EUROJUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





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Contents

Foreword 2

2025 highlights 4

1. 2025 in figures 6

1.1 Operational outcomes. 6
1.2 Case workload. 7
1.3 Overview of cases in 2025 involving Member State National Desks 7

2. In Focus in 2025 9

2.1 2020-2025: a changing agency - growing with the challenge. 9
2.2 Significant EU added value. 12
2.3 Room to improve 13
2.4 Looking ahead. 13

3. Key crime areas in Eurojust operational work 14

3.1 Overview of cases by crime type 14
3.2 Economic crimes 16
3.3 Drug trafficking 20
3.4 Organised crime. 22
3.5 Cybercrime. 24
3.6 Migrant smuggling 26
3.7 Trafficking in human beings 28
3.8 Terrorism 30
3.9 Core international crimes. 32
3.10 Environmental crime. 34
3.11 Intellectual property crime 35

4. Judicial cooperation and Eurojust operational work 36

4.1 Eurojust tools and support for judicial cooperation instruments 36
4.2 Coordination meetings and centres 36
4.3 Joint investigation teams 38
4.4 European Investigation Order 40
4.5 European Arrest Warrant 42
4.6 Asset recovery, freezing and confiscation 44
4.7 Resolving conflicts of jurisdiction 46
4.8 Own initiative cases of Eurojust. 46
4.9 E-Evidence 48

5. Cooperation with partners 50

5.1 Eurojust: home to global justice 50
5.2 Cooperation with EU partners 55

6. Safeguarding victims' rights 57

Abbreviations list 59

The statistics on Eurojust cases included in this report were produced on the basis of data contained in the Eurojust case management system (CMS). The numbers were extracted in January 2026 and reflect the data available at that moment. Due to the ongoing nature of cases, possible discrepancies with previously reported numbers may exist, and statistics may be updated in the future.

Foreword

Eurojust's work is guided by the principle: "Justice is our mission, cooperation is our strength", adopted as our motto in 2025. This reflects our daily efforts, visible in the growing scale of our operations, our expertise in judicial cooperation, and expanding partnerships. By connecting national authorities across borders, Eurojust plays a vital role in the EU's criminal justice chain and with partners beyond the EU, helping keep European citizens safe and ensuring justice is served.

In 2025 alone, Eurojust supported 13 946 cross-border criminal investigation cases, including 5 582 newly registered ones. In addition, we supported a record number of 412 joint investigation teams, with nearly half of these also receiving funding from Eurojust.

As criminal networks increasingly operate beyond Europe's borders, our global network is vital to our work. Our worldwide reach continues to extend further and in 2025 Eurojust has concluded Working Arrangements with Egypt, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, South Korea and Uruguay, and welcomed the signature of the International Agreement between the EU and Lebanon on cooperation with Eurojust. Approximately 10% of our casework each year involves countries outside the EU, highlighting the importance of Eurojust's reach and international cooperation.

Last year also marked the first evaluation of the Eurojust Regulation. The resulting report highlights the Agency's achievements, results and added value, while also identifying areas where efficiency can be improved. This provides an important opportunity to further strengthen the effectiveness and value of our work for Member States, our EU partners and the citizens we serve. We very much look forward to the next steps towards a new Eurojust Regulation – and to an excellent 2026!

Michael Schmid
President of Eurojust



Eurojust at a glance

What is Eurojust?

Eurojust is the **EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation.** We are a specialised hub providing tailor-made support to **prosecutors and judges** from across the EU and beyond.

To effectively tackle cross-border crime, we host expert **networks** and **projects** supporting judicial work.

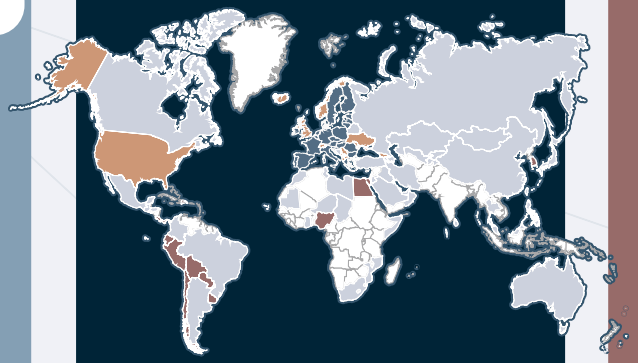
Why Eurojust?

Working across 27 judicial systems is complex. Through our unique know-how, we ensure that national borders are no obstacle to prosecuting criminals and getting justice done. In addition to our **legal expertise**, we provide **secure meeting rooms** with **state-of-the-art IT systems** and **interpretation facilities,** as well as a **24/7 on-call service.**

Who do we work with?

In addition to working with national authorities across the EU, we have **Contact Points** in over 80 countries worldwide, as well as several **Liaison Prosecutors** from third countries posted at Eurojust. This global network works alongside EU Member States to provide support to cross-border investigations.

We also have strong partnerships with other **EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies** as well as international partners.



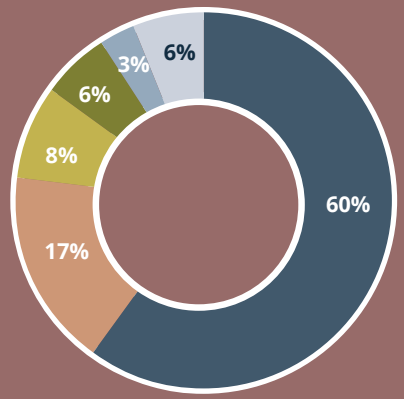
- EU Member States
- Liaison Prosecutors posted at Eurojust
- International Judicial Contact Points
- Strategic Working Arrangements

What is our impact?

Each year, **Eurojust contributes** to the arrest or surrender of **thousands of suspects** and the seizure or freezing of **billions of euros** worth of criminal assets.

Moreover, we help to deliver **justice to thousands of victims,** ensuring their identification, rescue and protection.

Top 5 crime types addressed by Eurojust in 2025



- Economic crimes
- Cybercrime
- Drug trafficking
- Migrant smuggling
- Organised crime
- Other

How do we work?

We provide **our services** to national authorities throughout all stages of the criminal justice chain, from when a case is opened by a Member State until justice gets done in court:

- In **coordination meetings,** we bring together prosecutors from all over Europe to work on cross-border crime cases.
- We support **joint investigation teams** – logistically, financially and with expertise.
- From our **coordination centre,** joint action days against criminal networks are steered in real time, with arrests and searches taking place simultaneously in multiple countries.

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2025
Highlights





















Photos appearing in 2025 Highlights
(*Left to right starting from the top row*)

1: Consultative Forum of Prosecutors General of the EU Member States discusses organised crime and judicial efforts regarding the war in Ukraine, 03/10/2025
2: Eurojust signs a Working Arrangement with the Public Prosecution Office of the Arab Republic of Egypt, represented by Prosecutor General ***Mohamed Shawky,*** 10/04/2025
3: Eurojust signs a Working Arrangement with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea, represented by Minister of Justice ***Park Sung-jae,*** 04/04/2025
4: European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration ***Magnus Brunner*** visits Eurojust, 18/03/2025
5: Eurojust unites prosecutors from 50 jurisdictions to fight organised crime; the Agency signs Working Arrangements with the Offices of the Prosecutor General of the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Uruguay, 03/12/2025
6: European Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection ***Michael McGrath*** launches collaboration with Eurojust, 16/01/2025
(*first image:* Administrative Director ***Vincent Jamin,*** Vice-President ***Jose de la Mata,*** President ***Michael Schmid,*** Vice-President ***Margarita Šniutytė-Daugėlienė*** and National Member for Ireland ***Tricia Harkin*** presenting; *second image:* Commissioner ***Michael McGrath*** and ***President Michael Schmid***)
7: Eurojust demonstrates the role of a prosecutor in cross-border investigations to the next generation at the European Youth Parliament, The Hague, 09/04/2025 *(2 images)*
8: Eurojust President ***Michael Schmid*** presents Eurojust's activities to the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament, 23/06/2025

Photos 1-7 © Eurojust, 8 © European Parliament

1. 2025 in figures

1.1 Operational outcomes

In 2025, Eurojust successfully delivered on its full mandate to fight all serious cross-border crimes, handling almost 14 000 cases.

The Agency contributed to the arrest or surrender of more than 4 443 suspects and the seizure and/or freezing of criminal assets worth close to EUR 1.2 billion. Eurojust also contributed to the seizure of drugs worth EUR 31.4 billion.

Reflecting the growing scale of the challenge, the criminal investigations handled by Eurojust in 2025 involved more than twice as many victims as in the previous year.

These impressive operational outcomes[1] are the result of cross-border cooperation between judicial authorities enabled by Eurojust, in close cooperation with all actors in the criminal justice chain.



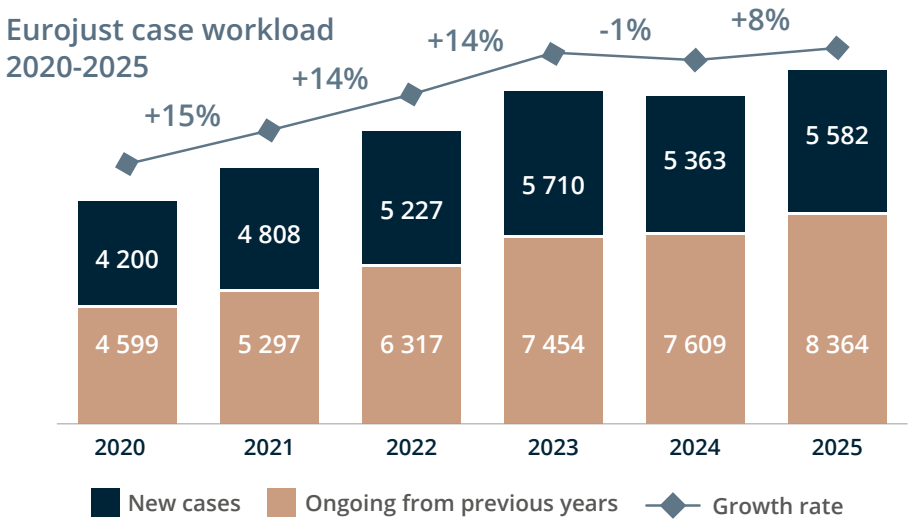
[1] It should be noted that these outcomes were also achieved through cases that were opened before 2025 and were included in the reporting on operational outcomes in Eurojust's 2024 Annual Report. The outcomes of these cases are included again for 2025 reporting purposes, since the cases were still ongoing.

1.2 Case workload

Since 2020, Eurojust's case workload has increased by almost 60%, with the Agency handling 8 799 cases in 2020 compared to nearly 14 000 in 2025.

Close to 5 600 new cases were opened in 2025, while more than 8 300 cases from previous years continued to receive legal, analytical, logistical and financial support from the Agency.

The high number of ongoing cases reflects the sustained support required for many of the increasingly complex investigations that Eurojust has handled over the years.



1.3 Overview of cases in 2025 involving Member State National Desks

MEMBER STATE National Desk	Cases initiated by the National Desk				Participation in cases initiated by other Desks		Participation in joint activities/meetings		
	New in 2025	*No. of countries involved*		Ongoing from previous years	New in 2025	Ongoing from previous years	Coordination meetings	JITs	Action days
		2	*3 or more*						
Belgium	116	*93*	*23*	299	316	757	98	46	5
Bulgaria	288	*281*	*7*	196	188	359	21	8	3
Czech Republic	142	*127*	*15*	244	140	271	45	45	2
Germany	517	*427*	*90*	863	822	1459	180	75	11
Estonia	48	*34*	*14*	45	73	159	30	22	0
Ireland	34	*32*	*2*	130	86	244	9	7	0
Greece	434	*433*	*1*	456	138	274	16	5	2
Spain	338	*285*	*53*	424	615	1197	91	15	8
France	266	*130*	*136*	701	693	1406	201	86	5

MEMBER STATE National Desk	Cases initiated by the National Desk				Participation in cases initiated by other Desks		Participation in joint activities/meetings		
	New in 2025	*No. of countries involved*		Ongoing from previous years	New in 2025	Ongoing from previous years	Coordination meetings	JITs	Action days
		2	*3 or more*						
Croatia	54	*51*	*3*	30	113	198	6	1	0
Italy	668	*559*	*109*	1018	486	789	105	67	7
Cyprus	146	*140*	*6*	292	92	172	15	1	3
Latvia	42	*33*	*9*	118	85	198	56	38	0
Lithuania	140	*120*	*20*	219	347	589	61	30	1
Luxembourg	28	*21*	*7*	46	104	233	8	1	2
Hungary	280	*256*	*24*	335	169	328	26	13	1
Malta	30	*26*	*4*	62	102	206	13	1	0
Netherlands	92	*85*	*7*	190	434	944	104	15	4
Austria	245	*222*	*23*	249	231	370	34	14	2
Poland	270	*250*	*20*	393	357	673	113	59	0
Portugal	139	*131*	*8*	135	228	334	22	12	1
Romania	217	*177*	*40*	255	276	371	130	76	1
Slovenia	224	*199*	*25*	206	72	133	14	3	0
Slovakia	103	*95*	*8*	129	123	224	28	16	3
Finland	125	*114*	*11*	143	61	114	36	27	1
Sweden	184	*146*	*38*	291	106	230	60	35	1
Denmark	31	*30*	*1*	76	55	149	23	15	0
Total	5201	*4497*	*704*	7545	*	*	*	*	*

* These columns cannot be summed up, since more than one National Desk can be requested to participate in a single case, and coordination meetings, coordination centres and JITs are often co-organised

2. In Focus in 2025 – Eurojust Regulation evaluation: ‘relevance of the Agency’s operational work is ever increasing’[2]

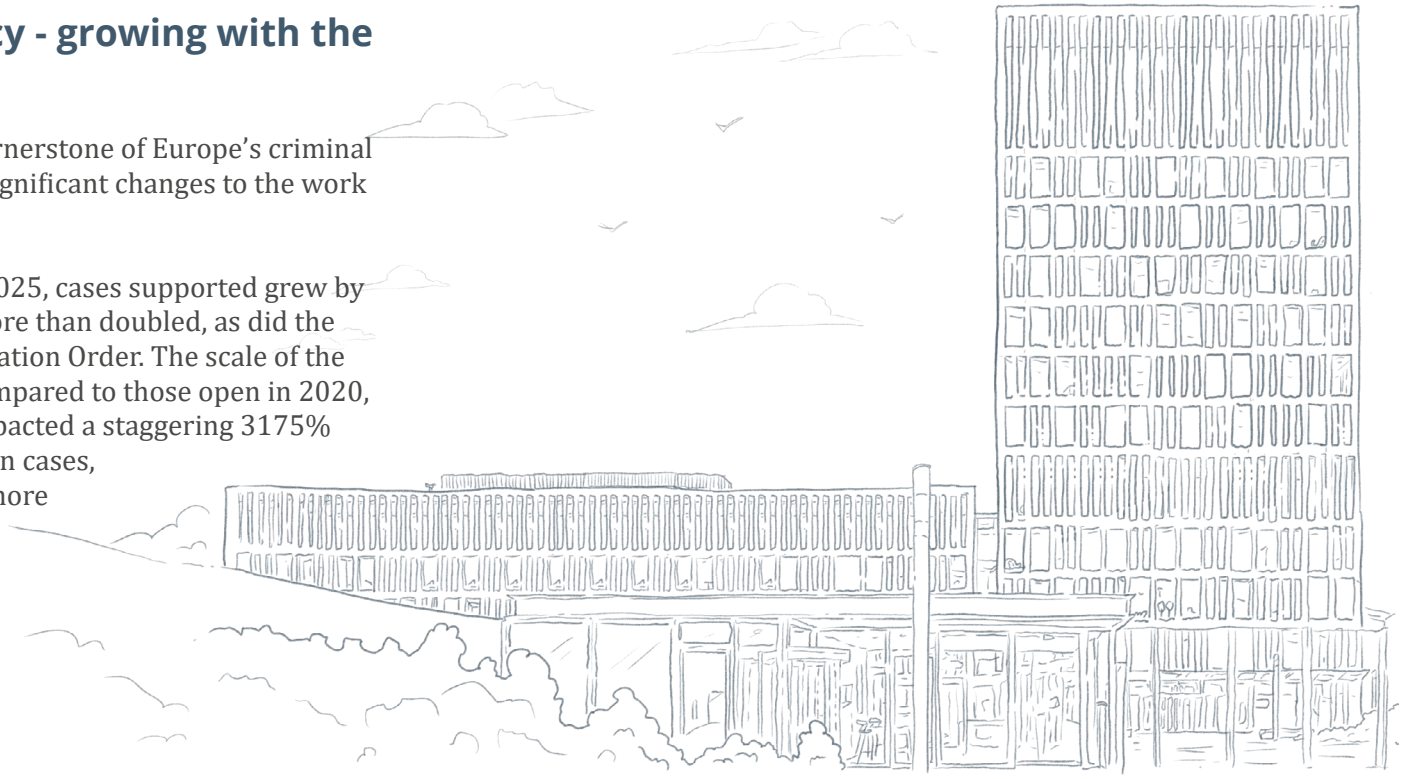
In July 2025, the European Commission published its first evaluation of the Eurojust Regulation[3], examining its implementation between the end of 2019 and 2024[4]. In such exercises, the European Commission assesses how well the law works in practice: whether it achieved its objectives, and how effective it has been.

