



Brussels, 13.3.2017
C(2017) 1544 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 13.3.2017

**on concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2017 and the financing for the
implementation of the Justice Programme**

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a Justice Programme for the period 2014 to 2020¹, and in particular Article 10 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure implementation of the Justice Programme it is necessary to adopt a financing decision and the work programme for 2017. Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012³ establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) It is appropriate to authorise award of grants without a call for proposals to the bodies identified in the work programme and for the reasons provided therein.
- (3) This Decision should allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of the Financial Regulation and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012.
- (4) For the application of this Decision, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012.
- (5) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Justice Committee established by Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 *The work programme*

The annual work programme for the implementation of the Justice Programme for 2017, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

¹ OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 73.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

The annual work programme constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 84 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for the year 2017 is set at EUR 52 631 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the European Union for 2017:

(a) budget line 33 03 02: EUR 15 789 000

(b) budget line 33 03 01: EUR 33 710 000

(c) budget line 18 06 01: EUR 3 132 000

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

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum contribution set in Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

In implementing this decision, the authorising officer responsible may apply the type of changes referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 4
Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the bodies identified in the Annex (1.2.2, and 2.3.2), in accordance with the conditions specified therein.

Done at Brussels, 13.3.2017

For the Commission
Věra JOUROVÁ
Member of the Commission

ANNEX
**to the Commission Implementing Decision concerning the adoption of the work
programme for 2017 and the financing for the implementation of the Justice
Programme**

Justice Programme - Work Programme for 2017

Introduction

The Annual Work Programme 2017 (AWP) for the Justice Programme has been set up to facilitate and support the implementation of the actions in the area of justice established in the Commission's work programme adopted on 25 October 2016 and the European Agenda on Security adopted on 28 April 2015¹.

In the area of civil justice, ensuring the correct application and enforcement of the considerable existing acquis relating to judicial cooperation in civil matters is key. Some of this acquis has now been revised in order to increase efficiency and better respond to the needs of citizens and practitioners. This requires a particular focus on implementation and evaluation, both through specific Commission actions and support to key actors via action and operating grants. For example, in 2017, the European Account Protection Order Regulation, the revised Insolvency Regulation and the revised Small Claims Regulation will enter into application. This also fully complies with the Better Regulation Agenda, the aim of which is to promote constant and consistent review of existing EU laws, so that EU policies achieve their objectives in the most effective and efficient way. As shown by the Commission Report of March 2016², the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters is a very useful tool in this regard and plays a fundamental function when it comes to the implementation and effective application of available Union instruments in the area of civil justice.

As in the previous years, significant resources will be devoted to the training of judges, prosecutors and other legal practitioners on civil and criminal law instruments. Training is key for the correct application of the already adopted instruments and building bridges between different justice systems. This work also takes into account the Council Conclusions of 9 June 2016³ whereby the Council recalls the importance of awareness-raising, training and best practice sharing with regard to the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights at national and EU level. Training on increasing awareness on the scope and application of the Charter will therefore be a priority, with substantial funds allocated.

As far as the area of criminal justice is concerned, there is a need to support and monitor the proper implementation of Directive 2014/41/EU regarding the European Investigation order, which has to be transposed by May 2017, and to prepare the ground for the operational set-up of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) which is currently under negotiation.

¹ COM(2015)185 final

² http://ec.europa.eu/justice/criminal/files/final_report_2015_en.pdf

³ Council of the European Union, Outcome of the Council Meeting, 3473rd Council meeting, Justice and Home Affairs, Luxembourg, 9 and 10 June 2016, 9979/16

In addition, activities such as expert meetings required to implement actions on e-evidence and a platform for Mutual Legal Assistance requests regarding e-evidence - a follow-up to the Council Conclusions of 9 June 2016⁴ on improving criminal justice in cyberspace - need to be financed. Finally, depending on the progress made on the adoption of the ECRIS TCN legislative proposal, financial resources have been earmarked for possible preliminary IT analysis work regarding the extension of the ECRIS system to Third Country Nationals.

The implementation and further development of procedural rights of suspects and accused and of victims of crime are relevant to achieve the objective of access to justice. The Directive 2013/48/EU on the right of access to a lawyer and to communicate upon arrest⁵ entered into application in November 2016 and calls for adequate financial support to ensure proper implementation. Also the Victims' Rights Directive⁶ which entered into application in November 2015 still faces difficulties in implementation in many Member States. This shows the continued need to ensure the effectiveness of victims' rights through the practical implementation of EU instruments. Many of the actions in the area of criminal law also contribute to the implementation of the European Agenda for Security of 28 April 2015.

Through the development of the e-Justice Portal, the programme will contribute to the creation of more effectively and efficiently functioning justice systems and the facilitation of the citizens' access to justice. The Commission also intends to pursue information collection exercise through the EU Justice Scoreboard.

Overview of the 2017 Implementation

Specific objectives - Budget lines	Total Amount	% of the 2017 Programme funds
Judicial cooperation – Budget line 33 03 02	15 789 000 EUR	30,00 %
Judicial training – Budget line 33 03 01	18 048 000 EUR	34,30 %
Access to justice – Budget line 33 03 01	15 662 000 EUR	29,75 %
Drugs – Budget line 18 06 01	3 132 000 EUR	5,95 %
TOTAL	52 631 000 EUR	100,00 %

Grants/Procurement/Other	Total Amount	% of the 2017 Programme funds
Grants	39 174 000 EUR	74,43 %
Procurement	13 422 000 EUR	25,57 %
Other	35 000 EUR	
TOTAL	52 631 000 EUR	100,00 %

Overview of the 2014-2020 allocation

FUNDS allocated to the Justice Programme

Art. 8 of Regulation 1382/2013	377 604 000 EUR
2014 -2020 Total Amount	377 604 000 EUR

⁴ ibid

⁵ Directive 2013/48/EU on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings, and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty (to be transposed before 27 Nov. 2016)

⁶ Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime

At present, the countries participating in the Programme are all EU Member States with the exception of United Kingdom and Denmark. Albania will partly join the Programme as of 2017. Should third countries, i.e. EFTA States that are party to the EEA, or candidate countries, potential candidates and countries acceding to the Union, conclude an agreement with the Union on their participation in the Programme as of 2017, this will be announced in the relevant call for proposals and/or on the Programme's website.

