaboration platform) and the re-useable architectural components (CEF building blocks, communication channels, and an integration layer).

The second day consisted of the presentation of the identified solutions, which included: the extended e-Evidence Digital Exchange System, hit/no hit & exchange of information among the relevant EU agencies/ bodies, a Judicial One-Stop-Shop portal, the JIT Collaboration Platform, training platform, re-designed CMS of Eurojust, JIT Admin Portal, extended Judicial Atlas, Action Days collaboration platform, secure communication channels, CEF building blocks, and integration layer.

The use of technological innovations was also discussed through three specific use-cases: the exchange of electronic evidence using Blockchain, registering cases into the CMS using Robotic and Intelligent Automation, and creating CIFs using Artificial Intelligence.

The meeting allowed to gather feedback of the stakeholders and to establish their priorities. Both elements will feed into the Final Report of the study. The presentations used during the Expert Group meeting can be found in the Confluence Space (What's new section).
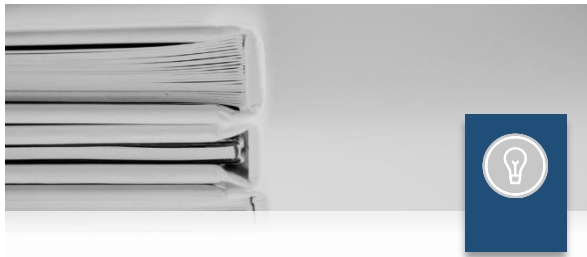
Next steps

Final Report

The last deliverable of the project is the Final Report, which is still work in progress. The comments and feedback on the previous deliverables, the interviews with stakeholders on the EU and national levels, the replies to the online survey as well as the findings of the Expert Group meeting form the solid base for the final conclusions and recommendations of the Cross-border Digital Criminal Justice project.

Based on the feedback received from the Expert Group meeting, the report will focus on seven key solutions:

- Secure communication channels
- Evolution of the e-Evidence Digital Exchange System
- Re-designed CMS (which will include the JIT Admin Portal, Counter-terrorism Register, and the Action Days collaboration platform)
- JIT Collaboration Platform
- Hit/no hit & exchange of information among the EU agencies/bodies
- Communication layer
- Judicial Record Index

The report will present the assessment of these solutions from a technical, security, legal, data protection and funding perspectives.

The Final Report will be publicly available in the Confluence Space in March.

Final event

During the project's closing event – the second Expert Group meeting, the outcomes of the project will be presented to the audience, including the conceptual architecture, solutions, and recommendations.

This meeting will take place in Brussels towards the end of April 2020.

Contact
Share your experience

As a stakeholder involved in cross-border cooperation in criminal justice, you are invited to share your experience and views on an online platform: the Cross-border Digital Criminal Justice Confluence Space.

How can one 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
- We will then grant you access.
- Access the Confluence Space here.

What can be found on the platform?

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

Through the platform you will be able to have a direct access to materials produced during the study, such as all electronic newsletters, under **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) under the **Deliverables** section. The Second Interim Report is available, and your feedback and views would be much appreciated.

You will be able to share your experience and exchange your point of view with us and other practitioners in the platform's **Forum**.

In addition, a permanent feedback form is available in the section **Give us your feedback**.

Finally, useful information is available explaining how to use the Confluence Space in section **User Guidelines.**

Stay in touch

We share this newsletter every two months via the [Confluence Space](#).

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

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