



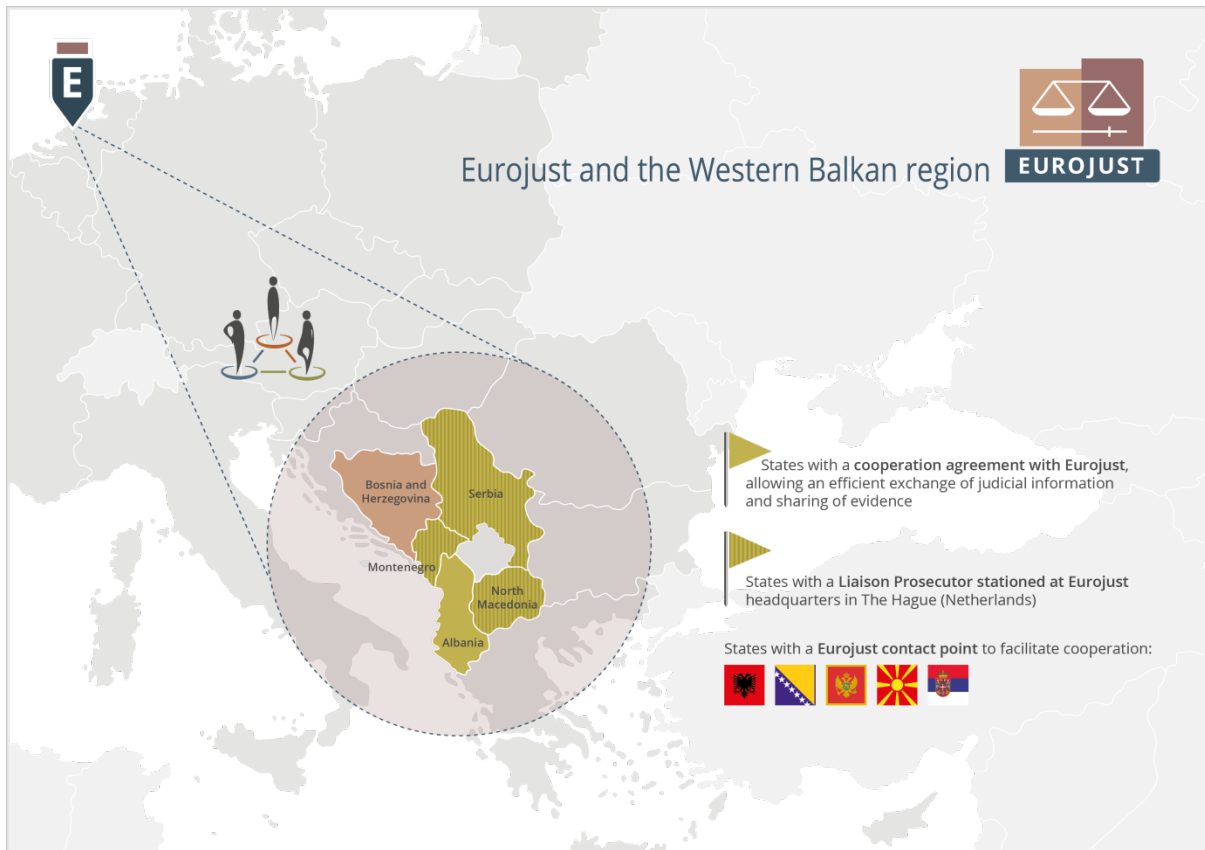
Questions & Answers

Eurojust's cooperation with Serbia and the Western Balkans

Is Eurojust active in Western Balkans?

Eurojust has signed cooperation agreements with four Western Balkan States: Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Since January 2015, 330 cases have been registered at Eurojust involving Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, including the participation in fourteen joint investigation teams (JITs). Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina rank among the top 10 third States that actively cooperate with Eurojust on crime cases, in the role of a requesting or requested State.

How is Eurojust cooperating with Western Balkan States?



Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

Bosnian contact points for Eurojust were first established in March 2014 to initiate negotiations for the conclusion of a cooperation agreement. Since January 2015, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was requested for assistance in a total of 40 cases. BiH was involved in two JITs and participated in eight coordination meetings in the same period. Since the beginning of 2018, BiH has been involved in nine cases.