Beyond the quantitative changes, Eurojust’s work also improved in quality, adapting to the evolving legal and political environment and the needs of practitioners. Without aiming for completeness, the graphic on the next pages illustrates the most important developments for Eurojust:

2.1 2020-2025: a changing agency - growing with the challenge

In these years, Eurojust has functioned as a cornerstone of Europe’s criminal justice architecture. The period also brought significant changes to the work of Eurojust and the wider justice community.

Numbers speak volumes: between 2020 and 2025, cases supported grew by close to 60%, the number of supported JITs more than doubled, as did the number of cases involving a European Investigation Order. The scale of the challenge also grew: in cases open in 2025, compared to those open in 2020, criminals caused 122% more damages and impacted a staggering 3175% more victims. Comparing these two sets of open cases, Eurojust was facilitating the seizure of 946% more drugs, more than double the arrests or surrenders and 77% more agreements on where to prosecute a crime in 2025.



[2] Evaluation of the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation SWD(2025)183 final (Evaluation Report) p44

[3] The Commission’s evaluation report relies on a study conducted in 2024 that was drafted based on interviews with 117 Eurojust stakeholders, online surveys with over 400 responses from prosecutors at Eurojust and national level practitioners, desk research, direct observations and focus groups with participants from 10 countries.

[4] The exact period spans from 12 December 2019 to 1 May 2024.

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2020-2025: A CHANGING AGENCY

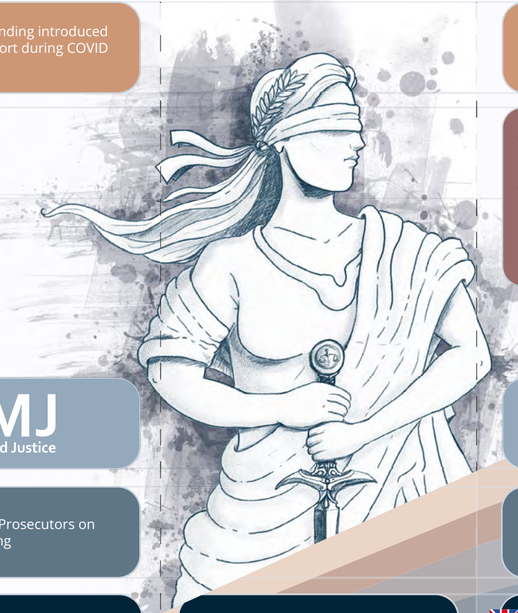
In 2020

- **8 799** cases
- **204** JITs
- **3 159** cases with European Investigation Orders

Scale of the challenge:
- **12 722** suspects
- **1 534** cases connected to organised criminal groups
- **EUR 14.5 billion** in damages
- **94 651** victims of crime

Outcomes of cases open in 2020
- **EUR 3 billion** worth of drugs seized
- **2 209** suspects arrested and/or surrendered
- **905** agreements on where to prosecute a suspect

EJN, JITs, GPN, EJCN
- **6** Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust
- Contact Points in **52** countries
- **12** cooperation agreements



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
REINFORCED OPERATIONAL WORK	• Urgent JIT funding introduced • Judicial support during COVID • Brexit		Full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, Ukraine JIT and CICED set up	ICPA		Commission working group on the anti-fraud architecture
CHANGING LEGAL FRAMEWORK, ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES			▪ Amendment of the Eurojust Regulation **(CICED)** ▪ Amendment of the Europol Regulation reinforcing its cooperation with private parties or its support to criminal investigations	▪ Amendment of the Eurojust Regulation **(Counter-Terrorism Register)** ▪ **Digital Criminal Justice Programme** official launch ▪ **JITs CP** Regulation ▪ **e-evidence** package ▪ Regulation on digitalisation of **judicial cooperation**	Transfer of proceedings regulation	▪ Amendment of the **Eurojust Regulation** (New CMS deadline) ▪ Establishing relations with **AMLA** ▪ **Europol Regulation amendment** (obligation for Eurojust to second a representative to the **European Centre Against Migrant Smuggling**)
PROJECTS TO ENHANCE JUDICIAL COOPERATION	EMJ EuroMed Justice		WBCJ Western Balkans Criminal Justice	IPC	NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AGAINST IMPUNITY	Increased role in EMPACT starting Phase 3 of SIRIUS
STRATEGIC SUPPORT TO PRACTITIONER NETWORKS	Focus Group for Prosecutors on Migrant Smuggling		Focus Group for Prosecutors on Trafficking in Human Beings	Symposium on Victims' Rights	EUROPEAN JUDICIAL ORGANISED CRIME NETWORK	▪ Judicial Focus Group on Money Laundering and Asset Recovery ▪ Electronic evidence meeting for practitioners
EXPANDING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS	Liaison Prosecutor Georgia Liaison Prosecutor Serbia	Liaison Prosecutor Albania	Liaison Prosecutor United Kingdom Working Arrangement AIAMP	Liaison Prosecutor Moldova Working Arrangement Nigeria	Liaison Prosecutor Iceland ▪ Working Arrangement Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Peru	Working Arrangement Egypt, Korea, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Uruguay

In 2025

- **13 946** cases
- **412** JITs
- **6 712 cases** with European Investigation Orders

Scale of the challenge:
- **84 647** suspects
- **2 702** cases involving organised crime groups
- **EUR 32.2 billion** in damages
- **3.1 million victims** of crime

Outcomes of cases open in 2025
- **EUR 31.4 billion** worth of drugs seized
- **4 443** suspects arrested and/or surrendered
- **1 609** agreements on where to prosecute a suspect

- **12 Liaison Prosecutors** at Eurojust
- **Contact Points** in **82** countries
- **13** agreements on cooperation
- **3** international agreements signed

2.2 Significant EU added value[5]: what do practitioners say about Eurojust

With crime becoming increasingly globalised and criminal organisations operating more like international corporations than ever, prosecutors cannot work within the boundaries of their own countries. Eurojust functions as a much-appreciated one-stop shop for the effective prosecution of cross-border organised crime. As practitioners confirm: 'prosecutors want results, and Eurojust provides results'[6].

The evaluation recognises Eurojust as an indispensable actor in the field of judicial cooperation against serious cross-border crime. The report concludes that Eurojust is 'very effective in supporting and strengthening coordination and cooperation between national investigating and prosecuting authorities'[7] and that the Agency provides clear value beyond what Member States could achieve alone[8].

In an environment where the needs of half of the professionals in the judicial field have changed 'to a great extent' since the Eurojust Regulation's application[9], Eurojust is up-to-date with developments in criminal activities, and can facilitate cooperation in complex investigations. This is especially valuable where individual Member States may lack the capacity or expertise to prosecute specific types of crime[10].

Eurojust's work is particularly valued in complex bilateral cases, cases involving more than two Member States and cases involving complex crime types, as it provides:

- a **structured environment** for prosecutors from multiple countries to collaborate,
- a **coordination function:** support for JITs, coordination meetings and joint action days,
- **analysis and expertise as a neutral third party in its role as "judicial service provider":** helping national authorities understand each other's legal systems, resolve legal conflicts, and provide tools for joint investigations,
- the ability for prosecutors and judges involved in the case to **speak their own language** in coordination meetings and **budget support** for cooperation through travel costs, for example, or costs for interpretation[11],
- and ways to **cooperate with third countries,** international organisations and networks.

[5] Evaluation Report p49
[6] Support study for the Evaluation of the implementation and impact of Regulation (EU) 2018/1727 of 14 November 2018 on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust), and of the effectiveness and efficiency of Eurojust and its working practices (Support Study) p94
[7] Evaluation Report p25
[8] Support Study p17
[9] Support Study p168
[10] Support Study p175
[11] Support Study p159

2.3 Room to improve

The institutional and operational landscape has changed substantially in the past five years. As a result, Eurojust also must evolve. As expected, the evaluation report identified areas for improvement: particularly effectiveness and efficiency challenges in the governance, internal working practices and decision-making processes of the Agency.

The study also shows that, depending in part on national legislation and in part on practice, simple bilateral cases are sometimes referred to Eurojust even though the EJN would also be competent and able to assist.

The report points out that while international agreements are the most successful forms of cooperation with countries outside of the EU[12] for the Agency (providing legal basis for exchanging operational data and for the posting of a Liaison Prosecutor), much more could be achieved through a reinforced mandate for cooperation with third countries and international organisations.

The Eurojust College took immediate action to address critical points identified in the evaluation, to the extent possible without amending the Eurojust Regulation. An internal action plan was adopted, including measures to improve the efficiency of the decision-making process and to identify indicators of what constitutes a complex case requiring Eurojust support.

2.4 Looking ahead

Following up on the evaluation findings, the European Commission is preparing an impact assessment to explore how to strengthen Eurojust's mandate mandate, enabling it to respond more effectively to the evolving and international dimensions of organised crime and hybrid threats through an amendment of the founding instrument.

Eurojust is also working to establish a Vision for Eurojust 2035. The Consultative Forum discussed this document in March 2026, with the final adoption expected in May 2026.



Key resource

Evaluation of Eurojust - European Commission

[12] Evaluation Report, p50

3. Key crime areas in Eurojust operational work

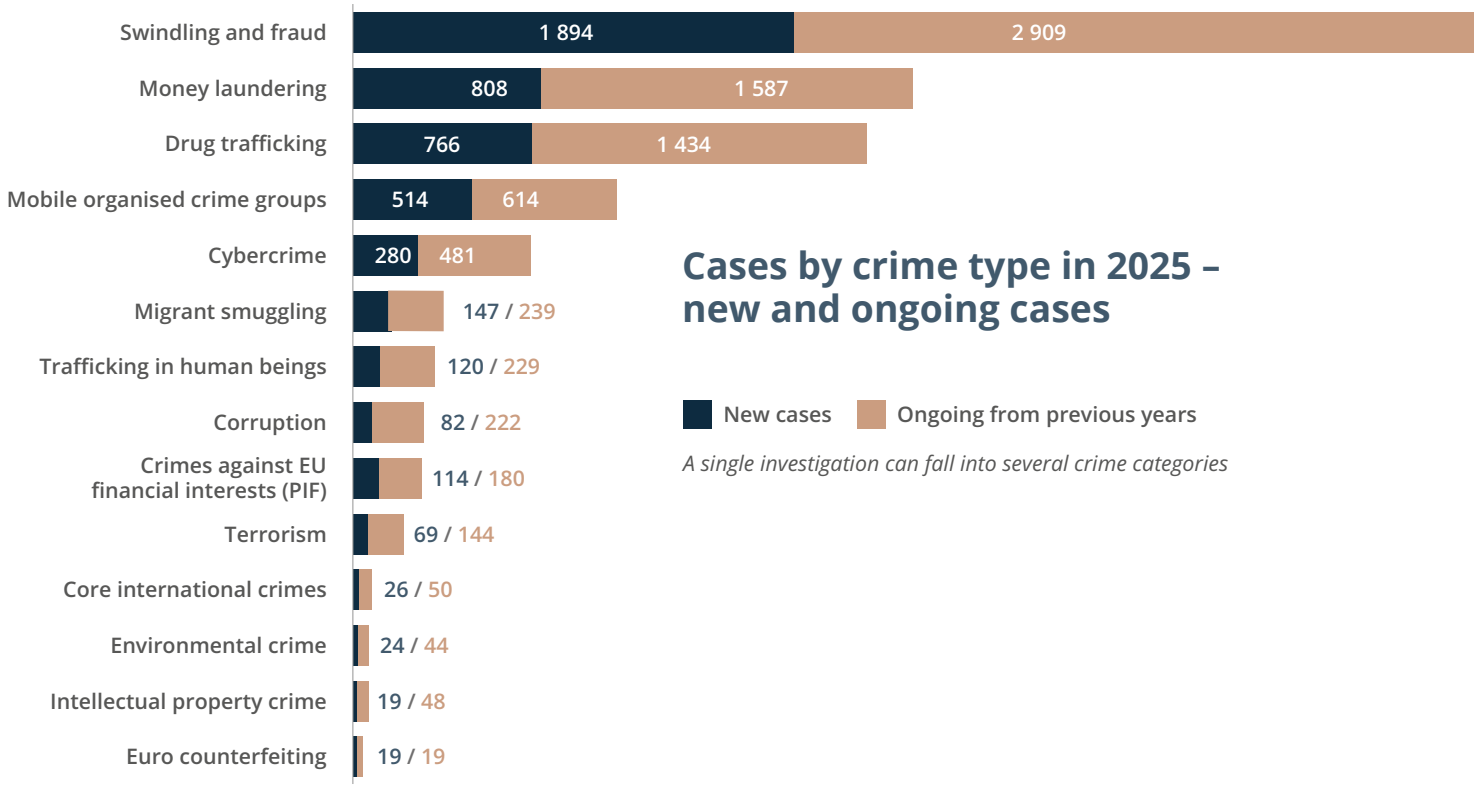
3.1 Overview of cases by crime type

In 2025, Eurojust dealt with almost 14 000 cases in over a dozen serious cross-border crimes, ranging from drug trafficking and money laundering to migrant smuggling and intellectual property crime.

The three most common crime types handled by the Agency in 2025 were swindling and fraud, drug trafficking and money laundering. Two thirds of all cases that Eurojust worked on in 2025 involved one of these crime types.

This continues an obvious trend that has been consistently present in Eurojust's casework since 2020 (and before): the overwhelming majority of cases involve these crime types, often in combination with others. Following this group, organised crime (on average in this period present in 7.8% of the cases open in the year), cybercrime (4.4%), trafficking in human beings (3%) and migrant smuggling (2.9%) are present in significant numbers.

