



Brussels, 22.4.2021
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 22.4.2021

**on the financing of the Justice Programme and the adoption of the multi-annual work
programme for 2021-2022**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]², and in particular Article 11 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Justice Programme and avoid discontinuity between the current and new Justice programme, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2021-2022, before the formal adoption of the new Justice programme basic act. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (3) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (4) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (5) The work programme was submitted to the committee established by Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013 for informal consultation.
- (6) In accordance with Article 5(3) of [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013] and point (a) of the second subparagraph of Article 193(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 and by derogation from Article 193(4) of that Regulation, if duly justified, activities and costs in grants financed under this

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a Justice Programme for the period 2014 to 2020 (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 73).

Decision may be eligible from the beginning of the 2021 financial year, even if implemented and incurred before the grant application was submitted,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The work programme

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the Justice Programme for years 2021-2022, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for the years 2021-2022 is set at EUR 87 819 538, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 07 07 01: EUR 12 228 985³ for 2021 and EUR 11 443 600 for 2022;
- (b) budget line 07 07 02: EUR 17 664 090³ for 2021 and EUR 16 606 200 for 2022;
- (c) budget line 07 07 03: EUR 15 399 463³ for 2021 and EUR 14 477 200 for 2022.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to:

- (a) the final adoption of [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013] by the legislative authority and its entry into force without significant modifications;
- (b) a positive opinion by the committee established by Article 17 of [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013];
- (c) the availability of the appropriations as provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2021 and draft general budget of the Union for 2022, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of

³ The new Justice programme regulation specifies earmarkings on the allocations to the individual budget lines: 27% on 07 07 01, 36% on 07 07 02, 27% on 07 07 03, and 10% flexibility to allocate to any of the three lines. The Work Programme for 2021-2022 allocates 27%, 39% and 34% respectively to the three budget lines already as of year 2021 so as to avoid in future years imbalances in the budget line allocations. This is a slightly different repartition of the total budget compared to the voted budget for 2021 which will be corrected via a transfer between these lines in 2021.

the work programme. The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 4

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the body selected in accordance with point 2.5 of the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 22.4.2021

For the Commission

Didier REYNDERS

Member of the Commission



Brussels, 22.4.2021
C(2021) 2699 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

**on the financing of the Justice Programme and the adoption of the multi-annual work
programme for 2021-2022**

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Work programme for 2021-2022 for [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the first Work Programme for the Justice programme under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027. It covers years 2021-2022, thus allows to define the political objectives and priorities of the programme in the medium term, giving more time to (potential) beneficiaries to develop actions and look for partnerships. While biennial planning guarantees a certain stability in time, it also allows for periodical changes and the introduction of new ideas, taking into account new policy and political priorities.

The Programme is supporting the further development of a European area of justice based on the rule of law, the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, mutual recognition, mutual trust and judicial cooperation, thereby also strengthening democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights. As set out in the Justice Programme's legal base¹, the Programme has the following specific objectives:

- (a) to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and to promote the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions;
- (b) to support and promote judicial training, with a view to fostering a common legal, judicial and rule of law culture, as well as the consistent and effective implementation of the Union's legal instruments relevant in the context of this programme;
- (c) to facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, and effective redress, including by electronic means (e-Justice), by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures, and by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

Effective justice systems play a crucial role in upholding the rule of law and the values upon which the EU is founded. The importance of the rule of law is emphasised by the President of the European Commission in her political guidelines: *'There can be no compromise when it comes to defending our core values. Threats to the rule of law challenge the legal, political and economic basis of how our Union works.'*². Well-functioning justice systems are key for the implementation of EU law and for strengthening mutual trust which is a prerequisite for well-functioning judicial cooperation. They also contribute to building an investment-friendly environment and maintaining sustainable growth. The Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy

¹ [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/political-guidelines-next-commission_en.pdf

2020³, recognises that independent and efficient justice systems, quality public administrations, robust anti-corruption frameworks, an efficient delivery of public procurement, effective insolvency frameworks and efficient tax systems are important determinants of a Member State's business environment. All these aspects, including those related to the rule of law, can have an impact on investment decisions and are therefore important to increase productivity and competitiveness. In its Communication of 17 July 2019 on 'Strengthening the rule of law within the Union – A blueprint for action'⁴, the Commission underlined that the European project relies on respect for the rule of law in all Member States and noted that it will make full use of funding possibilities for civil society and academia to support the strengthening of a rule of law culture, in particular among the general public.

Significant progress has been achieved under the Justice programme in the previous Multiannual Financial Framework period; the programme will continue addressing in the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021-2027 several gaps that persist in the policy areas it covers as well as tackle new emerging challenges.

Judicial cooperation

Ensuring the correct application and enforcement of the existing EU acquis relating to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and continuing to build mutual trust is key. In the area of civil justice, some of this EU acquis has recently been revised in order to increase efficiency and better respond to the needs of citizens and practitioners. This requires a particular focus on implementation and evaluation, both through specific Commission actions and support to key actors via action and operating grants. As shown by the Commission Report of March 2016⁵, the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters (EJN) is a useful tool in this regard and plays a fundamental role when it comes to the implementation and effective application of available Union instruments in the area of civil justice. In order to complement the existing framework, further reviews of the acquis as well as new initiatives may be needed in the future to make civil justice more efficient, faster and more economical and to continue to build mutual trust.

Following a first call launched in 2018 for national networks dealing with civil justice cooperation, continuity of the funding is assured in order to allow the EJN Members to firmly establish and fully develop national judicial cooperation networks. The objective of the funding for such networks is twofold – the organisation of national judicial cooperation networks for Member States who do not have them and the strengthening of functioning of existing networks. Various activities according to national needs are considered.

In the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, there is a need to continue improving the application of the instruments implementing the principle of mutual recognition in criminal matters, with a focus on the European Arrest Warrant, the three Framework Decisions on detention and alternative measures to detention⁶, the Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA on financial penalties and Directive 2014/41/EU⁷ regarding the European Investigation Order as well as Regulation (EU) 2018/1805 on the mutual recognition of

³ COM(2019) 650 final

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2019:343:FIN>

⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016DC0129&from=EN>

⁶ Framework Decisions 2008/909/JHA, 2008/947/JHA and 2009/829/JHA; see section 5. Legislative instrument references.

⁷ See section Legislative instrument references.

freezing orders and confiscation orders⁸. Moreover, there are still many obstacles that prevent the smooth functioning of judicial cooperation procedures under the existing Union instruments which first need to be identified before they can be addressed. The developing jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) also has an important impact on the functioning of judicial cooperation instruments. As criminals also increasingly rely on electronic means of communication, access to electronic evidence in the framework of criminal investigations needs to be improved⁹. Follow-up work on detention issues needs to continue, including on radicalisation in prisons and alternatives to detention. Support to Member States will continue for projects adapting the national criminal records systems for the linking and exchange of fingerprints with the ECRIS-TCN central system. Support will also be provided to Member States for the setting up and strengthening of national networks active in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Furthermore, in the digital age and against the background of the challenges highlighted by the COVID-19 crisis, judicial cooperation needs to make full use of electronic tools and channels to ensure the effective, swift, secure and resilient communication between the competent authorities and with relevant actors.

Judicial training

Given that any “new legislation is only as good as its implementation”¹⁰, the European Commission is committed to a uniform and better “implementation and enforcement of EU law” in the European Union (EU)¹¹. As national courts act as EU courts when applying EU law¹², the work of judges and of justice practitioners involved in the application of EU law is essential to the well-functioning of the EU area of justice. In this context, training justice practitioners on EU law is a fundamental tool to improve the correct and uniform application of EU law, mutual trust in cross-border judicial proceedings, and the respect of the rule of law in the EU. In particular, newly / to be appointed justice professionals should understand early in their career the role they are to play as European justice practitioners. Moreover, the post-pandemic situation will likely trigger a high level of litigations in courts in all branches of law, as it occurred after the 2008 financial crisis, and the effective functioning of courts became a key component of the recovery policy. Practitioners must be aware of the possibilities EU law offers and trust each other to make cross-border proceedings more efficient. The Justice programme will support the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and high quality cross-border training projects with an EU added value based on a thorough training needs’ assessment and on expected results that are sustainable, in line with the European judicial training strategy¹³. It will also support the digitalisation of training both in terms of content and methodology.

⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1805&from=EN>

⁹ The Commission proposed on 17 April 2018 new rules in the form of a Regulation and a Directive, which will: create a European Production Order, a European Preservation Order, include strong safeguards, oblige service providers to designate a legal representative in the Union, provide legal certainty for businesses and service providers.

¹⁰ President Ursula von der Leyen, Mission letters to Commissioners, 1 December 2019.

¹¹ 2020 European Commission Work Programme.

¹² Article 19 of the Treaty on the EU.

¹³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0713>.

Access to justice

As far as the area of criminal justice is concerned, there is a need to continue improving the implementation and application in practice of the six EU directives adopted in the field of procedural rights of suspects and accused persons, namely Directive 2010/64/EU on the right to interpretation and translation, Directive 2012/13/EU on the right to information, Directive 2013/48/EU on the right of access to a lawyer, Directive (EU) 2016/343 on strengthening certain aspects of the principle on presumption of innocence and the right to be present at the trial, Directive (EU) 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children, Directive (EU) 2016/1919 on legal aid, and to raise awareness about the legislation adopted in this area. It is also necessary to explore possible further developments in the area of procedural rights.

In the area of victims' rights, the Commission will focus on the implementation of actions under the recently adopted EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025)¹⁴. In the years 2021-2022 the Commission will focus on improving the implementation of the EU rules on victims' rights and on raising awareness about the legislation in this area, notably Directive 2012/29¹⁵ on victims' rights and the Council Directive 2004/80¹⁵ on compensation and the EU rules on protection orders. In 2021, the Commission plans to launch an EU campaign to promote and raise awareness about victims' rights. In addition, the Commission will look into a revision of the existing rules and if necessary, may propose legislative amendments by 2022.

The Commission also intends to pursue the information collection exercise through the EU Justice Scoreboard and further extend it to allow a mapping of the degree of digitalisation of the different justice areas in the Member States.

Work will also continue on the creation of more effective justice systems and the facilitation of citizens' access to justice by digital means, which is of particular relevance in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. The Commission will assess the possibility for legislative action towards facilitating access to justice via digital means. One example of work in this direction is the European e-Justice Portal, which has been in operation since July 2010. Since its launch, it has been built upon with new dynamic functionalities (e.g. interconnection of national insolvency registers, tools for finding a lawyer and a notary in the EU, the ECLI search engine for case law, the Competent Court Database, EU access to the Business Registers Interconnection System, etc.). The general objective for 2021-2022 is to tackle new initiatives identified in the European e-Justice Strategy¹⁶ and Action Plan 2019-2023¹⁷. This will be accomplished by introducing new features and enhancements to the e-Justice Portal, as well as supporting the implementation of e-Justice projects, insofar as project initiatives have a European dimension. During the 2021-2022 period, work on e-Justice will be complementary to priority strands that could be financed via the Digital Europe Programme (DEP).

Digital automation, including the use of complex algorithms and artificial intelligence, can lead to breaches of the law and may generate legal disputes. The detection, proof and assessment of such breaches (e.g. due to the bias of an algorithm) may be hindered when applications are so complex that their inner workings are no longer comprehensible for human beings. Authorities need expertise and tools to detect and assess such practices, and the justice

¹⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0258>

¹⁵ See section Legislative instrument references.

¹⁶ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG0313\(01\)&rid=7](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG0313(01)&rid=7)

¹⁷ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG0313\(02\)&rid=6](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG0313(02)&rid=6)

systems have to be prepared to hear evidence related to digital automation and decide ensuing legal disputes. The Justice Programme will finance pilot activities and a study with respect to the use of artificial intelligence technology in the justice field.

OVERVIEW FOR 2021-2022

The budget available is concentrated on the most important priorities and necessary recurrent activities. This Work Programme thus strives to focus the funding, identify economies of scale and ensure a realistic and effective approach in planning. The allocation per specific objective is as follows:

Specific objective – Budget line	2021	% of the 2021 Programme funds ¹⁸	2022	% of the 2022 Programme funds
Judicial cooperation – 07 07 01	€ 12 228 985	27 %	€ 11 443 600	27 %
Judicial training – 07 07 02	€ 17 664 090	39 %	€ 16 606 200	39 %
Access to justice – 07 07 03	€ 15 399 463	34 %	€ 14 477 200	34 %
TOTAL	€ 45 292 538	100 %	€ 42 527 000	100 %

In 2021 there is an increase of € 2.7 million compared to Annual Work Programme 2020.

About 74 % of the 2021-2022 budget or € 65 250 000, will be used to fund activities via grants while the remaining 26 % or € 22 569 538 will fund activities via procurement.

In total four calls for proposals for action grants are planned in 2021 to support transnational projects in:

1. judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
2. judicial training covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights;
3. the area of e-Justice;
4. enhancing the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and the rights of victims of crime (access to justice);

Only the first 3 calls are planned in 2022; the call for proposals for actions in the area of access to justice which will be launched in 2021 will combine the relevant budget from years 2021 and 2022.

A new 4-year cycle will be launched in 2021 aiming to establish Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) with European networks whose statutory aims are to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and with European networks active in the area of access to justice. Following these FPAs financial support will be provided to the selected framework partners via operating grants for funding their work programmes in 2022 and 2023.

An operating grant is also planned for the European Judicial Training Network (beneficiary identified in the legal base).

¹⁸ The new Justice programme regulation specifies earmarkings on the allocations to the individual budget lines: 27% on 07 07 01, 36% on 07 07 02, 27% on 07 07 03 and the remaining 10% flexibility margin on any of the three lines, as a priority, to actions which support the promotion of the rule of law. The Work Programme for 2021-2022 allocates 27%, 39% and 34% respectively to the three budget lines already as of year 2021 (the majority of actions which support the promotion of the rule of law are under line 07 07 03).

The programme also plans for a contribution agreement with the Council of Europe supporting work on the SPACE report and the EU network of prison monitoring bodies.

At present, the countries participating in the Programme are all EU Member States with the exception of Denmark. Should third countries, i.e. EFTA States of the EEA, or candidate countries, potential candidates and countries acceding to the Union, conclude an agreement with the Union on their participation in the Programme as of 2021, this will be announced in the relevant call for proposals.

Activities implemented under this Work Programme shall ensure consistency, complementarity and synergies with activities supported by other Union instruments including, in particular within the Justice, Rights and Values Fund with the Rights and Values Programme, but also with the Single Market Programme, Border management and Security, in particular the Asylum and Migration and the Internal Security Funds, Strategic Infrastructure in particular the Digital Europe Programme (DEP), the Anti-Fraud programme, the European Social Fund+, the Erasmus+ Programme, the Framework Programme for research and innovation Horizon Europe, the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III), and the LIFE Regulation. Coordination within the EU legal and policy framework on trafficking in human beings, as relevant, shall be ensured.

The Programme shall finance actions with European added value. The European added value of actions, including that of small-scale and national actions, shall be assessed in the light of criteria such as their contribution to the consistent and coherent implementation of Union law, and to wide public awareness about the rights deriving from it, their potential to develop mutual trust among Member States and to improve cross-border cooperation, their transnational impact, their contribution to the elaboration and dissemination of best practices or their potential to create practical tools and solutions that address cross-border or Union-wide challenges.

All activities implemented under this Work Programme shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and promote gender mainstreaming and the mainstreaming of rights of the child.

On the basis of the objectives given in the [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013], this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for years 2021-2022 as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2),
- b) for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 3),
- c) for actions implemented in indirect management (point 4),
- d) for other actions or expenditure (point 5).

2. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is € 33 400 000 for 2021 and € 32 450 000 for 2022.

Specific objective – Budget lines	2021	2022	Total
Judicial cooperation – 07 07 01	€ 8 350 000	€ 7 450 000	€ 15 800 000
Judicial training – 07 07 02	€ 16 450 000	€ 16 200 000	€ 32 650 000
Access to justice – 07 07 03	€ 8 300 000	€ 8 500 000	€ 16 800 000
Total	€ 33 100 000	€ 32 150 000	

2.1. Call for proposals for action grants to promote judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

Legal basis

Art. 3(2)(a) and Art. 9 [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

Budget line

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

See ‘Essential eligibility criteria’ within the description of the priorities and activities to be funded

Description of the priorities and activities to be funded under the call for proposals

There are four priorities for 2021 and for 2022:

1. Judicial cooperation in civil matters

The aim is to promote judicial cooperation in civil matters and to contribute to the effective and coherent application and enforcement of EU instruments.

