

Call for Proposals for Financial Assistance to Joint Investigation Teams (2026/5)

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/JHA¹ (the 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 total amount of **EUR 470 000** between **16 August 2026 and 15 November 2026**.
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, 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;
 - 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;
 - interpretation during activities of the JIT, including during investigative measures, and translation of evidentiary material or procedural or case-related documents;
 - cross-border transportation of seized items, evidentiary material, procedural or case-related documents;
 - specialist expertise costs incurred for the purpose of the JIT;
 - purchase of low-value equipment² to be used for the purpose of JIT activities; and

¹ OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 138 (as amended by Regulation (EU) 2022/838, OJ L 148, 31.5.2022, p. 1-5; and Regulation (EU) 2023/2131, OJ L, 11.10.2023, p. 1-14).

² "Low value equipment" is to be understood as defined in the applicable Terms and Conditions.

- hire of IT/electronic equipment and/or licences and software for the purposes of JIT activities.
5. Eligible costs related to these actions shall be the following:
- travel and accommodation costs (including domestic costs³);
 - interpretation (including during investigative measures) and translation costs (including of evidentiary material or procedural or case-related documents);
 - transportation costs for transferring items;
 - specialist expertise costs;
 - low-value equipment purchase costs;
 - IT/electronic equipment/licences/software hire costs; and
 - indirect costs (7%).
6. Travel and accommodation costs shall be reimbursed on the basis of the following unit costs, in accordance with the principles set out in Article 184 of the EU Financial Rules⁴:

Nature of travel/accommodation (*)	Applicable unit costs for <u>cross-border travel</u>	Applicable unit costs for <u>domestic travel</u> (distance exceeds 200 km per one-way journey)
Return flight within EU	EUR 280 per person	EUR 168 per person***
Return flight to/from/within non-EU countries	EUR 340 per person	EUR 168 per person***
Return flight to/from/within overseas countries/territories	EUR 880 per person	EUR 168 per person***
Return trip by car (**)	EUR 180 per vehicle(**)	EUR 108 per vehicle(**)
Return trip by train/bus	EUR 230 per person	EUR 138 per person
Return trip by boat	EUR 80 per person	EUR 48 per person
Accommodation	State-specific rate, according to the list published on Eurojust's	State-specific rate, according to the list published on Eurojust's

³ Domestic travel costs (i.e. travel costs incurred by persons involved 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). Such costs are eligible when the travel distance exceeds 200 km per one-way journey. No reimbursement will be made for any travel under 200 km per one-way journey.

Domestic accommodation costs (i.e. accommodation costs incurred by persons involved 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).

⁴ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024) (hereinafter "EU Financial Rules").

website (Reimbursement section).	website (Reimbursement section).
<p>(*) For the purposes of applying travel unit costs, both the point of departure and final destination shall be taken into account.</p> <p>(**) 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 shall be reimbursed on the basis of multiples of three passengers (with four to six passengers being reimbursed EUR 360, etc.).</p> <p>(***) All domestic return flights on the territory of EU Member State, non-EU countries and overseas countries shall be reimbursed on the basis of one unit rate EUR 168.</p> <p>Remark: in case the means of transport are combined (e.g. flight for one trip and train for the return trip), half of each unit cost shall be reimbursed.</p>	

7. The total amount requested for purchase of IT/electronic low-value equipment shall not exceed EUR 7,500 per application. The purchase cost shall be between EUR 75 and EUR 1 000 (excluding VAT costs) per equipment item.
8. Eurojust does not seek to finance the entirety of a JIT, but only those costs arising from the cross-border dimension of the investigation⁵.
9. 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.
10. Actions of JITs for which financial assistance is sought should take place between **16 August 2026 and 15 November 2026**.
11. 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 must be submitted via Eurojust's [Joint Investigation Teams Portal and electronic application system](#) at least two working days⁶ 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). The deadline for submission of a request for an extension within this Call is **11 November 2026**.

⁵ 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), and expenditure on office accommodation.

⁶ 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.

