

## EJN Regional Meetings 2010-2021

DATE	HOST COUNTRY	HOST CITY	PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES	TITLE/ TOPICS	DISCUSSIONS
6-8 Oct 2010	Austria	Innsbruck	AT, CZ, DK, FI, DE, NL, SI, Liechtenstein, Switzerland	<b>Trans-border investigative measures and the Role of EJN</b>	The meeting achieved its aim of strengthening cooperation between participating Contact Points. The participants identified and tackled practical problems with regard to trans-border cooperation between the participating states.
17-19 Oct 2010	Czech Republic	Kroměříž	CZ, AT, DE, SK	<b>MLA; Recognition and execution of the financial penalties; Seizure of property</b>	Participating states presented their national legislation regarding the main topics and communicated the problems they encounter within international cooperation and assistance in criminal matters
12-13 May 2011	Finland	Helsinki	FI, SE, Norway	<b>Application of agreements; Competent authorities and routes for requesting mutual legal assistance</b>	It was concluded that good practices should be adopted with regard to several points, including requests for MLA and freezing orders. It was also suggested that the EJN website page for Norway could be updated by adding information on implementation of the instruments.
5-7 Oct 2011	Austria	Salzburg	AT, CZ, DE, DK, FI, HR, SI	<b>Cross-border cooperation and the role of EJN</b>	Contact Points received an update on recent developments regarding judicial cooperation in the participating countries.
7-8 May 2012	Germany	Berlin	DE, AT, HR	<b>Exchange experiences and develop ideas to enhance judicial cooperation in criminal matters</b>	Having in mind the upcoming entry into the EU of Croatia, an overview was made about the judicial cooperation system in Croatia. Views were exchanged on recognition of confiscation orders and enforcement of freezing orders as well as on cooperation with the police authorities. The developments at Eurojust for 2011 and the reform of OLAF were discussed. Participants also discussed on international cooperation system and how EJN is working in their countries.

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7-8 June 2012	Estonia	Tallin	EE, LV, LT	<b>Streamline the practise in judicial cooperation in criminal matters for the Baltic countries</b>	Participating states exchanged views and established common understanding on practical problems with regard to submission and execution of letters rogatory; problems arising from executing EAWs, temporary surrender of persons and postponement of surrender; freezing orders; recognition and execution of court judgements; exchange of information concerning punishment. Information was given about the functioning and practicalities of the legal systems in these states.
26-28 Sep 2012	Romania	Sibiu	RO, FR, HU, IT, NL, Republic of Moldova	<b>Challenges and best practices on seizing of and handing over the property based on different schemes: EAW (art.29), freezing order and/or MLA request: which tool is better to cooperate in transnational cases?</b>	The meeting aimed at discussing and exchanging views on challenges and best practices on seizing of and handing over the property based on different schemes: EAW (art.29), freezing order and/or MLA request. The discussions encompassed information on national legislations regarding identification and tracing of property. The meeting helped to increase knowledge of the legal instruments on judicial cooperation and networking between participating Contact Points and national authorities. The implementation of legal acts and its effects was highlighted.

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10-12 Oct 2012	Austria	Seggauberg	AT, DE, IT, LU, SE, SK, Liechtenstein	<b>Cybercrime; Regional cooperation between the participating countries</b>	Participants to the meeting emphasized the importance of networks for the proper development of good trans-border cooperation in both civil and criminal matters. The need for an enhancement of international practical cooperation among the contact points of the participating countries was also highlighted. It was also underlined that for the proper functioning of the EJN, personal contacts between as many contact points as possible is crucial. For this reason, the number and character of the Plenary meetings should be fully maintained and all efforts should be made to ensure that these meetings offer an excellent form of building mutual trust and confidence among the Member States' judicial authorities.
22-Mar-13	United Kingdom	London	IE, PT, ES, UK, United States	<b>Role of the Prosecutor with reference to international crime co-operation</b>	Participants discussed the role of the prosecutor with regard to the international cooperation in criminal matters in the participating the states. Legal and practical issues were tackled. Also, cooperation with third countries was discussed.
22-23 Jan 2013	Sweden	Göteborg	SE, DE, DK, NL, Norway	<b>Controlled deliveries</b>	It was presented in the meeting on how to organize a controlled delivery in the participating states. Suggestions for simplified procedures were made. In this respect, the discussions focused on practical problems from the past and solutions offered to these problems, namely with regard to the legislation (phone tapping, surveillance) and practicalities (more rapid organization of the set-up of controlled deliveries) in the participating states, as well as access to police information, simplified procedures and alternatives to the controlled deliveries.