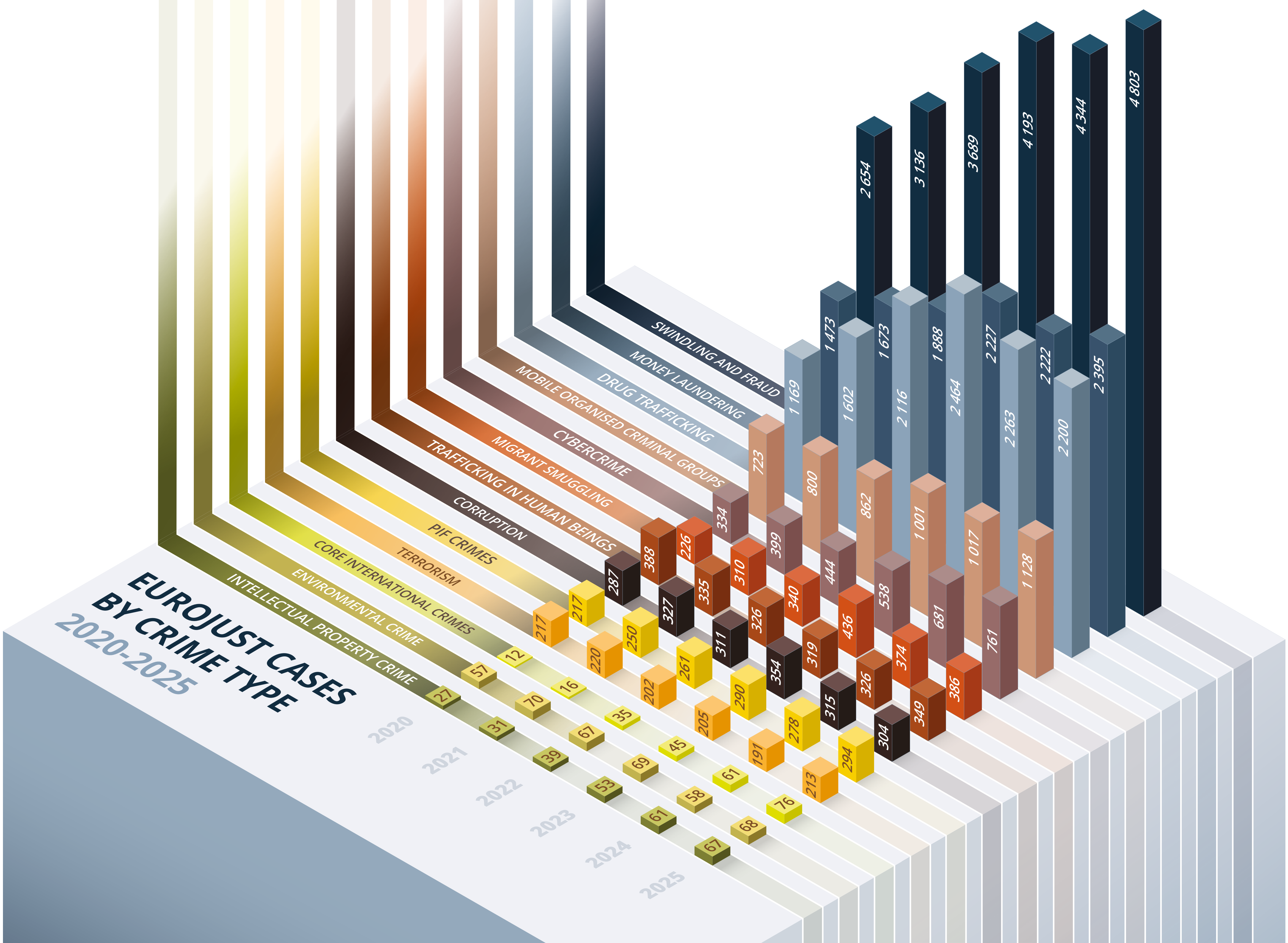
Sheer numbers however do not determine the importance of acting against a particular crime type: terrorism, core international crimes or environmental crimes, albeit only present in low numbers on the chart, have significant impact on the security of Europeans and are therefore just as important to investigate.



Cases by crime type in 2025 – new and ongoing cases

New cases | Ongoing from previous years

A single investigation can fall into several crime categories


EUROJUST CASES
BY CRIME TYPE
2020-2025
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME
27
31
39
53
61
67
ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME
57
70
67
69
58
68
CORE INTERNATIONAL CRIMES
12
16
35
45
61
76
TERRORISM
217
220
202
205
191
213
PIF CRIMES
217
250
261
290
278
294
CORRUPTION
287
327
311
354
315
304
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
388
335
326
319
326
349
MIGRANT SMUGGLING
226
310
340
436
374
386
CYBERCRIME
334
399
444
538
681
761
MOBILE ORGANISED CRIMINAL GROUPS
723
800
862
1 001
1 017
1 128
DRUG TRAFFICKING
1 169
1 602
2 116
2 464
2 263
2 200
MONEY LAUNDERING
1 473
1 673
1 888
2 227
2 222
2 395
SWINDLING AND FRAUD
2 654
3 136
3 689
4 193
4 344
4 803

3.2 Economic crimes

Economic crimes cover a wide range of offences, including swindling and fraud, corruption, intellectual property crime, violations of sanctions and counterfeiting, and involve complex financial investigations and asset recovery. Criminal investigations primarily targeting other forms of crime, such as drug trafficking, terrorist activities or trafficking in human beings, also typically involve economic crimes such as money laundering.

Economic crime accounts for the largest number of cases supported by Eurojust, with nearly 6 500 cases handled in 2025. This represents an increase of about 9% compared to the previous year; however, compared to 2020, the number of cases has grown by approximately 70% in five years.



SWINDLING & FRAUD CASES IN 2025

4 803 CASES
(1 894 new cases, 2 909 ongoing from previous years)

107
JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS
(27 new JITs, 80 ongoing)

134
CASE-SPECIFIC COORDINATION MEETINGS

3
COORDINATED ACTION DAYS

Swindling and fraud

Swindling and fraud remained the most common crime type supported by Eurojust in 2025, accounting for over 4 800 cases. Compared to the previous year, the Agency handled 10% more fraud cases and supported 11% more joint investigation teams.

For EU countries, Italy, followed by Greece, initiated the most swindling and fraud cases at the Agency in 2025. Germany, followed by Spain, was the most frequently requested country to assist in cross-border swindling and fraud cases.

For third countries, Switzerland, followed by Norway, opened the highest number of such cases at Eurojust. The United Kingdom, followed by Switzerland, was the most frequently requested country to assist.

At the European level, investment fraud is one of the most widespread forms of online fraud[13], causing billions of euros in losses to victims each year. Online fraud continues to evolve, with organised crime groups increasingly using automation, artificial intelligence, and deepfake technologies to target and exploit victims.

Numerous challenges in investigating and prosecuting such crimes remain, including:

- underreporting by victims
- difficulties in identifying perpetrators and criminal infrastructures, such as call centres
- limited cooperation with some third countries
- shortages of expertise – particularly in crypto analysis – and obstacles in asset tracing, freezing, and victim compensation due to rapid asset movements and limited recoveries

The challenges underline the need for an effective cross-border cooperation which Eurojust can facilitate by providing judicial guidance, resolving legal issues such as conflicts of jurisdiction, and supporting victim compensation.

[13] Europol (2025), European Union Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment - The changing DNA of serious and organised crime.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASES IN 2025

2 395 CASES
(808 new cases, 1 587 ongoing from previous years)

94
JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS
(28 new JITs, 66 ongoing)

160
CASE-SPECIFIC COORDINATION MEETINGS

5
COORDINATION CENTRES

Money laundering

Money laundering is the act of introducing illegally obtained assets into the legal financial and economic cycle. Money laundering is the second largest crime type addressed by Eurojust in 2025. Close to 2 400 money laundering cases were handled, including 808 newly opened ones in the reporting period. The number of coordination meetings in this area grew by 12% in 2025 compared to the previous year.

Among EU countries, Italy, followed by France, initiated the most money laundering cases at the Agency in 2025. Germany and Spain were the countries most frequently requested to assist.

Among third countries, Albania, followed by Georgia, opened the highest number of money laundering cases at Eurojust. The United Kingdom, followed by Switzerland, was the most frequently requested country to assist.

The Judicial Focus Group on Money Laundering and Asset Recovery continued its work in supporting national prosecutors and judges involved in the investigation and prosecution of money laundering and the recovery of criminal assets. The Focus Group, set up in late 2024, became fully operational in 2025, hosting its first annual meeting and providing judicial authorities with guidance on post-conviction financial investigations, exceptional costs concerning the execution of freezing and confiscation orders, and restitution to or compensation of victims. One of the key items presented during their meeting was the Eurojust Casework Report on Regulation 2018/1805 on the Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders.

Key case

Money laundering scheme worth hundreds of millions of euros uncovered

CRIME: A Ukrainian entrepreneur and his son allegedly launder illicit funds gained from illegally selling a majority stake to representatives of a foreign state. The proceeds are laundered by buying properties in France and Monaco.

ACTION: Soon after investigations start, EUR 57 million worth of assets is frozen by the French authorities with the intention of returning them to Ukraine.

RESULT: Several important documents for the investigation are seized. The entrepreneur is already on trial in Ukraine for crimes against national security and is now also suspected of money laundering.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Eurojust sets up a JIT to facilitate the judicial cooperation between the three countries. Authorities work together with Eurojust to establish a judicial strategy and exchange information.



CORRUPTION CASES IN 2025

304 CASES
(82 new cases, 222 ongoing from previous years)

17
JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS
(5 new JITs, 12 ongoing)

27
CASE-SPECIFIC COORDINATION MEETINGS

1
COORDINATED ACTION DAY

Corruption

Corruption has many forms and involves a breach of duty, abuse of entrusted power, or other unlawful conduct committed by a person or organisation in a position of authority. Corruption undermines the functioning of public authorities at all levels and is a key enabler of organised crime.

The number of corruption cases supported by Eurojust remains high, with the Agency supporting over 300 cases, one third of which were newly referred during the year. There was a slight increase in the corruption-related JITs and coordination meetings in 2025 compared to 2024, which shows the growing complexity of corruption cases and the need for structured cross-border cooperation. When it comes to support, the early involvement of the judiciary is crucial along with the timely exchange of financial and banking data. Trends also show that the expertise in complex financial investigations needs to be strengthened to adequately combat this crime type.

France and Romania are the EU countries that initiated the most corruption cases at Eurojust in 2025, with France, Spain and Germany being the EU countries most frequently requested to assist. For third countries, Albania, followed by Ukraine opened the highest number of such cases at the Agency, while Switzerland was the third country most frequently requested to assist.

During the year, Eurojust continued to participate in the European Commission's EU network against corruption to ensure prevention and develop best practices and guidelines to fight corruption effectively. In addition, Eurojust joined the following corruption-related networks as an observer: the European Partners against Corruption (EPAC) and European Contact-Point Network against Corruption (EACN), and the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network).



PIF-RELATED CASES IN 2025

294 CASES
(114 new cases, 180 ongoing from previous years)

5
JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS
(1 new JITs, 4 ongoing)

14
CASE-SPECIFIC COORDINATION MEETINGS

Crimes against the financial interest of the EU (PIF crimes)

Crimes against the financial interests of the European Union (known as PIF crimes) include fraud related to the EU budget, large-scale VAT fraud affecting two or more Member States, corruption, misappropriation of assets committed by a public official, and money laundering involving property derived from these crimes.

Eurojust supported close to 300 PIF-related cases in 2025, a slight increase from the previous year. Over 100 of these cases were newly opened in 2025.

Germany, followed by Bulgaria, is the EU country that initiated the most PIF-related cases at the Agency in 2025. Germany, followed by France, Italy and Belgium were most frequently requested to assist in cross-border PIF-related cases at Eurojust in 2025.

In 2025, the United Kingdom and the United States were the third countries most frequently involved in PIF-related cases at the Agency.

Eurojust has established and maintains close relations with the European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Public Prosecutor's Office to investigate these types of crimes.

Strategic developments impacting Eurojust's PIF casework

In 2025, Eurojust contributed to the review of the EU's Anti-Fraud Architecture, an initiative proposed by the European Commission aimed at modernising the policies and institutions protecting the EU budget in light of the increasing complexity of fraud. Eurojust is committed to strengthening its coordination between the EU's Anti-Fraud actors such as OLAF, EPPO, Europol, and the new Anti-Money Laundering Authority in a coordinated anti-fraud framework. While the outcome of the review is ongoing, Eurojust stands ready to further strengthen its role as a central hub for judicial coordination in complex cross-border fraud cases. By enhancing cooperation with key partners Eurojust can help ensure a seamless link between detection, investigation and prosecution across jurisdictions within and outside the EU.



Key events

Eurojust meeting tackles emerging trends on money laundering and asset recovery

24th EPAC/EACN Annual Conference and General Assembly

Key publication

Eurojust Report on Regulation 2018/1805 on the Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders

Key network

Judicial Focus Group on Money Laundering and Asset Recovery

3.3 Drug trafficking

Drug trafficking remains one of Europe's fastest-growing security threats and, for another consecutive year, was the second most frequently addressed crime type at Eurojust.



Eurojust's operational support to drug trafficking cases

In 2025, the Agency managed 2 200 cases, including more than 750 new investigations. Over 100 coordination meetings and JITs were organised to strengthen judicial cooperation in dismantling drug trafficking networks and advancing prosecutions.

Drug trafficking remains one of the main sources of income for organised crime, with the market expanding as the availability of illicit drugs increases – particularly cocaine from South America. As a result, cooperation with non-EU countries is becoming increasingly important. The threat is also characterised by rising levels of violence, the exploitation of minors, the widespread use of encrypted communication tools and a growing number of cases involving synthetic drugs.

In 2025, Italy initiated the highest number of cross-border drug trafficking cases at Eurojust, followed by Germany. Spain was the most frequently requested country, ahead of France and the Netherlands. Requests for cooperation with third countries also increased. Among third countries, Albania initiated the most cases, while the United Kingdom, followed by Serbia, was most often requested to assist in cases.

- A significant share of cases continued to stem from data obtained from encrypted communication platforms used by organised crime groups, such as EncroChat and Sky ECC, posing major technical, legal and resource challenges, particularly for data retention and analysis.

Key case

Dismantling a major drug trafficking with links to Latin America

CRIME: An OCG traffics illicit drugs worth at least EUR 175 million across the European Union. By setting up legitimate companies that trade and transport legitimate goods, the illegal activities are hidden.

ACTION: Nearly 580 law enforcement officers are involved in coordinated actions taking place in Hungary, Slovakia, Germany and Spain. During searches, authorities not only find various drugs ready for transport, but also an illegal cigarette production line.

RESULT: Authorities arrest 22 suspects, including the alleged leader of the criminal group. Over EUR 370 000 in cash, various drugs, documents, phones and other communication tools are seized.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Eurojust supports the Slovak-Hungarian JIT and assists with the execution of EAWs and EIOs. To ensure all measures are implemented on the action day, a coordination centre is set up at the Agency.

Strategic developments impacting Eurojust's drug trafficking casework

In December 2025, the European Commission presented the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan, alongside revised rules on drug precursor control. Eurojust plays a central role in the strategy's operational delivery by supporting prosecutions and strengthening judicial cooperation, including through close collaboration with EU partners and Latin American and Mediterranean countries.

Key case

Main organisers of drug transports to Nordic countries arrested

CRIME: Five suspects organise the long-term, large-scale transport of drugs to Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway. The drugs are transported via France and Germany in trucks with secret compartments. Afterwards, local criminal groups sell and distribute the drugs.

ACTION: After the previous arrest of eight members of the network, authorities work together to disrupt the transport route and arrest five more members of the criminal group.

RESULT: An operation in Serbia leads to the arrest of five suspects and the seizure of several encrypted mobile phones, documents, a firearm and ammunition.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: To consolidate ongoing investigations into the transport network, a JIT is set up at Eurojust. The Agency provides logistical, organisational and financial support to the JIT.

JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAM ★ FUNDED BY EUROJUST ★

Key event

Joint EJOCN-EL PACCTO 2.0 event supports European and Latin American prosecutors in intensifying cooperation to disrupt drug trafficking routes through ports

Key network

EJOCN

3.4 Organised crime

The scale, sophistication and violent consequences of organised crime have become a serious threat to the EU's security. Organised crime groups (OCGs) continue to endanger the values and functioning of our society, the safety, well-being and fundamental rights of our citizens, and the preservation of our economies and the rule of law.