Priority shall be given to projects aiming in particular at:

- better enforcement of judicial decisions through better procedures, case-handling and cooperation in cross-border disputes;
- improving the situation of children involved in civil cases, e.g. through better procedures, case-handling and cooperation in the family law area such as parental responsibility, international child abduction and maintenance or issues relating to civil status of children;
- facilitating cross-border procedures, e.g. on service of documents and taking of evidence, on successions or cross-border circulation of public documents, through better information and awareness-raising.

2. Judicial cooperation in criminal matters

The aim of this call for proposals is to promote judicial cooperation in criminal matters and to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU mutual recognition instruments in criminal matters.

- a) Priority shall be given to the implementation and practical application of the following mutual recognition instruments:
- Directive 2014/41/EU¹⁹ regarding the European Investigation Order in criminal matters;
 - Council Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA¹⁹ on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States;
 - Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA¹⁹ on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union;
 - Council Framework Decision 2008/947/JHA¹⁹ on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments and probation decisions with a view to the supervision of probation measures and alternative sanctions;
 - Council Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA¹⁹ on the application, between Member States of the European Union, of the principle of mutual recognition to decisions on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention;
 - Council Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA¹⁹ on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to financial penalties;
 - Regulation (EU) 2018/1805¹⁹ on the mutual recognition of freezing orders and confiscation orders.

A specific priority regarding any particular instrument(s) listed above may be given in the call for proposals.

- b) Priority shall also be given to:
- the efficient contribution to the European Agenda on Security as regards the judicial responses to terrorism, notably on reinforcing the prevention of radicalisation, especially in prisons;
 - issues related to pre-trial detention and alternatives to detention, in particular raising awareness of case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and recommendations of the Council of Europe in this field;
 - the functioning of Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Treaties or other Treaties containing provisions on MLA with third States (e.g. EU-US MLA Agreement, Budapest Cybercrime Convention), including with respect to the exchange of electronic data.

Proposals not in line with priorities 1 and 2 may still be awarded funding if applicants can justify this by the necessity to improve the implementation and application of the civil or criminal justice EU acquis on the basis of an evidence-based needs assessment, showing that more activities are required for the proper application of EU law in the field to be covered.

¹⁹ See section Legislative instrument references.

3. Support to the Member States for the setting up and strengthening of national networks active in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

The main objective is to contribute to the effective and coherent application of the EU acquis relating to judicial cooperation in civil, commercial and criminal matters.

In the area of civil and commercial matters support will be provided to the members of the European Judicial Network (EJN) in civil and commercial matters and to the national authorities, courts and professional associations they represent. Priority shall be given to supporting the setting up and strengthening of national networks under the EJN in civil and commercial matters in order to ensure better implementation and case-handling under the civil justice legislation. The national networks will promote full involvement of all national Network members, thus contributing to increasing the national substantial input to the Network's activities (in particular the Network meetings) and thereby strengthening the action and visibility of the Network as a whole.

In the area of criminal matters support will be provided to national authorities, courts, prosecution services and professional associations representing them, for the setting up and/or strengthening of national networks in order to ensure better implementation of EU judicial cooperation instruments in criminal matters.

Strengthened national networks can promote better implementation of EU civil and criminal justice instruments through cooperation, dialogue, sharing of experience, exchange of information and training activities (where appropriate also in liaison with other national systems). Through these activities the national projects would ensure interaction at national level, knowledge sharing and gathering of information. As a result, this would deepen EU-wide building bridges and mutual trust between different justice systems.

4. Support to Member States for their connection to the ECRIS-TCN system

The ECRIS-TCN (European Criminal Record Information System – Third Country Nationals) system will replace costly requests currently addressed to all Member States by a more efficient search mechanism against both alphanumeric and fingerprint data of convicted third country nationals (TCN) to identify the Member State(s) holding criminal record information. Since it will be easier to identify the Member States which are the convicting TCNs, this will encourage more systematic use of ECRIS for TCN significantly increasing the use of the system.

The main objective of this priority is to support projects implementing the needed adaptations of the national criminal records systems for the linking and exchange of fingerprints with the ECRIS-TCN central system.

Description of the activities

Whereas several measures and initiatives are listed, it is not requested to include all of them in a single project. Projects with a strong focus are very much valued. This topic will cover the following activities:

- facilitating cooperation between competent authorities and agencies, legal practitioners and/or service providers (including multi-disciplinary networks at international, national, regional or local levels);
- mutual learning, identifying and exchange of best practices, development of working

methods which may be transferable to other participating countries;

- analytical activities, including data collection, statistics, surveys, research, etc.;
- exchange and provision of information and development of information tools;
- capacity building for professionals;
- dissemination and awareness raising activities;
- training activities can also be funded under this call, as long as they are of ancillary nature and not the main purpose of the project.

For priority 4, project activities would in principle include analytical, conceptual, design and elaboration work, IT software development, quality assurance and related auxiliary measures necessary for the establishment of new IT systems, as well as the expansion and adaptation of existing national solutions towards addressing the objectives of priority 4. Activities relating to project management, communication, promotion and dissemination are also eligible for funding.

Activities under this topic, especially where they relate to IT software development (priorities 1 and 4), will take into account existing solutions such as results from the e-CODEX project, CEF building blocks, and ISA² Core vocabularies.

Essential eligibility criteria

To be eligible, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- a) for priorities 1 and 2:
 - i. the applicants must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the Programme, or international organisation. Organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit-oriented organisations;
 - ii. the applications must be transnational and involve organisations from at least two participating countries;
- b) for priority 3:
 - i. in the area of civil and commercial matters, the application must be submitted by the officially appointed members of EJN in civil and commercial matters, or by the national authorities, courts and professional associations representing the officially appointed members of EJN in civil and commercial matters.
 - ii. in the area of criminal matters, the application must be submitted by national authorities, courts, prosecution services and professional associations representing them.

Only one application per participating country will be accepted. Projects do not need to have a transnational aspect.

- c) for priority 4, the application must be submitted by the national authorities responsible for the systems linking national criminal records databases, as well as fingerprint databases, to the ECRIS-TCN central system. Only one application per participating

country will be accepted. Projects do not need to have a transnational aspect.
d) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than € 75 000.

Objectives pursued

Facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and promote the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions.

Expected results

- Increased capacity of national practitioners, courts and authorities to address issues related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and to the application of the EU instruments on civil and civil procedural law, as well as on criminal and criminal procedural law;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities (including courts) in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, including taking into account the relevant case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU);
- Improved knowledge on the legislation and administrative practices related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- Alignment of the Member States' administrative practices related to the relevant legislation;
- Improved cooperation between judicial authorities in civil, commercial and criminal matters;
- For priorities 1 and 2, the legal framework and regulations linked to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters are in line with EU acquis and relevant case-law of the CJEU;
- National authorities responsible for judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters cooperate and coordinate with other responsible agencies and institutions across the EU;
- Prosecutors and judges for the proceedings related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters have further specialised knowledge and experience in respective fields;
- Acceleration of proceedings in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters; less breaches of time-limits;
- For priority 2, improved situation of persons subject to measures in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, enhancement of their social rehabilitation and re-integrations, reduced risks of violation of their fundamental rights;
- Increased awareness of policy makers related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable of the publication of the call and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
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JUST-2021-JCOO	Q1 2021	€ 6 650 000
JUST-2022-JCOO	Q1 2022	€ 5 500 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

90%

2.2. Call for 4-year Framework Partnership Agreements to support European networks active in the area of facilitating and promoting judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters and/or in the area of access to justice

Legal basis

Art. 3(2)(a) and Art. 8(6) [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

Budget line

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation
Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

See 'Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria' within the description of the priorities and activities to be funded

Description of the priorities and activities to be funded under the call for proposals

This call aims to establish 4-year Framework Partnership Agreements with European networks whose statutory aims are to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and/or access to justice for all. The annual operating grants to be signed on the basis of these Framework Partnership Agreements will enhance the capacities of these networks to contribute actively to the development and implementation of the EU policies in these areas.

Description of the activities

This call will support networks whose activities contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Programme and which will implement among others: analytical activities, training activities, mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination activities with EU added value.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

1. To be eligible, applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- (a) The applicant for the Framework Partnership must be a private non-profit-oriented organisation duly established in one of the countries participating in the Programme.

