



**PEER EVALUATION  
OF THE  
EUROPEAN JUDICIAL NETWORK**

FINAL REPORT

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Following the sixth round of mutual evaluations on EJN and Eurojust (6RME), the EJN Work Programme prioritised the actions to be taken by the EJN in response to the recommendations addressed to the EJN provided by the 6RME. In this context, the EJN Secretariat prepared an Action Plan<sup>1</sup> for the implementation of the recommendations regarding the EJN. One of the proposed measures for further improving the functioning of the EJN and the EJN Contact Points was the performance of the “**EJN Peer Evaluation**” exercise with the active participation of the EJN Contact Points.

After discussions during the 11th EJN National Correspondents Meeting in October 2019 and the 53rd EJN Plenary meeting in Helsinki in November 2019, the EJN decided to perform the peer evaluation exercise in 2020, by forming a Working Group composed of EJN Contact Points and the EJN Secretariat to execute the evaluation.

The objective of the assessment was to evaluate the functioning of the Network with a special focus on its **operational functions and support to judicial cooperation**. It serves as an assessment of the working methods within the Network and a basis for proposal recommendations for further improving the functioning of the EJN and the cooperation within the Network and with other partner networks and EU bodies.

The following report aims to present the findings from the EJN Peer Evaluations exercise and the actions to be taken by the EJN to further improve the good cooperation within the Network and ensure the active engagement of the EJN Contact Points. As a result of the evaluation, the EJN Working Group adopted an Action Plan with activities the EJN should implement.

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<sup>1</sup> Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations regarding the European Judicial Network (EJN) from the country reports and the Final report of the sixth round of mutual evaluations

## II. METHODOLOGY OF THE EVALUATION

The EJM Peer Evaluation was conducted by the EJM Working Group on Peer Evaluation, composed of 11 EJM Contact Points from different EU Member States and the EJM Secretariat. The evaluation was based on contributions and input from the EJM Contact Points in the EU Member States, EU candidate countries<sup>2</sup> and EJM associated countries<sup>3</sup>. It was conducted in two stages, namely the EJM Peer Evaluation Questionnaire and subsequent phone interviews with EJM Contact Points. The replies to the questionnaire provided an overall assessment of the functioning of the Network, while the phone interviews were aiming to further analyse particular focus areas identified by the EJM Working Group on Peer Evaluations.

The outcomes and findings of the peer evaluations are addressed in the current report and an Action Plan for further improving the good cooperation within the Network.

### 1. The EJM Peer Evaluation Questionnaire

The EJM Peer Evaluation Questionnaire was prepared with the aim to assess various areas of relevance for the proper functioning of the EJM, such as:

- the function of the EJM and the EJM Contact Points;
- the number and specialisation of EJM Contact Points;
- the level of support provided by the EJM Secretariat to the EJM Contact Points;
- the training needs of the EJM Contact Points;
- the relations/contacts with national judicial authorities;
- the relations/cooperation with EU partners and other partner judicial networks;
- the use and functionality of the EJM website;
- EJM awareness.

As a result of the questionnaire, **126 replies** were received from EJM Contact Points from 23 EU Member States and 3 EU candidate and associated countries.

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<sup>2</sup> Albania, North Macedonia, Turkey, Serbia and Montenegro

<sup>3</sup> Norway, Switzerland, Lichtenstein and Iceland



## 2. Phone interviews

The high number of contributions to the EJM Peer Evaluations Questionnaire enabled the EJM Working Group to make an elaborate assessment and identify specific areas in which further analysis or action would be required, such as operational work and cooperation on cases, cooperation with third countries and judicial networks, awareness, training, the appointment of Contact Points and specialisations, Contact Points lists on the EJM website and secure telecommunication. With the aim to collect more information and experiences, the EJM Working Group on Peer Evaluations adopted a set of questions to be addressed via phone interviews with volunteering 13 EJM Contact Points<sup>4</sup>.

### III. EVALUATION OUTCOME

From the contributions received by the EJM Contact Points, it could be concluded that the **EJM Contact Points and judicial practitioners find it indispensable to use the EJM and the resources on the EJM website** when dealing with their investigations with cross-border elements. The evaluation has demonstrated that the EJM continues to be a reliable channel for facilitating the execution of judicial cooperation requests and support the exchange of case-related information. The **EJM Contact Points reported more than 90 000 cases in recent years and, with this experience in mind, they indicated that the assistance of their EJM colleagues has provided a success rate of 84.2% for their cases**. In this regard, the EJM has accumulated years of practical experience and best practice in the application of the EU legal instruments, contributing to the fight against cross-border crime.

The following sections will address the evaluation outcomes per distinct areas as well as the proposed follow-up actions in this regard.

