

EJN Regional Meetings 2010-2015

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	Trans-border investigative measures and the Role of EJN	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	MLA; Recognition and execution of the financial penalties; Seizure of property	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	Application of agreements; Competent authorities and routes for requesting mutual legal assistance	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	Cross-border cooperation and the role of EJN	Contact Points received an update on recent developments regarding judicial cooperation in the participating countries.
7-8 May 2012	Germany	Berlin	DE, AT, HR	Exchange experiences and develop ideas to enhance judicial cooperation in criminal matters	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	Streamline the practise in judicial cooperation in criminal matters for the Baltic countries	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	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?	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	Cybercrime; Regional cooperation between the participating countries	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	Role of the Prosecutor with reference to international crime co-operation	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	Controlled deliveries	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	Best practices and the role of the CPs role in the execution of the EAW	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	Cross-border cooperation under recent Council Framework Decisions based on the principle of Mutual Recognition	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	Fighting against THB; Sharing experiences and regulations related to organizing JITs	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>Changes in mutual legal assistance;</p> <p>European Investigation Order;</p> <p>Transfer of proceedings;</p> <p>Spontaneous exchange of information;</p> <p>JITs;</p> <p>Hit-and-run criminality</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>Introducing new EJN contact points;</p> <p>Discussing practical problems in the field of MLA</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	Recognition of sentences made abroad; handover of the implementation of penalty; transfer of sentences persons; Issues arising during the judicial interpretation of EAWs	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	Seizure and confiscation in trans-border cases - the role of EJN	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	FD 2008/909/JHA („Custodial sentences“) FD 2008/947/JHA („Probation“)	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	JITs; FD 2008/909/JHA („Custodial sentences“) FD 2005/214/JHA („Financial penalties“)	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	Cross-border surveillance; Controlled deliveries; Confiscation orders.	<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>