Submission of applications and admissibility criteria

12. Any application for financial assistance shall be submitted using Eurojust's [Joint Investigation Teams Portal and electronic application system](#)⁷, accessible from Eurojust's website (hereinafter referred to as the 'JITs-PS').
13. 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.
14. The application shall be complete - including description of the JIT, planned activities and foreseen costs.
15. 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 Eurojust⁸.
16. The application shall be received by Eurojust on the day of the deadline at the latest. Applications shall be acknowledged by Eurojust by e-mail, indicating the date of receipt.
17. 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 application of the JIT shall be accepted for further evaluation, and the other application(s) shall be rejected.
18. JITs are not allowed to be awarded a grant in two consecutive calls.
19. Applicants can seek support in the application process by sending an e-mail to 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

20. The applicant shall prove the existence of a JIT by providing a copy of the signed JIT agreement (edited to exclude any identifying data), including possible extensions⁹ (unless a

⁷ Should the applicant encounter technical difficulties with the electronic system, s/he should contact the JITs Network Secretariat at jits@eurojust.europa.eu.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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 shall 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

copy of the signed JIT agreement with an extension covering the action period of this call for proposals have already been provided for in a previous application).

21. 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.

Exclusion criteria

22. Persons and entities referred to in Article 137(2) of the EU Financial Rules shall be excluded from participating in Eurojust's JITs funding programme when they are in one of the situations referred to in Article 138 of the EU Financial Rules as follows:
 - a) a natural or legal person who is a member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of the person or entity referred to in Article 137(2) of the EU Financial Rules, or who has powers of representation, decision or control with regard to that person or entity, is in one or more of the situations referred to in paragraph 1, points (c) to (i), of Article 138 of the EU Financial Rules;
 - b) a natural or legal person that assumes unlimited liability for the debts of the person or entity referred to in Article 137(2) of the EU Financial Rules is in one or more of the situations referred to in paragraph 1, point (a) or (b), of Article 138 of the EU Financial Rules;
 - c) a natural person who is essential for the award or for the implementation of the legal commitment is in one or more of the situations referred to in paragraph 1, points (c) to (i), of Article 138 of the EU Financial Rules.
23. Alongside the verification by Eurojust *ex officio* of the exclusion criteria under Article 138 of the EU Financial Rules, by way of submitting the application, applicants implicitly declare that, up to their knowledge, none of the natural or legal persons (party or participants to the JIT) fall under one of the exclusion criteria of Article 138 of the EU Financial Rules.

Selection criteria

24. The application shall 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. 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).

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.

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.

Award criteria

25. Eligible applications shall be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee. Eligible applications shall be ranked, taking into account the following award criteria:
- 1) investigation of a terrorist offence, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, a crime identified as a priority in the [Council conclusions](#)¹⁰, 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;
 - 4) complexity of the JIT¹¹; and
 - 5) purpose of the actions and justification of estimates¹².
26. Each application is assessed on the merits of the requests and information contained therein. The application shall be assessed independently from any prior applications (including annexes) received within previous funding Calls for proposals. Therefore, applicants shall provide sufficient information for the Evaluation Committee to be able to make an informed assessment.
27. A maximum of 10 points can be awarded for each of the five criteria. Each application can receive a maximum total of 50 points. Proposals attaining an individual score of 2 points or less for criterion 4 or 5 will not be considered for the award of a grant.
28. Minimum amount of the co-funding (i.e. Eurojust contribution) shall be EUR 1.000. In case of applications requesting a grant in the amount lower than EUR 1.000, the requested amount in full might be awarded.
29. Eurojust shall 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

30. The deadline for applications is **7 July 2026 at 12.00 CET (Tuesday noon)**.

¹⁰ Council conclusions on the enhancement of EMPACT and on EU crime priorities for the next EMPACT cycle 2026-2029 - Council conclusions (13 June 2025); document no. 9397/25

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

31. All applicants shall be informed of the outcome of the evaluation of their application not later than **27 July 2026 (Monday)**.
32. If the application is successful, a specified amount shall be reserved pending the submission of a request for reimbursement within the fixed deadline. A request for reimbursement shall 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 **15 December 2026**. No reimbursement will be made if the request for reimbursement arrives after the published deadline for submission, except for duly justified exceptions as stated below.
33. Claims after the deadline may be accepted by way of an exception provided that:
- the award is not yet fully consumed by other JIT party(ies) that submitted claims within the deadline;
 - the financial commitment is not yet closed (de-committed)¹³;
 - the claimant provides a valid justification¹⁴ as to why the claim is submitted after the deadline.
34. For all queries, please e-mail: jits@eurojust.europa.eu.
35. **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](#).**

¹³ The claimant may contact the JITs Network Secretariat to verify whether the financial commitment is closed or not.

¹⁴ Valid justifications are only those falling beyond the control of the claimant(s).