#### 1. Functioning of the EJM Contact Points

From the replies provided by the EJM Contact Points, it is evident that the majority have a high appreciation for being an EJM Contact Point. They indicated that they mostly value the **direct and smooth cooperation** between the Contact Points, **speeding up the execution** of their requests, **full access to the resources on the EJM website** and access to a large amount of up-to-date information on judicial cooperation as well as the **participation in EJM meetings**.

Additionally, many EJM Contact Points indicated that they find it rewarding to be able to assist the national judicial authorities in their countries after acquiring additional knowledge and experience with the EJM. The vast majority indicated that their practical experience and

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<sup>4</sup> Contact Points from Italy, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Portugal, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, Malta, Croatia and Bulgaria

position within the national authorities allow them to fulfil their duties as EJM Contact Points. In this regard, they assessed that they usually **do not experience difficulties in receiving replies and information from the judicial authorities from their home country**. The majority of the Contact Points reported that the EJM is a well-established and -known channel for cooperation and this contributes to the swift communication. However, they acknowledged that sometimes it takes more time to obtain information from another public authority within their country - i.e. information from the Prosecutor's Office to the Court or the Prosecutor's Office to the Ministry of Justice. This also underlines the importance of having EJM Contact Points in all branches of the judicial authorities – Ministry of Justice, Prosecution Offices and Courts.

From the replies to the questionnaire as well as from the practical experience of the Contact Points, it could be observed that among the EJM Contact Points in one country, there is a different level of engagement in the EJM-related work. It was noted that one of the reasons for this is the fact that the EJM Contact Points are very often **not allocated additional time and resources on national level** that allows them to fulfil their additional EJM-related obligations. Another aspect that becomes apparent is that - while taking institutional needs into consideration - in some countries, the number of EJM Contact Points is significant and, therefore, the networking aspect of the EJM difficult to achieve.

As addressed in the Action Plan, the EJM will undertake actions to ensure the allocation of **additional time and resources for the Contact Points is addressed at national level** and considered at the time of appointment of the EJM Contact Points.

## **2. EJM Contact Points and cooperation on cases**

### **2.1. Cooperation within the European Union**

From the contributions received as a reply to the Questionnaire and phone interviews, it is evident that the cooperation within the Network is very good and efficient. The Contact Points rarely experience difficulties in obtaining replies to their requests for cooperation. The vast majority of the replies show that **replies are received in 93.65% of the cases**, and in approximately **90% of the cases, the reply was received in the desired timeframe**. Consequently, the EJM Contact Points frequently use the EJM channel of cooperation and often cooperate with their colleagues from another Member State or third country. Approximately **40% of the Contact Points reported that they use the EJM as a channel for cooperation on a weekly basis**, while approximately 10% reported daily cooperation via the EJM. The good cooperation within the Network results in approximately **10 000 cases per year** that are supported by the EJM.

The EJM Contact Points indicated that they choose whom to contact mainly based on previously established (personal) contacts. The Contact Points underlined the **importance of establishing as many contacts as possible** with Contact Points from other countries and stressed the **added value of the EJM meetings** in this respect. The Contact Points gave several examples in which **good personal contact has led to numerous successfully resolved cases**. Apart from the personal contacts, the Contact Points also take into consideration geographic area or jurisdiction, competences and specialisations and the function (prosecutor/judge) depending on the criminal proceedings' stage.



The Questionnaire and phone interviews also collected information on the challenges the Contact Points are facing in their cooperation. The issues most reported by the Contact Points relate to not receiving replies to requests within the desired timeframe or at all when cooperating with certain countries. The Contact Points further pointed out that in some of the cases, they do not receive confirmation that the request was received and will be dealt with. Furthermore, the replies to the questionnaire and the phone interviews showed that in a few cases, they experienced a language barrier when cooperating with some countries and they do not receive replies in English. Also, the Contact Points find it confusing if there are too many EJN Contact Points in one country as they are not sure whom to address.

The Working Group observed that, in some countries, there are good practices in place in terms of how to handle communication on EJN cases – e.g. delivery of receipt and confirmation of the national authority handling the case, timely replies and notifications in situations in which the requested EJN Contact Point is expecting a delay in the reply or when they are not competent to handle the request. To overcome and further diminish the situations in which the Contact Points are facing challenges in the cooperation, the EJN will take steps to encourage the application of the identified good practice by all Contact Points and develop a **document to provide guidance for the EJN Contact Points** on how to handle EJN case-related communication. The EJN will also address the Member States where there is a lower response rate in order to look for solutions and improve the cooperation.

