



Brussels, 18.7.2024  
C(2024) 4921 final

ANNEXES 1 to 2

## **ANNEXES**

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### **COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**on the financing of the Justice programme and the adoption of the work programme for  
2023-2025, amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 8467 final**

## **ANNEX I**

### **Justice multiannual work programme for 2023-2024**

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**Work programme for 2023-2024 for Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Justice Programme provides funding for the further development of a European area of justice based on the rule of law, mutual recognition, mutual trust and judicial cooperation, thereby also strengthening democracy and fundamental rights.

As set out in the Justice Programme's Regulation<sup>1</sup>, the Programme has the following specific objectives:

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

This is the second Work Programme for the Justice Programme under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 covering, this time, the years 2023-2024.

The Work Programme 2023-2024 takes into consideration the recent geo-political developments, as well as the post-Covid pandemic situation, which have, among others, underlined the need for the rapid digitalisation of the EU Member States' justice systems.

Therefore, the Justice Programme is ready to tackle new emerging challenges (such as the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine) and, at the same time, it will also continue addressing gaps in the policy areas it covers.

In particular, the following challenges with cross-border dimensions or implications have been identified as persisting in all Member States:

- Judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters still faces various obstacles and access to justice remains difficult in some cases. One of the recurrent obstacles to mutual recognition and judicial cooperation is a lack of trust in other Member States' judicial systems. There is also a need to simplify and digitalise communications, facilitate access to procedures and legal information and endeavour towards the connection to and between national systems in a cross-border context. Tools for collecting comparative information about the quality, independence and efficiency of Member States' justice systems need to be improved;

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013.

- The level of knowledge of practitioners about the EU acquis, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and other EU instruments needs to be improved across the Union. National training providers tend to invest their scarce resources in trainings on national law rather than on EU law and in national training activities and do not have the budget to organise cross-border ones involving participants from different Member States.

In the context of economic crises, inequalities and challenges, such as migration, put fundamental rights and EU values to the test. In some cases, the rule of law, access to justice, space for civil society and the independence of the judiciary are also challenged. Effective justice systems play a crucial role in upholding the rule of law and the values upon which the Union is founded and which are common to the Member States. The importance of the rule of law is emphasised by President von der Leyen in her “Political guidelines for the next European Commission 2019-2024”: *‘There can be no compromise when it comes to defending our core values. Threats to the rule of law challenge the legal, political and economic basis of how our Union works’*<sup>2</sup>. Effective justice systems are key for the implementation of EU law and for strengthening mutual trust which is a prerequisite for well-functioning judicial cooperation. Well functioning and fully independent justice systems are also crucial for ensuring that justice works to the benefit of citizens and businesses by contributing to building an investment-friendly environment and maintaining sustainable long-term growth<sup>3</sup>. The Annual Sustainable Growth Survey 2022<sup>4</sup>, confirms the link between effective justice systems and Member States’ business environment. All these aspects, including those related to the rule of law, can have an impact on investment decisions and are therefore important to increase productivity and competitiveness. They are also important for ensuring the effective cross-border enforcement of contracts, administrative decisions and dispute resolution, essential for the smooth functioning of the single market.

In its Communication of 17 July 2019 on *‘Strengthening the rule of law within the Union – A blueprint for action’*<sup>5</sup>, the Commission underlined that the European project relies on respect for the rule of law in all Member States. In this regard, it highlighted that it will make full use of funding possibilities for civil society and academia to support the strengthening of a rule of law culture, in particular among the general public.

Some progress have been already achieved under the Justice Programme in the years 2021 and 2022 and the objective is to continue improving access to justice, judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and the implementation of EU law in the Member States in the years to come.

### *Judicial cooperation*

Ensuring the correct application and enforcement of the existing EU acquis relating to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and continuing to build mutual trust is key.

