



Call for Proposals for Financial Assistance to Joint Investigation Teams

(2017/6)

Objectives and Scope

1. Providing technical and financial support to joint investigation teams (JITs) is part of Eurojust's mission to stimulate and improve the coordination of investigations and prosecutions in cross-border criminal cases, as defined by Article 3 of Council Decision 2002/187/JHA of 28 February 2002 as amended by Council Decision 2009/426/JHA of 16 December 2009 (the 'Eurojust Decision'). According to Article 25a of the Eurojust Decision, the Secretariat of the Network for Joint Investigation Teams is located at Eurojust. This action grant will enhance the use of JITs by ensuring that financial and other organisational constraints linked to the cross-border nature of the case do not hinder the establishment and operational needs of a JIT. A further benefit comes from the ability of Eurojust, through its involvement in JITs and funding applications, to gain valuable information on the operation, needs and effectiveness of JITs as a whole.
2. Eurojust will financially support JITs with a maximum amount of EUR 350 000 between 02/10/2017 and 31/12/2017.
3. To comply with the co-financing principle, Eurojust will reimburse 95% of the total eligible costs under this call for proposals. This means that the amount stipulated in the Award Decision will be reimbursed fully only in the event that this amount constitutes less than or equal to 95% of the total eligible costs. An amount of at least 5% of the total eligible costs shall be borne by the national authorities of the States.
4. Through these grants, Eurojust provides support to the following actions:
 - meetings of the JIT, participation in investigative measures carried out on the territory of another State,
 - Interpretation during activities of the JIT, including during investigative measures and translation of evidentiary material, procedural or case-related documents, and
 - Cross-border transfer of seized items, evidentiary material, procedural or case-related documents.
5. Eligible costs related to these actions are the following:



- travel and accommodation costs,
- interpretation and translation costs, and
- transport costs.

Travel and accommodation costs will be reimbursed on the basis of the following unit costs, following the principles set out in Article 124 of [Regulation 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation 165/2002](#)¹:

Nature of travel/accommodation	Applicable unit costs
Return flight within EU	EUR 280 per person
Return flight to and from non-EU States	EUR 340 per person
Return flight to and from overseas States/territories	EUR 880 per person
Return trip by car (EU/non-EU)	EUR 180 per vehicle
Return trip by train/bus (EU/non-EU)	EUR 230 per person
Return trip by boat (EU/non-EU)	EUR 80 per person
Accommodation (EU/non-EU)	70% of applicable country ceiling ²
<p>(*) For the purposes of calculating this unit cost, one car shall be deemed to carry up to three passengers. As such, the unit cost of EUR 180 will be reimbursed on the basis of multiples of three passengers (with four to six passengers being reimbursed EUR 360 and so on).</p>	

Logistical support is also provided through the lending of equipment (mobile telephones with communication costs included, laptops, mobile scanners and printers) for a renewable duration of six months. Eurojust does not therefore seek to finance the entirety of a JIT, but only those costs arising from the cross-border dimension of the investigation.³

¹ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p.1.

² A complete list of unit costs applied for accommodation, country per country, can be found on Eurojust's website – [JITs funding document library](#) – Section 'unit costs and ceilings'.

³ For example, the following JIT costs are excluded: staff expenditure, insurance for seconded members of the JIT, expenditure on communication interception, expenditure arising from seized assets (except transport costs), expenditure on office accommodation, expenditure on technical equipment necessary for the encrypted exchange of data.



6. To enable reasonable distribution and achieve the aims of JITs funding, a ceiling of EUR 50 000 has been set for each application.
7. Actions of JITs for which financial assistance is sought should take place between 02/10/2017 and 31/12/2017. No extension of the action period is possible.

How do you apply for the funds?

8. To obtain financial assistance from the Eurojust budget, the representative of the competent national authority involved in the JIT (a JIT leader or a JIT member) completes the PDF application form and submits it by e-mail to Eurojust. In the event that national authorities encounter technical difficulties when completing the PDF application form, Eurojust accepts applications:
 - sent by registered post or courier, in which case the date of dispatch shall be evidenced by the postmark or the date of the deposit slip, or
 - delivered by hand to the JITs Network Secretariat against a signed and dated receipt.
9. The application must include sufficient detail of actions for which funding is sought and their justification, as well as an adequate explanation of equipment needed, to enable the Evaluation Committee to consider the submitted application. All sections of the application form must be completed.