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12-13 May 2013	Germany	Berlin	AT, DE, EL, NL, PL, SE	<b>Best practices and the role of the CPs role in the execution of the EAW</b>	The discussions focused on developing the best practices for the German Contact Points on their daily operational work and evaluate the role of Contact Points in relation to execution of the EAW in the participating Member States.
26-27 Sep 2013	Portugal	Tavira	DE, NL, PT, ES	<b>Cross-border cooperation under recent Council Framework Decisions based on the principle of Mutual Recognition</b>	During the meeting issues with regard to financial penalties, custodial sentences and measures involving deprivation of liberty and on probation were discussed. It was concluded that it is of the utmost importance to guarantee that financial penalties are equally enforced in all of the Member States, in order to avoid impunity, and to accomplish the real purpose of the mutual recognition principle. To this effect, there is a need to find ways and means of making national authorities more familiar with its adoption and of promoting its practical application. Also, it was agreed that the effective enforcement of Framework Decision on financial penalties should be pursued and enhanced, taking into account that it has been implemented by almost all Member States.
03-Dec-13	Bulgaria	Istanbul	BG, DE, EL, RO, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey	<b>Fighting against THB; Sharing experiences and regulations related to organizing JITs</b>	Participating EU Member States made a presentation about composing JITs in their states. The presentations followed with intervention from the non-EU countries and discussions on possible cooperation from a practical and legal point of view. A particular THB case was then presented and discussed.

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12-13 May 2014	Finland	Helsinki	FI, EE, LV, LT	<p><b>Changes in mutual legal assistance;</b></p> <p><b>European Investigation Order;</b></p> <p><b>Transfer of proceedings;</b></p> <p><b>Spontaneous exchange of information;</b></p> <p><b>JITs;</b></p> <p><b>Hit-and-run criminality</b></p>	Recent developments of national legislation with regard to judicial cooperation in criminal matters were presented by each Member State. Legal and practical challenges with regard to controlled deliveries, transfer of proceedings, spontaneous exchange of information, JITs, and cooperation with police authorities were presented and discussed. Also, the future of the EIO was touched upon. In conclusion, the main aim to find solutions to practical problems and consequently to make the cooperation between the participating states smoother was reached. Involvement of representatives from different national authorities of each participating state had proved to be particularly valuable to reach a common understanding.
4-5 Jun 2014	Slovenia	Čatež	SI, AT, DE, EL, HR, HU, IT, SI, Serbia, Switzerland	<p><b>Introducing new EJN contact points;</b></p> <p><b>Discussing practical problems in the field of MLA</b></p>	The role of an EJN Contact Point, also with regard to judicial cooperation with the third countries, was presented. The particularities with regard to judicial cooperation with Croatia and with Serbia were discussed. As a non-EU country, judicial cooperation with the latter is possible on the basis of the conventions of CoE and on bilateral treaties. Finally, discussions were held regarding concrete EAW cases, with the aim of tackling practical problems and to reach a common understanding of interpreting the laws. It was stressed out that all interpretations of the domestic law have to be in accordance with the framework decisions.