In the area of civil justice, some of this EU acquis has recently been revised in order to increase efficiency and better respond to the needs of citizens and practitioners. This requires a particular focus on implementation of the new rules, both through specific Commission actions and support to key actors via action and operating grants. As shown by the Commission Report of March 2016<sup>6</sup>, the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial

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<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/political-guidelines-next-commission\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/political-guidelines-next-commission_en_0.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> 2022 Rule of Law report.

<sup>4</sup> [2022 european semester annual sustainable growth survey.pdf \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/2022_european_semester_annual_sustainable_growth_survey.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2019:343:FIN>.

<sup>6</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016DC0129&from=EN>.

matters (EJN civil) is a useful tool in this regard and continues to play a fundamental role when it comes to the implementation and effective application of available Union instruments in the area of civil justice. In order to complement the existing framework, further reviews of the *acquis* as well as new initiatives may be needed in the future to make civil justice more efficient, faster and more economical and to continue to build mutual trust.

Following a first call for proposals launched in 2018 for national networks dealing with civil justice cooperation, continuity of the funding is assured in order to allow the EJN members<sup>7</sup> to firmly establish and fully develop national judicial cooperation networks. The objective of the funding for such networks is twofold: the organisation of national judicial cooperation networks for Member States who do not have them and the strengthening of functioning of existing networks. Various activities according to national needs are considered.

In the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, there is a need to continue improving the application of the instruments implementing the principle of mutual recognition in criminal matters, with a focus on the European Arrest Warrant, the three Framework Decisions on detention and alternative measures to detention<sup>8</sup>, the Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA on financial penalties and Directive 2014/41/EU<sup>9</sup> regarding the European Investigation Order as well as Regulation (EU) 2018/1805 on the mutual recognition of freezing orders and confiscation orders<sup>10</sup>. Moreover, there are still many obstacles that prevent the smooth functioning of judicial cooperation procedures under the existing Union instruments which first need to be identified before they can be addressed. The developing jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) also has an important impact on the functioning of judicial cooperation instruments. As criminals also increasingly rely on electronic means of communication, access to electronic evidence in the framework of criminal investigations needs to be improved<sup>11</sup>. Follow-up work on detention issues needs to continue after the adoption of the Commission Recommendation on detention scheduled for end of 2022, including on radicalisation in prisons and alternatives to detention. Support to Member States will continue for projects adapting their national IT systems for the linking and exchange of fingerprints and facial images with the ECRIS-TCN central system. Support will also continue being provided to Member States for the setting up and strengthening of national networks active in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

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

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<sup>7</sup> EJN civil is a network of Member States and each Member State decides whom it designates to the EJN. The EJN civil network is composed of contact points designated by the Member States, central bodies and central authorities provided for in the applicable EU legislation, or international instruments, the liaison magistrates any other appropriate judicial or administrative authority with responsibilities for judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters, as well as professional associations representing legal practitioners directly involved in the judicial cooperation. National network members are normally the courts, central authorities and representatives of the legal professions (Article 5(2)(a) and (i) of the EJN Council Decision).

<sup>8</sup> Framework Decisions 2008/909/JHA, 2008/947/JHA and 2009/829/JHA; See section “Legislative instrument references”.

<sup>9</sup> See section “Legislative instrument references”.

<sup>10</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1805&from=EN>.

<sup>11</sup> The Commission proposed on 17 April 2018 new rules in the form of a Regulation and a Directive, which will: create a European Production Order, a European Preservation Order, include strong safeguards, oblige service providers to designate a legal representative in the Union, provide legal certainty for businesses and service providers.

### *Judicial training*

Given that “adopting ambitious and innovative legislation is not the end of the story: proper implementation is essential to protect the rights of citizens and companies in the Union”<sup>12</sup>, the European Commission promotes “training for practitioners” among its “support actions” to Member States “for their implementation of EU laws”<sup>13</sup>. As national courts act as EU courts when applying EU law<sup>14</sup>, the work of judges and justice practitioners involved in the application of EU law is essential to the well-functioning of the EU area of justice. In this context, training justice practitioners on EU law is a fundamental tool to improve the correct and uniform application of EU law, mutual trust in cross-border judicial proceedings and the respect of the rule of law in the EU.

