

What is a JIT?

A joint investigation team (JIT) is a team consisting of judges, prosecutors and law enforcement authorities of several States, established for a fixed period and a specific purpose by way of a written agreement, to carry out criminal investigations in one or more of the involved States.

The possibility of setting up JITs between Member States is provided for in Article 13 of the Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance between the Member States of the European Union, adopted on 29 May 2000, and in the Framework Decision of 13 June 2002. It is now also foreseen by other international instruments so that under certain conditions, non-EU States can join a JIT.

Each side appoints the persons - investigators and magistrates - who will act as JIT members, as well as a JIT leader, in charge of supervising JIT activities when it operates on the territory of the concerned State.

JITs enable the direct gathering and exchange of information and evidence without the need to use traditional channels of mutual legal assistance (MLA). In addition, “seconded members” of the team (i.e. those originating from another State than the one on the territory of which the JIT operates) are entitled to be present and to take part – within the limits foreseen by national legislation – in investigative measures carried out outside their State of origin. They constitute an efficient and effective cooperation tool, which facilitates coordination of investigation and prosecution conducted in parallel in several countries.

Who are the National Experts and what is their role?

The JITs Experts Network was established in 2004

to promote the use of JITs by practitioners. Each Member State has appointed one or more national experts who represent both the judicial (judges, prosecutors, Ministries of Justice) and law enforcement (police officers, Ministries of Interior) dimensions of a JIT.

At national level, the experts act as “contact points” whom practitioners willing to set up a JIT can address. As members of the Network, they have expertise in the functioning of JITs in their country and have access to information concerning the practicalities of JITs with other Member States.

Each annual meeting of the Network gives the opportunity to exchange views on national experiences, to identify difficulties encountered and best practice, with a view to improving the tool. Conclusions of these meetings are available on Eurojust’s website.

What supporting tools does the Network make available to practitioners?

The Network and its Secretariat have developed – in most cases in partnership with Europol and Eurojust – several tools to facilitate the setting up of JITs, particularly:

- ▶ A practical “JITs manual”, available in all EU official languages on Eurojust’s website;



- ▶ A web platform for National Experts to communicate that gives access to information on national legislation, drafting of JIT agreements and most frequent practical and legal difficulties; and
- ▶ A JIT evaluation form, available on Eurojust’s website, to facilitate the gathering and sharing of information on JITs.

The Secretariat

Hosted by Eurojust since 2010, the JITs Network Secretariat supports and stimulates the activities of the Experts’ Network. Since July 2013, the JITs Network Secretariat is also in charge of the management of the JITs funding programme of Eurojust.

The Secretariat makes a significant contribution to JIT training activities conducted – inside and outside the EU – in partnership with the European Police College (CEPOL) and the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN).

To contact the Secretariat:

- ▶ For JIT-related matters:
jitsnetworksecretariat@eurojust.europa.eu
- ▶ For JIT funding-related matters:
jits@eurojust.europa.eu

For additional information:

Website:
<http://www.eurojust.europa.eu/Pages/home.aspx>
Section “Joint Investigation Teams”/JITS Network.



Network of Experts

on Joint Investigation Teams
(JITs)



JITs Secretariat

EUROJUST

Maanweg 174, 2516 AB The Hague, Netherlands
Phone: +31 70 412 5000 – Fax: +31 70 412 5005
E-mail: jitsnetworksecretariat@eurojust.europa.eu
Website: www.eurojust.europa.eu



JITs Network

The Network of National Experts on Joint Investigation Teams

EN