- (b) The applicant for the Framework Partnership must be an established formal network with own legal personality or represent (as a joint secretariat or officially appointed coordinator) an established formal network, must be organised at European level and have member organisations/bodies or authorities in at least 14 participating countries. Only the network or the organisation appointed as the joint secretariat/officially appointed coordinator may submit an application, the member organisations are not eligible to apply.
- (c) The network's statutory aims must fall under the objective of the Programme to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and/or in criminal matters and/or access to justice for all.

2. The applicants for Framework Partnership must meet the following selection criteria:

- (a) The applicant's operational and professional capacity to implement and/or coordinate the proposed outline 4-year work programme and to maintain its activities during the 4-year period of implementation of the proposed outline work programme.
- (b) The applicant's financial capability: the applicant should have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout the 4-year period during which the proposed outline work programme is being carried out and to participate in its funding.

3. Proposals will be assessed based on the following award criteria:

- (a) relevance;
- (b) quality;
- (c) impact.

Objectives pursued

In the area of judicial cooperation: to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, build mutual trust among the European judiciaries, promote the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions.

In the area of access to justice: to facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, and effective redress, including by electronic means (e-justice), by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures, and by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable of the publication of the call and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-2021-JCOO-JACC-OG-FPA	Q1 2021	

2.3. Operating grants for 2022 and 2023 under Framework Partnership Agreements in the area of facilitating and supporting judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters and/or in the area of access to justice

Legal basis

Art. 3(2)(a) and Art. 8(6) [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

Budget line

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation
Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

See 'Essential award criteria' within the description of the priorities and activities to be funded

Description of the priorities and activities to be funded under the call for proposals

These grants aim to support the annual work programme of European networks active in the area of facilitating and supporting judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters and/or in the area of access to justice for all which have signed Framework Partnership Agreements with the Commission. The Commission will invite Framework Partners in writing to submit their proposal announcing the annual priorities.

Description of the activities

These grants will fund operating costs and those activities of the network which have EU added value and contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Programme among others: analytical activities, training activities, mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination activities.

Essential award criteria

The Commission will verify that the proposal is consistent with the objectives pursued by the Programme and will assess the proposal essentially on the basis of the following award criteria:

- (a) relevance (extent to which the proposed annual work programme of Framework Partners addresses the priorities announced by the Commission and is coherent with the outline work programme of the Framework Partnership Agreement);
- (b) quality;
- (c) impact.

Objectives pursued

In the area of judicial cooperation: to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and promote the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions.

In the area of access to justice: to facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, and effective redress, including by electronic means (e-justice), by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures, and by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

Expected results

In the area of judicial cooperation:

- Increased capacity of national practitioners, authorities to address issues related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and to the application of the Union instruments on civil, procedural civil law and procedural criminal law;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, including taking into account the relevant case-law of the CJEU;
- Improved knowledge on the legislation and administrative practices related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- Harmonisation of the administrative practices in relation to the relevant legislation in different Member States;
- Improved cooperation between judicial authorities in civil, commercial and criminal matters;
- The legal framework and regulations linked to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters are in line with EU acquis and relevant case-law of the CJEU;
- National authorities responsible for judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters operate in cooperation and coordination with other responsible agencies and institutions across the EU;
- Prosecutors and judges for the proceedings related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters have further specialised knowledge and experience in respective fields;
- Acceleration of proceedings in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and decrease in breaches of time-limits;
- Improved situation of persons subject to measures in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters; enhancement of their social rehabilitation and re-integrations;
- Increased awareness of policy makers related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters.

In the area of access to justice:

- Improved knowledge of European judicial systems;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities and European networks in relation to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and of victims of crime;
- Improved knowledge on the legislation and administrative practices related to specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating the rights of suspects and accused in criminal proceedings and of victims of crime;
- Reduced risks of breaches of fair trial rights;

- Improved cooperation among NGOs and professional organisations in the field of the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and of victims of crime;
- Increased awareness of the relevant policy makers on the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and of victims of crime;
- Improved public awareness and knowledge about procedural rights of suspected and accused persons and victims' rights at both EU and national level;
- Improved knowledge about specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating issues such as referring victims to the relevant support services, victims' access to information in the area of victims' rights, individual assessment of victims' needs;
- Increased number of victims' support organisations providing general and specialist support services to victims of crimes and their family members, in particular in those Member States who currently do not provide such services or provide them in insufficient manner;
- Increased quality of the services provided by victim support organisations;
- Improved knowledge about national compensation schemes and increased support for victims claiming compensation.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable of the publication of the call and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-2021-JCOO-JACC-OG-SGA	Q1 2021	07 07 01 : € 1 700 000
		07 07 03 : € 2 500 000
JUST-2022-JCOO-JACC-OG-SGA	Q1 2022	07 07 01 : € 1 700 000
		07 07 03 : € 2 500 000

2.4. Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects on judicial training covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights

Legal basis

Art. 3(2)(b) and Art. 9 [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

Budget line

Budget line 07 07 02: Support judicial training

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

See 'Essential eligibility criteria' within the description of the priorities and activities to be funded

Description of the priorities and activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The priorities of 2021 and 2022 will concentrate funding on training activities and tools for training providers, as described below, in order to support cross-border training activities:

- 1) for justice professionals, and/or
- 2) for multipliers, such as judicial trainers or EU law court coordinators, where there are guarantees that the multipliers will pass on their knowledge to justice professionals in a systematic way, and/or
- 3) for cross-professional training, in order to stimulate discussions across judicial professions about the application of EU law and contribute to a European judicial culture across professional boundaries on precisely identified topics of relevance to the concerned professions.

Topics

The activities may cover EU civil, criminal and fundamental rights law, legal systems of the Member States and the rule of law. The multidisciplinary competencies, judgecraft, professional skills, topics like conduct, resilience, unconscious bias, case and courtroom management, leadership, digitalisation, modern technologies and IT tools, linguistic skills might be addressed only if linked to training on legal topics.

An evidenced-based training needs assessment for the topic of the training activity is always required.

Priority will notably be given to training on civil law, criminal law, fundamental rights, as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and data protection.

Proposals outside of the priority topics

Since the assessment of European judicial training needs cannot be solely conducted at EU level and is mainly done nationally and even locally, policy priorities mentioned in this Work Programme are indications of possible topics of supported projects. Proposals not in line with these priorities may still be awarded funding if applicants can justify by a convincing evidence-based training needs' assessment that reaching the objectives of such proposals will contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law. Such proposals might be awarded grants if they allow the justice professionals to keep pace with the development of EU law and/or to face the newly emerging challenges.

Target group

This call supports training of members of the judiciary and judicial staff, meaning judges, prosecutors, court and prosecution offices' staff, other justice professionals associated with the judiciary, such as lawyers in private practice, notaries, bailiffs, insolvency practitioners and mediators, as well as court interpreters and translators, prison and probation staff. Non-justice professionals cannot participate in the training activities as participants unless there is a duly justified exception acknowledged at the moment of the grant award.

Distribution of financial support between different topics

When deciding on the allocation of grants, a fair balance between topics and/or target audience shall be sought. Moreover, priority will be given to projects that do not duplicate existing training material or on-going projects but that act in complementarity and/or that innovate.

Description of the activities

The training activities implemented by each project must include participants (trainees) from different participating countries, therefore travel and accommodation costs should be envisaged.

This call will fund training activities such as:

- organisation of interactive, practice-oriented seminars (including implementation of training modules created by the European Commission on EU legislation in civil law²⁰);
- multilateral exchanges between justice professionals;
- cross-border initial training activities (online, face-to-face activities or exchanges), covering as many Member States as possible, to create a common European legal culture from the moment of entering a justice profession;
- training activities related to enhancing the use of remote hearings and use of video testimonies;
- joint study visits to EU courts by justice professionals from as many different Member States as possible;
- creation of training material, whether for presential learning, blended learning or e-learning, ready-to-use either by trainers or by practitioners for self-learning, in combination with the organisation of training activities, including the creation of ‘Capsule’ e-training (short, up to date, tightly focused) to address justice professionals’ immediate needs in the context of a concrete case;
- update and/or translation of existing training material possibly combined with adaptation to national settings, in combination with the organisation of training activities;
- creation of tools or activities for training providers (for example: train-the-trainers on active and modern adult learning techniques, train-the-trainers on online training skills and tools, tools to support the organisation of cross-border training, training on how to give training online, etc.), including to facilitate their cooperation at EU-level;
- evaluation of the training activities on the basis of the participants’ satisfaction, increased competence and, where possible, impact on their performance.