The European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024<sup>15</sup> sets out a comprehensive strategy to improve justice professionals’ training on EU law further. Justice practitioners must be able to adapt to new developments, including in the area of EU law. It is important that a flexible response is brought to emerging EU law training needs. More justice professionals should attend training on EU law and training providers should improve the EU law training on offer, whether national or cross-border, and whether or not EU (co-)funded. This applies to all justice professionals who apply EU law, including primarily judges, prosecutors and court staff, but also professions such as lawyers, notaries, bailiffs, mediators, legal interpreters/translators, court experts and, in certain situations, to prison staff and probation officers. In particular, newly/to be appointed justice professionals should understand early in their career the role they need to play as European justice practitioners. European judicial training should also go beyond legal education and support the development of professional skills. The Commission therefore provides financial support for cross-border training of justice professionals on non-legal issues, in accordance with their needs, when linked with legal training.

The Justice programme will continue supporting the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and high quality cross-border training projects with an EU added value based on a thorough training needs’ assessment and on expected results that are sustainable and in line with the European judicial training strategy. It will also support the digitalisation of training both in terms of content and methodology.

### *Access to justice*

As far as the area of criminal justice is concerned, there is a need to continue improving the implementation and application in practice of the six EU directives adopted in the field of procedural rights of suspects and accused persons, namely: Directive 2010/64/EU on the right to interpretation and translation<sup>16</sup>, Directive 2012/13/EU on the right to information<sup>17</sup>, Directive 2013/48/EU on the right of access to a lawyer<sup>18</sup>, Directive (EU) 2016/343 on strengthening certain aspects of the principle on presumption of innocence and the right to be

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<sup>12</sup> Commission work programme 2022.

<sup>13</sup> Report from the Commission, Monitoring the application of European Union law - 2021 Annual Report (COM(2022) 344).

<sup>14</sup> Article 19 of the Treaty on the EU.

<sup>15</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0713>, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6926-2021-INIT/en/pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32010L0064>.

<sup>17</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/GA/TXT/?uri=celex:32012L0013>.

<sup>18</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32013L0048>.

present at the trial<sup>19</sup>, Directive (EU) 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children<sup>20</sup> and Directive (EU) 2016/1919 on legal aid<sup>21</sup>. Moreover, also the implementation of the Commission Recommendation of 27 November 2013 on procedural safeguards for vulnerable persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings must be improved. At the same time, it is crucial to raise awareness about the legislation adopted in this area and to explore possible further developments.

In the area of victims' rights, the Commission will continue to work on the implementation of actions under the EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025)<sup>22</sup>. The Commission is also taking into consideration the requirements of the current geopolitical situation in particular in relation to provision of access to information, support and protection to victims of war crimes. By the end of 2022, the Commission plans to propose legislative amendments to the Victims' Rights Directive (Directive 2012/29<sup>23</sup>) and to launch an EU campaign to promote and raise awareness about victims' rights. Therefore, in the years 2023-2024, the Commission will focus on improving the implementation of the EU rules on victims' rights and on raising awareness about the legislation in this area, notably on the Victims' Rights Directive, the Council Directive 2004/80 on compensation and the EU rules on protection orders.

The Commission also intends to continue the annual collection of data and information through the EU Justice Scoreboard and further develop the indicators presented in it.