The Working Group noted the comments of some EJN Contact Points that the EJN could **improve the structuring of the list of EJN Contact Points** on the EJN website to clearly indicate the regional competence and specialisation of the Contact Point. From the replies to the questionnaire, it seems this is particularly relevant for the bigger EU Member States. The EJN could work on a more standardised format with this information indicated on the website.

## **2.2. Cooperation with EU candidate countries, EJN associated countries and third countries**

The EJN Contact Points stressed the important role of the EJN in connecting them to judicial practitioners not only in the European Union but also across the world. Ever since the establishment of the EJN in 1998, the Network has been working towards creating contacts with the countries closely connected to the European Union, namely the EU candidate countries and EFTA countries but also with third countries and other regional judicial networks. The EJN is handling approximately 400 cases with third countries a year.

### **2.2.1. Cooperation with EU candidate countries**

The EJN Contact Points assessed that their experience and cooperation with the EU candidate countries is often **as good as with an EU Member State**. In addition, the Contact Points have reported that the structural participation of EU candidate countries in the EJN meetings and the establishment of personal contacts has significantly contributed to the successful outcome of numerous cases. The EJN creates opportunities for the exchange of

best practice. The EJM is organising yearly meetings, particularly with the Western Balkan Contact Points, to increase the understanding and case-related exchange of best practice.

### **2.2.2. Cooperation with EJM associated countries**

The EJM Contact Points reported a very good experience in their cooperation with the EJM associated countries. The Contact Points from these countries are deeply involved with the Network and are taking part in a large number of EJM meetings. Associated countries' EJM Contact Points are also actively involved in many operational projects, which also creates a possibility to share experiences and address challenges in judicial cooperation.

### **2.2.3. Cooperation with third countries and judicial networks**

The EJM Contact Points reported that cooperation with third countries should be strengthened. To support the investigations of cross-border crime, in particular serious crime, the EJM also needs to rely on contacts in third countries. The most successful cooperation examples to date were, in general, provided with the support of other networks such as the ones under the umbrella of the UNODC; IberRed; Commonwealth; Council of Europe, and others. The Contact Points also reported many successful cases with the EJM Contact Points in third countries.

As indicated in the Action Plan, **the EJM will take steps to reinforce the cooperation with the EJM Contact Points in third countries and with regional networks** by looking in opportunities for closer cooperation, exchange of best practice, organising meetings and looking for possibilities to conclude Memorandums of Understanding.

With regards to the cooperation with the UK as a third country, the EJM Contact Points underlined that it is essential that the EJM Contact Points keep a close cooperation for their cases with the UK authorities. The EJM Secretariat will also need to update the EJM Atlas and other tools to support EU practitioners. The Contact Points report on both positive and negative experiences – i.e. the Contact Points in Scotland cooperate the most while in the rest of UK the cooperation seemed not consistently satisfactory.

### **2.2.4. Cooperation with Eurojust**

In line with the guidelines<sup>5</sup> on the distribution of cases, the EJM Contact Points reported that they have contacts with their National Desk at Eurojust where necessary. The EJM Contact Points are often contacted by Eurojust in their capacity of representatives of the national judicial authorities. The EJM Contact Points contact the Eurojust National Desks to transfer cases that are of Eurojust competence, when there is extreme urgency or to set up joint investigation teams (JITs).

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<sup>5</sup> Joint EJM-Eurojust report on the "Assessment of allocation of cases to Eurojust and to the European Judicial Network" and Joint EJM-Eurojust Paper "Assistance in International Cooperation in Criminal Matters for Practitioners"





As indicated in the Action Plan, the EJN will maintain and further improve the proper allocation of cases between the EJN and Eurojust by advising the practitioners of situations in which their request should be referred to Eurojust due to the need for coordination.

### 3. Functioning of the EJN

#### 3.1. EJN meetings

The vast majority of the Contact Points, **87.3%**, **find the EJN meetings to be a valuable experience**. The Contact Points elaborated that the EJN meetings provided an opportunity for the Contact Points to meet their colleagues from the other Member States face to face. For them, this greatly **improves daily cooperation in individual cases**. In addition, the Contact Points assess the topics discussed at the EJN meetings of practical interest for them. They also reported that the discussions in real time between the participants are more stimulating and richer in outcome than the opinion expressed in writing upon request.

The Contact Points **underlined the importance of the meetings for the proper functioning of the EJN**. The EJN Contact Points confirmed that the networking element of the meetings, the exchange of information and the face-to-face discussion of cases, is one of the reasons for the successful cooperation within the Network. In addition, the EJN Contact Points underlined that the meetings give them the opportunity to update their knowledge in certain areas they don't encounter often in their daily work and cases.

