



Financial Assistance to Joint Investigation Teams for urgent and/or unforeseen actions falling outside the scope of the regular Eurojust JIT funding scheme with call for proposals

INVITATION

1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022

JITs Network Secretariat

22 December 2021

Version 2

1. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

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 (the Eurojust Regulation).

Eurojust is providing financial and logistical support to JITs through the [regular funding cycle](#) comprised of eight calls for proposals, which are published throughout each financial year. This invitation aims at providing targeted financing to urgent and/or unforeseen activities of JITs that are of a distinctly operational nature, outside the eight calls for proposals, in line with the Article 64(2) of the Eurojust Regulation. This invitation addresses an identified need to receive financial support for JIT-related operational activities that do not fall within one of these eight calls for proposals of the regular funding cycle, due to their urgent and/or unforeseen nature.

2. BUDGET ALLOCATION

The budget for financial support available under this invitation shall be sourced from the Eurojust JITs Funding budget allocation (€1,942,000¹ for the year 2022) which covers all of Eurojust's available JITs Funding schemes.

Eurojust reserves the right not to award all the available budget.

3. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- a) The funding application shall be submitted at the latest five (5) working days² before the start of the planned action(s), subject to provision b) hereunder. Applications will be acknowledged by Eurojust by e-mail, indicating the date of receipt. During periods covered by Eurojust public holidays³, the acknowledgement of receipt of the application will be sent out on the first working day following the holiday. Applicants need to be aware that Eurojust will not be able to process applications nor to award grants during Eurojust public holidays. Hence, applicants are invited to consider this when submitting their application.
- b) The funding application may be submitted less than five (5) working days before the start of the action, provided that the applicant can demonstrate the need for starting the action prior to the signature and communication of the Award Decision.
- c) The fully completed application shall be submitted using the official Application Form and related Budget Estimate (in EUR) published on the Eurojust [website](#) (section "Urgent funding").

¹ [Single Programming Document](#)

² The count of 5 working days begins on the day of acknowledgment of receipt of the application. Applications received on working day after 16:00 (CET) may be acknowledged on the next working day.

³ The public holidays endorsed by Eurojust for 2022 are as follows: 14-15 April, 18 April, 27 April, 9 May, 26-27 May, 6 June, 15 August, 1-2 November, 23-30 December.

- d) The application shall be signed and each page initialled by the appointed representative prior to submission.
- e) The application shall be drafted in one of the EU official languages. English is preferred in order to facilitate the evaluation procedure.
- f) The application shall 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. 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.
- g) The maximum amount available per application shall be EUR 8,000 excluding co-financing of 5%.
- h) Only one application for urgent action(s) to be implemented during a fourteen (14) day action period shall be submitted on behalf of a JIT.
- i) Foreseen action(s) shall not be covered by any other Funding Award Decision.
- j) Applications shall be submitted, together with any other documentation where necessary, by e-mail to jits@eurojust.europa.eu.

4. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

4.1. Exclusions from participation and exclusion from award

The applicant will be excluded from participating in the grant award procedure and from the grant award if (s)he is in any of the situations referred to in Articles 136 of the EU Financial Regulation⁴, i.e. one of the following situations:

- a) the person or entity is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, it is in an arrangement with creditors, its business activities are suspended, or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under Union or national law;
- b) it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the person or entity is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;
- c) it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the person or entity is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the person or entity belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility

⁴ 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

where such conduct denotes wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:

- i. fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of eligibility or selection criteria or in the implementation of the legal commitment;
 - ii. entering into agreement with other persons or entities with the aim of distorting competition;
 - iii. violating intellectual property rights;
 - iv. attempting to influence the decision-making of the authorising officer responsible during the award procedure;
 - v. attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the award procedure;
- d) it has been established by a final judgment that the person or entity is guilty of any of the following:
- i. fraud, within the meaning of Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵ and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995⁶;
 - ii. corruption, as defined in Article 4(2) of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 or active corruption within the meaning of Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 May 1997⁷, or conduct referred to in Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA⁸, or corruption as defined in other applicable laws;
 - iii. conduct related to a criminal organisation as referred to in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA⁹; EN L 193/94 Official Journal of the European Union 30.7.2018;
 - iv. money laundering or terrorist financing within the meaning of Article 1(3), (4) and (5) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁰;

⁵ Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

⁶ OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

⁷ OJ C 195, 25.6.1997, p. 1.

