



Eurojust Multi-Annual Strategy 2019 – 2021

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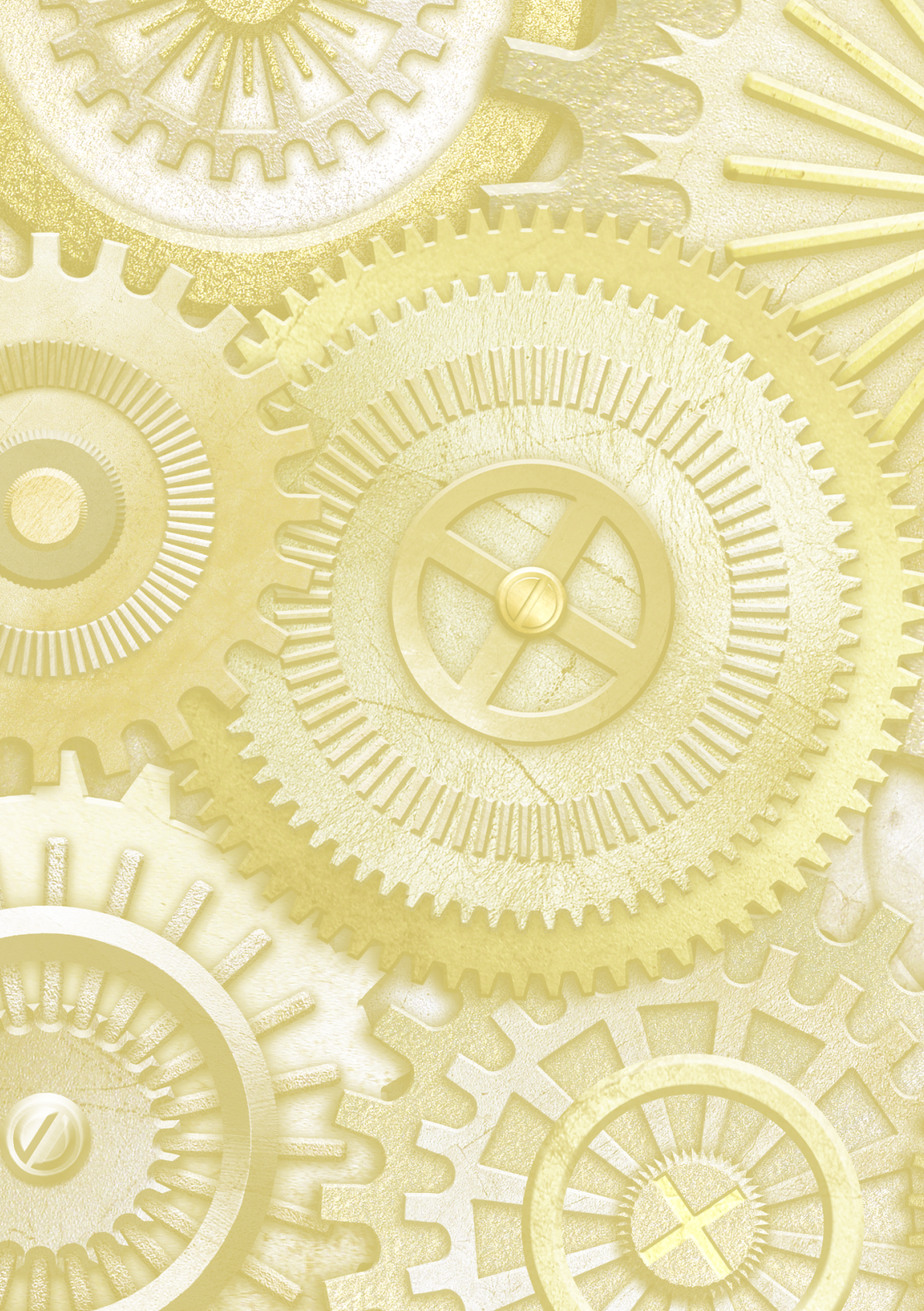
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Eurojust Multi-Annual Strategy

2019 - 2021



Introduction

Eurojust successfully supports the Member States in the fight against serious cross-border crime. Its operational experience gained over its 15 years of existence on the facilitation of mutual legal assistance, the use of mutual recognition instruments and the coordination of criminal cases has been of significant added value to the national authorities of the Member States.

During this period, Eurojust has made significant progress and has developed its operational capabilities to effectively respond to the increasing demands of the Member States. Eurojust has progressively implemented organisational changes to gain efficiencies and reallocate capacity to casework.