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

All activities implemented under this work programme shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and promote equality between women and men and the rights of the child.

Activities implemented under this work programme shall ensure consistency, complementarity and synergies with activities supported by other Union instruments including, inter alia: the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme; in the areas of home affairs, such as the Instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management, as part of the Internal Security Fund; in the areas of health and consumer protection, such as the third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020); in the areas of education, training, youth and sport, such as the Erasmus+ Programme; in the areas of information society and research, such as the Connecting Europe Facility and the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme; and enlargement, in particular the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II).

Essential selection and award criteria for action grant calls

The essential selection and award criteria to be used for all action grant calls described in this work programme, unless specified otherwise in the specific call section, are as follows:

1. Grant applicants must meet the following **selection criteria**:

- (a) The applicants' operational and professional capacity to implement and/or coordinate the proposed action and to maintain their activities during the period of implementation of the proposed action;
- (b) The applicants' financial capability: the applicants should have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activities throughout the period during which the project is being carried out and to participate in its funding.

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to International Organisations and public bodies.

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

- (a) Relevance to the priorities of the call;
- (b) Quality of the proposed action;

- (c) European added value of the project;
- (d) Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact;
- (e) Cost-effectiveness.

The essential eligibility criteria are specific to each call.

1. BUDGET LINE 33 03 02: FACILITATING AND SUPPORTING JUDICIAL COOPERATION IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL MATTERS

1.1. Introduction

On the basis of the objective of **facilitating and supporting judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters** covered by this budget line, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for the year 2017 as follows:

- action grants (1.2):	7 912 000 EUR
- operating grants (1.3):	970 000 EUR
- procurement (1.4):	6 872 000 EUR
- other (1.5):	35 000 EUR
TOTAL:	15 789 000 EUR

1.2. Action Grants

1.2.1. TOPIC 1 – Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects to promote judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

BUDGET LINE

33 03 02

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

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

The priorities for 2017 are

Judicial cooperation in civil matters:

1. to contribute to the correct implementation of, in particular, the following instruments:

- the recast of the Brussels I Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1215/2012
- the Insolvency Regulation for its impact on economic recovery (Regulation (EU) No 2015/848 on insolvency proceedings (recast), applicable from June 2017)
- the European Account Preservation Order (Regulation (EU) No 655/2014 establishing a European Account Preservation Order procedure to facilitate cross-border debt recovery in civil and commercial matters, applicable from January 2017)
- the revised Small Claims Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 861/2007 establishing a European Small Claims Procedure, applicable from June 2017)
- the applicable law instruments Rome I and Rome II Regulations, because of the need for

monitoring of their implementation

- family law instruments, because of the importance of the subjects dealt with for the daily life of EU citizens, notably:
 - Regulation (EU) No 650/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and acceptance and enforcement of authentic instruments in matters of succession and on the creation of a European Certificate of Succession;
 - Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 of 27 November 2003 concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility, repealing Regulation (EC) No 1347/2000
 - Council Regulation (EU) No 1259/2010 of 20 December 2010 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of the law applicable to divorce and legal separation
 - Council Regulation (EC) No 4/2009 of 18 December 2008 on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and cooperation in matters relating to maintenance obligations
 - Council Regulation (EU) 2016/1103 of 24 June 2016 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of matrimonial property regimes
 - Council Regulation (EU) 2016/1104 of 24 June 2016 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of the property consequences of registered partnerships
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2. raising awareness on the European Account Preservation Order Regulation, the revised Small Claims Regulation and the revised Insolvency Regulation as well as on the Union family law instruments, as they directly affect the daily lives of citizens.

3. raising awareness on Regulation (EU) No 606/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters, while taking into account Directive 2011/99/EU regarding protection orders in criminal matters, and the wider context of functioning of Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime.

Judicial cooperation in criminal matters:

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

1. Priority shall be given to the implementation and practical application of the following mutual recognition instruments:

- Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA on the European arrest warrant
- Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA on transfer of prisoners
- Framework Decision 2008/947/JHA on probation and alternative sanctions
- Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA on the European Supervision Order
- Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA on financial penalties

- Directive 2011/99 on the European Protection Order
- Directive 2014/41/EU on the European Investigation Order in criminal matters.

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

2. Priority shall also be given to:

- The efficient contribution to the European Agenda on Security as regards the judicial responses to terrorism, notably on countering terrorist financing and on reinforcing the prevention of radicalisation, especially in prisons;
- Issues related to pre-trial detention, in particular raising awareness of case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in this field;
- Work to improve cross-border access to electronic evidence (with the exception of e-Justice projects), in line with/complementing the ongoing work of the Commission on this topic;
- The functioning of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties or other Treaties containing provisions on Mutual Legal Assistance with third States (e.g. EU-US MLA Agreement, Budapest Cybercrime Convention), in particular with respect to the exchange of electronic data and financial information
- Preparatory work on the operational set-up of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).