MOCG-RELATED CASES IN 2025

1 128 CASES
(514 new cases, 614 ongoing from previous years)

20
JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS
(10 new JITs, 10 ongoing)

47
CASE-SPECIFIC COORDINATION MEETINGS

1
COORDINATED ACTION DAY

Eurojust's operational support to organised crime cases

In 2025, Eurojust handled over 1 100 organised crime cases, including over 500 newly opened cases. The number of JITs and coordination meetings the Agency organised remained steady compared to the previous reporting year.

'Crime as a Service' is increasingly being adopted as a common modus operandi by organised crime groups. At the same time, access to data – including its retention and analysis – remains a key challenge in organised crime cases, many of which at Eurojust rely on evidence obtained from encrypted platforms and applications such as SkyECC and EncroChat. In this context, covert investigative measures, including undercover operations and the use of undercover agents, continue to be essential tools for dismantling OCGs.

Key case

Criminal network rolled up who stole over 7 000 artefacts

CRIME: A high value target (HVT) runs a large trafficking operation of valuable artefacts. The items with exceptional cultural and historical value were stolen from across Europe, including museums.

ACTION: After a house raid in 2020 in Bulgaria, 7 000 artefacts are seized and an investigation starts. Authorities find links between the HVT's network and individuals in other countries who supported the trafficking. An action day is planned to arrest the suspects and recover the stolen artefacts.

RESULT: Hundreds of coordinated actions in 2025 lead to 35 arrests in Bulgaria. 120 locations in Bulgaria are searched as well as places in France, Germany and Greece. Authorities seize over 3 000 artefacts. Follow-up actions lead to the seizure of nearly 30 000 artefacts.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Eurojust facilitates the execution of EIOs and MLAs. To coordinate the searches taking place across Europe, a coordination centre is set up in The Hague to synchronise all actions.

Strategic developments impacting Eurojust's organised crime casework

In 2025, Eurojust continued contributing to the EMPACT Operational Action Plan on High-Risk Criminal Networks (HRCN), which aims to identify and investigate high-value targets. Eurojust continued to co-lead four operational actions under this EMPACT priority in 2025, supporting the activities of judicial and law enforcement authorities against organised criminal networks. Due to the polycriminality associated with HRCNs, the operational actions addressed a wide range of crime areas.

At the same time, the Agency was preparing for the new EMPACT Cycle (2026-2029), during which Eurojust will continue its support and co-lead an action focusing on the judicial cooperation with Latin American countries, making use of its strong network with third countries.



Key event

EU Prosecutors General discuss organised crime and judicial efforts regarding the war in Ukraine at 19th Consultative Forum

Key publications

EJOCN: Outcome report of the 1st Plenary Meeting

EJOCN: Outcome report of the 2nd Plenary Meeting

EJOCN: Guidelines for the functioning of the Network

EJOCN: Outcome report of the launch event

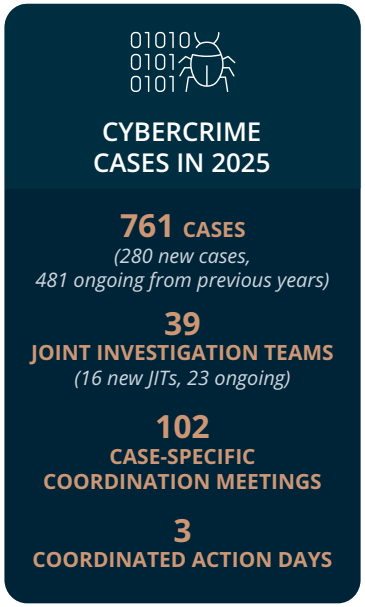
Key network

EJOCN

3.5 Cybercrime

Exploiting the speed and anonymity of the internet, cybercrime includes large-scale cyberattacks, including online scams, activities such as using malware, phishing and distributed denial-of-services or the use of cryptocurrencies for illicit transactions and money laundering.

The growing misuse of artificial intelligence, cryptocurrencies and encrypted communication platforms is increasing cyber-enabled crimes such as online investment fraud and the online sexual exploitation of children, posing a significant and evolving threat to society.



Eurojust's operational support to cybercrime cases

In 2025, cybercrime remained one of the top five crime areas handled by the Agency, with over 760 cases. This represents an 11% increase compared to the previous year, with 280 new cases opened in 2025. The Agency supported 50% more JITs in cybercrime cases in 2025, but 17% less coordination meetings in such cases compared to 2024.

Germany, Greece and Finland initiated the highest number of cross-border cybercrime cases at the Agency in 2025, while Albania and the United States were the third countries that initiated the most cybercrime cases at Eurojust in 2025. Germany and France were the most requested EU countries to assist in cybercrime cases at the Agency, whereas the United States and the United Kingdom were the most requested non-EU countries.

In 2025, Eurojust continued to address various forms of cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime, including a large-scale investment fraud scheme generating hundreds of millions of euros in illicit profits, as well as multiple cases involving the laundering of criminal proceeds through digital assets. The Agency has also supported coordinated international operations that led to the dismantling of one of the largest illegal online drug trading platforms and to the takedown of a cryptocurrency mixing service used to launder substantial criminal proceeds.

Key case

Authorities hit largest illegal trading platform for drugs

CRIME: Archetyp is one of the longest-running dark web marketplaces for drugs and one of the only platforms that allow the sale of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids. The marketplace has around 17 000 listings online and over 600 000 users.

ACTION: Authorities work together to track the finances of the marketplace and analyse digital evidence. This leads to the identification of the people behind Archetyp and the location of the servers, moderators and vendors.

RESULT: During an international action week, coordinated actions in five countries lead to the arrest of the platform's administrator and seven other suspects. Assets worth EUR 7.8 million are seized and the marketplace is taken offline.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Eurojust makes judicial cooperation efficient and effective by bringing authorities together to exchange critical information. During the action days, Eurojust coordinated the execution of MLAs and EIOs, as well as EAWs, arranging surrender from Spain to Germany.

Key events

European Judicial Cybercrime Network holds 18th plenary meeting to combat growing cyber threats

European Judicial Cybercrime Network strengthens resolve to fight digital threats at 19th plenary meeting

Key publications

Common challenges in cybercrime

Cybercrime Judicial Monitor - Issue 10

United Nations Convention against Cybercrime

Key networks and projects

European Judicial Cybercrime Network

SIRIUS

3.6 Migrant smuggling

Migrant smuggling is a global criminal activity driven by profit and disregard for human life, involving the illegal movement of people across borders. It is typically carried out by organised, multinational criminal networks that exploit migrants' vulnerability, often resulting in violence, abuse, exploitation and loss of life. These networks include all actors in the smuggling chain – from recruitment and logistics to transport, equipment supply and payment collection – and frequently use digital platforms to advertise, recruit, coordinate operations and receive payments.



MIGRANT SMUGGLING CASES IN 2025

386 CASES
(147 new cases, 239 ongoing from previous years)

20
JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS
(7 new JITs, 13 ongoing)

30
CASE-SPECIFIC COORDINATION MEETINGS

Eurojust's operational support to migrant smuggling cases

The number of migrant smuggling cases supported by Eurojust remained steady with only a slight increase in case numbers compared to the previous year. During the reporting period, the Agency supported 386 cases.

Greece opened the largest number of migrant smuggling cases, followed by Germany. Germany, followed by Bulgaria, was the EU country most frequently requested to participate in Eurojust's cross-border migrant smuggling cases in 2025.

Cooperation with third countries in migrant smuggling cases is vital but can be challenging. The presence of Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust helps to overcome obstacles to efficient cooperation. The United Kingdom and Albania were the third countries that initiated the most migrant smuggling cases at the Agency in 2025. The United Kingdom and Georgia were the most requested third countries to contribute to international investigations in this area. Given the rise in complexity and challenges relating to prosecuting migrant smuggling cases, Eurojust's expertise as a pan-European judicial hub is invaluable. These challenges include:

- digitalisation in migrant smuggling, with organised criminal networks using online platforms, encrypted communications and cryptocurrencies, complicating judicial and financial investigations;
- increasingly complex and fragmented smuggling networks operating across the EU, marked by violence, extortion and the use of minors, which makes cross-border investigations more difficult; and
- challenges in cooperation with some third countries, where limited legal cooperation and differing legal frameworks allow key criminals to evade justice.

The posting of Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust and the growing number of connections between the Agency and non-EU countries are helping to address these challenges.

Key case

Taking down a criminal group suspected of smuggling up to 300 migrants

CRIME: A smuggling network active in Belgium, Germany and Poland smuggles migrants from Middle Eastern countries into the EU. Up to 22 people at a time are illegally transported along the Balkan route. Legitimate car rental services in several countries are used to conceal their activities.

ACTION: Investigations into the group started following a routine immigration check where evidence emerges that the driver has already smuggled illegal migrants that same day. Authorities then discovered the larger network that the driver was a part of.

RESULT: A joint operation in Belgium and Germany leads to the arrest of seven suspected members of the smuggling network. An earlier operation in Poland already saw 10 suspected members being arrested.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Through coordination meetings set up at Eurojust, authorities exchange valuable information on the network and develop a joint judicial strategy.

JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAM ★ FUNDED BY EUROJUST ★

Key event

Eurojust annual meeting on migrant smuggling underscores need for stronger cross-border coordination

Key publications

Eurojust Meeting on Migrant Smuggling

Jurisdictional issues in international waters in migrant smuggling cases

Key network

Focus Group on Migrant Smuggling

3.7 Trafficking in human beings

Trafficking in human beings (THB) is a serious and rapidly growing global crime that involves severe human rights violations, with traffickers exploiting vulnerable individuals through force, threats, deception or abuse of power, primarily for sexual and labour exploitation. Reflecting the evolving nature of this crime, the revised EU Anti-Trafficking Directive adopted in 2024 expands the definition of trafficking to include the exploitation through surrogacy, forced marriage and illegal adoption, criminalises the knowing use of services provided by victims, and strengthens investigative, prosecutorial and victim-support measures, including for exploitation occurring online.



Eurojust's operational support to human trafficking cases

Eurojust continued to assist national judicial authorities with close to 350 cases in 2025. Eurojust also supported 53 coordination meetings, demonstrating the need for cross-border judicial coordination.

Romania opened the highest number of human trafficking cases in 2025, followed by Italy and Hungary. Romania, Germany, Spain and France were the EU countries most frequently requested to assist in Eurojust's cross-border THB cases in 2025. Switzerland was the third country that initiated the most human trafficking cases at the Agency in 2025, while the United Kingdom was the most frequently requested third country to contribute to international investigations in this area.

Key case

19 individuals detained, suspected of trafficking and pimping Romanian women

CRIME: A criminal group gains over EUR 1.7 million by exploiting over 30 Romanian women for prostitution on the streets of Italy. Victims are lured into the network using the lover boy method and are convinced that prostitution is a necessary sacrifice to contribute to the financial well-being of the group.

ACTION: Through a JIT, authorities uncover the pyramid-type structure behind the human trafficking network and plan an action day in Italy and Romania to arrest members of the group and bring their victims to safety.

RESULT: The action day leads to the detention of 19 suspects and judicial control for two individuals. During searches executed in 25 places, authorities seize firearms, cash and luxury vehicles.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: To coordinate the investigation, Eurojust sets up a JIT and organises several coordination meetings in The Hague and abroad. Eurojust supports national authorities in identifying which suspects are investigated for the same facts, to avoid infringement of the *ne bis in idem* principle. On the basis of Eurojust's advice, the authorities agree to concentrate the proceedings in Romania, which is considered best placed to prosecute the case.

Strategic developments impacting Eurojust's human trafficking casework

Eurojust's support for judicial cooperation in THB cases has remained steady; however, the Agency has identified several challenges related to cross-border cooperation in complex trafficking cases such as:

- The cross-border nature of cases often requires coordinated parallel investigations that are not always fully supported by all countries involved.
- Organised crime groups are increasingly sophisticated, with profits that are difficult to trace and confiscate.
- Identifying and locating all victims remains challenging as well as securing victims' testimonies
- The growing use of digital tools and social media for recruitment and exploitation overwhelms investigators with large data volumes and demands specialised expertise to process them (so it can be used as admissible evidence in criminal proceedings).

Eurojust is continuing its effort to improve the criminal justice response to cross-border human trafficking cases, including through its dedicated Focus Group on Trafficking in Human Beings. The Focus Group serves as an important hub for regularly connecting specialised judicial actors at the national level in the EU Member States and beyond. In 2025, the Group members exchanged experiences and best practices on a range of topics and also shared information on new trends in this crime area, including the latest developments in the role of AI in human trafficking, as well as in the areas of trafficking for the purpose of organ removal, benefit fraud and trafficking involving minors.

Key event

Specialised prosecutors unite at Eurojust to combat human trafficking

Key publication

Trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation and related crimes

Key network

Focus Group on Trafficking in Human Beings

3.8 Terrorism

Terrorism in all its forms continues to pose a serious risk to the security of EU Member States, undermining democratic principles and the rule of law. The nature of terrorist threats has shifted over time, becoming more fragmented and complex, with dangers now arising from lone individuals (including minors), anti-government activists and groups with no clearly defined ideology. Terrorists also exploit new technologies, using online spaces for radicalisation, propaganda, recruitment and financing. The cross-border character of terrorist networks and operations makes enhanced information sharing and coordination essential for an effective judicial response.



TERRORISM CASES IN 2025

213 CASES
(69 new cases, 144 ongoing from previous years)

14
JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS
(6 new JITs, 8 ongoing)

37
CASE-SPECIFIC COORDINATION MEETINGS

1
COORDINATED ACTION DAY

Eurojust's operational support to terrorism cases

Combating terrorism remains a priority for the EU and in Eurojust's operational and strategic work. The Agency handled over 200 terrorism cases, marking an 11% increase from the previous year. These cases concerned terrorist threats and attacks, financing or incitement to terrorism, terrorist training and recruitment, and dissemination of terrorist propaganda.

In certain instances, terrorist offences were investigated alongside other serious crimes, including participation in an organised crime group, illegal possession of firearms, fraud, murder, money laundering and cybercrime. Tragically, an additional challenge in some cases was the inclusion of minors, either as alleged perpetrators or victims.

Italy initiated the most terrorism cases at the Agency in 2025, followed by Germany, Portugal and Spain. Germany, followed by France, is the EU country most frequently requested to assist in cross-border terrorism cases. Switzerland was the third country to open the most terrorism cases at the Agency in 2025, while the United Kingdom and Ukraine were the third countries most frequently requested to assist.

Using its in-house expertise, Eurojust provided tailored legal and operational support, including coordinating parallel investigations, assisting with EAWs and extradition requests, facilitating the transfer of proceedings or the execution of EIOs, and mutual legal assistance requests concerning the

Key case

Arson terrorist group taken to court

CRIME: A terrorist group is suspected of carrying out arson attacks across Europe. They attempt to set fire to commercial, transport and factory facilities. The group is suspected of having links to a foreign intelligence service.

ACTION: Czech, Lithuanian, Polish and Romanian authorities identify links between the attacks and find the group and the organisers connecting the suspects.

RESULT: Two suspects are convicted following trials in the Czech Republic and Romania. In Lithuania, the trial of six suspects is expected to start later in 2026. Proceedings are ongoing in Poland against a suspect and his principals.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Eurojust sets up a JIT between the authorities and coordinates the prosecution of suspects to avoid *bis in idem*.

gathering of information and evidence or hearing of witnesses. Six JITs were set up, bringing the total to 14 terrorism-related JITs in use in 2025.

