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Multi-Annual Strategy July 2025 - December 2027¹

Introduction

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood (2021-2027) set peace and security as priority areas, while promoting rule of law, democracy and human rights. One of the objectives is to strengthen cooperation to fight organised crime among the South Partner Countries and with the European Union, as well as European Union Agencies, including Eurojust.

As emphasised by the Renewed Partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood - A new Agenda for the Mediterranean, major security threats such as terrorism, hybrid threats as well as cybercrime and organised crime, including the trade of illegal firearms, drug trafficking and money laundering can only be addressed through joint efforts and by the strengthening of judicial cooperation between the European Union and partner countries.

Within these objectives, the EuroMed Justice project aims to provide sustainable cross-regional mechanisms for cooperation and coordination in criminal matters between the South Partner Countries and European Union Member States.

It is against this background that this Multi-Annual Strategy sets out the EuroMed Justice project's main objectives for 2025–2027.

Planning - Road Map

1. Implement the updated <u>Action Plan A on Trafficking in human beings/Migrants smuggling</u> and the <u>Action Plan B on Assets recovery</u>

One outcome of the needs assessment completed at the end of the 5^{th} Phase of the EuroMed Justice project and in the Year 1 of the 6^{th} Phase, is that the crime types Trafficking in human beings and Migrant smuggling, as well as the topic of Asset recovery remain priorities for the countries participating in the EuroMed Justice project. The project should continue to implement two action plans specific to these topics.

The action plans describe the general and specific actions which will be undertaken by the project and by the representatives of the participating countries to strengthen judicial cooperation related to Trafficking in human beings and Migrant smuggling (Action Plan A) and to Asset recovery (Action plan B).

¹ The Arabic version of this document is an automatic translation. Please refer to the English version for the official text.

2. Implement activities related to other crime types and topics relevant for judicial cooperation of priority for the countries participating in the project

In addition to Trafficking in human beings, Migrant smuggling and Asset Recovery, the following crime types and topics relevant for judicial cooperation have been identified by the CrimEx representatives as priorities for the countries participating in the project:

Top priorities:

Drug trafficking; Money laundering; Corruption.

Other priorities:

E-evidence; Parallell investigations; Counter terrorism and financing of terrorism; Cybercrime; Cryptocurrencies; Joint Investigation Teams; Environmental crimes; Trafficking of cultural heritage.

For these crime types and topics, the EuroMed Justice project will organise dedicated EMJNet meeting(s) of which recommendations will be presented to the CrimEx representatives for consideration and discussion, the consolidated input will be for transmitted to the PG Forum during its yearly meeting.

The EuroMed Justice project will, as feasible, include these crime types and topics of priority in the training programme which will be developed and implemented by the end of 2027 and beyond.

The project will build synergies with other actors working on these crime type.

The project will prioritise the organisation, at the request of interested countries, of *ad hoc* activities related to these topics, which would be funded via the Technical Assistance Facility mechanism (*see point 5 below*).

3. Strengthen the functioning of the EMJNet

The EuroMed Justice project will continue its efforts to strengthen the functioning of the EMJNet and will continue to encourage the contact points to take advantage of the EMJNet Directory to facilitate the judicial cooperation process by having direct exchanges amongst contact points and seeking bilateral meetings in the margin of the EMJNet meetings.

The EuroMed Justice project will ensure synergies between the EMJNet and existing specialised practitioners networks and focus groups, including the Focus Group of Specialised Prosecutors against Trafficking in Human Beings; the Focus Group for Prosecutors on Migrant Smuggling; and with the Judicial Focus Group on Money Laundering and Asset Recovery, and will support the participation of South Partner Countries representatives in their meetings, where appropriate.

To increase and facilitate exchanges between specialised practitioners, the participating countries shall consider including in the EMJNet Directory contact points specialised in specific crime types or topics relevant to judicial cooperation (for instance in Asset recovery).

4. Bilateral meetings

The EuroMed Justice project will continue to support the organisation of bilateral meetings in the margin of EMJNet, CrimEx and PG Forum meetings, at the request of the representative participating in the meetings. The representatives are encouraged to respond to the requests for bilateral meetings positively, prior to the start of the EuroMed Justice meetings.

The EuroMed Justice project can also facilitate interactions between representatives of the South Partner Countries and Eurojust National Members and Liaison Prosecutors from third States posted at Eurojust.

If needed, follow-up meetings can be organised and financed through the organisation of Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) activities (*see point 5 below*).

5. Promote the use of the Technical Assistance Facility (TAF)

The EuroMed Justice project will continue to promote the use of the Technical Assistance Facility to support *ad hoc* activities and accommodate more operational meetings.

The EuroMed Justice project will collect the needs to be addressed via the Technical Assistance Facility mechanism. Requests for bilateral/multilateral operational meetings and activities enhancing operational capacities related to the priorities identified, will be assessed in line with the applicable <u>Terms of Reference</u> and taking into account operational and budgetary considerations.

6. Strengthen the judicial response by developing synergies and cooperation on common areas

While the EuroMed Justice project has 12 participating European Union Member States activily participating in its activities, the project will continue, where needed and requested, to develop synergies and cooperation with the other European Union Member States through their National Desks at Eurojust.

The EuroMed Justice project will continue to develop synergies with existing networks supported by Eurojust such as European Judicial Network (EJN); Network of National Experts on Joint Investigation Teams (the JITs Network); Genocide Prosecution Network; European Judicial Cybercrime Network (EJCN); European Judicial Organised Crime Network (EJOCN).

The EuroMed Justice project will continue to develop synergies and cooperation on common areas with European Union funded and other relevant projects implemented by other Justice and Home Affairs agencies and/or International Organisations.