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

Description of the activities

This topic will cover the following activities:

- analytical activities, such as data collection, surveys, research activities, etc;
- mutual learning, identifying and exchange of best practices, development of working methods which may be transferable to other participating countries;
- exchange and provision of information and development of information tools;
- capacity building for professionals;
- facilitating cooperation between competent authorities and agencies, legal practitioners and/or service providers (including multi-disciplinary networks at international, national, regional or local levels);
- dissemination and awareness raising activities;
- training activities can also be funded under this call, as long as they are of ancillary nature and not the main purpose of the project.

Essential eligibility criteria

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

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

Expected results

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

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of this topic:

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-JCOO-AG-2017	Q2 2017	7 612 000 EUR

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80%

1.2.2. Direct grant to Council of Europe for SPACE report and EU network of prison monitoring bodies

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 (1) (a), 6 (1) and 7 (4) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application

BUDGET LINE

33 03 02

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

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

a) SPACE report

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

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

b) EU network of prison monitoring bodies in the Member States

The grant to the Council of Europe covers activities aimed at the setting up of an EU network of independent prison monitoring bodies such as National Preventative Mechanisms (NPMs) which Member States have set up following ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

The activity has started in 2016. It allows bodies monitoring prisons in the Member States to meet regularly within an informal network to discuss detention matters and exchange best practice in this field. Among the subjects which could be discussed are the possible difficulties in relation to the application of Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA on the Transfer of Prisoners, issues related to radicalisation in prisons, and the importance of detention conditions on the proper functioning of the European arrest warrant (EAW) as a result of the judgment of the Court of Justice in joined Cases C-404/15 and C-659/15, Aranyosi and Caldaru.

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

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

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

Description of the activities to be funded under the grant

This grant will cover the following activities:

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

Expected results

- national authorities responsible for monitoring of detention conditions operate in cooperation and coordination with other responsible agencies and institutions across the EU;
- improved standards for measuring detention conditions in the Member States in line with EU acquis, in particular the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and international instruments such as the Council of Europe European Prison Rules;
- approximation of the administrative practices in relation to monitoring of prisons in different Member States;
- strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities in relation to detention conditions in the Member States;
- improved knowledge on the legislation and administrative practices related to detention conditions in the Member States;
- reduced risks of hampering judicial cooperation in criminal matters in proceedings related to the European arrest warrant and transfer of custodial sentences to other Member States.

Essential selection and award criteria

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

- (a) Relevance to the priorities announced in the invitation from the Commission to submit a proposal;
- (b) Quality of the proposed action;
- (c) European added value of the project;
- (d) Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact;
- (e) Cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the invitation to submit a proposal

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-JCOO-COEU-AG-2017	Q1 2017	300 000 EUR

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80%

1.3. Operating grants

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

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

BUDGET LINE

33 03 02

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

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

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

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

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

1. To be **eligible**, applications must comply with all of the following criteria:
 - (a) The applicant for the Framework Partnership must be a private non-profit-oriented organisation duly established in one of the countries participating in the Programme;
 - (b) The applicant for the Framework Partnership must be an established formal network with own legal personality or represent (as a joint secretariat or officially appointed coordinator) an established formal network, must be organised at European level and have member organisations/bodies or authorities in at least 14 participating countries. Only the network or the organisation appointed as the joint secretariat/officially appointed coordinator may submit an application, the member organisations are not eligible to apply.
 - (c) The network's statutory aims must fall under the objective of the Programme to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and/or in criminal matters.
2. The applicants for Framework Partnership must meet the following **selection criteria**:
 - (a) The applicant's operational and professional capacity to implement and/or coordinate the proposed outline 4-year work programme and to maintain its activities during the 4-year period of implementation of the proposed outline work programme;
 - (b) The applicant's financial capability: the applicant should have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout the 4-year period during which the proposed outline work programme is being carried out and to participate in its funding.
3. Proposals will be assessed based on the following **award criteria**:
 - (a) Relevance to the priorities of the call;
 - (b) Quality of the outline 4-year work programme;
 - (c) European added value of the outline 4-year work programme;
 - (d) Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact;
 - (e) Cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-JCOO-NETW-2017	Q2 2017	<i>n.a.</i>

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80% of the total eligible costs under each annual operating grant

1.3.2. Operating grants under Framework Partnership Agreements in the area of facilitating and supporting judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

BUDGET LINE

33 03 02

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

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

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

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

Essential award criteria

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

- (a) extent to which the proposed annual work programme of Framework Partners addresses the priorities announced by the Commission and is coherent with the outline work programme of the Framework Partnership Agreement;
- (b) quality of the annual work programme, which must be clear, realistic and well detailed;
- (c) European added value of the annual work programme;
- (d) Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact;

(e) Cost-effectiveness.

Expected results

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

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable of the invitation to submit proposals and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-JCOO-NETW-OG-2017	Q2 2017	970 000 EUR

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80%

1.4. Procurement

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

BUDGET LINE

33 03 02

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged (study / technical assistance / evaluation / survey / IT/ communication services/etc.)

In 2017 the Commission intends to undertake several actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tenders, and new and existing framework contracts) or administrative arrangements. Conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities may be organised, development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems may be supported or surveys and studies and impact assessments may be undertaken as far as they are needed to monitor the proper implementation of existing legislation or to prepare, or accompany new legislation or to respond to policy changes in the area covered by the Programme.