⁸ Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA of 22 July 2003 on combating corruption in the private sector (OJ L 192, 31.7.2003, p. 54).

⁹ Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA of 24 October 2008 on the fight against organised crime (OJ L 300, 11.11.2008, p. 42).

¹⁰ Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing, amending Regulation (EU) No 648/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Directive 2006/70/EC (OJ L 141, 5.6.2015, p. 73).

- v. terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA¹¹, respectively, or inciting, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit such offences, as referred to in Article 4 of that Decision;
 - vi. child labour or other offences concerning trafficking in human beings as referred to in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council¹²;
- e) the person or entity has shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations in the implementation of a legal commitment financed by the budget which has:
- i. led to the early termination of a legal commitment;
 - ii. led to the application of liquidated damages or other contractual penalties; or
 - iii. been discovered by an authorising officer, OLAF or the Court of Auditors, or the European Public Prosecutor's Office¹³ following checks, audits or investigations;
- f) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the person or entity has committed an irregularity within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95¹⁴;
- g) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the person or entity has created an entity in a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or any other legal obligations in the jurisdiction of its registered office, central administration or principal place of business;
- h) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that an entity has been created with the intent referred to in point (g).

4.2. A financial contribution will not be granted to an applicant who is a natural or legal person:

- a) who is a member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of the person or entity referred to in Article 135(2) of the EU Financial Regulation, or who has powers of representation, decision or control with regard to that person or entity, and who is in one or more of the situations referred to in points (c) to (h) of paragraph 1 of this Article;
- b) that assumes unlimited liability for the debts of the person or entity referred to in Article 135(2) of the EU Financial Regulation, and who is in one or more of the situations referred to in point (a) or (b) of paragraph 1 of this Article;
- c) who is essential for the award or for the implementation of the legal commitment and who is in one or more of the situations referred to in points (c) to (h) of paragraph 1.

¹¹ Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA of 13 June 2002 on combating terrorism (OJ L 164, 22.6.2002, p. 3).

¹² Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA (OJ L 101, 15.4.2011, p. 1).

¹³ Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office.

¹⁴ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

Administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation.

The applicant shall, by way of signing the Agreement on the application form, declare that none of the entities or participants to the JIT fall under one of the situations listed within the exclusion criteria.

5. ELIGIBILITY

5.1. Eligible actions

- a) Through these grants, support may be provided to the following actions:
- meetings of the JIT, and/ or participation in investigative measures carried out in the territory of another State;
 - interpretation during activities of the JIT, including during investigative measures, and translation of evidentiary material or procedural or case-related documents;
 - specialist expertise costs incurred for the purpose of the JIT, and
 - cross-border transportation of seized items, evidentiary material or procedural or case-related documents.
- b) This financial support may be provided for action(s) that is/are urgent and/or unforeseen; and that could not be included within a funding application form during a regular published call for proposals due to justifiable reasons, such as:
- strict deadlines within the investigation as stipulated by national laws (e.g. custody deadlines);
 - possible risks (e.g. damage of evidence) and/or threats (e.g. to witnesses);
 - other duly justified circumstances dependent on external factors (e.g. joint action days that have to take place urgently).

5.2. Eligible costs

- a) Eligible costs related to these actions shall be the following:
- travel and accommodation costs,
 - interpretation and translation costs;
 - specialist expertise costs; and
 - transportation costs for transferring items.
- b) Eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary shall meet all of the following criteria. They shall be:
- incurred exclusively in relation to cross-border operational activities of the JIT;
 - incurred during the duration of the action;
 - indicated in the estimated overall budget;¹⁵

¹⁵ As provided by the applicant within the Excel overview document, required by Eurojust as part of the application process.

- necessary for the implementation of the action(s) which is/are the subject of the grant;
- identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the beneficiary is established and according to the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary;
- reasonable, justified, and comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency;
- complying with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation.