The Contact Points stressed that **participation in meetings is one of the key elements for creating more engagement** in the work of the EJN and that each Member State should find a balanced system of permanent presence as well as an opportunity for rotating participation for the EJN Contact Points in the meetings.

The EJN will continue organising the EJN meetings by addressing appropriate practical discussion topics on judicial cooperation, with dedicated time and space for discussions as well as an environment for networking and establishing contacts. In addition, the EJN will further stimulate the organisation of national and regional EJN meetings to ensure the engagement of even more Contact Points.

#### 3.2. Training for EJN Contact Points

From the replies, it becomes evident that the EJN Contact Points rely heavily on the EJN to acquire additional knowledge on judicial cooperation due to the fact that **the Network is a centre of expertise and information** on the subject matter. Many Contact Points indicated that by attending meetings and trainings organised by the EJN, they can gain additional knowledge and increase their expertise. The Contact Points expressed **wishes to have more trainings and meetings on judicial cooperation matters organised by the EJN** that would give the opportunity for more Contact Points to be involved. They also confirmed the need for the Legal English training that is organised yearly. Another aspect the EJN Contact Points expressed is the need for training on the instruments on judicial cooperation, on filling in the requests for legal assistance, the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), e-evidence and the use of the tools on the EJN website.

In addition, the Contact Points underlined the importance of **training specially dedicated to the newly nominated EJM Contact Points** that would give them a better insight into the work of the EJM, the EJM Secretariat and EJM website as it will give them an opportunity to meet and start establishing personal contacts.

As indicated in the Action Plan, the EJM will continue organising the yearly EJM language training and will look for possibilities to organise trainings on the topics identified by the Contact Points. In addition, the EJM will look for possibilities to cooperate more closely with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) in organising trainings for the EJM Contact Points.

### **3.3. Awareness**

The EJM Contact Points observed that the EJM is a well-known channel for facilitating judicial cooperation on criminal matters. Nevertheless, they noted that the judicial practitioners in the European Union would greatly benefit from the EJM reinforcing its efforts on raising awareness about the work of the Network with wider training on the EJM website to national authorities in the Member States.

The EJM is aiming to support the national judicial authorities to the furthest extent possible and will take additional steps in raising awareness in the EU Member States by actively promoting the function and activities of the Network as well as the resources available on the EJM website. With the support of the EJM National Correspondents, the Network will seek opportunities to establish contacts with the national schools of Magistrates/Institutes of Justice and regularly present its activities there. Furthermore, additional steps for promoting the EJM website and the EJM Contact Points within the judicial authorities in the EU Member States will be taken.

### **3.4. EJM Secretariat**

The replies of the Contact Points showed they highly value the support provided by the EJM Secretariat to the Network. Contact Points particularly mentioned the active role of the Secretariat in the preparation of meetings, drafting documents and reports, representing the Network vis-a-vis the EU institutions and partners as well as ensuring the strong functioning of the EJM in general. They also appreciate the up-to-date information on the EJM website, the development of the tools and sharing the most relevant news on judicial cooperation. The Contact Points acknowledged the support from the EJM Secretariat in obtaining contacts with judicial practitioners in third countries.

The overall impression is that the EJM Secretariat has been developing over time and it should be ensured that it receives adequate human and financial resources to continue supporting the EJM activities, functioning and website.

## **4. EJM website**

The EJM website remains the most specialised online repository for information related to judicial cooperation on criminal matters. With approximately 3 million yearly visits, the website provides information on the competent authorities to execute requests for judicial cooperation, the status of the implementation of the legal instruments and the national



notifications, forms, information on the law and legal systems in the EU Member States, relevant reports, handbooks, case law and more.

The **vast majority of the contributions** from the EJN Contact Points, **92.86%**, **indicated that they always find the information that they need** on the EJN website.

The EJN will continue to develop the EJN website and maintain the level of resources to collect and update information on judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