It may cover in particular the following actions:

- Management, analytical and information activities of the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters, including:
 - Meetings and workshops of the European Judicial Network (Q1- Q4, framework contract)
 - Printing and distribution of the brochure for legal practitioners on the EJM, and practice guides such as those on taking of evidence, European payment order, European enforcement order and the citizens' guide on successions (Q1-Q4, framework contract)
- Maintenance of the JURE database on the judgements in civil and commercial matters (Q1-Q4, sub-delegation to the EU Publication Office)
- Printing and distribution of the compendium on EU legislation in civil and commercial matters (Q1- 4, framework contract);
- Leaflet to raise awareness on European Account Preservation Order Regulation (Q2, new framework contract)
- Updating of the Guide on Small Claims Regulation (Q1-Q3, new framework contract)
- Joint conference with Hague Conference on Private International Law on international protection of adults (Q1 2018, new framework contract)
- Joint Presidency conference (Q3-Q4, new framework contract)
- Information campaign on the new small claims Regulation (Q3, new framework contract)
- Update of the EJM-civil citizens' guide to cross-border civil litigation in the European Union (Q2-Q4, new framework contract)
- EJM-civil practice guide on consumer contracts in the context of the Rome I Regulation (Q2–Q4, new framework contract)
- Expert meetings and ad hoc committees to implement civil judicial cooperation instruments, in

particular the Public Documents Regulation (Q1-Q4, new framework contract)

- Translation of the Practical Guide on the Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children in all EU official languages (Q1-Q4, new framework contract)
- Studies/workshops/expert meetings to evaluate existing instruments and/or prepare new legislation in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters (Q1-Q4 2017, new framework contract)
- Compliance assessment studies of mutual recognition instruments (Q1-Q4, new framework contract)
- Platform for MLA requests regarding e-evidence (Q2-Q3, new framework contract)
- Expert meeting(s) required to implement actions on e-evidence (Q1-Q4, new framework contract)
- Preparatory work for the establishment of the EPPO, including capacity building at national level (Q3-Q4, new framework contract)
- Support and Maintenance of the ECRIS Reference Implementation (Q1-Q4, framework contract)
- Upgrading ECRIS to improve exchange of criminal record information on third country nationals: software analysis (Q3-Q4, new framework contract)
- New major development projects concerning the e-Justice Portal (e.g. concerning the development of an e-evidence communication platform)
- Interim evaluation of the Justice Programme 2014-2020 (Q1, new framework contract)

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 17

Indicative number of specific contracts based on existing framework contracts envisaged: 8

Implementation

By DG JUST and, where indicated, by the Publication Office based on a cross sub-delegation

Total budget available

EUR 6 872 000 (incl. experts meetings EUR 672 000)

1.5. Other Actions

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

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

Council Decision (EC) No 2006/719 of 5.10.2006 on the accession of the Community to the Hague Conference on Private International Law⁷.

BUDGET LINE

33 03 02

Amount

EUR 35 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

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

⁷

Council Decision (EC) No 2006/719 of 5.10.2006 on the accession of the Community to the Hague Conference on Private International Law, OJ L 297, 26.10.2006, p. 1.

2. BUDGET LINE 33 03 01: SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING JUDICIAL TRAINING AND FACILITATING EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

2.1. Introduction

On the basis of the two objectives of the Justice Programme covered by this budget line, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for the year 2017 as follows:

- action grants (2.2):	15 450 000 EUR
- operating grants (2.3):	12 210 000 EUR
- procurement (2.4):	6 050 000 EUR

Table breakdown per specific objective:

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	Amount
to support and promote judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture	18 048 000 EUR
Action grants (2.2.1, 2.2.2)	6 898 000 EUR
Operating grant to beneficiary identified in the legal base (2.3.2)	10 200 000 EUR
Procurement (2.4)	950 000 EUR
to facilitate effective access to justice for all, including to promote and support the rights of victims of crime, while respecting the rights of the defence	15 662 000 EUR
Action grants (2.2.3, 2.2.4)	8 552 000 EUR
Operating grants (2.3.3)	2 010 000 EUR
Procurement (2.4)	5 100 000 EUR
TOTAL	33 710 000 EUR

2.2. Action Grants

2.2.1. Topic 2 – Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects on judicial training covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to support and promote judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture

BUDGET LINE

33 03 01

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The objective is to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law in the areas of civil law (including consumer law), criminal law and fundamental rights, to judicial ethics and the rule of

law, by covering training needs' gaps in these fields. It also targets the specific training needs of court staff.

The priorities of 2017 will concentrate funding on training activities and tools for training providers described below:

1. tackle gaps in cross-border cooperation of training providers, mainly by

a) setting up or expanding a network of contact points of training providers (or similar cooperation mechanisms) for lawyers, notaries, court staff/bailiffs, prison and probation staff with the aim of exchanging information on training needs in EU law or implementation of sanctions in respect of fundamental rights and countering radicalisation, opening national training activities to foreign participants, exchange of trainers, finding partners for regional training activities and/or collecting information on training possibilities for the European Training Platform,

b) start cooperation among private training providers for legal professions (in particular lawyers), aiming at expanding the offer in EU law training, the implementation of the advice for training providers by DG Justice and contributing to the yearly report on European judicial training by DG Justice,

c) preparatory work that will facilitate more recognition of foreign training activities to fulfil training obligations for lawyers (e.g. analysis of gaps of current recognition practice and development of a system to close them),

d) cross-border initial training activities (face-to-face activities or exchanges), covering as many Member states as possible, to create a common European legal culture from the start of entering a legal profession (except for newly appointed judges and prosecutors for whom the equivalent activity is funded via the operating grant for the EJTN),

e) organising joint study visits to EU courts by legal practitioners (other than judges/prosecutors, already covered by the operating grant for the EJTN) from as many different Member States as possible;

2. tackle gaps in training on EU law for court staff and bailiffs by cross-border training activities on all areas of EU civil, criminal and fundamental rights law relevant for their judicial work;

3. support the training of mainly judges, prosecutors, lawyers and notaries on EU civil, criminal and fundamental rights law, legal systems of the Member States, judicial ethics and the rule of law, knowledge of cross-border IT tools and linguistic skills of legal practitioners in areas with particular added value, in particular by

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

b) cross-border training activities for multipliers, such as judicial trainers or EU law court coordinators, where there are guarantees that the multipliers will pass on their knowledge to other legal practitioners in a systematic way,

c) training activities with participants from at least two of the profession areas judges/prosecutors, lawyers/notaries, courts staff/bailiffs, court experts/court interpreters, prison/probation staff, in order to stimulate discussions across judicial professions about the application of EU law and so to contribute to create a European legal culture across professional boundaries.