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8-9 Sep 2014	Hungary	Budapest	HU, AT, SK, RO	<b>Recognition of sentences made aboard;</b> <b>handover of the implementation of penalty;</b> <b>transfer of sentences persons;</b> <b>Issues arising during the judicial interpretation of EAWs</b>	Participants discussed practical and legal aspects of recognition of a sentence made abroad, handover of the implementation of penalty, judicial interpretation and judicial practice issues arising during the process of transferring a sentenced person, taking into consideration the different judicial practices in the participating Member States. Among the issues mentioned was the narrow range of causes of denial as well as the expenses of transferring the sentenced person. Also, several issues regarding an EAW was tackled e.g. translation, the issue of speciality, absence of the accused as well as other legal and practical difficulties of applying the EAW.
24-26 Sep 2014	Austria	Vienna	AT, CZ, HR, DK, HU, IT, LU SI, SK, SE, Lichtenstein	<b>Seizure and confiscation in trans-border cases - the role of EJN</b>	Practical problems were tackled with regard to issuing an MLA request and more specifically, requesting bank account information. Participants received an overview on the state of play of the discussions on the EPPO. They were also introduced a case where the new form of cooperation in a so-called EUROJUST Coordination Centre was successfully used. The future instrument – EIO – was touched upon. The meetings proved its usefulness for a deeper knowledge of the judicial systems of the countries involved and for the fostering of a proper cooperation within the EJN.

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24-25 Sept 2015	Lithuania	Vilnius	LT, EE, FI, LV, PL, SE	<b>FD 2008/909/JHA</b> <b>(„Custodial sentences“)</b>  <b>FD 2008/947/JHA</b> <b>(„Probation“)</b>	The following problems were discussed and solutions proposed: custodial sentences and the practical obstacles with regard of its efficiency; supervision order and the supervision in home state instead of provisional arrest in the state of the investigation; EAW and assurances that are requested from another EU Member State regarding prisons conditions. With regard to cooperation with third countries, use of other networks such as IBERRED, was highlighted and claimed to be useful.
6-7 Oct 2015	Croatia	Zagreb	HR, AT, IT, SI, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland	<b>JITs;</b>  <b>FD 2008/909/JHA</b> <b>(„Custodial sentences“)</b>  <b>FD 2005/214/JHA</b> <b>(„Financial penalties“)</b>	The following problems were discussed and solutions proposed: custodial sentences and the practical obstacles with regard of its efficiency; supervision order and the supervision in home state instead of provisional arrest in the state of the investigation; EAW and assurances that are requested from another EU Member State regarding prisons conditions, and also freezing order and confiscation order. It was also concluded that it is important to strength the cooperation between judicial authorities and ARO offices in the pre-trial phase of the proceedings in the cases of tracing and freezing of proceeds of crime. With regard to cooperation with third countries, use of other networks such as IBERRED, was highlighted and claimed to be useful. Also Switzerland had agreed to participate in the meeting but eventually representatives from Swiss authorities did not attend the meeting.

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14-15 Oct 2015	Estonia	Tallin	ET, LT, LV	<b>Cross-border surveillance;</b> <b>Controlled deliveries;</b> <b>Confiscation orders.</b>	<p>During the meeting, several conclusions were made. With regard to forming JITs (including JITs in which third countries are participating) advantages and disadvantages were discussed. With regard to confiscations and freezing of assets, possibilities to increase the quality of the certificates were discussed. Practical problems, e.g. with regard to seizure or the bank accounts, was tackled. Finally, the importance of time management in pre-trial investigation was accentuated based on recent practice. In conclusion, it was stated that all communication does not need to take place through Eurojust, direct communication should work as well. What is important is how the investigator and the prosecutor co-operate. It was commonly found that even better use should be made of direct contacts including of the EJN contacts.</p>
10 May 2016	Germany	Berlin	DE, AT, LU, FR, PL	<b>Practical and legal problems after the implementation of FD 2008/909/JHA</b>	<p>The 17th Annual Meeting of the German EJN Contact Points (and 5th Annual Berlin Regional EJN-Meeting) held in Berlin on 10 May dealt with the practical and legal problems after the implementation of the Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA of 27 November 2008 on transfer of prisoners. Thanks to the funding from the EJN budget the German hosts were able to invite guests from Austria, Luxemburg and Poland, who gave a very informative overview about the conditions for enforcing foreign judgements in their countries. In addition, there were reports from the French liaison officer in Berlin and his German counterpart in Paris, with whom the German EJN Contact Points are currently cultivating an extreme close and effective cooperation.</p>