These training activities will be funded only when there is no equivalent activity which is already covered by the operating grant of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN).

Training activities can take place in the context of initial training (induction-period) or continuous training of the participants (for example: training activities to familiarise newly appointed justice professionals with EU legislation and judicial cooperation instruments; or more specialised training activities for practicing justice professionals).

Projects targeting "legal systems of the Member States" should cover the legal systems which have particular relevance for the participants and involve experienced justice professionals who will be able to share experiences and compare practices of application of EU legal instruments.

Training methodology

²⁰ https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_civil_law-254-en.do

Applications should notably take into account recommendations from the Advice for training providers of DG Justice and Consumers²¹ of the Commission or expand good practices²² revealed by the EU pilot project on European Judicial Training to other Member States or justice professions. The planned training methodology should be described in detail, for face-to-face activities as for e-learning ones.

Planned training activities should be of easy linguistic access (for example, by providing interpretation in the languages of all participants, national breakout groups, translation of training materials or linguistic programme components) to attract also justice professionals to cross-border training activities that are reluctant to participate in a seminar in a foreign legal language and therefore have not been reached by previous cross-border training activities.

Duration

The project duration shall not exceed 36 months.

Dissemination strategy

The funded projects should have an effective strategy ensuring that the training developed can be taken up by other training providers and/or made accessible to other justice practitioners.

Essential eligibility criteria

To be **eligible**, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- (a) applicants must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the Programme, or international organisations. Organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit-oriented organisations;
- (b) the applications must be transnational and involve organisations from at least two participating countries;
- (c) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than € 75 000.

Objectives pursued

In line with the Commission Communication ‘Ensuring justice in the EU — a European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024’, the objective is to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law in the areas of civil law, criminal law and fundamental rights, as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the rule of law related issues, by helping to address the training needs of justice professionals in these fields.

Expected results

- Increased knowledge of EU civil, criminal and fundamental rights instruments among justice professionals and the methods to implement them;
- Increased knowledge of the European standards on the rule of law among justice professionals;
- Improved mutual trust between justice professionals in cross-border judicial cooperation;
- Increased ability to use e-justice and digital tools;

²¹ The Advice for training providers on the European e-Justice Portal: https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_training_methodology-253-en.do?clang=en

²² Good judicial training practices on the European e-Justice Portal: https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_good_training_practices-311-en.do

- Increased knowledge among justice professionals on crime victims' rights, including encountering victims in a gender-sensitive, victim-centred and trauma-informed manner;
- Improved cooperation of training providers of the different justice professions;
- Increased awareness among justice professionals on the scope of application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and on existing remedies and redress.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable of the publication of the call and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-2021-JTRA	Q1 2021	€ 5 350 000
JUST-2022-JTRA	Q1 2022	€ 5 000 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

90%

2.5. Operating grant to beneficiary identified in the legal base - EJTN

Legal basis

Art. 3(2)(b) and Art. 11(3) [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

Article 195(1)(d) of the Financial Regulation

Budget line

Budget line 07 07 02: Support judicial training

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

See 'Essential award criteria' within the description of the priorities and activities to be funded

Description of the priorities and activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Pursuant to Article 11(3) of [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013], the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) shall receive an operating grant to co-finance

expenditure associated with its permanent work programme.

The work programme of the EJTN should be in line with the strategy on European judicial training²³ and, in particular, strive to increase its number of activities and of participants as well as continue to develop the AIAKOS exchange programme for new judges and prosecutors while increasing the number of exchanges for experienced practitioners. It should also take into account the findings of the 2019 Staff working document on the evaluation of the European judicial training strategy²⁴.

The EJTN should also continue to promote high quality training methodologies and strive to make the most of its partnerships with European judicial networks and improve the in-house expertise on the main topics of their portfolio.

It should ensure complementarity of the activities developed under different funding opportunities with the ones funded by the operating grant.

Priorities for the 2022 and 2023 EJTN work programmes, are as follows:

- The topics covered by the training activities organised by the EJTN will take into account the conclusions of the annual joint European Commission - EJTN meetings on training needs assessment;
- The AIAKOS exchanges will aim at ensuring the participation of all new judges and prosecutors every year;
- The exchanges organised every year should reach at least 5% of all judges and prosecutors every year, while avoiding repetitive participants;
- The training activities organised in the field of criminal justice will notably include the topics of the protection of the financial interests of the EU, the European Public Prosecutor Office, of the fight against terrorism and of the countering of radicalisation leading to violent extremism including in prisons;
- The topic of the rule of law should continue to be part of the human rights sub-working group of EJTN and be the subject of specific training activities as well as be embedded in training activities on other topics; the book “Rule of Law in Europe. Perspectives from practitioners and academics” should be systematically promoted among participants in EJTN seminars;
- Training on judgecraft, non-legal knowledge and skills should be embedded in training activities on legal topics where relevant;
- Training topics should include the digitalisation of judicial proceedings, including cross-border judicial cooperation ones, any new and relevant EU instruments and the adequate protection of individuals’ rights in the digital space (for e.g. data protection, privacy, protection of children);
- The e-learning offer should be developed both to organise blended learning activities and to create self-standing learning material;
- Training on legal foreign language in specific areas of law should continue;
- The court staff and prosecution services’ staff training needs on EU law should be

²³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0713>.

²⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/cross-border-cases/training-legal-practitioners-and-training-practices_en#evaluationoftheeuropeanjudicialtrainingstrategy

discussed between all court staff training providers in a specific setting created by the EJTN for this purpose and specific activities for court staff should be planned;

- The multiplying effect of EU level deliverables should be increased by boosting its members' EU-law related offer.

Description of the activities

The operating grant to the EJTN will finance activities which contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Programme in particular training activities with EU added value: EU-level training activities for judges and prosecutors, exchanges programmes for new judges and prosecutors, experienced judges and prosecutors, for presidents of courts and for courts, study visits, train-the-trainers activities, EU-level training activities for court and prosecution offices' staff and to coordinate the work of the national judicial training providers regarding EU law, fundamental rights, judge craft, rule of law, training methodologies, court staff training, etc.

Essential award criteria

EJTN's proposal will be assessed on the basis of the following **award criteria**:

- (a) relevance;
- (b) quality of the annual work programme, which must be clear, realistic and well detailed;
- (c) impact.

Objectives pursued

Support and promote judicial training, with a view to fostering a common legal, judicial and rule of law culture, as well as the consistent and effective implementation of the Union's legal instruments relevant in the context of this programme.

To improve the knowledge of EU law, EU judicial cooperation instruments, fundamental rights, judgecraft, rule of law, case-law of the CJEU, to ensure a better implementation of EU law in the EU and improved mutual trust among justice professionals to ensure smoother cross-border proceedings.

Expected results

- Improved knowledge of EU law and know-how of the use of the EU judicial cooperation instruments, improved trust among justice professionals, improved efficiency of justice and legal security in the EU;
- Targeted training in relation to justice professionals' training needs;
- Continued preparation of the future work with the European Public Prosecutor Office.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable of the invitation to submit a work programme and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-2021-EJTN-OG-FPA-IBA	Q3 2021	€ 11 100 000

JUST-2021-EJTN-OG-SGA		
JUST-2022-EJTN-OG-SGA	Q3 2022	€ 11 200 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

97%

2.6. Call for proposals for action grants to support national or transnational e-Justice projects

Legal basis

Art. 3(2)(c) and Art. 9 [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

Budget line

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

See 'Essential eligibility criteria' within the description of the priorities and activities to be funded

Description of the priorities and activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The key objective for 2021 and 2022 is to contribute to achieving the goals of the Commission Communication on the Digitalisation of Justice in the EU²⁵ and the Council European e-Justice Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2023 by supporting the implementation of e-Justice projects at the European and national level, as far as they have a European dimension.