For priority area 3), an evidenced-based needs assessment for the topic of the training activity is particularly important.

Target group

In general, this call supports training of members of the judiciary and judicial staff, meaning judges, prosecutors court officers, other legal practitioners associated with the judiciary, such as lawyers, notaries, bailiffs, insolvency practitioners and mediators, as well as court interpreters and translators, prison and probation staff. For each priority it is indicated which part of the target group is addressed.

Distribution of financial support between different topics

When deciding on the allocation of grants, a fair balance between topics and/or target audience may be sought. Grants addressing the priorities 1.a and 1.b are preferred.

Moreover, priority will be given to projects that do not duplicate existing training material or on-going projects but that act in complementarity or that innovate.

Description of the activities to be funded under this topic

Projects must be transnational and involve organisations from at least two participating countries. In addition the training activities implemented by each project must include participants (trainees) from different participating countries.

As far as nothing more specific is indicated in the priorities, this call will fund training activities such as:

- Organisation of interactive, practice-oriented seminars (including implementation of training modules created by the Commission on European legislation in civil law);
- Multilateral exchanges between legal practitioners (except for judges and prosecutors whose training bodies are members of the EJTN and may thus take part in the exchanges organised by the EJTN);
- Creation of training content, whether for presential learning, blended learning or e-learning, either ready-to-use by trainers or by practitioners for self-learning;
- Tools for training providers (for example: train-the-trainers events, tools to support the organisation of training in other Member States, etc.).

If nothing else is indicated in the priority, the activities can take place in the context of initial training (induction-period) or continuous training of the participants (for example: training activities to familiarize newly appointed legal practitioners with EU legislation and judicial cooperation instruments; or more specialised training activities for practicing legal practitioners).

Projects targeting "legal systems of the Member States" (in priority 3.) should cover the legal systems which have particular relevance for the participants and involve experienced legal practitioners who will be able to compare experience and practice of application of EU legal instruments.

Training methodology

Applications should notably take into account recommendations resulting from the EU pilot project on European Judicial Training⁸ or expand good practices⁹ revealed by this pilot project to other Member States or legal professions.

Duration

⁸ The reports of the pilot project on the European e-Justice Portal: https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_the_european_judicial_training_policy-121-en.do

⁹ Good judicial training practices on the European e-Justice Portal: https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_good_training_practices-311-en.do

The initial project duration should not exceed 36 months.

Dissemination strategy

The funded projects are expected to have a useful strategy of disseminating their results to other training providers and/or potential participants.

Essential eligibility criteria

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

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

(b) the applications must be transnational and involve organisations from at least two participating countries;

(c) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 30 000

Expected results

- Increased knowledge of EU civil, criminal and fundamental rights instruments among legal practitioners;
- Improved mutual trust between legal practitioners in cross-border judicial cooperation;
- Improved cooperation of training providers of the different legal professions;
- Increased awareness on the added value and scope of application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights among judges, public prosecutors, lawyers and practitioners to strengthen fundamental rights protection across the EU.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of this topic

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-JTRA-EJTR-AG-2017	Q2 2017	6 098 000 EUR

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80%

2.2.2. Call for proposals for action grants to support training of national judges in EU competition law and judicial cooperation between national competition law judges

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to support and promote judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture

BUDGET LINE

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The objective is to contribute to an effective and coherent application of EU competition law in the Member States. This includes both antitrust rules (Articles 101 and 102 TFEU) and state aid rules (Article 107 and 108 TFEU).

The priority areas of this call for proposals are:

- Improvement of knowledge, application and interpretation of EU competition law;
- Development of legal linguistic skills of national judges.

Description of the activities

This call will fund:

training activities aiming to ensure a coherent and effective application of EU competition rules and an improvement of legal linguistic skills by national courts.

Distribution of financial support between different priorities and allocation of points

When deciding on the allocation of grants, a fair balance between priorities will be sought. The Commission shall therefore finance at least two projects (if enough applications are submitted) of each of the above two priority areas.

Moreover preference will be given to projects that:

- Provide for a training foreseeing consecutive levels, building up one on another;
- Do not simply duplicate/overlap existing/planned training material or existing/future projects but that act in complementarity or that innovate
- Address judges from several member states in one training and thus encourage networking

Financial provisions

Beneficiaries shall declare eligible costs for accommodation and meals/refreshments of participants/speakers/interpreters of the trainings on the basis of unit costs, the amounts of which are established in accordance with Commission Decision C(2008)6215 approving the General implementing provisions adopting the Guide to missions for officials and other servants of the European Commission, unless a specific ad hoc decision(s) is adopted in the meantime.

50% daily rate will apply to meals/refreshments for half day seminars. These unit costs give a reasonable approximation of the costs typically incurred by persons staying in a different location than their own, no matter for what purpose.

The use of unit costs is justified by the nature of the eligible costs covered by the unit costs (accommodation and subsistence costs for the participants/speakers/interpreters in the trainings requiring the extensive verification of actual costs incurred for relatively small amounts). The authorisation of unit costs will simplify the management of the grants by alleviating the administrative and financial burden for the beneficiaries when reporting and for the Commission when verifying the costs actually incurred. Unit costs will also apply to accommodation and subsistence costs for project staff.

The majority of beneficiaries participating in this call will be public entities, thus the risk of fraud or irregularities is assessed as relatively low.