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					The German organisers concluded: "we were once again very delighted to welcome the Head of the EJN Secretariat, Mr. Ola Löfgren, who outlined for us the work of the Secretariat in the past year. The annual meeting - as always - was an important and pleasant reunion with colleagues from Germany as well as EJN colleagues in other countries, that increased the mutual understanding and networking in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters."
26-28 Sept 2016	Austria	Bregenz	DE, IT, SI, CZ, HU, HR, SK, PL (EU Member States), and Liechtenstein	<b>Trafficking in Human Beings and Money Laundering – Regional implications</b>	The Austrian Contact Points convened a Regional Meeting of the European Judicial Network (EJN) in Bregenz (Province of Vorarlberg) on 26-28 September. The overall title of the meeting was "Border Rivers". Due to the geographical situation of the meeting venue in the neighbourhood of Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein the cross-border dimension is obvious. Therefore contributions from Liechtenstein and Switzerland with regard to the obtaining of banking information and their system of remedies in cases of mutual legal assistance were of great practical value. The police showed the good neighbourhood cooperation, including the practical aspects of information sharing in a very efficient manner. A professor of criminal law teaching at Innsbruck University gave an excellent overview on the criteria for jurisdiction in trans-border criminal cases.

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13-14 Oct 2016	The Netherlands	Utrecht	NL, BE, DE	<b>Transfer of probation measures and alternative sanctions between neighbouring countries</b>	On 13-14 October a working regional meeting was held with participants from the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany on the transfer of alternative sanctions. Participants came from various relevant professions, such as the Judiciary, Public Prosecution, Ministry of Justice, and Probation Services. The Council Framework Decision 2008/947/JHA on probation allows for a greater use of transfer of sentences. This meeting was held to inform each other about the practical working procedures within and between the participating countries. Putting words into practice was the motto of this meeting. The participants worked actively on case studies and simulations. After the meeting the participants were better able to understand each other's situation and better equipped in the future to deal with cases of transfer of conditional sentences, conditional release and community sentences. The meeting was organised by the international desk of the Public Prosecution Office in Haarlem and the International Office of the Dutch Probation Service.
20-21 Oct 2016	Portugal	Porto	PT, ES, FR	<b>Enhanced judicial cooperation between participating Member States</b>	On 20-21 October in Porto, the Portuguese Contact Points organised a regional meeting involving judicial authorities from Spain and France. The aim of the meeting was to discuss concrete problems encountered in bilateral cases; all participants (30 from Portugal, 5 from Spain and 2 from France) were invited to bring a list of problematic issues that were then discussed in 3 workshops. Final results as well as a preliminary intervention on the EJN and its added value, done by the Secretariat, were shared in a seminar format.  The EJN Secretariat was represented in the meeting by Maria Joao Almeida Gomes, Secretariat Coordinator, who presented the latest developments in the EJN website