Work will also continue on the creation of more effective justice systems and the facilitation of citizens' access to justice by digital means. One example of work in this direction is the European e-Justice Portal, which has been in operation since July 2010. Since its launch, it has been built upon with new dynamic functionalities (e.g. interconnection of national insolvency registers, tools for finding a lawyer and a notary in the EU, the ECLI search engine for case law, the Competent Court Database, EU access to the Business Registers Interconnection System, etc.). The general objective for 2023-2024 is to implement initiatives identified in the 2020 Commission Communication on Digitalisation of justice in the EU<sup>24</sup> and in the Council European e-Justice Strategy<sup>25</sup> and Action Plan 2019-2023<sup>26</sup>. This will be accomplished by introducing new content material, features and enhancements to the e-Justice Portal, as well as supporting the implementation of e-Justice projects which have a European dimension. During the 2023-2024 period, e-Justice activities funded under the Justice Programme will be complementary to priority digitalisation actions financed via the Digital Europe programme (DIGITAL).

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

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<sup>19</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32016L0343>.

<sup>20</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016L0800>.

<sup>21</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32016L1919>.

<sup>22</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0258>.

<sup>23</sup> See section "Legislative instrument references".

<sup>24</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2020:710:FIN>.

<sup>25</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG0313\(01\)&rid=7](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG0313(01)&rid=7).

<sup>26</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG0313\(02\)&rid=6](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG0313(02)&rid=6).

legal disputes. The Justice Programme will finance pilot activities with regard to the use of artificial intelligence technology in the justice field.

#### **BUDGET OVERVIEW FOR 2023-2024**

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

<b>Specific objective – Budget line</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>% of the 2023 Programme funds<sup>27</sup></b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>% of the 2024 Programme funds</b>
Judicial cooperation – 07 07 01	€ 11 103 750	27 %	€ 10 986 570	27 %
Judicial training – 07 07 02	€ 16 038 750	39 %	€ 15 869 490	39 %
Access to justice – 07 07 03	€ 13 982 500	34 %	€ 13 834 940	34 %
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>€ 41 125 000</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>€ 40 691 000</b>	<b>100 %</b>

About 73% of the 2023-2024 budget or € 59 350 000 will be used to fund activities via grants while ca. 26% or € 21 233 000 will fund activities via procurement.

The following calls for proposals for action grants are planned in 2023-2024 to support primarily transnational projects in:

1. judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters (in 2023 and in 2024);
2. judicial training covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights (in 2023 and in 2024);
3. the area of e-Justice, victims' rights and procedural rights of persons suspected or accused of crime (in 2023);

Financial support will be provided to European networks active in the area of access to justice and judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, which have been selected in 2021, as well as to EJTN. Their work programmes in 2023 and 2024 will be funded via operating grants.

The Work Programme also plans for a contribution to the Council of Europe supporting work on the SPACE report and the EU network of prison monitoring bodies as well as for a new project on child-friendly justice.

The Justice Work Programme for 2023-2024 introduces a novelty in terms of simplification and funding mechanisms: lump-sums are foreseen for all calls for proposals except those for operating grants.

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<sup>27</sup> The Justice programme regulation specifies earmarkings on the allocations to the individual budget lines: 27% on 07 07 01, 36% on 07 07 02, 27% on 07 07 03 and the remaining 10% flexibility margin on any of the three lines, as a priority, to actions which support the promotion of the rule of law. The Work Programme for 2023-2024 allocates 27%, 39% and 34% respectively to the three budget lines (the majority of actions which support the promotion of the rule of law are under line 07 07 03).



<b>Funding</b>	<b>2023 (€)</b>	<b>allocation</b>	<b>2024 (€)</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Grants	28 675 000	69,73%	30 675 000	75.38%
Procurement	11 406 000	27.73%	9 827 000	24.15%
Indirect management	1 005 000	2.44%	150 000	0.37%
Other expenditures	39 000	0.10%	39 000	0.10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41 125 000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>40 691 000</b>	<b>100 %</b>

All beneficiaries and activities implemented under this work programme must respect EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union and the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, particularly Article 21. The Commission will systematically enforce the respect for EU values throughout the lifecycle of all projects, from application to evaluation and monitoring. Entities and activities not respecting EU values are not eligible for support.

A child protection policy must frame all activities funded under the work programme directly involving children.