Throughout the year, Eurojust continued to collect information from national authorities on ongoing or concluded criminal investigations, prosecutions, court proceedings or decisions on terrorist offences through the European Judicial Counter-Terrorism Register (CTR) and supported several investigations and prosecutions on the basis of such information. Thanks to the register and its integration with the agency's Case Management System, Eurojust is able to help EU Member States identify links between individuals and networks involved in ongoing and past investigations throughout the EU concerning terrorism and other crime types.

Strategic developments impacting Eurojust's counter-terrorism casework

In December 2025, the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2447 was adopted. It establishes the framework for implementing the Eurojust Regulation by defining the technical specifications, safeguards, and operational requirements for setting up and using a decentralised IT system for the secure handling and exchange of information. In particular, the Implementing Regulation outlines the mechanisms for the semi-automated, structured transmission of CTR data to Eurojust.

In the same month, the European Commission established a new European network of national prosecutors responsible for hate crimes and criminalised hate speech, operating within the framework of the EU High Level Group on combating hate speech and hate crime. Eurojust will support and participate in the activities of the newly established network in close coordination with a parallel network of law enforcement contact points specialised in hate speech and hate crime to ensure operational synergy and information exchange.

Key event

Eurojust annual meeting on counter-terrorism addresses emerging trends

Key publications

Battlefield Evidence: Key insights for judicial practitioners

Cumulative prosecutions of foreign terrorist fighters for core international crimes and terrorism-related offences: An analysis of selected jurisprudence

3.9 Core international crimes

The crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (known collectively as core international crimes – CIC) are a threat to the peace, security and well-being of our world. Following the recent escalation of nearby conflicts in the European Union's wider neighbourhood, many countries have opened investigations into CIC.



Eurojust's operational support to CIC cases

In 2025, Eurojust handled more than 70 cases, marking a 24% increase from the previous year. Sweden, followed by Belgium, was the EU country that initiated the most CIC cases at Eurojust in 2025, while Serbia was the third country that owned the highest number of CIC cases. Italy, Austria and Croatia were the most frequently requested countries to assist in transnational CIC cases at the Agency in 2025, while Serbia, followed by the United Kingdom, was the third country most frequently requested to assist in such cases.

The CIC cases supported by Eurojust concerned war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, with some also linked to terrorism, crimes against life, limb or personal freedom, and drug trafficking. Eurojust supported national authorities by facilitating the exchange of documents, as well as EIOs, mutual legal assistance and extradition requests. Some complex CIC cases required multifaceted support from Eurojust, such as the organisation of multiple coordination meetings and the provision of legal and analytical assistance. Eurojust also made use of its own-initiative mandate in this crime area.

Eurojust support to Ukraine

Since the outbreak of the war, Eurojust has played a central role in supporting accountability for crimes committed in Ukraine. Updates in 2025 included:

- The Eurojust-supported JIT reached the milestone of conducting 4 000 witness interviews.
- Cooperation among the participating authorities of the JIT (Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine) led to Notices of Suspicion in absentia against six suspects issued by Lithuania, as well as the extradition of a suspect by Ukraine to Lithuania, who is suspected of committing war crimes.
- The Eurojust-managed International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine (ICPA) was extended with a EUR 5 million contribution from the European Commission, ensuring the continuation of national investigations and laying the groundwork for a future Special Tribunal.
- Over 10 000 evidence files from 17 countries stored in the Eurojust-hosted Core International Crimes Evidence Database (CICED).
- A new translation tool was introduced in CICED, significantly accelerating the evidence analysis and searches in the database.

Genocide Prosecution Network

Eurojust is home to the secretariat of the European network for investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, known as the Genocide Prosecution Network. The network enables close cooperation between national authorities when investigating and prosecuting CIC. In 2025, the Secretariat's work included:

- Bringing together over 150 practitioners from over 30 countries to examine key developments in combating impunity, including advances in prosecuting the crime of genocide and the impact of new technologies on investigations and prosecutions.

- Publication of a comprehensive report, Cumulative prosecutions of foreign terrorist fighters for core international crimes and terrorism-related offences: An analysis of selected jurisprudence, highlighting the importance of full accountability and providing key legal and practical findings for practitioners.
- Hosting the 10th EU Day Against Impunity, in collaboration with the European Commission and Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU, gathering 175 representatives of judicial authorities and civil society at Eurojust's headquarters.
- Updates to the national jurisprudence database on core international crimes with new translations of key national judgments, including a recent landmark case in Sweden concerning genocide through the transfer of children.

National Authorities Against Impunity Project

The National Authorities Against Impunity Project (IMPNA) strengthens cooperation with non-EU countries and civil society to combat impunity for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. The IMPNA project is funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships and is co-implemented by Eurojust and the Genocide Prosecution Network Secretariat hosted at the Agency.

Their work in 2025 included:

- Engaging with over 250 civil society organisations from Africa, the Middle East and Latin America in partnership with the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to gather feedback on Guidelines to Document International Crimes Human Rights Violations for Accountability Purposes.
- Translating key CIC decisions under the national jurisprudence database on core international crimes, expanding resources to practitioners globally.
- Facilitating visits of Western African practitioners from Guinea, Senegal and The Gambia to Eurojust, along with the Dutch and French Prosecution Offices and Police specialised on international crimes.

Key event

10th EU Day Against Impunity event

Key publications

Cumulative prosecutions of foreign terrorist fighters for core international crimes and terrorism-related offences: An analysis of selected jurisprudence

Battlefield Evidence: Key insights for judicial practitioners

Key networks and projects

Genocide Prosecution Network

National Authorities Against Impunity

3.10 Environmental crime

Environmental crime threatens entire ecosystems and poses serious risks to human health. It encompasses a wide range of illegal activities that intensify the three core dimensions of the global environmental crisis: climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Beyond its ecological and public health impacts, environmental crime is also one of the most profitable forms of illegal activity worldwide, making it a persistent and deeply rooted global challenge.

Eurojust's operational support to environmental crime cases

In 2025, Eurojust handled 68 environmental crime cases, a 17% increase over the previous year. Eurojust's casework in 2025 shows a growing number of cases involving the movement of illegal waste within the EU, including hazardous waste. This increase may be linked to differences between Member States in the cost of waste treatment, especially for hazardous waste. In addition, exporting waste outside the EU requires greater expertise and involves more complex procedures, which organised criminal networks may not always possess.

Environmental crime cases assisted by Eurojust are among the most complex ones, requiring extensive coordination and expertise. The cases involve numerous actors and require aligning diverse legal and investigative approaches applied across jurisdictions, including solving conflicts of jurisdiction.

Italy, followed by Romania and Slovenia initiated the most environmental crime cases at Eurojust in 2025. Germany was the country most frequently requested to assist in cross-border environmental cases handled by the Agency. No third country initiated environmental cases at Eurojust, with the United Kingdom being the only third country to be requested to assist in such cases.



Strategic developments impacting Eurojust's environmental crime casework

Cross-border environmental crime is often committed by organised criminal groups but remains under-prosecuted in Europe due to its complexity, limited specialised expertise, competing national priorities, and differences in legal definitions and penalties that hinder judicial cooperation.

Eurojust welcomes the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, which the EU signed in December 2025. This landmark Convention complements the 2024 EU Directive on environmental crime, which defines environmental offences, sets minimum penalties for individuals and companies, and strengthens enforcement. While the Directive sets baseline rules for EU Member States, the Convention goes further by establishing a broader pan-European and international framework with binding standards to criminalise serious environmental offences and to impose effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions. This is especially relevant as Eurojust is strengthening its work with partners and countries outside the EU.

As Member States work to transpose the 2024 Directive – in which Eurojust's role is clearly defined in supporting stronger cross-border cooperation – in 2025, the Agency contributed to significantly raising awareness among practitioners of the new legal framework and sharing relevant best practices.

In 2025, Eurojust became an observer in EnviCrimeNet, the professional network of environmental law enforcement officers (in addition to already being an observer for several years in the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment, ENPE).

3.11 Intellectual property crime

Intellectual property (IP) crime is common in everyday settings, from the fake goods sold online or in physical stores to the music, films and sports matches made illegally available on the internet. Though often regarded as harmless, this form of criminality has serious and pervasive negative effects on the economy, public health and consumer safety, also acting as a revenue stream for organised crime groups to fund other illegal activities.



Eurojust's operational support to intellectual property crime cases

The number of IP crime cases handled by Eurojust in 2025 continued to grow steadily, increasing by approximately 10% compared to the previous year. Almost a third of the IP crime cases supported by the Agency were newly opened in 2025.

Italy, followed by France initiated the highest number of intellectual property crime cases at the Agency in 2025. Germany and Belgium were the EU countries most frequently requested to participate in cross-border IP crime cases, while Switzerland was the most frequently requested third country to assist in such cases.

To strengthen the enforcement of IP rights across the EU, Eurojust and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) have been successfully collaborating to boost EU-wide enforcement for intellectual property and provide a more cohesive and robust response to IP infringements. After the joint Intellectual Property Crime Project (2021-2024), the Agency negotiated a new Service Level Agreement in 2025, effective from January 2026.

Key events

Western Balkans Criminal Justice project and EUIPO join forces against IP crime at Alicante meetings

EUIPO - Observatory Plenary 30 September-1 October 2025 at Alicante

Key publication

Intellectual Property Crime Case-Law of National Courts 2025

Key project

Intellectual Property Crime Project

4. Judicial cooperation and Eurojust operational work

4.1 Eurojust tools and support for judicial cooperation instruments in 2025

Eurojust has a well-developed practical set of tools to support cross-border investigations. Coordination meetings, coordination centres and support for JITs are offered to practitioners in investigations that require the higher-level cooperation they provide.

Eurojust has also gained and continues to build significant expertise in the use of European and international judicial cooperation instruments.

From the European Arrest Warrant, established in law in 2002 – the same year as Eurojust – to the new European e-evidence legislation entering into application in 2026, the Agency provides expertise to support national prosecutors and other investigators.
This includes support for:

- European Investigation Orders (in 48.1% of Eurojust cases open in 2025),
- mutual legal assistance requests (29.7%),
- European Arrest Warrant (7.4%) and further issues of extradition,
- freezing and confiscation orders (5.2%),
- issues of conflicts of jurisdiction, ne bis in idem and transfers of proceedings (at least 4.3%),
- and a growing number of transfers of sentenced persons.

Eurojust, based on its casework, retains and shares knowledge of recurring issues that complicate the use of judicial instruments, as well as best practices to address them. The Agency also monitors the case-law of the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights to advise national prosecutors.

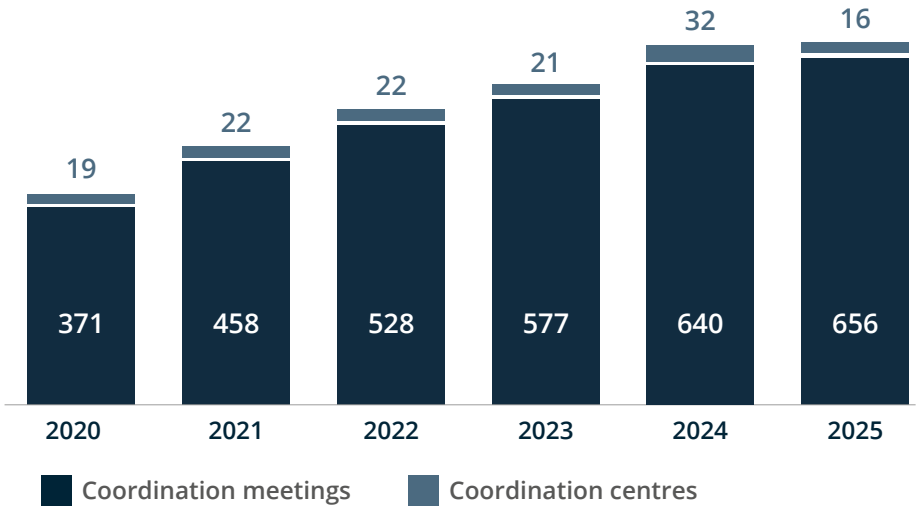
The expertise built this way can ensure smooth execution of judicial cooperation instruments, prevent conflicts of jurisdiction or ensure that evidence is collected in a manner admissible in court. This work of Eurojust is unique: there is no other European body or agency with such expertise in EU law on judicial cooperation in criminal matters that can offer this kind of practical support to getting justice done in cross-border cases.

4.2 Coordination meetings and centres

Eurojust offers national authorities coordination meetings and coordination centres as dedicated and unique tools for achieving successful prosecutions and ensuring justice is done.

In cross-border investigations, Eurojust organises coordination meetings to bring together the judicial and law enforcement authorities of the involved countries. The meeting provides an opportunity to share information and agree on the methods of cooperation and next steps for coordinating investigations and prosecutions. This can include supporting the execution of mutual recognition instruments or mutual legal assistance requests, setting up joint investigation teams or planning a joint action day.

Eurojust coordination meetings and centres 2020-2025



Coordination meetings are held at Eurojust's premises or via secure videoconferencing, and are fully supported by Eurojust's expertise, budget (e.g. funding for travel costs) and infrastructure, making the resolution of legal and practical issues easier.

The number of coordination meetings facilitated by Eurojust each year has increased steadily over the past 5 years, with a total of 653 coordination meetings organised in 2025. Economic crimes accounted for the highest number of coordination meetings (258), followed by drug trafficking (119) and cybercrime (102).

Coordination centres enable real-time monitoring of joint action days targeting criminal organisations, during which arrests, searches, interviews of suspects and witnesses, seizures of evidence and freezing of assets are executed in several countries simultaneously. The centres are set up in dedicated rooms equipped with state-of-the-art technology and virtually via videoconferencing to ensure swift judicial coordination and the exchange of information and evidence between all involved national authorities in a secure environment.

Sixteen coordination centres were set up at Eurojust in 2025, half of them tackling economic crimes. This number fluctuates every year as the need for coordination centres depends on the maturity of cases and operational constraints.

Coordination meetings and centres in 2025 by crime type

Crime types	Coordination meetings	Coordination centres
Economic crimes	258	8
Drug trafficking	119	3
Cybercrime	102	3
Trafficking in human beings	53	-
Mobile organised crime groups	47	1
Terrorism	37	1
Migrant smuggling	30	-
Core international crimes	17	-
Environmental crime	7	-
Intellectual property crime	5	-

The data contained in this table were extracted from Eurojust's case management system on 17 January 2026. Due to the ongoing nature of cases, possible discrepancies with previously reported numbers may exist, and statistics may be updated in the future.

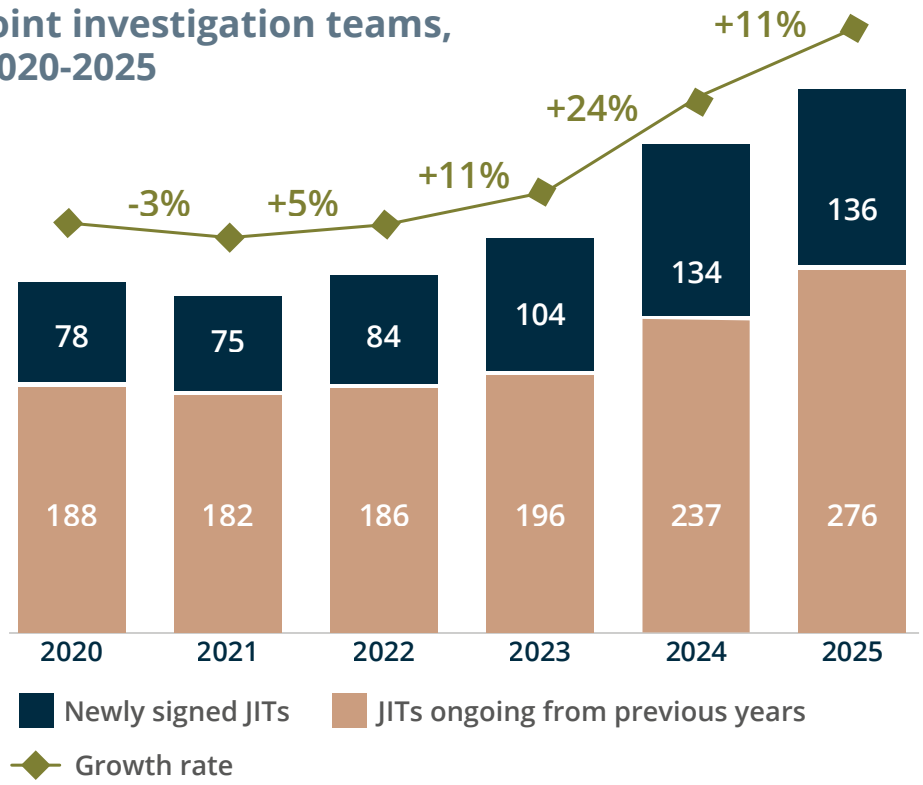
As a coordination meeting/centre may deal with more than one crime type, the total number of coordination meetings and centres cannot be calculated by adding up the numbers in this table.