Eurojust has also been actively contributing to the improvement of the European Union in judicial cooperation. Under the current threat landscape, Eurojust has reinforced its operational support to Member States in the fight against terrorism, illegal immigrant smuggling, cybercrime and other cross-border crime and has proactively developed products to enhance judicial cooperation based on its expertise.

Eurojust is entering a crucial phase in its development, taking into account the imminent adoption of a Regulation on Eurojust and the establishment of a European Public Prosecutor's Office. The Multi-Annual Strategy 2019 - 2021 supports the development of Eurojust in light of these challenges, reconciling the need to continue to strengthen its operational capacities while adapting to a changing environment.

This Multi-Annual Strategy emphasizes the need to deliver more and better results in the core operational activities of Eurojust: aiming at excelling in the support to the Member States, providing advice based on operational experience, and further improving organisational effectiveness.

1. Mission of Eurojust

Article 85(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that:

'Eurojust's mission shall be to support and strengthen coordination and cooperation between national investigating and prosecuting authorities in relation to serious crime affecting two or more Member States or requiring a prosecution on common bases, on the basis of operations conducted and information supplied by the Member States' authorities and by Europol.'

Stemming from our legal framework, our mission is:

'Serving justice across borders for a safer Europe.'

2. Vision of Eurojust

'Eurojust is the EU leading partner in bringing criminals to justice and a key player in ensuring a more secure world.'

3. Multi-annual strategic objectives 2019 - 2021



Multi-annual strategic objective 1 - Casework

Eurojust functions as the European Union centre for international judicial cooperation and coordination between competent authorities in serious cross-border crime cases.

Strategic action areas:

1(a) Provide quick and qualitative support to competent authorities

Eurojust strives for effective operational results and excellence in its support of investigations and prosecutions by the Member States in serious cross-border crime cases. Eurojust proactively fosters and facilitates cooperation and coordination between competent authorities of the Member States, providing high-quality services responsive to stakeholders' needs.

Eurojust will continue to encourage Member States to refer more complex cross-border crime cases to profit from Eurojust's tailor-made, expert advice at an early stage of investigation. Eurojust will enhance the quality of the operational, logistical

and financial support to coordination meetings, coordination centres and joint investigation teams, ensuring that services are provided expeditiously. The support provided through these tools will be periodically evaluated to accommodate expectations and demands from national authorities.

While regularly providing operational support in all serious crime cases within its mandate, Eurojust will remain attentive to urgent operational needs of the Member States in the fight against terrorism, organised crime, cybercrime and illegal immigrant smuggling, identified as priority areas by the European Agendas on Security and Migration, and will also tackle the priorities identified by the European Union Policy Cycle 2018 - 2021, offering immediate operational response. Eurojust is committed to providing contributions to Operational Action Plans within the European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), emphasizing the need to enhance the operational judicial component in this area.

Member States expect a full-range of operational services from Eurojust. Therefore, Eurojust will reinforce the sharing of experience and best practice in effective casework handling as part of its regular operational feedback to practitioners. As a centre of legal expertise, Eurojust will provide its expert advice on judicial cooperation, making available its substantial knowledge of international judicial cooperation and mutual recognition instruments, particularly mutual legal assistance, European Arrest Warrants, joint investigation teams and European Investigation Orders. Eurojust's experience in the areas of conflicts of jurisdiction, confiscation and asset recovery will also be made available to practitioners.

Eurojust will enhance its capabilities to process and analyse substantial case-related information, especially in key crime areas. It will refocus the demand for information towards the Member States on the main crime priorities. Based on this structured information and an enhanced Case Management System, Eurojust will develop operational products addressing the needs of practitioners and EU common challenges.

Eurojust intends to explore a more operational role for the Eurojust National Coordination Systems in the Member States as an inherent part of its structure. Eurojust will consider how to formalise contacts and cooperation with National Coordination Systems to support Eurojust with the filtering of cases, the flow of information, and stakeholder consultation to better define demands, priorities and operational outreach.

1(b) Reinforce operational cooperation with key partners

Eurojust will continue developing operational cooperation, interaction and complementarities with its main operational partners with the common objective of achieving positive results for the Member States.

The future European Public Prosecutor's Office will become a privileged partner in the area of crimes against the financial interests of the European Union. Relations with Europol, FRONTEX and other Justice and Home Affairs agencies will be enhanced to provide a European multidisciplinary response to criminal phenomena.