## IV. CONCLUSIONS

- The EJM Peer Evaluation confirms the **highly effective cooperation on cases within the Network**. For more than 20 years, since its establishment, the EJM has proven an essential partner for the national judicial authorities in their cross-border investigations. With more than 90 000 cases in the past 10 years, the EJM is undeniably identified as a group of highly skilled experts in judicial cooperation in criminal matters. The added operational value of the Network is confirmed by the EJM Contact Points, who assessed the success rate of the cooperation within the EJM to be 84.2%. The EJM will take further steps to fine-tune the functioning of the Network.
- The **EJM meetings are essential for the Network**, especially the EJM Plenary meetings. The EJM regional and national meetings offer an excellent complement, so the EJM and the Secretariat will continue to encourage the organisation of these meetings to create even more engagement for the EJM in the Member States.
- The **EJM website** is a one-stop-shop for information on international cooperation in criminal matters and provides several practical e-tools. The website has progressively become an indispensable, practical and useful instrument for the day-to-day operation of all practitioners, as it has been continuously adapted to the EU legislative changes and the needs of the practitioners. To continue building the EJM website as the most specialised repository for information on judicial cooperation and to meet the demands of the judicial practitioners, adequate human and financial resources should be allocated to the website.
- The EJM should continue to **develop cooperation with third countries** through established relations with other judicial networks around the world and the appointment of Contact Points in non-EU countries.
- The **privileged relations between the EJM and Eurojust** should be further developed to ensure both entities are dealing with cases for which they are best suited.
- To continue improving the EJM and the support it provides to the national judicial authorities, the **EJM should be allocated the necessary resources** to perform its function, both at national level and at EJM Secretariat and the related EJM budget level. The EJM Contact Points should be allocated dedicated time to work on their EJM cases and other EJM-related tasks such as training.
- With the aim of maintaining the high level of effective cooperation and to improve even further, the EJM has reflected on the potential areas for development, for which a detailed **Action Plan** has been adopted (see Annex).



## ANNEX: EJM PEER EVALUATIONS ACTION PLAN

Action category **red** – action required with immediate impact on the functioning of the EJM

Action category **green** – action on an ongoing basis

Action category **yellow** – action requiring further assessment

Area	Proposed actions/Outcomes from evaluation	Activities	Actors involved
1. Cooperation on cases	i. The EJM should <b>maintain a high level of effective cooperation</b> among the Contact Points.	a) The EJM Contact Points should share good practice and successful cases; b) The EJM Contact Points should inform the EJM National Correspondent and/or the EJM Secretariat if they are facing problems with the cooperation in particular cases in order to find a solutions.	EJM Contact Points  EJM National Correspondents (NCs)  EJM Secretariat
	ii. The EJM should develop <b>a catalogue of best practice on handling EJM cases</b> incorporating the best practice already existing within the Network. The Guidelines should include also an illustration ( <i>graph</i> ) of the <b>“EJM case cycle”</b> .	a) The EJM Secretariat and the EJM Peer Evaluation Working Group should draft a catalogue of best practice on handling EJM cases and EJM case cycle;	EJM Secretariat

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) The EJN National Correspondents should give comments and adopt the document;</li> <li>c) The EJN Secretariat should integrate the Catalogue in the "EJN Welcome package";</li> <li>d) EJN National Correspondents should disseminate the catalogue to the EJN CPs.</li> </ul>	<p>EJN Peer Evaluation Working Group</p> <p>EJN National Correspondents</p>
	<p>iii. The EJN should <b>reinforce the cooperation with the EJN CPs in third countries and with other judicial networks.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The EJN Secretariat should organise (online) meetings with the other judicial networks to facilitate the exchange of operational information and the establishment of direct contacts between the practitioners;</li> <li>b) The EJN Secretariat, together with CoE and UNODC, should take part in and/or organise meetings with the secretariats of the other judicial networks with the aim to work further on the interconnection of networks;</li> </ul>	<p>EJN Secretariat</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>c) In cooperation with UNODC, CoE and the other judicial networks, the EJM should contribute to the development of a template for requests for assistance between the networks;</li><li>d) The EJM Secretariat should work further on making accessible on the EJM website the contact details of the Contact Points of the other networks, to the EJM Contact Points;</li><li>e) The EJM should support the creation of new judicial networks by sharing best practice and knowledge;</li><li>f) The EJM should raise awareness of the "Open-Ended Catalogue of International Judicial Networks of Operational Relevance in the Fight against Transnational Organised Crime" and publish it on the EJM website;</li><li>g) The EJM should advance in the cooperation with the</li></ul>	
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		other judicial networks by concluding working agreements and/or MoUs with them.	
iv.	The EJN should <b>maintain and further improve the proper allocation of cases</b> between the EJN and Eurojust.	<p>a) The EJN Contact Points should promote the Joint EJN-Eurojust Paper - Assistance in International Cooperation in Criminal Matters for Practitioners and the Joint EJN- Eurojust report on the Assessment of allocation of cases to Eurojust and to the European Judicial Network among EJN Contact Points and practitioners in the Member States;</p> <p>b) The EJN Contact Points should advise the practitioners of situations in which their request should to be referred to Eurojust due to need for coordination.</p>	EJN Contact Points
v.	The EJN and the EJN Secretariat should <b>address the EU countries with a lower response rate on operational cases</b> to find solutions for enhancing the cooperation, involving the EJN National Correspondents of these EU countries and national authorities.	a) The EJN Peer Evaluation Working Group and the EJN Secretariat should further analyse the issue of lower response rate to properly	EJN National Correspondents