4.3 Joint investigation teams

Joint investigation teams are an advanced tool for judicial cooperation supported by Eurojust. In 2025, the Agency supported 11% more JITs than in 2024, continuing the upward trend from previous years. Eurojust facilitated 412 JITs throughout the year, approximately one third of which were newly signed in 2025.

JITs were used in several major cross-border cases involving both EU Member States and third countries. The newly signed JITs in 2025 covered a wide range of crime types: the largest number of JITs were established to tackle drug trafficking (33) and money laundering (28).

Joint investigation teams, 2020-2025



Key case

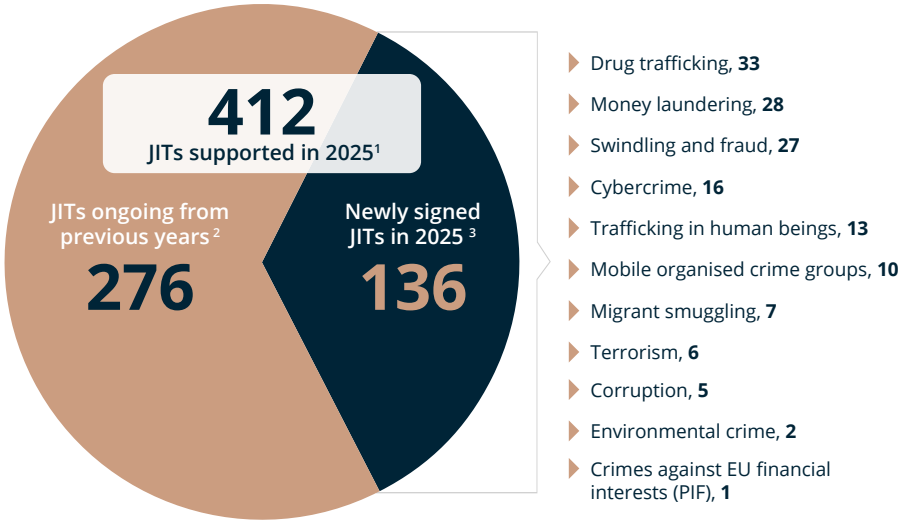
Decisive action against scammers targeting victims in Austria and Latvia

CRIME: Over 3 000 victims are defrauded of several million euros by a criminal network offering its scam models and technical tools to other criminals as a crime-as-a-service. Their online service provides phone numbers from over 80 countries and entire infrastructures to set up fake accounts on social media.

ACTION: Cooperation between Austrian, Estonian, Latvian and Finnish authorities, together with Eurojust, uncovers the different methods offered by the criminal network. Joint actions are planned to arrest the suspected members of the network and take down their servers.

RESULT: Seven members are arrested, five servers are taken down and a SIM-card based technical system, along with 40 000 active SIM cards, is dismantled.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Eurojust supports and finances a JIT, enabling the authorities to work together swiftly and efficiently.



[1] Eurojust support to JITs includes financial and operational support.
[2] As of January 2026. Due to the ongoing nature of the cases, these figures may change after the reporting period.
[3] A single JIT can deal with more than one crime type.

Eurojust JITs funding programme

Eurojust funded close to half of the 412 JITs supported by the Agency in 2025. During the year, the JITs Network Secretariat received 403 funding applications and awarded 365 grants under the standard funding scheme and 25 grants under the urgent funding scheme.

Through these grants, Eurojust provided financial support to 199 active JITs (75 of these JITs were established in 2025). The JITs funding programme budget for 2025 was EUR 2.1 million.

The increase in the number of funding applications submitted (by almost 15% compared with 2024) and in the amounts requested (by more than 20%) highlights the importance of financial support for the functioning of JITs. Most of the awarded grants were used for translation and interpretation, as well as for the purchase of equipment.

The Claims Module, an online tool for submitting JITs funding reimbursement claims, continued to be used successfully in 2025 and will be the sole method for submitting reimbursement claims and extension requests from 2026.

JIT evaluation

In 2025, the Fifth JITs Evaluation Report was published, based on 67 completed JIT evaluations. The findings show that the early involvement of Eurojust and the timely agreement on the scope of the JIT remain key factors for smooth cooperation, particularly in cases involving several parallel national investigations. The evaluation found that challenges related to:

- the exchange and use of evidence,
- the coordination of investigative measures, and
- the alignment of prosecution strategies

become more pronounced in multilateral JITs.

It also shows that seconded members, regular coordination meetings, and early discussions of jurisdictional issues help to mitigate these risks. Throughout 2025, the JITs Network Secretariat continued to contribute to training activities for JIT practitioners at both EU and regional levels, together with Eurojust's Western Balkans Criminal Justice Project.

Work on the JITs Collaboration Platform also continued throughout 2025.

Key event

Digital workspace for JITs & coordination with customs authorities key themes of 21st Annual Meeting of the JITs Network

Key publications

Fifth JITs Evaluation Report

Understanding complex JIT cases: behind the scenes of a cross-border investigation

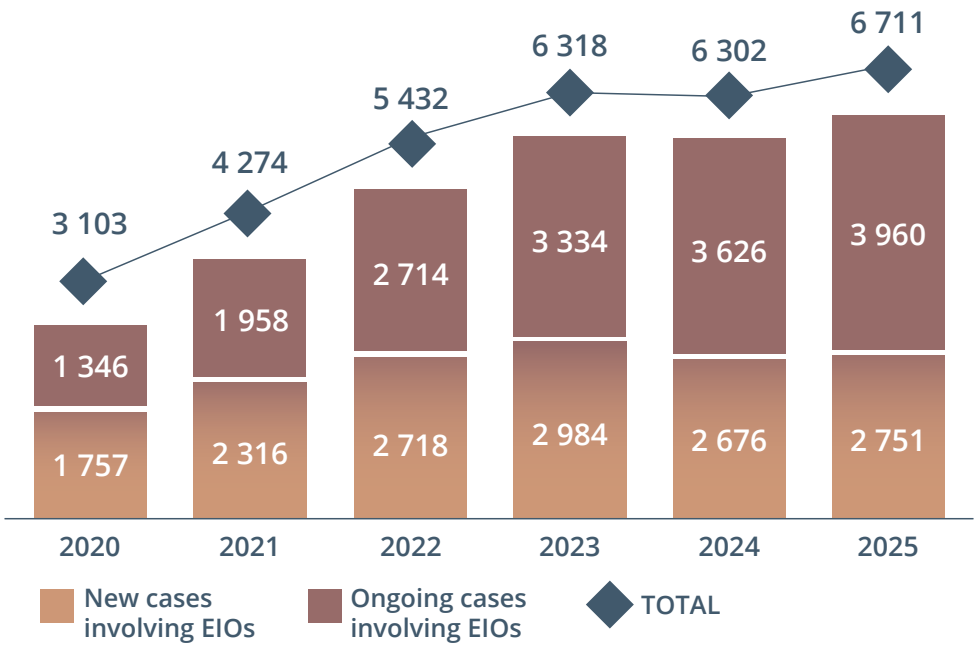
Key network

JITs Network

4.4 European Investigation Order

During 2025, Eurojust continued to provide support and advice to national authorities throughout the life cycle of the EIO, from the drafting to the execution phase. 6 711 Eurojust cases, including 2 751 new cases involved a European Investigation Order, a close to 7% rise from the previous year. While in 2020, a little over one third of Eurojust cases involved an EIO, this ratio rose to close to half by 2025, showing that Eurojust's support is getting increasingly important for this instrument.

Eurojust cases involving EIOs



Eurojust assisted in obtaining clarifications or additional information prior to the execution of an EIO or, where the information provided was insufficient, even before its transmission to the executing authorities.

Eurojust also facilitated the execution of several urgent EIOs, where its role was critical given the need for imminent action. In multilateral cases, the Agency ensured coordinated execution of EIOs in several Member States, alongside other judicial cooperation instruments such as freezing orders and EAWs.

Eurojust supported cases in which legal or practical issues arose, in particular:

- the **hearing of suspects** and the applicable formalities and procedural guarantees, which may differ across Member States;
- the **interception of telecommunications,** which is subject to varying conditions and procedures across Member States;
- the **use of technical devices tracking movements and recording sound and images** (e.g. bugging a car), which are not clearly regulated in the EIO Directive and therefore give rise to practical challenges, especially regarding the possibility of an ex post authorisation.

Key case

Hearing of an accused person by videoconference or temporary transfer

CRIME: A person is being prosecuted in Italy for participating in a criminal organisation and for drug trafficking. He does not appear in court, but he is represented by a lawyer and is found to have been in custody in Belgium.

JUDICIAL ISSUE: The Italian court issues an EIO to hear the accused by videoconference. The Belgian Public Prosecutor's Office refuses to execute the EIO, stating that Belgian law does not permit the hearing of an accused person by videoconference in the course of that person's trial, as it would be contrary to the right to a fair hearing.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: The referring Italian court asks Eurojust for assistance. The Agency suggests a temporary transfer of the accused person to Italy, which the Belgian authorities refuse.

CJEU JUDGMENT: Eurojust further supports the Italian court in referring the case to the CJEU for a preliminary ruling. The CJEU decides with its judgment of 18 December 2025 (C 325/24) on the interpretation of the EIO Directive meaning that Member States' judicial authorities may issue an EIO for the temporary transfer of or the hearing by videoconference of an accused person during his or her trial for evidentiary purposes, and further that such a measure not being available in a domestic case is not a reason for refusal to execute the EIO.

Throughout 2025, Eurojust continued to examine legal issues related to the **interception of telecommunications and other surveillance measures,** providing streamlined information on the fundamental legal requirements applicable in other jurisdictions concerning such measures.

Similarly, Eurojust worked on the **admissibility of evidence transmitted via EIOs,** in particular data obtained from encrypted communication networks (e.g. Sky ECC and EncroChat), by monitoring relevant national case-law and advising national authorities.

As a result of years of monitoring, Eurojust published the **first comprehensive overview of CJEU case-law on the EIO** in 2025, offering a structured and accessible reference tool for legal practitioners and judicial authorities. The report will be regularly updated.

Based on the recommendations in the final report on the 10th round of mutual evaluations on the EIO, the Commission started work on a potential revision of the EIO Directive. Eurojust contributed to this at every step of the process in 2025, participating in expert group meetings and at the High Level Forum on the Future of EU Criminal Justice, both organised by the Commission. Eurojust also contributed a written position to the targeted consultation by the Commission in November.

Key publication

Case-law by the Court of Justice of the European Union on the European Investigation Order

4.5 European Arrest Warrant

In 2025, 1 038 Eurojust cases (including 457 new and 581 ongoing ones from previous years) involved European Arrest Warrants. The overall number of cases involving EAWs handled by the Agency in 2025 was approximately 6% higher than in the previous year.

Key case

Rapid surrender of high-profile murder suspect

CRIME: An American citizen is suspected of the murder of an infant girl in Rome.

ACTION: When authorities locate the person in Greece, they must ensure that the suspect is rapidly detained and surrendered to Italy.

RESULT: Rapid issuance and timely execution of an EAW leads to the suspect's arrest and ensures his surrender to Italy.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Close and immediate cooperation between the Italian and Greek Desks at Eurojust ensures the timely and rapid execution of the EAW.

Eurojust continued to provide support and advice to national authorities throughout the life cycle of the EAW.

Eurojust can support or provide advice on:

- swift transmission of information
- competing EAWs and preventing the issuance of competing EAWs
- interpretation of CJEU case-law on the EAW
- communication in ongoing criminal proceedings (e.g. postponement or temporary surrender)
- application of grounds for refusal and possibility of re-issuing EAWs
- choice of judicial instrument
- consultation procedure for extradition requests regarding EU citizens to third countries
- drafting and transmission of return guarantees, assurances on prison conditions or medical treatments
- application of the specialty rule, prior to or after surrender

Practitioners approached the Agency when requests for additional information were urgent (for example in view of upcoming court hearings) or when direct contact with the executing authorities had failed. Eurojust facilitated the swift transmission of the missing information relating to these EAWs.

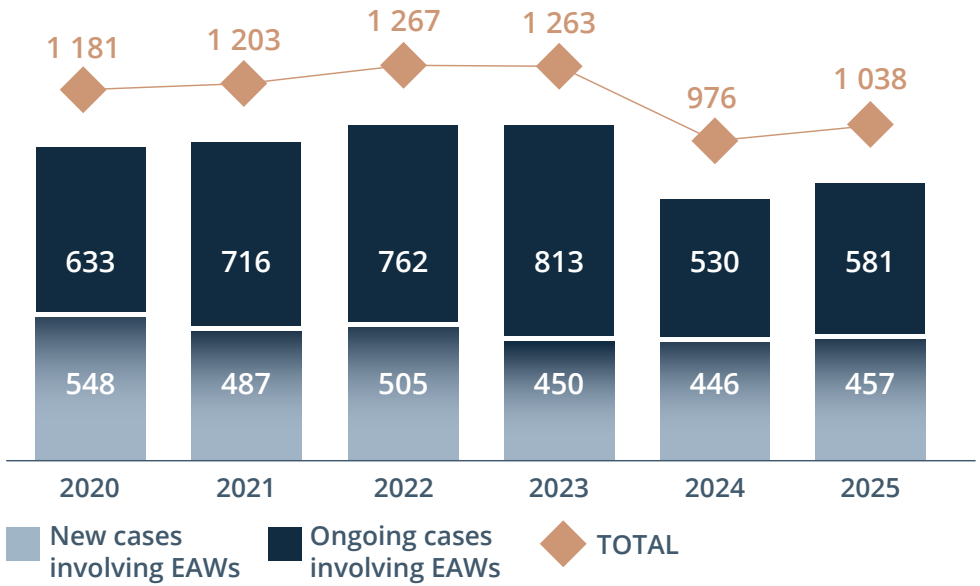
Another important role Eurojust can play is advising on competing EAWs and supporting follow-up questions (e.g. regarding consent to subsequent surrender). In its coordination meetings, the Agency can also prevent the issuance of competing EAWs. In 2025, Eurojust issued seven formal Advices on competing EAWs in accordance with Article 16(2) EAW FD and the Eurojust Guidelines for deciding competing requests for surrender and extradition.

Eurojust continues to assist the national authorities with the correct application of the CJEU's case-law (e.g. on prison conditions or in absentia). To enable this, the Agency monitors the case-law of the CJEU and publishes a regular report that includes the latest developments.

Two judgments the CJEU delivered in 2025 resulted from cases supported by Eurojust, namely Sangas[14] on the statute-barred refusal ground and C.J.[15] on the relationship between the EAW and the Framework Decision on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. The legal questions respectively at stake in these cases reflect recurrent issues that arise in multiple Eurojust cases.