North Macedonia

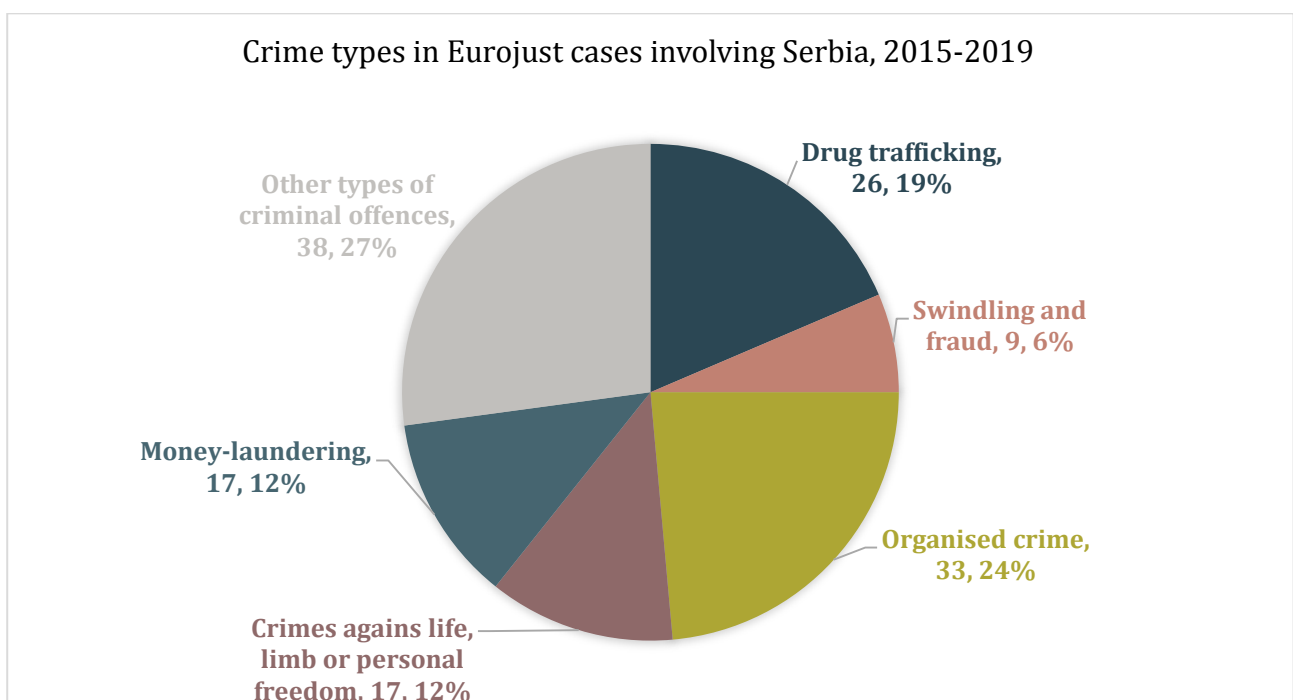
North Macedonia has concluded a cooperation agreement with Eurojust in 2008. The first contact point for Eurojust was appointed in 2004, followed by additional contact points in 2018. North Macedonia concluded a cooperation agreement with Eurojust in 2008 and posted a Liaison Prosecutor in November 2018. Since January 2015, North Macedonia has been requested for assistance in 23 cases and participated in two coordination meetings.

Montenegro

The first Montenegrin contact point for Eurojust was established in 2004. Eurojust and Montenegro entered into a cooperation agreement in 2016. In December 2017, a Liaison Prosecutor for Montenegro was seconded to Eurojust. In January 2018, Eurojust was informed of the appointment of an additional Montenegrin contact point on terrorism matters, in accordance with the cooperation agreement. Montenegro has been requested for assistance in 41 cases since January 2015. In 2018, the Liaison Prosecutor has registered 5 new Montenegrin cases, and Montenegro has been involved in 10 cases.