The compliance with the co-financing principle will be ensured by the application of the applicable co-financing rate to the eligible costs declared on the basis of unit costs.

The compliance with the no-profit principle will be ensured at the time of verification of the final

financial statement of the beneficiary.

Avoidance of double financing is ensured by clear identification of the categories of costs covered by the unit costs (accommodation costs and meals/refreshments).

Essential eligibility and award criteria

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

- (a) applicants must be public authorities, public or private organisations duly established in one of the eligible countries, or an international organisation. Organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations.
- (b) the project must target the members of the target group as defined in the call for proposal;
- (c) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 50 000 or higher than EUR 400 000;
- (d) the project must not have started prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

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

- (a) Relevance to the objectives, priorities and preferences of the call;
- (b) The intrinsic quality of the project as regards its design, presentation, organisation and implementation;
- (c) Geographical scope of the project in terms of partners, participants and target group;
- (d) Expected results, dissemination and sustainability;
- (e) Cost-effectiveness.

Expected results

- Improved coherent and consistent application of directly applicable EU competition laws by national courts in the member states, including State Aid rules.
- Consistent and coherent antitrust damages actions of national courts, based on national laws transposing an EU Directive.
- Strengthened cooperation and networking possibilities among member states judges in relation to commonly applicable EU competition laws.
- Improved English legal language skills to enable national judges to follow cross border trainings and network/exchange on relevant EU competition law.
- Creation of a common understanding and a level playing field in the application of EU competition rules and relevant economic scrutiny in State Aid, cartel- and antitrust cases.
- Enabling national judges to strive for a coherent jurisprudence when confronted with developments at the interface between competition law and new legal or economic developments (e.g. e-commerce and intellectual property laws).

Implementation

By DG COMP based on a co-delegation

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
COMP-2017	Q2 2017	800 000 EUR

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80% as normal maximum rate.

90% in exceptional and duly justified cases, notably for:

- European, national or sub-national entities specifically created with the purpose of training "judicial staff" as defined in the Call for Proposals;
- European, national and sub-national associations of competition law judges;
- Applicants originating from EU Member States under financial assistance or surveillance (Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Romania and Spain).

2.2.3. Topic 3 – Call for proposals for action grants to support national or transnational e-Justice projects

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to facilitate effective access to justice for all, including to promote and support the rights of victims of crime, while respecting the rights of the defence

BUDGET LINE

33 03 01

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The objective is to contribute to achieving the objectives of the European e-Justice Strategy 2014-2018. It will support the implementation of e-Justice projects within the European e-Justice Portal and at national level, in as far as they have a European dimension.

The priority is to support the implementation of a platform for Mutual Legal Assistance requests regarding e-evidence, in line with the Conclusions of the Council of the European Union on improving criminal justice in cyberspace, adopted on 9 June 2016.

Moreover, priority will be given to projects aiming at joining or enhancing existing or on-going e-Justice portal projects, in particular:

- Interconnection of National Insolvency Registers (IRI);
- Find a Lawyer (FAL);
- Find a Notary (FAN);
- Find a Bailiff (FAB);
- Implementation of the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) in case law repositories and interconnection with the e-Justice Portal;
- Land Registers Interconnection (LRI);
- European Court Database;
- Other e-Justice portal projects related to development of the relevant EU policies, such as victims' rights, rights of suspects and accused in criminal proceedings, and projects which are in advanced stage of development or already live on the Portal at the moment when the call is published.

In addition, the Consumer Law Database, an e-Justice project being developed in 2016-2017, will receive funding for content update from the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme.

Transnational projects will receive a higher priority than national ones. Other projects which support

the implementation of the e-Justice Strategy 2014-2018 and its Action Plan will not be excluded. In particular, applications related to projects having an A-priority under the Action Plan are also encouraged.

Description of the activities to be funded under this topic

Project activities under this call would in principle include analytical, conceptual, design and elaboration work, IT software development, quality assurance and related auxiliary measures necessary for the establishment of new IT systems, as well as the expansion and adaptation of existing national and transnational solutions towards addressing the objectives of the call. The requirements of the eIDAS Regulation and the use of CEF Digital Building Blocks should be taken into account.

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

Essential eligibility criteria

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

- (a) applicants must be public entities or private organisations, duly established in one of the countries participating in the Programme, or an international organisation. Organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit-oriented organisations;
- (b) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 75 000.

Expected results

- implementation of a platform for Mutual Legal Assistance requests regarding e-evidence
- improved participation with the aim of achieving full EU coverage concerning all voluntary e-Justice interconnection projects – Find a lawyer, Find a notary, ECLI, LRI, etc.;
- reduced risks and possibility to allow Member States to achieve early compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2015/848 on insolvency proceedings;
- possibility to launch potentially innovative projects and best practices concerning access to and the administration of justice at a national and in a cross-border context;
- improved awareness of on-going and future e-Justice activities

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of this topic:

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-JACC-EJU-AG-2017	Q2 2017	3 552 000 EUR

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80%

2.2.4. Topic 4 – Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects to enhance the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and the rights of victims of crime

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to facilitate effective access to justice for all, including to promote and support the rights of victims of crime, while respecting the rights of the defence

BUDGET LINE

33 03 01

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The aim of this call is twofold: to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU criminal law in the area of the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and to the preparation of new EU action, and to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU criminal law in the area of the rights of victims of crime.

Actions may include forward looking initiatives regarding gaps in EU legislation where further needs for EU actions are called for.