Eligibility Criteria

10. Your application must contain the following elements and fulfil the following requirements:
 - ✓ completed, signed and initialled application form (based on the most recent form available from Eurojust);
 - ✓ copy of the signed JIT agreement (edited to exclude any identifying data) including possible extensions⁴ (unless a copy of the signed JIT agreement and an extension covering the action period of this call for proposals have already been provided for in a previous application);

⁴ If the JIT has already expired and funding is sought for the purposes of the evaluation or in relation to investigative or judicial procedures derived directly from the JIT in which its result is to be used, a copy of the last extension available before the closure of the JIT shall be provided.



- ✓ a completed Financial Identification Form⁵ of a public institution of a State involved in the JIT (unless the application identifies at least one bank account of a public institution of a State involved in the JIT that is already known and acknowledged by Eurojust)⁶
- ✓ deadline for submission of the application has been respected;
- ✓ action for which the funding is sought that is to be executed during the corresponding timeframe;
- ✓ only one application for the same JIT to be submitted within one application deadline; and
- ✓ A JIT that received funding within the framework of a call for proposals cannot apply for funding in the call for proposals that immediately follows.

Selection Criteria

11. The application for financial assistance must be submitted by the JIT leaders or by one JIT leader or JIT member of a Member State with delegated authority, in his/her professional capacity, to demonstrate the professional competencies required to participate in a JIT.

Evaluation

12. All applications received within the relevant application deadline will initially be assessed by Eurojust according to the eligibility and selection criteria.
13. Eligible applications will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee⁷ and ranked, taking into account the following **award criteria**:

(1) investigation of a crime identified as a priority by Eurojust and/or in the Council conclusions on setting the EU's priorities for the fight against serious and organised crime between 2014 and 2017;⁸

⁵ Available at <http://www.eurojust.europa.eu/doclibrary/IITs/jits-funding/Pages/jits-funding.aspx>.

⁶ Should the communicated bank account prove not to be already known and acknowledged by Eurojust in accordance with the applicable financial rules, the applicant will be requested to provide a completed Financial Identification Form for this account within a set deadline. In such case award of a grant will only be made once this condition is fulfilled.

⁷ The Evaluation Committee is composed of a Eurojust National Member (or one Deputy or Assistant) and two Eurojust staff members.

⁸ Conclusions available at http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/137401.pdf. On 21 January 2014, the College of Eurojust adopted the following crime priorities for 2014-2017: drug trafficking, illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings, fraud (in particular Missing Trader Intra-Community fraud (MTIC) and excise fraud), corruption, cybercrime (including child sexual abuse images), criminal offences affecting the European Union's financial interests (PIF), organised property crimes committed by (mobile) organised crime groups, and terrorism.



- (2) number of States involved;
- (3) the application concerns a JIT that has not previously received Commission or other sources of EU funding;
- (4) execution rate of previous grants awarded by Eurojust, where applicable;
- (5) purpose and aim of the JIT;
- (6) details of action to be funded (importance of an action).

14. A maximum of 10 points can be awarded for each criterion, with a total of 60 per application. Proposals attaining an individual score of 2 points or less for criterion 5 or 6 will not be considered for the award of a grant.
15. The Evaluation Committee will consider the actual amounts and possible equipment for each application, taking into account the ranking, available funds, number of applications received, availability of equipment and the amount sought in each application.
16. The decision is then communicated to the JIT (i.e. to the contact person and JIT leaders(s) mentioned in the application form).

Timeframe

17. The deadline for applications is 15 September 2017.
18. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation of their application not later than 29 September 2017.
19. Please submit your application by e-mail by sending an electronic version of the scanned original to jits@eurojust.europa.eu.
20. In the event that national authorities encounter technical difficulties when completing the PDF application form, Eurojust accepts applications:
 - sent by registered post or courier, in which case the date of dispatch shall be evidenced by the postmark or the date of the deposit slip, or
 - delivered by hand to the JITs Network Secretariat against a signed and dated receipt.

In these cases, the application shall be addressed to:

JITs FUNDING
JITs Network Secretariat
Eurojust
Johan de Wittlaan 9,
2517 JR The Hague
The Netherlands



21. If the application is successful, a specified amount will be reserved pending the submission of a request for reimbursement within the fixed deadline. A request for reimbursement must be submitted, together with the supporting evidence by a competent authority of a State involved in the JIT, in accordance with the terms and conditions included in the annex of the application form, no later than 01/02/2018. No reimbursement will be made if the request for reimbursement arrives after the deadline.

21. For all queries, please e-mail jits@eurojust.europa.eu.

22. For additional information on the Terms and Conditions applicable to this call for proposals, please see the annex of the Application Form.