Serbia

A Serbian contact point for Eurojust is in place since 2004. A cooperation agreement with Serbia was signed on 12 November 2019 in Belgrade and entered into force on 11 December 2019. A Serbian Liaison Prosecutor has taken up duties as of 2 March 2020. Serbia is the most requested Western Balkan State in Eurojust cases and since January 2015 has been involved 150 cases. Serbia has participated in seven JITs and 22 coordination meetings.



Albania

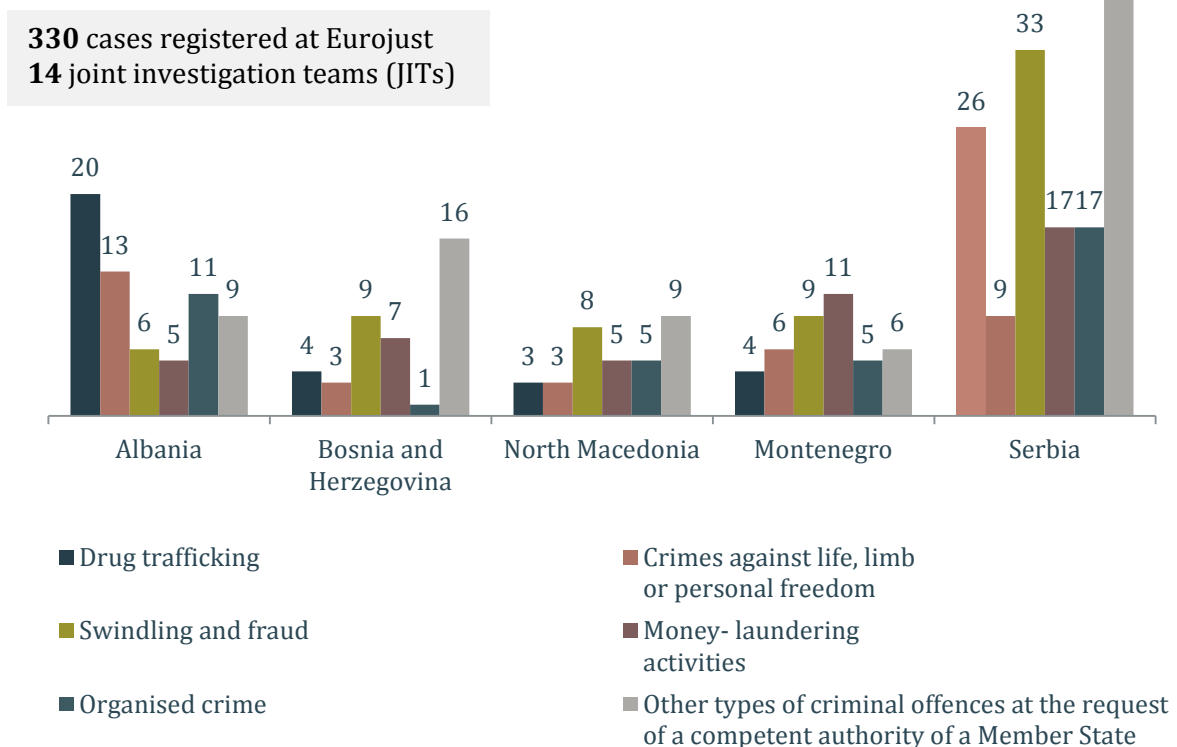
Albania's cooperation with Eurojust originates from 2004, when the first Albanian contact point for Eurojust was appointed. Currently, there are two contact points for Eurojust from Albania. In October 2018 a cooperation agreement was signed by Eurojust and Albania. Since January 2015, Albania has been requested for assistance in a total of 54 cases. In 2017, the first joint investigation team (JIT) agreement was signed between Albania and Italy.

Which crimes types are more frequent in Western Balkans?

Organised criminality in Western Balkan States varies from terrorism to migrant smuggling, and organised property crime, the most common crime types being swindling and fraud and drug trafficking, as well as crimes against life, limb or personal freedom. Since 2015, Serbia has been mostly involved in drug trafficking and swindling and fraud cases, Bosnia and Herzegovina in organised property crime, whereas North Macedonia mainly in swindling and fraud and crimes against life cases. Montenegro's involvement was mostly in swindling and fraud cases.

Cases registered, JITs and main crime types in coordination with the Western Balkans

Period: 01 January 2015 - 31 December 2019



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