The main priority is the implementation and practical application of the following instruments:

1. Rights of persons suspected or accused of crime:

- Directive 2013/48 on the right of access to a lawyer and to communicate upon arrest;
- Directive (EU) 2016/343 on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and the right to be present at one's trial
- Directive (EU) 2016/800 Directive on procedural safeguards for children who are suspected or accused persons in criminal proceedings

2. Rights of the victims:

- Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime
- Council Directive 2004/80/EC of 29 April 2004 relating to compensation to crime victims

Description of the activities to be funded under this topic

This call will cover the following activities:

- analytical activities, such as data collection and creation of data bases, surveys, research etc;
- mutual learning, exchange of good practices, development of working methods which may be transferable to other participating countries;
- exchange and provision of information and development of information tools;
- capacity building for professionals;
- facilitating cooperation between competent authorities and agencies, legal practitioners and/or service providers (including multi-disciplinary networks at international, national, regional or local levels);
- Dissemination and awareness raising activities.

Training activities can also be funded under this call, as long as they are of ancillary nature and not the

main purpose of the project.

Essential eligibility criteria

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

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

Expected results

- increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and the rights of victims of crime;
- strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities in relation to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and the rights of victims of crime;
- increase protection and support to the most vulnerable victims of crime
- improved knowledge on the legislation and administrative practices related to specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating to the issues such as referring victims to the relevant support services, victims' access to information in the area of victims' rights and rights of suspects and accused in criminal proceedings;
- harmonisation of the administrative practices in relation to the relevant legislation in different Member States;
- reduced risks in breaches of fair trial rights and victims' rights;
- the legal framework and regulations linked to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and the rights of victims of crime are in line with EU acquis;
- improved cooperation of NGOs and professional organisations in the field of the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and the rights of victims of crime;
- increased number of reported crimes , including hate crimes and other specific forms of crime
- increased number of victims' support organisations;
- Increased awareness of policy makers related to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and the rights of victims of crime;
- Increased awareness of all persons coming into contact with persons suspected or accused of crime and victims of crime about their rights.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of this topic

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-JACC-AG-2017	Q2-Q3 2017	5 000 000 EUR

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80%

2.3. Operating grants

2.3.1. *Call for 4-year Framework Partnership Agreements to support European networks active in the area of access to justice*

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to facilitate effective access to justice for all, including to promote and support the rights of victims of crime, while respecting the rights of the defence

BUDGET LINE

33 03 01

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

This call aims to establish 4-year Framework Partnership Agreements with European networks whose statutory aims are to facilitate effective access to justice for all. The annual operating grants to be signed on the basis of these Framework Partnership Agreements will enhance the capacities of these networks to contribute actively to the development and implementation of the EU policies in this area.

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

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

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) Relevance to the priorities of the call;
- (b) Quality of the outline 4-year work programme;

(c) European added value of the outline 4-year work programme;
(d) Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact;
(e) Cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-JACC-NETW-2017	Q2 2017	<i>n.a.</i>

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80% of the total eligible costs under each annual operating grant

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

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(2) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to support and promote judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture

Article 190(1)(d) of the Rules of Application

BUDGET LINE

33 03 01

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Pursuant to Article 6 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013, the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) shall receive an operating grant to co-finance expenditure associated with its permanent work programme.

The work programme of the EJTN should be in line with the 2011 Commission Communication on European judicial training (COM/2011/551) and, in particular, strive to increase its number of activities and of participants as well as continue to develop the Aiakos exchange programme for new judges and prosecutors while increasing the number of exchanges for experienced practitioners.

The EJTN should also continue to promote high quality training methodologies and strive to make the most of its partnerships with European judicial networks.

Description of the activities to be funded

The operating grant to the EJTN will finance activities which contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Programme in particular training activities with EU added value.

Essential award criteria

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

- (a) extent to which the proposed annual work programme addresses the priorities;
- (b) quality of the annual work programme, which must be clear, realistic and well detailed;
- (c) European added value of the annual work programme;
- (d) financial quality of the proposal, including the existence of a clear, detailed, and reasonable budget, which is coherent with the annual work programme.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable of the invitation to submit a proposal and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-JTRA-EJTN-OG-2018	Q4 2017	10 200 000 EUR

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

96 %

2.3.3. Operating grants under Framework Partnership Agreements in the area of access to justice

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to facilitate effective access to justice for all, including to promote and support the rights of victims of crime, while respecting the rights of the defence

BUDGET LINE

33 03 01

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

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

Description of the activities to be funded

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

Essential award criteria

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

- (a) extent to which the proposed annual work programme of Framework Partners addresses the priorities announced by the Commission and is coherent with the outline work programme of the Framework Partnership Agreement;
- (b) quality of the annual work programme, which must be clear, realistic and well detailed;
- (c) European added value of the annual work programme;
- (d) Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact;
- (e) Cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

By DG JUST

Indicative timetable of the invitation to submit proposals and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-JACC-NETW-OG-2017	Q2 2016	2 010 000 EUR

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80%

2.4. Procurement

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to support and promote judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture

Specific objective: to facilitate effective access to justice for all, including to promote and support the rights of victims of crime, while respecting the rights of the defence

BUDGET LINE

33 03 01

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged (study / technical assistance / evaluation / survey / IT / communication services/etc.)

In 2017 the Commission intends to undertake several actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tenders, and new and existing framework contracts) or administrative arrangements. Conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities may be organised, development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems may be supported and studies and impact assessments may be undertaken as far as they are needed in order to prepare, or accompany new legislation or to respond to policy changes in the area covered by the Programme. It may cover in particular the following actions:

- **Specific objective: judicial training**

- Expert group on European judicial training (Q1-Q2 2017, framework contract);
- Conference on European judicial training (Q3 2017, new framework contract);
- Implementation of the recommendations of the expert group on European judicial training by COM (Q1-Q4 2017, new framework contract);
- Organisation of conferences with European, national and/or sub-national associations of competition law judges (Q2-Q4 2017, direct contract or framework contract);
- Provision of targeted training activities (seminars, workshops, conferences, electronic and paper publications and learning tools etc.) aiming to contribute to a coherent and effective application of EU competition rules and improve legal linguistic skills of national courts. This includes both, antitrust rules (Articles 101 and 102 TFEU) and state aid rules (Article 107 and 108 TFEU) (Q2-Q4 2017, framework contract).

