

EuroMed Justice Network of Contact Points (EMJNet) Organisational Rules

EuroMed Justice Network of Contact Points - EMJNet - represents the outcome of a series of CrimEx consultations started in 2017. In 2021 CrimEx agreed to establish the EMJNet, a network designed to support the international judicial cooperation in criminal matters process and to timely coordinate and strengthen the contacts and operational cooperation between criminal justice authorities from South Partner Countries (SPCs) and EU Member States (EU MSs).

CrimEx 14 (26-27 October 2021) adopted the following organisational rules for the establishment and functioning of EMJNet:

1. SPCs and EU MSs will appoint EMJNet Contact Points (CP) on voluntary basis. EMJNet CPs can be the respective central authorities and/or criminal justices practitioners' (active in the field of judicial cooperation), CrimEx members, EMJ NFP, Eurojust contact points designated by the national judicial authorities.
2. With the prior agreement of the respective SPCs, EMJNet can affiliate already existing contact points at SPCs national level in the area of judicial or inter agencies cooperation in criminal matters, established through bilateral or multilateral agreements, programmes and projects, such as Eurojust, Cyber South, South Programme IV, UNODC Multiagency Task Force, UNODC Cyber.
3. EMJNet is intended to be the operational interface for SPCs CrimEx members and the link with their national authorities. CrimEx remains strategic and the EMJNet becomes operational and supports CrimEx tasks at national level.
4. European Judicial Network (EJN) Secretariat can be a member of the EMJNet and facilitate the contacts between EU MSs and EMJNet. EU MSs EMJNet members that are also EJN national correspondents can form a subgroup within EMJNet, connected with EJN Secretariat.
5. EuroMed Justice (EMJ) will provide the **Secretariat** for the EMJNet. Therefore, EMJNet will function initially within the EMJ Programme framework. This will facilitate further consultations to take place in different formats – *inter alia* through CrimEx and PG Forum - to find a sustainable solution and to define still pending issues such as:

- a. The level of EMJNet relations with CrimEx, PG Forum, Eurojust and EJN
 - b. The set-up of EMJNet specialised sub-groups on cybercrime and digital evidence (to liaise with EJC�¹) and anti-trafficking (to liaise with EU Prosecutors Forum on anti-trafficking)
6. EMJNet is instrumental to overcome or ease some of the current obstacles for cross-Mediterranean cooperation. In particular, the role of EMJNet of contact points consist in:
- a. Facilitate the **first contact**, speed up the process, monitor, ensure fluidity and expedite the judicial cooperation, in the case of the mandatory use of traditional MLA framework, official communication channels and central authorities.
 - b. Provide **initial advise** on national legal framework, judicial system and the requirements for replying to a MLA request and the application of bilateral and multilateral agreements (e.g.: who to address; how to fill an MLA or rogatory letter; what channels to use)
 - c. Facilitate the **contacts** - between CPs established at national level and CPs from other networks.²
 - d. Build **confidence** between contact points;
 - e. Establish a cross-Mediterranean **culture of operational cooperation and collaboration**
7. **EMJ Directory** will include the EMJNet containing contact points nominated according to the above-mentioned organisational rules. As EMJ PMT, hosted by Eurojust, will manage the EMJNet, a Data protection record and a data protection notice will be registered, specifying the applicable rules for all the processes involving personal data.

The creation of the EMJ Directory should in no way be considered as an instrument allowing for the transfer of operational personal data between contact points.

¹ European Judicial Cybercrime Network

² Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), the South East Asia Justice Network (SEAJust), the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP), the European Judicial Network (EJN), the Ibero-American Legal Cooperation Network (IberRed), SELEC/SEEPAG and others.