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					<p>and the new electronic tool for reporting the activities performed by the EJN Contact Points.</p> <p>The Portuguese organisers want “to highlight the fact that the core and aim of this event was nothing more nothing less than to address practical problems that still seem to be obstacles to daily cooperation between judicial authorities of the three States involved.”</p>
20-21 Oct 2016	Romania	Bucharest	RO, FR, IT, BE, SK (EU Member States), Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey (candidate and third countries)	<b>Role of the EJN Contact Points in combating forms of serious crime. Setting a good example</b>	<p>On 20-21 October the Romanian Contact Points from the Directorate for the Investigation of Organised Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) hosted a regional meeting which gathered EJN Contact Point from the EU (Italy, France, Slovakia, Belgium), EU candidate countries (Serbia, Montenegro and Turkey) and the Republic of Moldova, in order to explore ways of dealing with serious crime cases with a cross border dimension.</p> <p>The meeting focused on a practical approach to achieve effective results in investigating and prosecuting these types of offences, in particular as they fall within the competence of EJN and Eurojust. It was emphasised that the EJN Contact Points are the links between national judicial authorities in order to facilitate judicial cooperation in action to combat forms of serious crime. From this perspective, close and pragmatic cooperation at institutional and operational level between EJN and Eurojust is required.</p> <p>The meeting also turned out to be very useful for participating Romanian prosecutors and judges from Bucharest, Constanta, Ploiesti, Craiova, Pitesti and Brasov, who had the possibility to learn more. The President of Eurojust and National Member for Belgium, Michèle Coninx, and the Eurojust National Member for Romania, Daniela Buruiană, participated in the opening part of the meeting,</p>

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					<p>highlighting the privileged relations between the EJN and Eurojust, based on consultation and complementarity.</p> <p>Ola Löfgren, Secretary to the EJN, and Florin Răzvan Radu, Seconded National Expert, represented the EJN Secretariat in the meeting, presenting the role of the EJN in fostering judicial cooperation, the synergies with Eurojust, as well as the work done by the Secretariat to improve the electronic tools available in the EJN website and to strengthening the cooperation with other judicial networks and third countries about the role of the EJN and how the EJN can help them in solving their cases. The participants will disseminate the information learned at the meeting to their colleagues.</p>
9 May 2017	Germany	Berlin	DE, AT, RO, PL, FR, L	<b>The right to access to a lawyer in EAW proceedings and on the rights to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty</b>	<p>The Regional Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May taking place in Berlin focused on the right to access to a lawyer in the EAW proceedings and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty. The EJN Secretariat was represented by Mr. Ola Löfgren.</p> <p>Participants discussed practical and legal aspects of the right of access to legal aid in cases of extradition on the basis of EAW requests. Further, the German liaison officer in Paris informed the attendants about judicial policy focuses of the French legislature, the representatives of the German Contact Points gave an overview of the previous year workload and of the execution of individual cases of the respective German states.</p>
10 May 2017	Latvia	Riga	LT, EE, FI, LV, N, S, UK and Canada	<b>Mutual recognition of freezing and confiscations orders</b>	<p>On the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia organised the first Regional EJN contact point meeting on mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders. The meeting was organised in the form of a discussion between the contact points on their experiences in relation to the topic.</p>

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					<p>One of the main topics of discussion was the new European Parliament and Council Regulation on mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders.</p> <p>Among the participants, there were representatives from ministries of justice, prosecutor's offices and police authorities from countries such as United Kingdom, Sweden, and Finland. The EJN Secretariat was represented in the meeting by Ola Löfgren, Secretary to the EJN.</p>
21-22 Sept 2017	Finland	Helsinki	FI, EE, LV, S	<b>Application and transition to the European Investigation Order</b>	<p>The Regional meeting on the 21-22 September, taking place in Helsinki, focused solely on the European Investigation Order (EIO). At the time of the meeting, all participating Member States had implemented the EIO, with the exception of Sweden. The EJN was represented by Ola Löfgren, Secretary to the EJN.</p> <p>Some of the issues brought up by the participants during the meeting were related to the national implementation of the EIO; measures not falling into the scope of EIO, the cooperation when requesting or requested state has not implemented the EIO; appliance of other bilateral or multilateral agreements as stated in Article 34; and EIO training organised in the participating states. In addition, topics such as the role of the EJN Contact Points in the practice of the EIO, and the role of the EJN website (especially Atlas) in relation to information about the EIO, were also debated during the meeting.</p> <p>During the second part of the meeting the participants were given mock-cases in relation to issuing of an EIO, and discussed the possible challenges of filling in the EIO form.</p>