- **Specific objective: access to justice**

- Compliance assessment studies of procedural rights instruments (Directive 2013/48/EU on the right of access to a lawyer) (Q2 2017);
- Expert meetings, conferences and workshops on the implementation of the existing EU instruments in criminal matters which strengthen access to justice for victims, suspects and accused persons, in particular Directive (EU) 2016/343 on presumption of innocence and the Directive (EU) 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children, Directive on the European Investigation Order (Q1 2017; framework contracts);
- Studies/workshops/expert meetings to evaluate existing instruments and/or prepare new legislation in the field of rights of individuals in criminal proceedings and the rights of victims of crime (Q1-Q4 2017, new framework contract)

- Actions in the field of e-justice linked to access to justice (Q1-Q4 2017; framework contracts), such as necessary actions for the continued support and corrective and evolutionary maintenance of the e-Justice Portal and its sub-projects (such as intra-muros costs, hosting and software licensing fees (including co-delegation to DIGIT));
- Organisation of conferences, possibly in collaboration with the rotating EU presidencies (Q2-Q4, framework contracts).
- Organisation of the informal expert group of contact persons of national justice systems (Q1-Q4, framework contract)
- Surveys and/or Eurobarometer and/or study providing comparative information on the functioning of national justice systems (Q1-Q2, framework contract)

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 4

Indicative number of specific contracts based on existing framework contracts envisaged: 7

Implementation

By DG JUST and, where indicated, by DIGIT or DG COMP based on a co-delegation

Total budget available

EUR 6 050 000 (incl. experts meetings EUR 700 000)

3. BUDGET LINE 18 06 01: SUPPORTING INITIATIVES IN THE FIELD OF DRUGS POLICY

3.1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in the Justice Programme this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for the year 2016 as follows:

- action grants (3.2):	2 632 000 EUR
- operating grants (3.3):	n.a.
- procurement (3.4):	500 000 EUR
TOTAL:	3 132 000 EUR

3.2. Action grants

3.2.1 *Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects in the area of EU drugs policy*

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to support initiatives in the field of drugs policy as regards judicial cooperation and crime prevention aspects closely linked to the general objective of the Programme, in so far as they are not covered by the Instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management, as part of the Internal Security Fund, or by the third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020)

BUDGET LINE

18 06 01

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The aim of this call is to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law and to support development of new approaches in the area of drugs.

The priorities are:

- To support activities in the area of identification and epidemiology of use of new psychoactive substances;
- To support activities aimed at the effective response to the challenges posed by the online trade of drugs;
- To support the civil society organisations by reinforcing their (i) advocacy function, (ii) capacity to make a difference at the local level, (iii) best practice sharing methods and (iv) knowledge and skills on evidence-based interventions and minimum quality standards in the field of drug demand reduction
- To support key stakeholders in the field of prevention by expanding their knowledge and skills, in particular in the context of minimum quality standards
-

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

This call will fund activities on:

- data collection, surveys and research activities;
- training activities;
- mutual learning, network development, identification and exchange of good practices, cooperation;
- events, conferences, expert meetings;
- dissemination and awareness-raising activities.

Essential eligibility criteria

In order to be **eligible** for a grant the applicant and co-applicants must:

- (a) be legal persons.
- (b) be a public body or a non-profit-making private entity or an international organisation. For-profit entities can only participate as co-beneficiaries. Union agencies cannot submit applications nor be co-applicants.
- (c) be established in a Member State of the European Union participating in the Justice Programme. International organisations may be established outside of the Member States of the European Union participating in the Justice Programme.
- (d) International organisations cannot submit applications; however they may participate as co-beneficiaries.
- (e) Applications must be transnational involving at least 2 entities. Conditions on composition of the partnership will be specified in the calls for proposals.
- g) Proposals seeking EU co-funding of less than EUR 250 000 will be rejected

Expected results

- improved knowledge on the identification and epidemiology of use of new psychoactive substances;
- effective response to the online trade of drugs;
- increased capacity of civil society organisations to act and interact, including in particular in the area of minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction;
- improved implementation of minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction

Implementation

By DG HOME based on a co-delegation

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
JUST-JDRU-DRUG-AG-2016	Q3 2017	2 632 000 EUR

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80%

3.3. Operating grants

n.a.

3.4. Procurement

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to support initiatives in the field of drugs policy as regards judicial cooperation and crime prevention aspects closely linked to the general objective of the Programme, in so far as they are not covered by the Instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management, as part of the Internal Security Fund, or by the third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020)

BUDGET LINE

18 06 01

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged (study / technical assistance / evaluation / survey / IT / communication services/etc.)

In 2017 the Commission intends to undertake several actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tenders and existing framework contracts) or administrative arrangements. Conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities may be organised and studies and impact assessments may be undertaken as far as they are needed in order to prepare, or accompany new legislation or to respond to policy changes in the area covered by the Programme. It may cover in particular the following actions:

- Evaluation of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (Q4 2017; framework contract);
- Organisation of the 2017 plenary session of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs in the EU (Q4 2017; framework contract);
- Expert meetings, technical workshops, events/studies and communication activities.

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: none

Indicative number of specific contracts based on existing framework contracts envisaged: 4

Implementation

By DG HOME

Total budget available

EUR 500 000 (incl. experts meetings EUR 100 000)