The Agency examined the speciality rule in a questionnaire to all Member States in 2025 to prepare streamlined, accessible and operational information for practitioners on how this principle is being applied in the Member States.

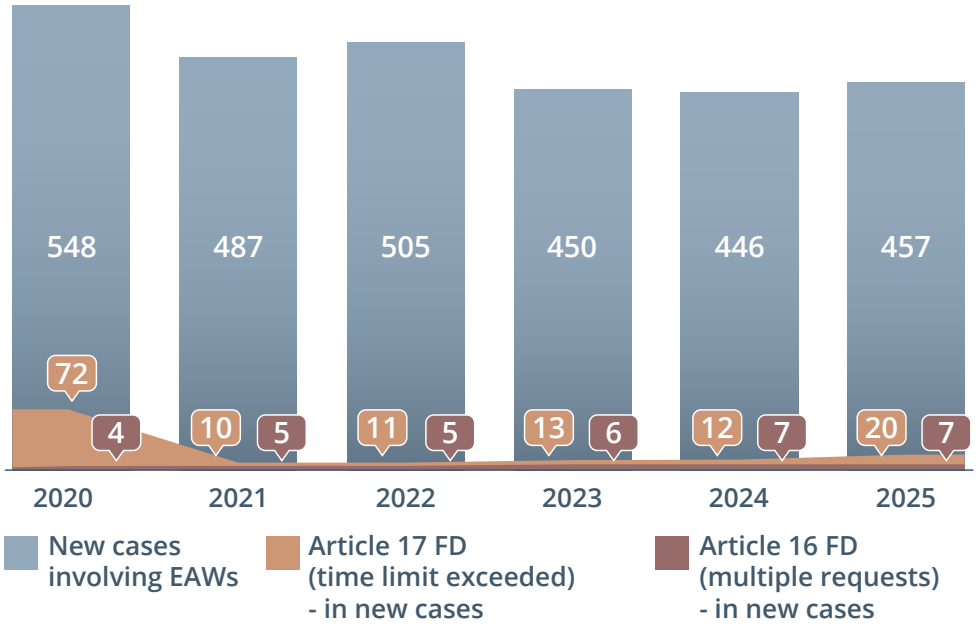
Eurojust cases involving EAWs, 2020-2025



[14] C 481/23
[15] C-305/22

As in previous years, only a small number of Member States notify Eurojust of cases where they cannot observe the time limits and the reasons for this non-observance (Article 17 EAW Framework Decision). The number of cases concerning competing EAWs for which Eurojust's support is requested (Article 16(2) EAW Framework Decision) also remains limited.

New Eurojust cases involving EAWs, notifications EAW FD Art 16-17 2020-2025



Key publication

Case-law by the Court of Justice of the European Union on the European Arrest Warrant

4.6 Asset recovery, freezing and confiscation

As the vast majority of organised crime is profit-driven and the proceeds of crime are often reinvested abroad, recovering these proceeds is a strategic priority in the EU's fight against organised crime. Eurojust plays a key role in the asset recovery process in cross-border cases by providing legal and practical support to judicial authorities throughout **all four stages of asset recovery.**

Eurojust's expertise and experience are essential in assisting practitioners in tracing, freezing, confiscating and disposing of criminal assets.

In 2025, Eurojust supported 723 cases in connection with Regulation 2018/1805 on the Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders. The Agency's support to these cases resulted in the seizure or freezing of nearly EUR 1.2 billion in criminal assets.



Eurojust often provided crucial support in cases with the following recurrent issues:

- additional information to allow the execution of the freezing/confiscation certificate
- coordinate execution of freezing orders on a specific date, jointly with other coercive measures
- restitution of frozen assets to victims in another country
- cooperation with non-EU Member States

In September 2025, Eurojust published a Casework Report on Regulation 2018/1805 on the Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders. This report, the first of its kind, offers practical guidance for national authorities, highlighting both the progress made and the remaining challenges in applying the Regulation.

The report's main finding is that the Regulation is widely used in practice and has significantly improved judicial cooperation. However, its application is not yet fully effective, and a number of legal and practical challenges remain, for example due to divergent national rules and the design of the standard forms. Eurojust's support in resolving such issues, especially in complex cases, can be instrumental.

The report was discussed at the formal kick-off meeting of the Judicial Focus Group on Money Laundering and Asset Recovery – read more about the Focus Group in the chapter on economic crimes.

Key event

Eurojust meeting tackles emerging trends on money laundering and asset recovery

Key publications

Eurojust Report on Regulation 2018/1805 on the Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders

Key network

Judicial Focus Group on Money Laundering and Asset Recovery

4.7 Resolving conflicts of jurisdiction

As part of its mission to coordinate investigations into serious crime, Eurojust often assists national authorities in the areas of conflicts of jurisdiction and transfer of proceedings, as well as in cases involving potential ne bis in idem issues. These issues are likely to arise if parallel investigations take place in two or more Member States, unless there is cross-border coordination. Eurojust facilitates preliminary contacts and consultations between competent authorities, coordinates their actions, encourages and expedites the exchange of information, and advises on which jurisdiction is best placed to prosecute in the interests of justice.

In 2025, the Agency continued to support national authorities in preventing and resolving conflicts of jurisdiction and in preventing *ne bis in idem* issues.

In particular, Eurojust facilitated consultations among national authorities in at least 601 cases of parallel proceedings, in application of, inter alia, Framework Decision 948/2009 on conflicts of jurisdiction, by organising coordination meetings and providing advice to reach consensus on which jurisdiction is best placed to prosecute a specific case. It also facilitated the transfer of criminal proceedings and the transfer of evidence from one jurisdiction to another.

A significant number of these cases involved investment fraud, perpetrated online by organised criminal groups active in several countries, with thousands of victims worldwide. Eurojust assistance can be essential in cases like this to coordinate the judicial response.

Eurojust also worked on preparing for the entry into force of the 2024 Regulation on transfer of proceedings, enabling the Agency to better assist national authorities once the Regulation becomes applicable in 2027. This exercise will continue in 2026.

4.8 Own initiative cases of Eurojust

Eurojust can offer its existing support services to national authorities without a specific request. In 2018 the Eurojust Regulation explicitly introduced the possibility for the agency to carry out its tasks on its own initiative[16]. Eurojust, as a hub of judicial expertise and information, is optimally placed to take a proactive role in ensuring Europe's security. The Agency supports national authorities in identifying links between their cases, agreeing on a joint approach and, where relevant, extending the coordination to other countries.

Own-initiative cases can be opened based on information provided by a Member State, EU bodies or third countries, as well as information collected by Eurojust itself from other cases (e.g. a confirmed link) or extracted from the Counter-Terrorism Register or CICED. Open sources could also serve as a starting point for such a case.

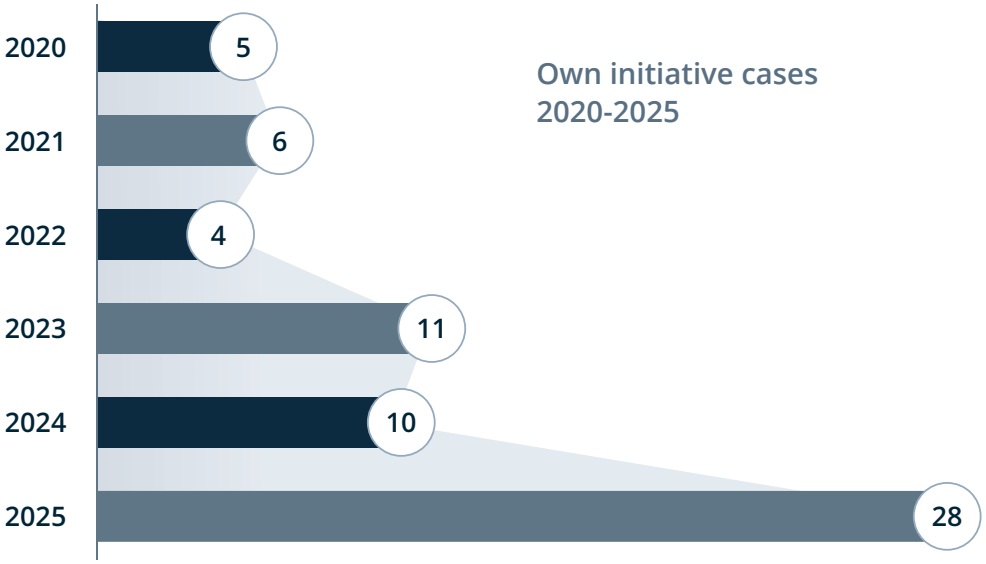
The result of an own initiative case can be strategic output, e.g. guidelines for practitioners, policy documents or case-work related analysis. More frequently, the result is Eurojust performing its operational functions in an individual investigation and prosecution,

- aiming to stimulate and improve Member States' cross-border coordination and cooperation
- acting in an urgent case, where it is not possible to identify or to contact the competent national authority in a timely manner or
- through written opinions on recurrent difficulties in judicial cooperation.

To encourage own-initiative cases in practice, Eurojust adopted a multiannual Action Plan to increase awareness both internally and among its operational partners.

Based on this ongoing work, 64 own-initiative cases have been registered with Eurojust since 2019. A few examples on the next page show the range of the source of information used and the scale of the challenge.

[16] That is, providing Member States authorities with Eurojust's tools to support and enhance cross-border cooperation; Eurojust does not initiate criminal investigations on its own.



Own initiative cases
2020-2025

Own initiative cases: a selection

Eurojust-supported action leads to arrest of 29 people smugglers in Italy and Albania

Case based on: Europol early warning notification

After receiving the information and discussing the opening of a case with competent national authorities, Eurojust facilitated the cross-border cooperation among EU Member States and beyond.

In addition to supporting the JIT, Eurojust sets up a coordination centre during the action day and provides cross-border judicial support via the Agency's Italian and Greek National Desks, and the Liaison Prosecutor for Albania.

Stopping labour exploitation and trafficking of human beings

Case based on: information provided by a third country

After receiving a request for cooperation from a third country and discussing the opening of a case with competent national authorities, Eurojust opened a case into the alleged crime of human trafficking for the purpose of worker exploitation to facilitate international cooperation.

As a consequence, an investigation is currently underway into the owners of employment agencies in Poland. They are allegedly responsible for recruiting third-country citizens under false promises of work with optimal conditions and remuneration in Poland. However, after arriving in Poland, they are exploited by various companies.

Legal analysis of the spontaneous exchange of information under Art. 7 MLA Convention

Case based on: Operational question raised during a coordination meeting in a Eurojust case

The topic of spontaneous exchange of information between judicial authorities was discussed in several coordination meetings. Is it possible to use the information exchanged under Article 7 of the EU Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance and other similar legal provisions, as evidence or is there a need for a subsequent European Investigation Order or MLA request? Eurojust opened an own initiative College case to analyse the situation.

The topic was taken up and generated further discussions in important EU and international fora, including in the Council of Europe, whose Cybercrime Convention Committee used it to develop a Guidance Note. The results of the case were also discussed at the workshop co-hosted by the Council of Europe and Eurojust in 2024.

4.9 E-Evidence

E-evidence is increasingly important in all criminal investigations; at least 55% of investigations involve a cross-border request for e-evidence . Its acquisition is governed by an evolving set of legal frameworks, including the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention). Where appropriate, voluntary cooperation may also be used in accordance with national law. In 2026, the EU e-evidence package will enter into application, establishing a comprehensive legal framework in the EU for obtaining cross-border access to e-evidence in criminal proceedings.

The ground-breaking legislation introduces two new legal instruments, the European Production Order and the European Preservation Order, which enable competent authorities to order the preservation and the production of e-evidence directly from service providers offering services in the EU, regardless of their place of establishment or the location of the data. The obligation for service providers to respond within 10 days, and within 8 hours in cases of emergency, will improve authorities' ability to rely on volatile e-evidence in criminal proceedings.

Eurojust stands ready to support the work of national authorities when using the new judicial cooperation instruments.

In 2025, Eurojust hosted a meeting of key stakeholders on the EU e evidence package and mapped the roles of different entities (Eurojust, SIRIUS project, EJN, EJCN) regarding the new legal tools, and the type of operational support they can provide to practitioners. Eurojust will continue to provide strategic support to national authorities in the practical application of the EU e-evidence package.

Eurojust's support in the use of European Production and Preservation Orders includes:

- advice on the applicable legal framework and the feasibility of requests
- coordinating simultaneous judicial cooperation requests, avoiding conflicts of jurisdiction
- facilitating the issuance, transmission, execution and enforcement of orders
- assistance with drafting and wording of certificates
- facilitating discussions between issuing and enforcing authorities
- advice on privileges and immunities / freedom of the press and freedom of expression

In 2025, Eurojust and Europol launched Phase 3 of the SIRIUS project, marking its expansion to non-EU countries. As the central hub for knowledge sharing on cross-border access to e-evidence, the project developed several knowledge products and practical tools and maintained its structured dialogue with service providers, enabling direct contact with Eurojust via SIRIUS.

Eurojust also contributed to the Impact Assessment on Retention of data by service providers for criminal proceedings launched by the Commission with a view to updating EU rules on data retention.

Key events

- E-Evidence in focus at Eurojust and Council of Europe joint cybercrime workshop
- Eurojust brings key stakeholders together for exchange on EU e-Evidence Package
- Europol and Eurojust launch phase 3 of SIRIUS project to enhance cross-border access to electronic evidence

Key publications

- European Production and Preservation Orders: key actors offering support
- European Production and Preservation Orders: support at a glance
- Service providers under key legal frameworks on e-evidence
- Case studies: Extraterritorial production orders

Key networks and projects

- EJCN
- SIRIUS

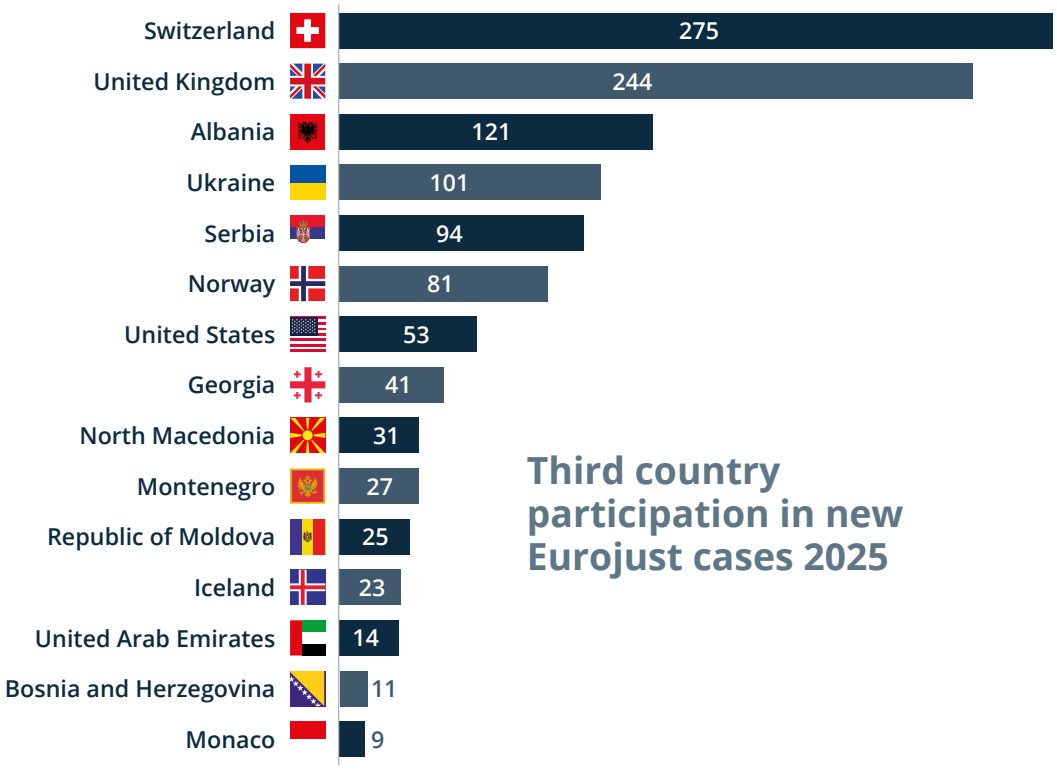
5. Cooperation with partners

5.1 Eurojust: home to global justice – cooperation outside the EU's borders

As crime becomes increasingly global, judicial authorities need to find easier ways to work across borders. Eurojust builds relationships with judicial authorities worldwide: this enables operational cooperation and coordination and the dismantling of hundreds of organised crime networks, keeping Europe safe and getting justice done.