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22 Sept 2017	The Netherlands	Paris	DE, ES, NL, FR	<b>Compensation in cases of unjustified detention as a result of an EAW arrest</b>	<p>On the 22 September, the Regional meeting on the 'Compensation after detention based on an EAW' took place in Paris. Organised at the initiative of the Amsterdam Centre for International Legal Assistance (IRC), the aim of this meeting was to increase awareness of the functioning of the compensation mechanism, and to propose solutions to the difficulties, uncertainties and forms of injustice in the field of compensation for unjustified EAW-detention with the intention to contribute to a better functioning of the system and to achieve that EU citizens have access to justice.</p> <p>In order to have a more thorough research, the Dutch project team drafted a questionnaire on the matter of the meeting and sent it not only the participating Member States, but to all EJN Tool Correspondents of the EU Member States. The compilation of the answers served as an overview of national laws and procedures in relation to the compensations of unjustified detention as a result of an EAW arrest, and was used during the Regional Meeting in Paris.</p> <p>The meeting consisted in multiple presentations on the topic given by the participants such as practitioners from the participant Member States, and academics who conducted research in this area.</p>
5-6 Oct 2017	Poland	Warsaw	PL, CZ, DE, LT, SK, H	<b>European Investigation Order – practical implementation and cooperation – first experiences</b>	<p>During the meeting in Warsaw on the 5-6 October, the participants focused entirely on the issue of the European Investigation Order (EIO) and the first practical experiences of the Member States in relation to its operation and the cooperation during the transitional period, until all EU Member State implement it in their national law. Advantages and disadvantages of the EIO were mentioned, and the participants discussed issues such as the time limits for recognition and execution of orders, formal requirements, and possibility to issue and EIO on behalf of the suspected/accused person or his/her lawyer.</p>

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					In addition, the technical aspects of cooperation on the example of the EJN website were presented by the Polish Tool Correspondent. The EJN was represented by its Secretary, Mr. Ola Löfgren.
8-10 Oct 2017	Slovenia	Novi Sad	SL, CR (EU Member States), Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia (candidates and third countries)	<b>Judicial cooperation in the Balkan Region</b>	<p>The meeting of 8-10 October was a continuation of the EJN Regional Meeting held in October 2016 in Ljubljana, and focused on the judicial cooperation in the Balkan Region, with countries which are not yet Member States of the European Union. The meeting consisted of representatives from Ministries of Justice, Courts and Prosecutor's Offices of the participating countries, and the EJN Secretariat gave overview about the ongoing EJN business.</p> <p>Many practical aspects of the international cooperation in criminal matters between "third countries" and cooperation within Member States of the Union were discussed during the meeting. Some of the topics covered during the workshops were: MLA for hearing the defendant/witness, including videoconference, MLA for house search, MLA for obtaining bank accounts, MLA for transfer proceedings and MLA for obtaining procedural documents and e-evidence.</p>

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13-14 Sept 2018	Latvia	Jurmala	PI, SE, EE, LT, FI Turkey, Taiwan	<b>Establishing mutual recognition within the context of financial matters in MLA</b>	<p>The main <b>objective</b> of the meeting was to provide mutual information exchange about current legislative and institutional matters in order to highlight existing problems and to find possible solutions. The meeting allowed for networking and discussions about cooperation with the invited third countries.</p> <p>The <b>matters</b> covered by the meeting: money laundering, EIO Directive and freezing orders; actions with criminally acquired property (best practices); legal remedies - restitution; money mule and parcel mule scams.</p> <p>The <b>conclusions</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threats resulting from money laundering are basically common for the EU and for third countries. The EU Member States have to focus on active cooperation with foreign counterparts (also with third countries) in order to be more effective in providing and seeking mutual legal assistance and to more actively engaging in JITs and coordination meetings;</li> <li>• the problem to identify whether money mules and parcel mule scams are victims of offenders is one of the most difficult issues when investigating money laundering;</li> <li>• due to differences between national legislations there is not a common understanding of the EIO Directive as to freezing and confiscation in relation to bona fide property.</li> </ul>