		<p>address the relevant NCs of the countries and share with them the findings from the questionnaire and interviews;</p> <p>b) The NCs concerned should agree with the EJM Secretariat on a plan to improve cooperation and address the difficulties in cooperation with these countries.</p>	<p>EJM Peer Evaluations Working Group</p> <p>EJM Secretariat</p>
<p><b>2. Functioning of the EJM and engagement of the Contact Points</b></p>	<p>i. The EJM National Correspondents are encouraged to <b>review regularly the nominated EJM Contact Points</b> for their countries in order to ensure adequate representation that meets the operational needs of the Network.</p>	<p>a) The EJM National Correspondents should regularly review the number of Contact Points and the profiles (specialisations) of the Contact Points and ensure adequate regional spread of Contact Points in their countries;</p> <p>b) The review under point a) should include considerations of an adequate representation of judges, prosecutors and MoJ officials to provide easier access for all practitioners;</p> <p>c) Based on the review under point a), the EJM National</p>	<p>EJM National Correspondents</p>

		Correspondents are encouraged to propose an amendment to the Contact Point nominations in their country, if needed.	
ii.	The EJM National Correspondents and the national authorities <b>should closely observe the EJM Guidelines on appointing CPs</b> , to make sure the suitable people are selected for EJM Contact Points.	<p>a) The EJM National Correspondents should advise the national authorities on the requirements for selecting EJM Contact Points;</p> <p>b) The EJM National Correspondents should advise the relevant national authorities on ensuring a handover process between the Contact Points;</p> <p>c) The EJM National Correspondents and national authorities should ensure the continuity of the CPs is kept to the greatest extent possible.</p>	EJM National Correspondents
iii.	The EJM <b>should recommend allocation of time for the EJM Contact Points</b> for fulfilment of their tasks as Contact Points.	a) The EJM National Correspondents and the EJM Secretariat should make a recommendation to the national authorities to allocate time for the EJM	EJM Secretariat  EJM National Correspondents



		<p>Contact Points so they have the possibility to fulfil their tasks as Contact Points;</p> <p>b) The EJN should consider incorporating such recommendations in the EJN guidelines on appointing CPs.</p>	
iv.	<p><b>The EJN should improve the Contact Points lists on the EJN website</b> by completing and streamlining the information about the regional competence, photos, specialisation and availability of the Contact Points.</p>	<p>a) The EJN Secretariat should look for a technical solution on improving the presentation of the regional competences of the Contact Points within their country;</p> <p>b) The EJN should adopt a harmonised approach with regard to the presentation of information about the Contact Points;</p> <p>c) The EJN Contact Points lists should be updated in accordance with the newly agreed format.</p>	<p>EJN Secretariat</p> <p>EJN National Correspondents</p> <p>EJN Tools Correspondents</p>
v.	<p>The EJN should <b>stimulate the organisation of more EJN regional and national meetings</b> with the aim to improve the functioning of the network in the countries/regions and to promote the engagement with the EJN for all Contact Points.</p>	<p>a) The EJN Secretariat should update the EJN Meetings Guidelines to adjust the clauses on financial contributions and assessment criteria for</p>	<p>EJN Secretariat</p>

		<p>awarding grants with the aim to be able to finance bigger meetings, allowing the majority of the national CPs to attend;</p> <p>b) The EJM Secretariat should send recommendations for the organisation of national meetings to the NCs of the countries that did not organise regional/national meetings in the past few years to stimulate the engagement of the Network in this country.</p>	EJM National Correspondents
vi.	The EJM should analyse <b>whether it would be necessary and feasible to introduce a 24/7</b> availability function of the Contact Points.	a) The EJM NCs should make an assessment in their Member State about the needs and resources for 24/7 availability.	EJM National Correspondents
vii.	The newly appointed <b>EJM National Correspondents and EJM Tools Correspondents should be introduced to the Network</b> by dedicating a special area in the EJM Newsletter. Other Contact Points who wish to be introduced could also be included.	<p>a) The EJM Secretariat should dedicate a section in the EJM Newsletter for new NCs/TCs/CPs introductions;</p> <p>b) The notice of a new NC should include brief information about the background and goals for the NC.</p>	EJM Secretariat



