European Judicial Cybercrime Network - Newsletter

WELCOME

From the challenges of the criminal misuse of AI to obfuscation of crypto assets and victim remediation in ransomware, the EJCN discussions during the 15th Plenary Meeting at Eurojust remained as dynamic and engaging as ever.

Last November the network met again in The Hague, strengthening the connections EU moving forward to share the knowledge on cybercrime for judicial authorities.

15th EJCN PLENARY MEETING

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CYBERCRIME AND CRYPTO ASSETS
PREVENTION
GOING DARK DEBATE

"Science, for me, gives a partial explanation for life. In so far as it goes, it is based on fact, experience and experiment."

Rosalind Franklin, *Chemist, molecular biologist, key figure in unlocking the structure of human DNA*.

THE NETWORK PAST AND FUTURE

On the 27th and 28th of November the EJCN Contact Points from the EU Member States, Japan, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and The United States met at Eurojust to discuss trends, cases to take back best practices, the problems of encryption, data retention and the future activities of the Network.

More details here.

On the 7th of December, the EJCN in cooperation with the Cyclopes Project offered training to judicial and law enforcement practitioners on ransomware and on how reporting and support to victims can be improved

From 18th to 20th December, the Spanish Presidency of the Council will host an International Conference on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence in Madrid.

Eurojust and the EJCN will be represented, providing input on the topics of Encrypted Platforms, E-Evidence Regulation, 2nd Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention, Cryptocurrencies and the Going Dark Initiative.

DATA RETENTION

The Data Retention Subgroup continues to follow the latest jurisprudence of the CJEU and gathering the replies to the questionnaire sent to the EJCN Contact Points to analyse the EU State of play on the topic. Please contribute if you have not done so yet.

Latest judgement from the CJEU on 7 September 2023, Case C-162/22, concluded that retained data provided to authorities for the purpose of

combating serious crime cannot be used in the context of investigations for a disciplinary offense related to corruption.

DIGITAL EVIDENCE

On 21-22 November 2023 the SIRIUS Conference was held at Europol HQ and online, with the participation of EJCN Contact Points from Belgium, Portugal and Slovakia.

The SIRIUS Conference aims to bring together law enforcement and judicial authorities as well as representatives and experts from the public and the private sectors to create and foster an international network of expertise in the field of electronic evidence.

TRAINING

During 2022 (461 participants) and 2023 (797 participants) the EJCN provided online training on cybercrime, digital evidence, crypto assets and blockchain technology to **a total of 1258 participants from the judiciary and law enforcement,** on its own and in cooperation with EU funded projects – Cyclopes, SIRIUS and Western Balkans Project. EJCN Contact Points and EJCN Support Team also contributed in person to training provided by EJTN and Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Center.

In 2024 (dates to be announced), the EJCN will continue with its Master Classes on digital evidence and other cyber topics.

The EJCN will continue its collaboration with Cyclopes Project. A practitioners' workshop on **Child Sexual Abuse** online will be held by the Project on the **14th - 15th February 2024, in Floriana (Malta).**

Access to the Council of Europe HELP **course on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence**, namely touching upon the Budapest Convention and its 2nd Additional Protocol can be found here.

CRYPTO ASSETS

The Crypto Assets Subgroup continues to work on a 2nd Volume of the EJCN Virtual Assets Guide, focusing on topics not previously covered.

CYBER NEWS

Generative AI can be used by criminals in a variety of ways. This study by the Intellectual Property Crime Project looks at how criminals may use generative AI to violate various intellectual property rights, mentioning ongoing cases and attempts to regulate the use of generative AI in relation to intellectual property.

Artificial Intelligence Act: the EU Council and European Parliament strike a deal on the first rules for AI in the world. Following a 3-day 'marathon' talks, the Council presidency and the European Parliament's negotiators have reached a provisional agreement on the proposal on harmonized rules on artificial intelligence (AI). The draft regulation aims to ensure that AI systems placed on the European market and used in the EU are safe and respect fundamental rights and EU values. The full Press Release, from 9 December 2023, can be found here.

Ransomware group dismantled in Ukraine in a major international operation supported by Eurojust and Europol. Judicial and law enforcement authorities from seven different countries have joined forces in an action against a criminal network responsible for significant ransomware attacks across the world. These attacks are believed to have affected over 1,800 victims in 71 countries. The perpetrators targeted large corporations, effectively bringing their business to a standstill and causing losses of at least several hundred millions of euros.

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EJCN Support Team

In line with the Council Conclusions of 9 June 2016 EJCN is supported by Eurojust.