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27-28 Sept 2018	Sweden	Stockholm	SE, FI, EE, LV, LT, PL, DE	<b>European Investigation Order</b>	<p>The <b>purpose</b> of the meeting was to discuss the practical implementation of the EIO Directive.</p> <p>The <b>issues</b> discussed were: <i>The scope of the EIO Directive, the EIO-forms, channels of communication, urgent EIOs and time limits, the relation between the EIO and JITs, non-execution of EIO:s and alternative measures and the principle of specialty.</i></p> <p><i>The agenda also included discussions about the EJN website with regard to the EIO and information on the work being done by Contact Points in order to spread the knowledge of the EIO and the EJN.</i></p>
1-2 Oct 2018	Poland	Warsaw	PL, AT, CZ, DE, SK, SE	<b>European Investigation Order</b>	<p>On the agenda of the meeting were <b>two topics</b>: the EIO and the execution of freezing orders with a view of confiscation, with a special focus on real estate.</p> <p>The meeting became a good platform for direct exchange of opinions, comments and good practice between the practitioners – Contact Points of the EJN.</p>
11-12 October 2018	Croatia	Valbandon	HV, SI, AT, IT  National contact points of Prosecutors'Ne twork of the Western	<b>Effective judicial cooperation in the pre-trial phase of the proceeding instruments of successful prosecution of transnational organized crime.</b>	<p>The <b>main goal</b> of the regional meeting was the exchange of practical knowledge between the EJN Contact Points from Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and EJN contact points of the Western Balkan Countries, in the field of judicial cooperation during the pre-trial phase of the proceedings.</p> <p>This meeting was a <b>follow-up</b> to the previous regional meetings for EJN contact points organised in 2016 and 2017 by Slovenia in Ljubljana and Novi Sad respectively.</p> <p>The EJN Contact Points adopted the following <b>conclusions</b>:</p> <p><b>1.</b> International police cooperation in the early phase of the proceedings is very important, as well as cooperation between Asset Recovery Offices (ARO). When all</p>

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			Balkans (WBPN)		<p>the relevant information have been gathered through these types of cooperation, EIO or MLA requests should be issued for the purpose of obtaining evidence;</p> <p><b>2.</b> Effective judicial cooperation regarding freezing of proceeds of crime is possible if the executing and requested authorities cooperate closely, especially in the phase of extending the freezing measures. Problems due to different prescribed time limits can be solved only by direct contact between the requesting and requested authorities;</p> <p><b>3.</b> Taking into account the positive experience with JITs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia, other countries should take into account the possibility of using this tool of judicial cooperation instead of parallel investigations;</p> <p><b>4.</b> As for taking over the proceedings from another country, it was established that most of the countries have not ratified the European convention on the transfer of the proceedings from 1972. Instead Article 21 of the 1959 European convention on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters is applied, which has both positive and negative sides. Most important is to establish direct communication between the competent authorities.</p>
15 Oct 2018	France	Aix-en-Provence	FR, ES, IT	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>France-Spain-Italy meeting on the fight against organized crime - drug trafficking - trafficking in human beings</b></p>	<p>This enhanced cooperation between the three countries involves defining a common strategy to reach those involved in drug trafficking. The Mediterranean area concentrates large trafficking and criminal organizations. "This is an area that attracts investment and money laundering," said judges, police, gendarmes and customs officers present.</p> <p>Furthermore, the participants pointed out the "major challenge" that is the port areas, the seaway being the most used by traffickers. Mediterranean judicial cooperation could go as far as defining the country best placed to conduct a cross-border investigation, including organizing a single trial with defendants of different nationalities.</p>