	<p>viii. The EJN should <b>stimulate the engagement and introduction of the newly appointed EJN Contact Points</b> to the network by organising dedicated meetings and/or trainings for them.</p>	<p>a) The EJN Secretariat should organise induction meetings for newly appointed EJN Contact Points;</p> <p>b) The EJN Secretariat should make a yearly assessment of the financial and human resources needed to organise this meeting and decide on the format to be used;</p> <p>c) The EJN Secretariat should make an agenda with the topics for the meeting and should identify appropriate speakers among the EJN Contact Points.</p>	<p>EJN Secretariat</p> <p>EJN Contact Points</p>
	<p>ix. The EJN should <b>continue to set up working groups composed of EJN Contact Points for the discussion of particular judicial cooperation topics</b> as well as to <b>collect and disseminate</b> information on these topics to the practitioners in the Member States.</p>	<p>a) If the EJN Secretariat and the EJN Contact Points identify topics of interest for the Network, they should propose the creation of an EJN Working Group;</p> <p>b) The EJN Secretariat and the EJN National Correspondents should evaluate the proposals for new working groups and when approved to launch a call for volunteers for members.</p>	<p>EJN Secretariat</p> <p>EJN National Correspondents</p> <p>EJN Contact Points</p>

<b>3. Training</b>	i.	The EJN <b>should establish a scoreboard on the training needs of the EJN Contact Points and the role of the EJN in training activities</b> on the national and international level.	a) The EJN will set up a working group with the mandate to propose an EJN Scoreboard on training.	EJN Secretariat  EJN Working Group on training
	ii.	The EJN Secretariat should <b>keep organising the yearly English language training</b> for EJN Contact Points to improve the level of knowledge of legal terminology in English.	a) The EJN Secretariat should identify substantive topics that will be included in the yearly English language training and identify appropriate speakers.	EJN Secretariat
	iii.	The EJN should seek opportunities for <b>organising additional trainings</b> for the EJN CPs on the legal instruments on judicial cooperation, filling in the requests for legal assistance, the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), e-evidence and the use of the tools on the EJN website.	a) The EJN Secretariat should assess the possibility and the resources to organise in-person trainings and/or online information sessions; b) The EJN Secretariat should identify relevant topics and speakers for these trainings.	EJN Secretariat
	iv.	The EJN should <b>seek opportunities to organise trainings</b> for the EJN Contact Points in cooperation <b>with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)</b> , <i>European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)</i> , <i>European Research Area (ERA)</i> and other relevant entities specialised in training of judicial practitioners.	a) The EJN Secretariat should continue the dialogues with the EJTN and discuss quotas for participation of EJN Contact Points in the EJTN trainings; b) The EJN should bring up topics of interest to be	EJN Secretariat



		<p>included in the training programme of EJTN;</p> <p>c) The EJM Secretariat should look for opportunities to establish contacts with EIPA and ERA to seek opportunities for joint training activities.</p>	
	<p>v. The EJM Contact Points and National Correspondents should consider the organisation of <b>national trainings for EJM Contact Points</b> in which they can also discuss cases and exchange best practice.</p>	<p>a) The EJM Contact Points and EJM National Correspondents should seek opportunities to organise national trainings for EJM Contact Points where they can discuss cases and information on legal instruments;</p> <p>b) If requested, the EJM Secretariat should support national trainings by presenting the functionalities of the EJM website, the EJM projects and conclusions;</p> <p>c) If requested, the EJM Secretariat could provide materials.</p>	<p>EJM National Correspondents</p> <p>EJM Contact Points</p> <p>EJM Secretariat</p>
<p><b>4. Meetings</b></p>	<p>i. The EJM <b>should continue organising the EJM meetings</b> by addressing appropriate practical discussion topics on judicial cooperation, with</p>	<p>a) The EJM Presidencies, supported by the EJM Secretariat, should observe the EJM meeting guidelines</p>	<p>EJM Presidencies</p>

	dedicated time and space for discussions as well as an environment for networking and establishing contacts.	and discuss together appropriate topics; b) The EJN Secretariat together with the EJN Presidencies, should periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the new methodology of organising the EJN meetings and when needed address Eurojust for assessing resources.	EJN Secretariat
ii.	The EJN should <b>continue to encourage the organisation of regional and national EJN meetings</b> and <b>revise the guidelines</b> with the aim to create more opportunities for the Member States to organise bigger meetings and to dedicate them primarily to enhancing the function of the EJN.	Supra point 2 (v)	
iii.	The EJN should <b>seek opportunities to organise joint meetings with the other judicial networks</b> to enhance the operational capabilities and exchange best practice on the functioning of the networks.	Supra point 1 (iii)	
iv.	The EJN should promote <b>a balanced system of permanent presence as well as an opportunity for rotating participation</b> for the EJN Contact Points in the meetings.	a) The EJN NCs should create a balanced system of permanent presence as well as an opportunity for rotating participation for the EJN Contact Points in the EJN meeting.	