Moreover, priority will be given to projects aiming at joining or enhancing existing or ongoing e-Justice projects:

- Projects facilitating electronic cross-border interaction and communication between judicial authorities, as well as with citizens, businesses and practitioners in judicial proceedings. For example, with regard to the use of videoconferencing in a cross-border setting, in particular with regard to standardisation and achieving interoperability;
- Integration of electronic multilingual standard forms into national e-government systems, in the context of Regulation (EU) 2016/1191²⁶. In this regard, national implementations must use and comply with the common XML schemas (XSDs) developed by the Commission;
- Participation in the following e-CODEX use cases: European Small Claims Procedure, European Order for Payment and iSupport²⁷;

²⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2020:710:FIN>

²⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016R1191>

²⁷ <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/isupport1>

- Participation in the e-Evidence Digital Exchange System, set up following the Council conclusions on improving criminal justice in cyberspace from 9 June 2016²⁸;
- Participation in the Find a Lawyer (FAL) search tool hosted on the e-Justice Portal;
- Participation in the Find a Notary (FAN) search tool hosted on the e-Justice Portal;
- Participation in the Find a Bailiff (FAB) search tool to be hosted on the e-Justice Portal;
- Implementation of the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI²⁹) in case law repositories and interconnection with the e-Justice Portal;
- Participation in the Land Registers Interconnection (LRI) to be hosted on the e-Justice Portal;
- Participation in the European Court Database (in both civil and criminal matters) hosted on the e-Justice Portal.

Priority will also be given to support for the development of concrete use cases based on artificial intelligence and distributed ledger technology in the justice area.

Other e-Justice Portal projects related to development of the relevant EU policies, such as victims' rights, rights of suspects and accused in criminal proceedings, and projects which are in advanced stage of development or already live on the e-Justice Portal at the moment when the call is published will not be excluded.

Transnational projects will have priority over national ones. National projects will be funded only insofar as they offer a clearly demonstrated EU added value, for instance providing best practices for other EU Member States or promoting interoperability.

Description of the activities

Project activities under this call would in principle include analytical, conceptual, design and elaboration work, IT software development, quality assurance and related auxiliary measures necessary for the establishment of new IT systems, as well as the expansion and adaptation of existing national and transnational solutions towards addressing the objectives of the call.

The requirements of the eIDAS Regulation³⁰, the use of the Digital Building Blocks developed under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) programme³¹, as well as the results from the e-CODEX project and ISA² Core vocabularies, should be taken into account as relevant.

Supporting activities relating to project management, content preparation, editorial work, communication, promotion and dissemination are also eligible for funding.

Essential eligibility criteria

To be **eligible**, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- applicants must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the Programme, or an international organisation. Organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with

²⁸ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/24300/cyberspace-en.pdf>

²⁹ Relevant activities could also relate to the adoption of / migration to the new ECLI Extension Language ("ECLI-XL") standard adopted in October 2019: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9280-2019-REV-2/en/pdf>.

³⁰ Regulation (EU) 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council

³¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/CEF+Digital+Home>

- public entities or private non-profit-oriented organisations;
- the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than € 75 000.

Objectives pursued

Facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, and effective redress, including by electronic means (e-Justice), by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures, and by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

Expected results

- Improved participation, with the aim of achieving full EU coverage concerning the various e-Justice interconnection projects;
- Addressing the relevant policy goals set out in the Commission Communication on the digitalisation of justice in the EU;
- Opportunities allowing Member States to engage in new pilot initiatives, in particular those identified in the European e-Justice Action Plan (2019-2023);
- Improved awareness of on-going and future e-Justice activities.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable of the publication of the call and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-2021-EJUSTICE	Q1 2021	€ 2 800 000
JUST-2022-EJUSTICE	Q1 2022	€ 2 800 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

90%

2.7. Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects to enhance the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and the rights of victims of crime

Legal basis

Art. 3(2)(c) and Art. 9 [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

Budget line

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

See 'Essential eligibility criteria' within the description of the priorities and activities to be funded

Description of the priorities and activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The aims of this call for 2021 and 2022 are:

- to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU criminal law in the area of the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime (procedural rights priority);
- to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law in the area of the rights of victims of crime in line with the priorities set up by the EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025) (victims' rights priority).

In both priorities, actions may include possible future EU initiatives regarding gaps in EU legislation where further needs for EU actions are called for. Projects ensuring maximum practical benefits and impact for the target groups will be more favorably assessed than theoretical projects consisting mainly of research and other analytical activities. Successful projects shall ensure easy access to and wide dissemination of their results.

Procedural rights priority:

The main legislative measures concerned within this priority include in particular:

- Directive (EU) 2016/800³² on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings;
- Directive (EU) 2016/1919³² on legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings;
- Directive 2010/64/EU³² on the right to interpretation and translation;
- Directive 2012/13/EU³² on the right to information;
- Directive 2013/48/EU³² on the right of access to a lawyer;
- Directive (EU) 2016/343³² on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings.

Victims' rights priority:

The main legislative measures concerned within this priority include in particular:

- Directive 2012/29/EU³² establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime;
- Council Directive 2004/80/EC³² relating to compensation to crime victims;
- Directive 2011/99/EU³² on the European protection order;
- Regulation (EU) No 606/2013³² on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters;
- Directive (EU) 2017/541³² on combating terrorism.

Description of the activities

The following activities can be covered:

³² See section Legislative instrument references.

- mutual learning, exchange of good practices, development of working and learning methods which may be transferable to other participating countries;
- exchange and provision of information and development of information and educational tools;
- capacity building for professionals;
- facilitating cooperation between competent authorities (including where relevant national experts or agencies dealing with the aspects covered by this call) and/or legal practitioners and/or service providers (including multi-disciplinary networks at EU or international, national, regional or local levels) and/or civil society organisations / National Human Rights Institutions / Equality bodies, Ombuds Institutions and national authorities (including at national and local level, where relevant);
- communication activities including dissemination of information about rights and activities raising awareness of the existing rules on rights at EU and national levels, relevant to the priorities of the call;
- training activities, as long as they are of ancillary nature and not the main purpose of the project;
- analytical activities, such as data collection and creation of data bases, surveys, research etc..

Essential eligibility criteria

To be **eligible**, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- (a) applicants must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the Programme, or international organisations. Organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit-oriented organisations;
- (b) the application must be transnational and involve organisations from at least two participating countries;
- (c) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than € 75 000.

Objectives pursued

Facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, and effective redress, including by electronic means (e-justice), by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures, by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

Expected results

Expected results under the priority 1 are:

- Increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities in relation to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime;
- Improved knowledge on the legislation and administrative practices related to specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating the rights of suspects and accused in criminal proceedings;
- Harmonisation of the administrative practices in relation to the relevant legislation in

different Member States;

- Reduced risks of breaches of fair trial rights;
- Compatibility of the national legal framework and regulations linked to the rights of persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings with EU acquis;
- Improved cooperation of NGOs and professional organisations in the field of the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime;
- Increased awareness of the relevant policy makers on the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime.

Expected results under the priority 2 are:

- Increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to the rights of victims of crime;
- Improved cooperation among the competent national authorities, NGOs and/or professional organisations in the field of victims' rights;
- Improved public awareness and knowledge about victims' rights at both EU and national level (including amongst the most vulnerable groups);
- Improved knowledge about specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating issues such as referring victims to the relevant support services, victims' access to information in the area of victims' rights, individual assessment of victims' needs, use of procedural means to protect victims during criminal trial, including use of remote hearings and video testimonies;
- Compatibility of the national legal framework and administrative practice related to victims' rights with the relevant EU acquis;
- Increased number of victims' support organisations providing general and specialist support services to victims of crimes and their family members, in particular in those Member States who currently do not provide such services or provide them in insufficient manner;
- Increased number of targeted and integrated specialist support services for victims with specific needs such as victims of domestic violence, victims of other forms of gender-based violence, child victims, victims of hate crime and migrant victims of crime;
- Increased quality of the services (including gender-sensitive, victim-centred and trauma-informed approaches to services) provided by victims support organisations;
- Enhanced cooperation among the relevant national authorities responsible for compensation in cross-border cases under the Council Directive 2004/80/EC³³ on compensation to crime victims.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable of the publication of the call and indicative amount

³³ See section Legislative instrument references.

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-2021-JACC	Q2 2021	2021: € 3 000 000 2022: € 3 200 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

90%

3. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts is € 12 192 538 for 2021 and € 10 377 000 for 2022.