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23-24 Sept 2019	Spain	Madrid	NL, ES, IT	<b>EU FD 909 and FD 829</b>	<p>Aim of the meeting: to improve the knowledge and use of the EU Framework Decisions 909 and 829, on the transfer of custodial sentences and supervision measures.</p> <p>With judges, prosecutors and a professor from Spain and Italy knowledge and experiences were exchanged via presentations, a case study and a quiz.</p> <p>Points of interest were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mostly the person involved needs to take the initiative for a transfer himself. There's almost no active policy to transfer penal decisions and there's not a lot of information being provided.</li> <li>• Deportation seems to be more preferred by Member States than transfer. There are four times more deportations than transfers. In this way there are no possibilities for social rehabilitation.</li> <li>• After transfer of the prison sentence the convicted person mostly needs to start over again with the penitentiary program, there's no follow up.</li> <li>• A survey by EJN shows that FD 829 is not well known among magistrates.</li> <li>• It is a matter of mentality that the transfer of supervision measures is rarely applied.</li> <li>• Magistrates prefer keeping suspects within reach. This leads to dire situations. For example, Dutch suspects must remain in Spain after suspension, while they have no work, income or shelter there.</li> <li>• When the transfer of a supervision measure is being considered, it's useful to contact the other Member State and discuss about the opportunities in advance, because the legislation on pre trial detention differs per country.</li> </ul>

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15 Oct 2019	NL	The Hague	BG, NO, EJN	<b>Meeting on the BarnaHus Method of Interviewing Children</b>	<p>The main purpose of the meeting was to showcase the Norwegian BarnaHus model of interviewing children in criminal cases, but attendees also got the chance to hear about European judicial cooperation. An example of bilateral cooperation was presented – a case of sexual abuse on which Bulgarian and Norwegian authorities cooperated through a Joint Investigation Team (JIT), and where interviews of children were crucial for the case.</p> <p>Presenting the BarnaHus model was a Prosecutor in the Norwegian police and a national expert. The latter gave an in-depth explanation of the method developed by the Norwegian police when interviewing children who have been victims of a crime. The aim of the model is to obtain as accurate information as possible from the child, taking into account the trauma it has suffered and the stressful and potentially re-traumatizing elements of a police interview. The methodology is decisive when collecting evidence in challenging and complex cases with few witnesses, e.g. in cases regarding cybercrime and trafficking of human beings.</p>
<p><i>In year 2020 all scheduled meetings were cancelled because of COVID-19 pandemic</i></p>					

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13-14 Sept. 2021	DE	Berlin	AT, FR, LU, NL, PL, CH, LI	<b>Misinformation and misunderstanding in the context of filling the EAW form</b>	The 21st Annual Meeting of the German EJN-contact points (and 9th Annual Berlin Regional EJN-Meeting) in Berlin on September 14, 2021 dealt with the misinformation and misunderstandings in the context of filing the EAW forms and illuminated the crucial problems in the different Member States. Guests from Austria, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland, presented numerous interesting individual cases and raised awareness on the national needs regarding the information to approve a surrender. Equally, interest reports were received from the French liaison officer in Berlin and the German counterpart in Paris, with whom the German EJN-contact points cultivates an extreme close and effective cooperation. In addition, the German EPPO member gave a short overview of the work of the new EU independent body and its national centers in Germany.
4-5 Nov. 2021	PT	Aveiro	ES, FR	<b>Practical intervention of the EJN contact points as facilitators of the application of FWD 2002/584, 2008/909</b>	The meeting focussed on national transposition and problems on the practical application of framework Decisions 584 and 909. It highlighted the added value of the intervention of the EJN contact points especially on the articulation of both legal instruments; the meeting debated also on the impact of the ECJ case law on the application of the European Arrest Warrant framework decision. Furthermore, it touched upon the cooperation between the British and the European authorities, on basis of the TCA. Further to that, the discussions focused on the bilateral cooperation between Portugal, Spain and France.