<b>5. Awareness</b>	i.	The EJN should <b>develop a broader awareness strategy</b> and further promote the work and effectiveness of the Network as well as the resources on the EJN website, targeting the practitioners in the Member States.	<p>a) The EJN Secretariat should draft an extended EJN awareness strategy;</p> <p>b) The EJN Secretariat should produce awareness-related materials (e.g. leaflets).</p>	<p>EJN Secretariat</p> <p>EJN Peer Evaluation Working Group</p> <p>EJN National Correspondents</p>
	ii.	The EJN National Correspondents should promote the insertion of <b>reference to the EJN website and Contact Points in the intranet pages</b> of the judicial authorities – i.e. Ministries of Justice, Prosecutor’s Office and Courts.	<p>a) The EJN National Correspondents should promote the insertion of reference to the EJN website and EJN Contact Points in the intranet pages of the judicial authorities;</p> <p>b) The EJN National Correspondents should consider additional national webpages used by judicial practitioners.</p>	EJN National Correspondents
	iii.	The <b>EJN Contact Points should seek opportunities to bring up experiences from the work of the Network</b> when meeting with relevant bodies (e.g. European Commission Expert Groups, international meetings and conferences).	a) The EJN Contact Points should refer to the work of the EJN when meeting with relevant external bodies and/or partner institutions, in	<p>EJN Contact Points</p> <p>EJN Secretariat</p>

		<p>order to promote the good practices of the EJN;</p> <p>b) If requested by the EJN Contact Points, the EJN Secretariat could provide them supporting information on the functioning of the Network (e.g. statistical overview of cases, information on projects etc.);</p> <p>c) The EJN Contact Points should inform the EJN Secretariat of EJN-relevant initiatives in which the Network can take part (e.g. intra-institutional projects, working groups, trainings on judicial cooperation).</p>	
	<p>iv. The <b>EJN Contact Points should regularly report their EJN cases</b> in the EJN Reporting Tool as this information is presented to the EU institutions.</p>	<p>a) The EJN Contact Points should observe the Guidelines for Reporting and regularly report their cases;</p> <p>b) The EJN should set up an EJN Working Group on the Reporting and Reporting Tool to streamline the reporting process and look for ways to improve the process;</p>	<p>EJN Contact Points</p> <p>EJN Working Group on the case reporting</p> <p>EJN National Correspondents</p>



		<p>c) The EJN National Correspondents should regularly follow the rate of the case reporting for their country and encourage the Contact Points to report, if necessary;</p> <p>d) The EJN Secretariat should monitor the reporting of the EJN cases and should prepare overviews to be presented in the EJN Activity Report;</p> <p>e) The EJN Secretariat should upgrade the EJN Reporting Tool based on its own assessment and feedback from the CPs.</p>	EJN Secretariat
	<p>v. The EJN should <b>establish contacts with the National Schools of Magistrates and other similar institutions</b> in order to organise presentations on the EJN website and the EJN functions.</p>	<p>a) The EJN NCs should establish or promote contacts with the National Schools of Magistrates/Institutes of Justice in their countries, to find opportunities to present the work of the EJN and the EJN website to the practitioners in their countries;</p> <p>b) If requested, the EJN Secretariat could make</p>	EJN National Correspondents

		presentations and provide materials (e.g. brochures and leaflets).	
<b>6. Website</b>	i. The EJM should <b>continue to develop the EJM website</b> and maintain the level of resources to collect and update information on judicial cooperation in criminal matters.	<p>a) The EJM Secretariat should ensure all the relevant information on judicial cooperation is present and updated on the EJM website;</p> <p>b) The EJM should ensure sufficient human and financial resources are allocated to the regular development of the EJM website.</p>	EJM Secretariat
	ii. The EJM Tools Correspondents, with support of the EJM Contact Points, should <b>actively contribute to the update of the tools and information</b> on the EJM website.	<p>a) The EJM Tools Correspondents should regularly assess the accuracy of the information about their countries in the EJM website tools;</p> <p>b) The EJM Tools Correspondents and the EJM Contact Points should submit relevant information to be uploaded in the relevant pages of the EJM website (e.g. relevant national cases).</p>	<p>EJM Tools Correspondents</p> <p>EJM Contact Points</p> <p>EJM Secretariat</p>



	<p>iii. The EJN <b>should assess the need to translate more parts of the EJN website</b> in the national languages of the EU Member States.</p>	<p>a) The EJN should assess the need and possibility to translate additional parts of the EJN website in the national languages;</p> <p>b) The EJN Secretariat should make an assessment on the pages that could be translated.</p>	<p>EJN National Correspondents</p> <p>EJN Secretariat</p>
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