3.1. Procurement activities under Specific objective: judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matter

Legal basis

Art. 3(2)(a) [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

Budget line

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

General description of the contracts envisaged (*study / technical assistance / evaluation / survey / IT / communication services/etc.*)

In 2021-2022 the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tenders, and new and existing framework contracts) or administrative arrangements. Conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities may be organised, development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems may be supported or surveys and studies and impact assessments may be undertaken in particular in order to monitor the proper implementation of existing legislation or to prepare, or accompany new legislation or to respond to policy changes in the area covered by the Programme.

It may cover in particular the following actions:

- Management, analytical and information activities of the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters (EJN), including:
 - o Meetings and workshops of the EJN (Q1-Q4 2021-22, framework contract);
 - o printing and distribution of the EJN practice guides (Q1-Q4 2021-22, framework contract);
- Update and maintenance of the JURE database on the judgements in civil and commercial matters (Q1-Q4 2021-22, sub-delegation to the EU Publication Office);
- Expert groups, comitology meetings and workshops to prepare or implement EU law in the field of judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters (Q1-Q4 2021-22);
- Studies needed for the review of existing instruments, e.g. Maintenance Regulation, Rome II Regulation, Brussels I Recast Regulation, Public Documents Regulation and Insolvency Regulation (Q1-Q4 2021-22), framework contract;
- Studies needed to prepare possible future developments on insolvency, vulnerable adults and Singapore Convention on Mediation (Q1-Q4 2021-22), framework contract;
- Criminal law implementation studies, conferences;
- Expert meetings on the implementation/application of selected mutual recognition instruments in criminal matters, including activities in the context of the European

Arrest Warrant coordination group;

- Studies/workshops/expert meetings to evaluate existing instruments and/or prepare new legislation in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, assist Member States in the implementation of these instruments or exchange best practices, including aspects related to pre-trial detention and material detention conditions, the criminal justice response to radicalisation, digital criminal justice (Q1-Q4 2021-22, framework contract);

Objectives pursued

Facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and promote the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions.

Expected results

- Increased capacity of national practitioners, courts and authorities to address issues related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and to the application of the EU instruments on civil and civil procedural law, as well as on criminal and criminal procedural law;
- Improved cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities (including courts) in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- Better preparedness in evaluating existing instruments and/or preparing new legislation in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Implementation

By DG JUST and, where indicated, by the Publication Office based on a cross sub-delegation and by DIGIT based on a co-delegation. Other administrative arrangements and delegation may be also used, if needed.

TOTAL BUDGET AVAILABLE

2021: € 3 841 985

2022: € 3 956 600

3.2. Procurement activities under Specific objective: judicial training

Legal basis

Art. 3(2)(b) [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

Budget line

Budget line 07 07 02: Support judicial training

General description of the contracts envisaged (*study / technical assistance / evaluation / survey / IT / communication services/etc.*)

In 2021-2022, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tenders, and new and existing framework contracts) or administrative arrangements. Conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities may be organised, development of training material may be supported and studies may be undertaken in particular in order to respond to policy changes in the area covered by the Programme. It may cover in particular the following actions:

- Meeting of the Expert group on European judicial training (Q1-Q2 2021, Q1-Q2 2022, framework contract) to provide expertise on the future of judicial training policy;
- Annual conference of stakeholders on European judicial training (Q3 2021, Q3 2022, framework contract) to discuss and exchange of follow-up ideas and networking on judicial training matters;
- Translation of training material or handbooks for justice professionals' self-learning (by DGT);
- Creation of e-learning modules or e-capsules for the European Training Platform (ETP) of the European e-Justice Portal and drafting of best practices on e-learning.

Objectives pursued

In line with the Commission Communication 'Ensuring justice in the EU — a European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024', the objective is to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law in the areas of civil law, criminal law and fundamental rights, as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the rule of law related issues, by helping to address the training needs of justice professionals in these fields.

Expected results

- Increased knowledge of EU civil, criminal and fundamental rights instruments among justice professionals and the methods to implement them;
- Increased knowledge of the European standards on the rule of law among justice professionals;
- Improved mutual trust between justice professionals in cross-border judicial cooperation;
- Increased ability to use e-justice and digital tools;

Implementation

By DG JUST and, where indicated, by DGT based on a co-delegation. Other administrative arrangements and delegation may be also used, if needed.

TOTAL BUDGET AVAILABLE

2021: € 1 214 090

2022: € 406 200

3.3. Procurement activities under Specific objective: access to justice

Legal basis

Art. 3(2)(c) [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

Budget line

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

General description of the contracts envisaged (*study / technical assistance / evaluation / survey / IT / communication services/etc.*)

In 2021-2022, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tenders, and new and existing framework contracts) or administrative arrangements. Conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities may be organised, development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems may be supported and studies and impact assessments may be undertaken in particular in order to prepare, or accompany new legislation or to respond to policy changes in the area covered by the Programme. It may cover in particular the following actions:

- Expert meetings on the implementation of the procedural rights directives (2021-2022; framework contracts);
- Expert meetings on the implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive (including annual meeting of the Victims' Rights Platform / High Level Conference for the mid-term of the EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025) (2021-2022, framework contract);
- EU campaign to raise awareness about victims' rights (Q1-Q4 2021);
- Continuation of the EU Centre of expertise on victims' rights (Q1-Q4 2022);
- Studies/workshops/expert meetings to evaluate existing instruments and/or prepare new legislation in the field of access to justice including aspects related to the rights of suspects and accused in criminal proceedings, and the rights of victims of crime (2021-2022, framework contract);
- Organisation of conferences with the Council Presidencies (Q1-Q4 2021-2022, framework contract);
- Contribution to co-financing of Commission corporate IT systems;
- Studies on digitalisation of justice, including with regard to the implementation of the Council e-Justice Action Plan 2019-2023 (Q1-Q4 2021-2022, framework contract);
- Analytical tasks, new developments and necessary actions for the continued support, corrective, adaptive and evolutionary maintenance of the e-Justice Portal and its modules (Q1-Q4 2021-2022; framework contract(s));
- Various activities related to e-Justice development (such as intra-muros providing expert services: web mastering, quality assurance, etc.) (Q1-Q4 2021-2022, framework contract(s));
- e-Justice related licencing and support contracts, including hosting costs to DIGIT and

translation costs to DGT (Q1-Q4 2021-2022, framework contract/co-delegation);

- Organisation of a promotional campaign related to the new user-interface of the e-Justice Portal (Q3-Q4 2021, framework contract);
- e-Justice expert group meetings (Q1-Q4 2021-2022, framework contract);
- Informal expert group of contact persons of national justice systems (Q1-Q4 2021, framework contract);
- Eurobarometer survey (Q1-Q2 2021, framework contract);
- Study of the Council of Europe European Commission for the efficiency of justice (CEPEJ) for the preparation of the EU Justice Scoreboard (Q1-Q2 2021, Q1-Q2 2022, framework contract);
- Follow-up to the Communication on ‘Strengthening the rule of law within the Union – A blueprint for action’ (especially as concerns the strengthening of a rule of law culture, in particular among the general public and follow up on the idea of an annual rule of law event open to national stakeholders and civil society organisations) (Q1-Q2 2021, framework contract);
- Meetings of national rule of law contact points (Q1-Q4 2021, framework contract).

Objectives pursued

Facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, and effective redress, including by electronic means (e-justice), by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures, by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

Expected results

- Increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to the rights of victims of crime and to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime;
- Improved knowledge on the legislation and administrative practices related to specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating the rights of victims of crime and the rights of suspects and accused in criminal proceedings;
- Increased awareness of the relevant policy makers on the rights of victims of crime and to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime.
- Improved awareness of on-going and future e-Justice activities.

Implementation

By DG JUST and, where indicated, by DIGIT, DGT based on a co-delegation. Other administrative arrangements and delegation may be also used, if needed.

TOTAL BUDGET AVAILABLE

2021: € 7 099 463

2022: € 5 977 200

4. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

4.1. Support to Council of Europe for SPACE report and EU network of prison monitoring bodies

Legal basis

Art. 3(2)(a), Art. 11(2)(b) [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

Budget line

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

Implementing entity

Council of Europe (via a contribution agreement with DG JUST)

Description

Cooperation with the Council of Europe covers two items: the SPACE report and the setting up of a network of prison monitoring bodies.

a) SPACE report

The Council of Europe produces an annual report on prison statistics since 1984, now referred to as the SPACE report I and II (*Statistiques Pénales Annuelles du Conseil de l'Europe*). It contains a first part on penal institutions and a second on non-custodial sentences and measures.