Eurojust offers operational judicial expertise and advice to complement the efforts of other agencies in tackling organised crime and terrorism, helping the European Union to better achieve its goal of a more secure Europe under the rule of law.

Eurojust will explore synergies and the operational involvement of existing (formal and/or informal) networks. The network of national correspondents for Eurojust for terrorism matters, the contact points of the European Judicial Cybercrime Network, the European Judicial Network, the JITs Network and the Network for the investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes gather practitioners with unique expertise, adding value to Eurojust's operational work.

Eurojust's external relations strategy will be reconsidered to address new global challenges, in close cooperation with the European Commission and with the European External Action Service within the boundaries of the Eurojust Regulation, once the latter will enter into force.

Operational cooperation with third States will be ensured by a robust network of Eurojust contact points in third States, cooperation agreements with third States and the appointment of Liaison Prosecutors from third States posted at Eurojust.

Eurojust will also consider the posting of Eurojust Liaison Magistrates to third States.

Multi-annual strategic objective 2 - Policy work

Eurojust, as the EU centre of judicial and legal expertise, contributes to enhanced international judicial cooperation measures and criminal justice policy.

Strategic action areas:

2(a) Contribute to the EU internal security strategy and to measures concerning judicial cooperation in criminal matters

Eurojust will maintain its privileged relationship with the European institutions in the area of criminal justice. Eurojust will deliver advice, based on operational experience, to the European Union decision- and policy-makers and will also keep actively promoting a common European approach in this area while taking into consideration the differences in the legal systems of the Member States.



Eurojust's mission:
*Serving justice across
borders for a safer Europe*

Eurojust's regular reporting of identified obstacles to judicial cooperation, possible solutions and best practice to stakeholders will contribute to the active promotion of the judicial and prosecutorial dimension of the fight against serious cross-border crime in the European Union to which Eurojust is fully committed.

Eurojust will focus its policy activities on priority areas and renew its contributions in the fields of counter-terrorism, organised crime, illegal immigrant smuggling and cybercrime. Eurojust's contributions in the area of judicial cooperation instruments will also be reinforced. Eurojust will assume an active role in supporting Member States in the first steps of the practical implementation of the European Investigation Order, and will report on challenges.

2(b) Reinforce strategic cooperation with key partners

Eurojust will enhance its strategic cooperation with Justice and Home Affairs agencies, exploring possible synergies and coordinated responses to identified threats. Strategic relations with other EU agencies or bodies and international organisations closely related to this field of work will be enhanced.

Additionally, Eurojust will provide support and facilitate the work of the Consultative Forum of Prosecutors General and Directors of Public Prosecutions of the Member States of the European Union to engage practitioners in the Member States in EU policy matters.

Eurojust will further explore the strategic involvement of the network of national correspondents for Eurojust for terrorism matters, the contact points of the European Judicial Cybercrime Network, the European Judicial Network, the JITs Network and the Network for the investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the policy work of Eurojust, recognising the added value of these fora in the identification of best practice in their fields of activity.

Multi-annual strategic objective 3 - Organisational development

Eurojust is a dynamic and effective organisation.

Strategic action areas:

3(a) Ensure effective organisational structure and processes

Eurojust will ensure the smooth implementation of the Regulation on Eurojust, including changes that may be required by the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office. The new Regulation provides an opportunity to develop a stronger corporate identity and promote an internal culture embracing innovative working methods to face organisational challenges.

The reinforcement of the operational capacity of the National Members and of Eurojust's mandate, changes in its governance and in the supervision scheme require organisational changes that may allow for the identification of areas that may profit from enhanced and harmonised processes and in which additional efficiencies may be found.

In a stringent financial context, Eurojust will ensure increasing efficiency and flexibility in the deployment of human and financial resources to respond to growing demands while maintaining quality services. With this aim, Eurojust will reinforce its regular internal monitoring and evaluation procedure, which will include the evaluation of the organisational changes that would have been conducted.

Facing new technological challenges, ICT requirements will be closely monitored and analysed to guarantee smooth operational continuity at Eurojust.

3(b) Ensure excellent communication capacities

Eurojust will further invest in developing a solid reputation based on operational and strategic results and on the trust of Member States. Eurojust will also strive to better communicate its operational successes to the European citizens and to promote the added value of the European reaction against serious cross-border crime.

At the organisational level, Eurojust will continue to ensure organisational knowledge retention and enhance its operational information management capacities.



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