5.3. Starting date and duration of the action(s)

- a) The planned action(s) shall be completed within the action period of fourteen (14) calendar days. The applicant shall determine the start date of the action period in the application form. Any costs incurred before or after the fourteen (14)-day action period shall not be eligible. No extension of this action period shall be possible.
- b) A grant may be awarded (as indicated under point 7 Award Criteria) for an action that has already begun only where the applicant can demonstrate the necessity of starting the action before the Award Decision. In all instances, the starting date of the action cannot be before the date of submission of an application.
- c) Grants shall not be awarded for actions that are already completed as of the date of the submission of the application.

5.4. Eligibility criteria

- a) The applicant shall prove the existence of a JIT by providing a copy of the valid JIT agreement, edited to exclude any operational personal data and including possible extensions; unless a copy of the signed JIT agreement and an extension covering the action period have already been provided.
- b) National members, their deputies or their assistants shall be invited to participate in any JIT involving their Member State and for which Eurojust funding is provided. Financial support is subject to such invitation. A Eurojust case ID number shall be required and thus indicated in the application.

6. SELECTION CRITERIA

- a) The application for financial assistance must be submitted by the JIT leader(s) or JIT member(s) of an EU Member State with delegated authority, in his/her professional capacity, to demonstrate the professional competencies required to participate in a JIT.
- b) 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).

7. AWARD CRITERIA

- a) Applications which meet the requirements of eligibility and selection criteria as mentioned above, shall be assessed against the following award criteria:
 - justification of the urgency of the action(s) in the context of the investigation;
 - reasons put forward as to why funding could not be requested through the regular funding procedure; and
 - justification for submitting the application less than five (5) working days before the start of the action, where applicable.
- b) Applications, which do not adequately justify the urgency of the action(s), shall not be considered for the award of a grant and shall subsequently be rejected. Funding for actions foreseen in the application which was rejected may be sought again provided that new circumstances of operational nature occurred.
- c) Eurojust shall complete the evaluation procedure within five (5) working days of the date of acknowledgement of receipt of the application.
- d) The Award Decision shall be communicated to the JIT by email to the contact person mentioned in the application.

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT

- a) The actions planned in the awarded application shall be completed within the action period as indicated in the Award Decision.
- b) Costs incurred outside the action period shall not be accepted for reimbursement.
- c) Costs related to activities different from those foreseen in the awarded application shall not be accepted for reimbursement.
- d) If the application is successful, a specified amount shall be reserved pending the submission of a request for reimbursement. The reserved funds shall remain available until the deadline fixed for submitting a request for reimbursement (one month following the last day of the action period). No reimbursement shall be made if the request for reimbursement arrives after the deadline, except in duly justified cases of force majeure.
- e) Beneficiaries shall utilise the awarded funds for cost categories; transfers between cost categories shall not be permitted.
- f) A request for reimbursement shall be submitted, together with the supporting evidence by a competent authority of a State involved in the JIT. The relevant reimbursement claim form and financial templates (available on Eurojust's [website](#) - section "Urgent funding") shall be used and sent with all required supporting documents by e-mail to jits@eurojust.europa.eu.
- g) The documents shall be sent at the latest within one month of the last day of the action period.
- h) The claims shall be fully completed, signed and dated by the representative authority.
- i) Reimbursement shall be suspended if the required set of supporting documents has not been submitted. No reimbursement shall be made if the clarification or additional information required is not provided within the set deadline.

- j) Reimbursement shall be made within a maximum of 60 days from the deadline for submission of claims, excluding suspension periods.
- k) Reimbursement shall be made exclusively to public institutions of States involved in the JIT, not to individuals.