The cooperation between the Commission and the Council of Europe allows to produce a much more elaborate report, including data of particular interest to the EU, such as the number of prisoners for crimes linked with terrorism, the number of transfers of prison and alternatives sentences between EU Member States, the number of foreigners in prison (from EU and non-EU Member States), statistics related to the use of pre-trial detention and the use of alternatives (both in the pre- and post-trial stage) in the Member States.

b) European forum of prison monitoring bodies in the Member States

The grant to the Council of Europe covers activities aiming at the running of a European forum of independent prison monitoring bodies such as National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) which Member States have set up following ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

The activity has started in 2016. It allows bodies monitoring prisons in the Member States to meet regularly within an informal network to discuss detention matters and exchange best practice in this field. Among the subjects discussed are the possible difficulties in relation to the application of Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA on the Transfer of Prisoners³⁴, issues related to radicalisation in prisons, and the importance of detention conditions on the proper functioning of the European arrest warrant (EAW) as a result of the judgment of the

³⁴ Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA of 27 November 2008 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union

Court of Justice in joined Cases C-404/15 and C-659/15, Aranyosi and Caldaru.

In this context, the European NPM forum plays a role in the mapping of detention conditions (both in the pre- and the post-trial stage) in the Member States and the development of common criteria and methodology of measuring detention standards in the Member States.

The cooperation between the Commission and the Council of Europe will enhance optimal use, in the context of EU judicial cooperation, of existing expertise in this field as the Council of Europe is already managing the main prison monitoring body, i.e. the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), which has developed methodology and relevant contacts with EU NPMs in this field.

The objective is to organise (bi)annual meetings supported by a regular newsletter distributed to the European NPM forum members, the creation of good practice models to ensure effective follow-up of NPM recommendations and organisation of joint monitoring visits to exchange best practices.

Description of the activities

This grant will cover the following activities:

- analytical activities, such as data collection, surveys, research activities;
- mutual learning, identifying and exchange of best practices, development of working methods which may be transferable to other participating countries;
- exchange and provision of information and development of information tools;
- dissemination and awareness raising activities.

Award criteria

The proposal of the Council of Europe will be assessed based on the following award criteria:

- (a) relevance;
- (b) quality;
- (c) impact.

Objectives pursued

Facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and promote the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions.

Expected results

- National authorities responsible for monitoring of detention conditions operate in cooperation and coordination with other responsible agencies and institutions across the EU;
- Improved standards for measuring detention conditions in the Member States in line with EU acquis, in particular the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and international instruments such as the Council of Europe European Prison Rules;

- Approximation of the administrative practices in relation to monitoring of prisons in different Member States;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities in relation to detention conditions in the Member States;
- Improved knowledge on the legislation and administrative practices related to detention conditions in the Member States;
- Reduced risks of detention issues affecting judicial cooperation in criminal matters in proceedings related to the European arrest warrant and transfer of custodial sentences to other Member States.

Indicative timetable of the publication of the call and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-2022-JCOO-COEU	Q3 2022	€ 250 000

5. OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURE

5.1. EU membership fee in the Hague Conference of Private International Law

Legal basis

Art. 3(2)(a) [Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013]

Council Decision (EC) No 2006/719 of 5 October 2006 on the accession of the Community to the Hague Conference on Private International Law³⁵.

Budget line

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

Amount

2021: € 37 000

2022: € 37 000

Description

On 5 October 2006, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted a decision on the accession of the European Union to the Hague Conference on Private International Law ("HCCH"). The purpose of this international intergovernmental organisation is to work for the progressive unification of the rules of private international law in the participating countries. Most of the conventions developed by the Hague Conference fall within exclusive or partial external competence of the EU and are part of the EU acquis. Since 2007, the EU, along with its Member States, is a Member of the Hague Conference and has the obligation to contribute a membership fee, in accordance with Art. 9(2) of the Hague's Statute to cover additional administrative expenses arising out of its membership. The Union pursues its international action in relation to civil justice mainly through this international organisation. This covers both legislative action (in the form of civil judicial cooperation conventions as well as implementation of existing Hague Conventions to the benefit of EU citizens).

³⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32006D0719>, OJ L 297, 26.10.2006, p. 1.

LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENT REFERENCES

Legislative instrument full name	Reference
Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a Justice Programme for the period 2014 to 2020	OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 73–83 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013R1382
Regulation (EU) No 655/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 establishing a European Account Preservation Order procedure to facilitate cross-border debt recovery in civil and commercial matters	OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 59–92 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0655
Regulation (EU) 2015/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 on insolvency proceedings (recast)	OJ L 141, 5.6.2015, p. 19–72 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015R0848
Regulation (EU) 2015/2421 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 861/2007 establishing a European Small Claims Procedure and Regulation (EC) No 1896/2006 creating a European order for payment procedure <i>applicable since July 2017</i>	OJ L 341, 24.12.2015, p. 1–13 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015R2421
Regulation (EU) 2016/1191 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 on promoting the free movement of citizens by simplifying the requirements for presenting certain public documents in the European Union and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012	OJ L 200, 26.7.2016, p. 1–136 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1191
Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 of 27 November 2003 concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility , repealing Regulation (EC) No 1347/2000	OJ L 338, 23.12.2003, p. 1–29 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32003R2201
Council Regulation (EU) 2016/1103 of 24 June 2016 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of matrimonial property regimes	OJ L 183, 8.7.2016, p. 1–29 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1103
Council Regulation (EU) 2016/1104 of 24 June 2016 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of the property consequences of registered partnerships	OJ L 183, 8.7.2016, p. 30–56 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1104
Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC	OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p. 73–114 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0910
Regulation (EU) 2018/1805 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the mutual recognition	OJ L 303, 28.11.2018, p. 1–38

of freezing orders and confiscation orders	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1805
Directive 2010/64/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings <i>Applicable as from 27 October 2013</i>	OJ L 280, 26.10.2010, p.1-7
Directive 2012/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 on the right to information in criminal proceedings <i>Applicable as from 2 June 2014</i>	OJ L 142, 1.6.2012, p.1-10
Directive 2013/48/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings , and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty <i>Applicable as from 27 November 2016</i>	OJ L 294, 6.11.2013, p.1-12
Directive (EU) 2016/343 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings <i>Applicable as from 1 April 2018</i>	OJ L 65, 11.3.2016, p.1-11
Directive (EU) 2016/800 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings <i>Applicable as from 11 June 2019</i>	OJ L132, 21.5.2016, p.1-20
Directive (EU) 2016/1919 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings <i>applicable from 5 May 2019</i>	OJ L 297, 4.11.2016, p. 1–8 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016L1919
Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime , and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA	OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 57–73 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0029
Council Directive 2004/80/EC of 29 April 2004 relating to compensation to crime victims	OJ L 261, 6.8.2004, p. 15–18 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32004L0080
Regulation (EU) No 606/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters	OJ L181,29.06.2013, p. 4-12 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32013R0606

Directive 2011/99/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the European protection order (in criminal matters)	OJ L 338, 21.12.2011, p. 2–18 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011L0099
Directive (EU) 2017/541 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on combating terrorism and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA and amending Council Decision 2005/671/JHA	OJ L 88, 31.3.2017, p. 6–21 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017L0541
Directive 2014/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 regarding the European Investigation Order in criminal matters <i>applicable since 22 May 2017</i>	OJ L 130, 1.5.2014, p. 1–36 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0041
Directive 2012/17/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2012 amending Council Directive 89/666/EEC and Directives 2005/56/EC and 2009/101/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the interconnection of central, commercial and companies registers <i>applicable from June 2017</i>	OJ L 156, 16.6.2012, p. 1–9 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0017
Council Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA of 13 June 2002 on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States	OJ L 190, 18.7.2002, p. 1–20 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32002F0584
Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA of 27 November 2008 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union	OJ L 327, 5.12.2008, p. 27–46 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0909
Council Framework Decision 2008/947/JHA of 27 November 2008 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments and probation decisions with a view to the supervision of probation measures and alternative sanctions	OJ L 337, 16.12.2008, p. 102–122 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0947
Council Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA of 23 October 2009 on the application, between Member States of the European Union, of the principle of mutual recognition to decisions on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention	OJ L 294, 11.11.2009 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009F0829
Council Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA of 24 February 2005 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to financial penalties	OJ L 76, 22.3.2005, p. 16–30 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32005F0214
Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law	OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 55–58 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0913