Casework involving third countries

Since 2020, about 20% of newly registered Eurojust cases involve a third country each year. Countries that posted a Liaison Prosecutor to Eurojust and which benefit from the possibility of systematic exchanges of personal data are at the top of the list of third countries involved in Eurojust cases: in 2025, for the first time in this period, Switzerland had the most involvement with 275 cases, followed by the United Kingdom, Albania and Ukraine.



Third country participation in new Eurojust cases 2025

Key case

Major operation against EUR 300 million global credit card fraud

CRIME: Three criminal networks defraud several million credit card users with 19 million accounts in 193 countries. The suspects steal credit card data, set up fake accounts and authorise charges to credit cards.

ACTION: An action day taking place in 10 countries, coordinated by Eurojust, puts a stop to the fraudulent activities that took place between 2016 and 2021.

RESULT: 18 suspects are arrested, among whom are five executive officials from payment service providers. During 60 searches, cryptocurrencies, luxury vehicles, mobile phones and laptops are seized.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Eurojust organises several coordination meetings and supports the execution of 90 EIOs and MLAs to 30 countries. Through the network of Contact Points, judicial cooperation with Canada and Singapore is facilitated.

Liaison Prosecutors

Liaison Prosecutors posted at Eurojust can open cases towards EU Member States and be invited to participate in cases of the Member States. In 2025, the 12 Liaison Prosecutors opened 381 new cases and had 814 open from previous years. Liaison Prosecutors frequently attend coordination meetings and coordination centres and participate in JITs.

Overview of cases in 2025 involving Liaison Prosecutors

LIAISON PROSECUTOR	Cases initiated by the Liaison Prosecutor				Participation in cases initiated by other Desks		Participation in joint activities/meetings		
	New in 2025	*No. of countries involved*		Ongoing from previous years	New in 2025	Ongoing from previous years	Coordination meetings	JITs	Action days
		2	*3 or more*						
Albania	70	*63*	*7*	91	51	99	27	27	3
Georgia	21	*21*	*0*	43	20	43	7	4	0
Iceland	13	*12*	*1*	0	10	18	8	2	0
Montenegro	12	*12*	*0*	34	15	39	1	0	0
Moldova	5	*5*	*0*	3	25	67	21	24	1
North Macedonia	13	*10*	*3*	24	18	45	5	1	0
Norway	57	*52*	*5*	146	24	102	24	17	1
Serbia	37	*32*	*5*	122	57	101	14	8	0
Switzerland	95	*82*	*13*	166	180	389	59	25	2
Ukraine	24	*21*	*3*	91	77	172	65	49	0
United Kingdom	29	*26*	*3*	78	215	567	100	43	4
United States	5	*3*	*2*	16	48	177	48	1	2
TOTAL	381	*339*	*42*	814	*	*	*	*	*

* These columns cannot be summed up, as more than one Liaison Prosecutor can be requested to participate in a single case, and coordination meetings, coordination centres and JITs are often co-organised

International agreements

In 2025, Eurojust welcomed the conclusion of the Agreement between the EU and Lebanon on cooperation with Eurojust. Negotiations, led by the European Commission, progressed with several other countries.

Contact Points

By the end of 2025, Eurojust had Contact Points in 82 countries worldwide as well as three regional organisations.

Contact points can facilitate or coordinate the execution of hundreds of requests for judicial cooperation either from EU authorities to third countries or vice-versa. As an example, in 2025 the number of these requests from Eurojust's Latin American Contact Points increased fivefold.

Working Arrangements

In 2025, Eurojust concluded new strategic Working Arrangements with Egypt, South Korea, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Previously signed Working Arrangements with other countries have already proven effective as the number of judicial assistance requests channelled through Eurojust in 2025 more than tripled compared to 2024.

EuroMed Justice and Western Balkans Criminal Justice Projects

The two externally funded regional projects implemented by Eurojust continued to build judicial cooperation partnerships and capacities, respectively, with the Southern Neighbourhood countries and the Western Balkans partners. Especially important is the fact that the projects help judicial authorities in the EU and its neighbouring regions connect and cooperate more closely together as they are impacted by the activities of the same organised crime groups.



Eurojust's global network

Agreements on cooperation

With **13** third countries



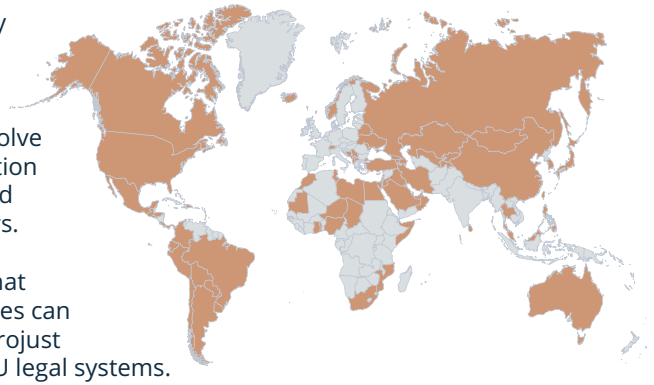
Agreements on cooperation provide the possibility of exchanging operational information, including evidence and personal data, between Eurojust and the national authorities of the country involved in a systematic way.

Eurojust relies on agreements on cooperation concluded with the following non-EU countries: **Albania, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine,** the **United Kingdom** and the **United States.**

Contact Point network

Covering **80+** jurisdictions worldwide + 3 organisations*

Contact Points appointed by national authorities enable prosecutors from Member States to get information on these legal systems and solve problems in judicial cooperation when a crime extends beyond the European Union's borders.



Contact Points also ensure that authorities in non-EU countries can swiftly communicate with Eurojust and obtain information on EU legal systems.

* AIAMP: Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors
* CPLP: Anti-Drug Prosecutors Network
* WACAP – UNODC: West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors

Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust

From **12** countries





Liaison Prosecutors from countries outside the EU are **posted at Eurojust.** They work side by side with their colleagues from the Member States to provide support in cross-border investigations involving their country.

Currently, Liaison Prosecutors are seconded to Eurojust from: **Albania, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine,** the **United Kingdom** and the **United States.**

Working Arrangements

With **12** countries + AIAMP



Eurojust concludes Working Arrangements with third countries and judicial networks and associations established outside of the EU to enable strategic cooperation in combatting serious crime. These arrangements allow exchanging strategic information and sharing best practices, but are not a basis to share operational personal data.

Eurojust has Working Arrangements with the **Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors Offices (AIAMP), Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, South Korea** and **Uruguay.**

A growing global network

In 2025, Eurojust was also working on building a stronger relationship with organisations and countries in more distant regions, such as the National Centre for International Judicial Cooperation of Iraq (to enhance access to the evidence collected by UNITAD), with the Gulf Cooperation Council, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States as well as the United Arab Emirates and China.

Connecting jurisdictions worldwide

The power of the multi-faceted system of relationships that Eurojust has built with third countries was shown at an event where the Agency hosted a high-level visit of judicial authorities, connecting over 50 jurisdictions. Eleven countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, four from the Western Balkans and seven from the Southern Neighbourhood participated in the meeting in December, providing an opportunity to engage with EU Member States and the 12 countries represented by a Liaison Prosecutor at Eurojust. With the active support of the Western Balkans Criminal Justice project, the event enabled the signing of 17 Memoranda of Understanding between Latin American and Western Balkans partners, as well as a high-level discussion on JITs and the globalisation of serious organised crime, with a focus on drug trafficking.

The added value of this event for the judicial authorities in Member States can be quantified: over three days, 82 operational bilateral and multilateral meetings took place between the authorities of the Member States and those of Latin America, the Western Balkans and the Southern Neighbourhood.

Key events

Working Arrangement signed with Republic of Korea

Eurojust and Egypt step up judicial cooperation with new Working Arrangement

Fifty jurisdictions, one goal: Eurojust unites prosecutors from around the world to fight organised crime

Key projects

EuroMed Justice

Western Balkans Criminal Justice

5.2 Cooperation with EU partners

Europol

In 2025, Eurojust continued its close operational collaboration with Europol, which participated in 130 coordination meetings, 51 JITs and 4 coordination centres, providing valuable support and expertise to complex investigations.

Europol and Eurojust also work together on the strategic level: the two agencies launched phase 3 of the SIRIUS project to enhance cross-border access to electronic evidence in 2025.

European Public Prosecutor's Office

Eurojust continued to work with EPPO on a limited number of cases, reflecting the complementary nature of their mandates. EPPO participated in two JITs and two coordination meetings.

In 2025, Eurojust focused on identifying new areas where the Agency can enhance its support to EPPO, including PIF investigations with an organised crime component and cooperation with non-EU countries. A good example is the preparation of a joint document to serve as a reference for JIT agreements between the EPPO and national authorities of non-participating Member States and third countries.

Eurojust also agreed to finance JITs established between the EPPO and a Member State not participating in the EPPO, a third country, or both, in particular providing funding for:

- costs incurred by the national authorities of an EPPO participating Member State, supporting the EPPO's investigation;
- costs incurred by European Delegated Prosecutors in the course of a JIT and in operational meetings.

This arrangement will become effective in 2026.

European Anti-Fraud Office

In 2025, Eurojust and OLAF strengthened collaboration in complex cases, particularly through JITs. OLAF participated in two new JITs (one on illegal waste shipments and another on illegal pesticides) and six coordination meetings.

A joint practical workshop on food fraud was organised at OLAF's premises in November 2025 to increase visibility and understanding among OLAF investigators and Eurojust National Desks of their respective mandates and work, and especially to raise awareness about Eurojust's own-initiative functions.

Cooperation with EU Agencies on new cases in 2025

EU body	Cases	Coordination meetings	Coordination centres	JITs
Europol	36	130	4	51
EPPO	6	2	0	2
OLAF	4	6	0	2

Anti-Money Laundering Authority

Formal negotiations for a Working Arrangement with AMLA started in 2025. AMLA will become an important partner in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism and its involvement in operational matters is expected to increase in the upcoming years.

European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats

In the EMPACT cycle ending in 2025, Eurojust led one operational action under the Missing Trader Intra-Community Operational Action Plan (OAP) and co-led 16 operational actions across the OAPs on High-Risk Criminal Networks, Trafficking in Human Beings and Migrant Smuggling. In addition, Eurojust participated in all EMPACT OAPs, with the aim of further developing their judicial dimension and increasing the participation of judicial authorities.

In the new cycle, Eurojust will support 60 out of the 287 EMPACT operational actions planned for 2026-2027 – 6 as co-leader and 54 as participant. This shift allows the Agency to provide more added value, building a stronger judicial dimension for EMPACT.

Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network

Throughout 2025, Eurojust continued to be an active member of the JHA Agencies Network (JHAAN) and liaised regularly with other JHA agencies. Eurojust contributed to the implementation of the network's 2025 work programme, which focused on fundamental rights in connection to artificial intelligence and the EU Internal Security Strategy. The agencies published a joint statement and report on the 25th anniversary of the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the EU.

6. Safeguarding victims' rights

Victims' rights are central to effective judicial cooperation. Ensuring that victims are properly identified, informed, and able to participate in proceedings strengthens investigations and prosecutions, particularly in cross-border cases.

Eurojust plays a key role in safeguarding these rights by coordinating among national authorities, sharing best practices and supporting practitioners across the EU. The importance of this work cannot be overstated: in cases open at Eurojust in 2025, at least 3.1 million crime victims were impacted.

In particular, Eurojust facilitated:

- arranging the hearing of a victim via videoconference to minimise the risk of secondary victimisation,
- resolving conflicts of jurisdiction in cases where a victim reported a crime to multiple countries' authorities, and
- compensation for victims.

In 2025, Eurojust focused on the **identification and definition of victims** in a cross-border context. This is a prerequisite for the effective exercise of victims' rights and was discussed during the Symposium held in April 2025.



Protecting victims' rights is an overarching consideration in Eurojust operational and strategic work. In 2025, this meant, inter alia, that:

- at the meeting of the Focus Group of Specialised Prosecutors against Trafficking in Human Beings, judicial cooperation on cases of trafficking involving child victims was discussed, including the underreporting of such crimes – as children do not consider themselves victims – and the use of children by OCGs;
- the first Eurojust Casework Report on the Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders dedicates a chapter to the compensation and restitution to victims;
- the annual meeting on migrant smuggling dedicated a session to the complex legal dilemmas surrounding migrant smuggling cases, such as the differences in whether migrants are considered victims or suspects by the legal systems;
- the definition of victims of terrorism and the related legal and practical challenges were discussed during the Eurojust Meeting on Counter-Terrorism, addressing identification of victims in the aftermath of large-scale terrorist attacks, dealing with foreign victims and victims of attacks abroad, and facilitating victims' access to information and support during criminal proceedings and the support Eurojust can provide in such cases;
- the JITs Network Secretariat continued to collect national legislation of Member States relevant to victims' rights – as part of the *Fiches Espagnoles* – in the context of JITs.

Together with the European Institute for Gender Equality, Eurojust released a joint report on the European Protection Order (EPO) in 2025. The EPO is a mutual recognition instrument designed to ensure the continuity of protection measures for individuals who move between Member States, reinforcing cross-border protection for victims at risk.

Key events

Eurojust hosts Victims' Rights Symposium under the auspices of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Second Symposium on Victims' Rights
(2–3 April 2025 – Outcome report)

Key publications

Joint Report on the European Protection Order

The European Protection Order – A brief overview for judicial practitioners

Abbreviations list

AI – artificial intelligence

AIAMP – Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors

AMLA – Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism

CIC – core international crimes

CICED – Core International Crimes Evidence Database

CJEU – Court of Justice of the European Union

CMS – Case Management System

CTR – Counter-Terrorism Register

EACN – European Contact-Point Network against Corruption

EAW – European Arrest Warrant

EIO – European Investigation Order

EJCN – European Judicial Cybercrime Network

EJN – European Judicial Network

EJOCN – European Judicial Organised Crime Network

EL PAcCTO – Europe-Latin America Programme of Assistance against Transnational Organised Crime

EMJ – EuroMed Justice Project

EMPACT – European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats

ENPE – European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment

EPAC – European Partners against Corruption

EPO – European Protection Order

EPPO – European Public Prosecutor's Office

EU – European Union

EUIPO – European Union Intellectual Property Office

FD – framework decision

GPN – Genocide Prosecution Network

HRCN – (Operational Action Plan) on High-Risk Criminal Networks

HVT – high value target

ICPA – International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine

IMPNA – National Authorities Against Impunity project

IP – intellectual property

IPC – intellectual property crimes

JHA – justice and home affairs

JHAAN – Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network

JITs – joint investigation teams

JITs Network – Network of National Experts on Joint Investigation Teams

LP – Liaison Prosecutor

MOCG – mobile organised crime group

MLA – mutual legal assistance

OAP – operational action plan

OLAF – European Anti-Fraud Office

PIF – crimes against the financial interests of the European Union

SIM – Subscriber Identity Module

THB – trafficking in human beings

UNITAD – United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL

VAT – value added tax

WBCJ – Western Balkans Criminal Justice Project

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