8.1. Supporting documents for reimbursement

- a) Each claims for the reimbursement of costs shall be supported by documentary evidence.
- b) Documents shall be:
 - originals; or
 - copies with an official declaration that the originals have been filed with the organisation for internal accounting purposes and are available for audit purposes at the premises of the organisation.
- c) The following documents shall be provided:
 - duly completed Reimbursement Claim Form, including the Report on Funded Actions and relevant annexes;
 - travel and accommodation costs: any set of documents allowing confirmation of the implementation of the actions and the following details: class and means of transportation, actual costs of the travel and/or accommodation, location of the action, duration of the action, and number of participants;
 - interpretation and translation costs: the invoices of the contractor, including, specifically, the amount, the start and end dates of the actual service provided, the source and target language(s), the number of words/hours/pages, the rate (per word, hour, page) and the VAT, if applicable; and
 - transportation costs for transferring items: the invoices of the contractor, including, specifically, the start and end dates of the actual service provided and a description of the transferred items.
- d) For each cost, complete supporting documents - including proof of payment (through bank account or cash) - shall be kept at the premises of the organisation for internal accounting purposes and made available for checks and audits for three years following reimbursement. Eurojust reserves the right, upon receipt of the request for reimbursement or at a later stage, to require the submission of this set of documents in specific situations.
- e) In the event in which beneficiaries are not able to participate in operational activities due to reasons related to force majeure, expenses related to travel or accommodation may be considered as eligible for reimbursement in the framework of the JIT funding programme if:
 - they could not be cancelled and reimbursed by the provider; and
 - they could not be reimbursed by another source (e.g. an insurance provider).

The claimant shall provide a declaration of honour confirming that the planned action could not be implemented due to force majeure and a proof that the beneficiaries took all the necessary steps to limit the claimed expenses (e.g. form/email to provider and to travel insurance asking for reimbursement of expenses).

9. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- a) VAT is not eligible for reimbursement.
- b) To comply with the co-financing principle, Eurojust shall reimburse 95% of the total eligible costs. This means that the amount stipulated in the Award Decision shall be reimbursed fully only in the event that this amount constitutes 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.
- c) Travel and accommodation costs shall be reimbursed on the basis of the actual costs, not exceeding the ceilings established for each category, following the principles set out in Article 186 of Financial Regulation:
- i. Ceilings for travel:
 - return flight to and from EU Member States - EUR 460 per person;
 - return flight to and from non-EU countries within Europe¹⁶ - EUR 560 per person;
 - return flight to and from non-EU countries outside Europe - EUR 1450 per person;
 - return trip by car (EU/non-EU) - EUR 180 per vehicle¹⁷;
 - return trip by train/bus (EU/non-EU) - EUR 380 per person;
 - return trip by boat (EU/non-EU) - EUR 140 per person.
 - ii. Ceilings for accommodation:
 - ceilings applicable to this funding mechanism published on the Eurojust [website](#) (section “Urgent funding”) will apply.
- d) As a general rule, flight costs shall be reimbursed for economy fares up to the applicable ceiling from the city of departure to the destination. Flight costs for business fares shall be reimbursed if the traveller proves that there was no other flight at the time of booking or that such flight was cheaper than an economy flight.
- e) Travel by train shall be reimbursed for direct second class train fare from the city of departure to the destination and up to the applicable ceiling. First class train fare shall be reimbursed if the traveller proves that a second class train fare was not available or is cheaper than a second class train fare.
- f) Eligible costs shall relate to costs incurred by:
- JIT leaders and/or JIT members;
 - other national public authorities participating in the cross-border operational activities of the JIT;

¹⁶ Incl. Iceland

¹⁷ 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.).

- third parties mandated by JIT leaders and/or JIT members to participate in the cross-border operational activities of the JIT;
 - victims and witnesses in relation with investigative measures conducted by the JIT.
- g) Only travel costs relating to specific and clearly identifiable activities shall be eligible. Travel to destinations other than those the members of the JIT are located shall be shown to be relevant to the JIT.
- h) No reimbursement shall be made for domestic and local travel (i.e. travel costs incurred by persons participating in JIT activities within one State only).
- i) Domestic accommodation costs (i.e. accommodation costs incurred by persons participating in JIT activities within their own State) may only be reimbursed if related to a JIT activity with the actual participation of the other participating State(s).
- j) Actual costs of interpretation and translation – including travel and other associated costs for interpreters and translators – may be reimbursed.
- k) Actual costs of cross-border transport of seized items, evidentiary material, procedural or case-related documents may be reimbursed.

10. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- a) The conditions enumerated in this Invitation shall apply to the Financial Assistance to Joint Investigation Teams for urgent and/or unforeseen actions falling outside the scope of the regular Eurojust JIT funding scheme with call for proposal and constitute an integral part of the application. The provision of financial assistance shall take the form of a grant.
- b) The submission of an application shall not result in any entitlement to funds.
- c) In the event of funds being awarded to the applicant, the completed application and the Award Decision shall constitute a grant agreement between Eurojust and the applicant.
- d) JITs involving at least one Member State shall be eligible to receive funding. Third States that are parties to a JIT involving one or more Member States shall be eligible for funding.
- e) Participants in a JIT shall not be eligible for reimbursement if they are participants from EU bodies/agencies (e.g. Eurojust, Europol, OLAF).
- f) Eurojust shall not fund attendance at Europol meetings under the Eurojust financial support to JITs programme.
- g) The applicant agrees to perform an evaluation of the JIT at the time of or following its closure and to submit a completed JIT evaluation form to Eurojust. The Evaluation form, as well as guidance and support to carry out the evaluation, can be found on Eurojust's [website](#).
- h) The applicant agrees that Eurojust may use the information it receives, if edited to prevent identification of any person, for analysis (including the evaluation of a JIT) and dissemination to interested parties. To prevent double funding of the same costs and protect the financial interests of the European Union, exchange of relevant information with EU institutions, agencies and bodies may take place.

- i) Eurojust shall notify applicants of any refusal of an application or any decision to terminate financial assistance. Such refusal or termination shall not be subject to compensation. These conditions are subject to change and revision at the discretion of Eurojust.
- j) Activities already funded under another EU programme are not eligible for financing.
- k) Eurojust reserves the right to suspend, terminate or cancel the grant agreement, reduce the grant amount, or seek recovery, should any of the following situations arise after the applicant has been given an opportunity to present his/her observations:
 - if the JIT agreement has not been extended for the corresponding action period and if it has been confirmed by the applicant that no money will be claimed under the grant agreement;
 - if amounts exceeding the financial ceilings set out in the grant agreement have been paid;
 - if amounts paid in accordance with the grant agreement are higher than the actual costs incurred by the applicant for the action or if the operating budget reveals a surplus ex post;
 - if the applicant has been unable to prove his/her costs as per these terms and conditions;
 - in the event of false declarations and/or claims made by the applicant;
 - if the same costs are financed twice by the European Union budget (double funding situation).

11. PUBLICITY

- a) Unless Eurojust requests or agrees otherwise, any communication or publication made by the beneficiaries of the JITs funding, whether done jointly or individually, that relates to the funded action, including at conferences, seminars or in any information or promotional materials (such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, in electronic form, etc.), shall:
 - indicate that the action has received funding from Eurojust; and
 - display the Eurojust [logo](#); additional information on the use of the logo is available on Eurojust's website.
- b) The obligation to display the Eurojust logo does not confer on the beneficiaries a right of exclusive use.
- c) Beneficiaries are invited to inform the Eurojust Corporate Communications Unit (communications@eurojust.europa.eu) when planning any communication action (press release, social media post, etc.) of the results or outcome of the case supported by the JIT.

12. AUDIT

- a) The Court of Auditors shall have the power of audit, on the basis of documents and on the spot, over all grant beneficiaries, contractors and subcontractors who have received Union funds from Eurojust.

- b) OLAF may carry out investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, in accordance with the provisions and procedures laid down in Regulation (EC) No 883/2013¹⁸ and Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96¹⁹, with a view to establishing whether there have been any irregularities affecting the financial interests of the Union in connection with expenditure funded by Eurojust.

13. DATA PROTECTION

The information contained in the application, once completed and submitted, and in any subsequent communication with the applicant, is treated by Eurojust as confidential, other than for budgetary control and auditing purposes, and will be processed in accordance with the applicable [Regulation 2018/1725](#)²⁰ and [Eurojust Data Protection Rules](#)²¹. For further details please consult [Data Protection Notice](#).

14. MEANS OF REDRESS (COMPLAINTS) – EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN

If, at any stage of the administrative treatment of grant applications, the persons or entities concerned consider that they have been affected by an instance of maladministration, they may, irrespective of any other means of redress, make a complaint to the European Ombudsman in accordance with Article 228(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and as provided by the Parliament Decision of 9 March 1994 on the regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties published in Official Journal L 113 of 4 May 1994.

¹⁸ Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999, (OJ L248, 18.9.2013, p.1)

¹⁹ Council Regulation (EURATOM, EC) N° 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p.2)

²⁰ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC.

²¹ Rules of Procedure on the Processing and Protection of Personal Data at Eurojust.