In compliance with the EU Treaty and as also provided by Recital 18 and Article 4 of the Justice Regulation, gender equality and non-discrimination should be an integral part of all activities implemented under this work programme. This means integrating gender equality and non-discrimination considerations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all activities. The activities should be pro-active and contribute to the equal empowerment of women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity<sup>28</sup>, ensuring that they achieve their full potential and enjoy the same rights and opportunities. Gender and non-discrimination mainstreaming are key mechanisms for achieving gender equality and combating multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. In this context and while taking into account the different nature and size of the activities of the different objectives of the programme, it will be important for individual data collected by project promoters to be broken down by sex whenever possible. Gender balance should also be ensured when consulting experts and stakeholders. The activities must also seek to facilitate effective and equal access to justice for persons who frequently face discrimination or are in a vulnerable situation<sup>29</sup>. In order to promote non-discrimination, activities should employ an intersectional approach, i.e. consider various dimensions that may affect discrimination against certain persons or populations.

<sup>28</sup> The expression ‘in all their diversity’ is used here to express that, where women or men are mentioned, these are heterogeneous categories, including in relation to their sex, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics. It affirms the commitment to leave no one behind and achieve a gender equal Europe for everyone, regardless of their sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

<sup>29</sup> Recital 17, Regulation (EU) 2021/693.

At present, the countries participating in the Programme are all EU Member States with the exception of Denmark. Should third countries conclude an agreement with the Union on their participation in the Programme, this will be announced in the relevant call for proposals.

Activities implemented under this Work Programme shall ensure consistency, complementarity and synergies with activities supported by other Union instruments including, in particular, with: the Citizens, Rights, Equality and Values Programme, the Single Market Programme, the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Internal Security Fund, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Digital Europe programme (DIGITAL), the Anti-Fraud Programme, the European Social Fund+, the Erasmus+ Programme, the Framework Programme for research and innovation Horizon Europe, the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III), the LIFE Regulation, the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Technical Support Instrument. Coordination within the EU legal and policy framework on trafficking in human beings, as relevant, shall be ensured.

The Work 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, promote gender mainstreaming and the mainstreaming of non-discrimination, as well as the mainstreaming of rights of the child. On the basis of the objectives set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for years 2023-2024 as follows:

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

## 2. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is € 28 675 000 for 2023 and € 30 675 000 for 2024.

<b>Specific objective – Budget lines</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Total</b>
Judicial cooperation – 07 07 01	€ 6 400 000	€ 7 700 000	€ 14 100 000
Judicial training – 07 07 02	€ 15 275 000	€ 15 275 000	€ 30 550 000
Access to justice – 07 07 03	€ 7 000 000	€ 7 700 000	€ 14 700 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 28 675 000</b>	<b>€ 30 675 000</b>	<b>€ 59 350 000</b>

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

#### LEGAL BASIS

Art. 3(2)(a) and Art. 9 Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

#### OBJECTIVES

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

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

##### **For priorities 1 and 2, legal entities such as:**

- i. Public bodies;
- ii. Non-profit making private organisations;
- iii. International organisations;
- iv. Profit making private entities.

##### **For priority 3:**

- i. Officially appointed members of EJM in civil and commercial matters or national authorities, courts and professional associations representing the officially appointed members of EJM in civil and commercial matters;
- ii. National authorities, courts, prosecution services in the area of criminal matters and professional associations representing them.

**For priority 4:**

- i. National authorities responsible for the linking and exchange of fingerprints and facial images with the ECRIS-TCN central system.

**POLICY PRIORITIES**

There are four priorities for 2023 and for 2024:

**1. Judicial cooperation in civil matters**

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

Priority shall be given to projects aiming in particular at:

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

**2. Judicial cooperation in criminal matters**

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

- a) Priority shall be given to the implementation and practical application of the following mutual recognition instruments:
- Directive 2014/41/EU<sup>30</sup> regarding the European Investigation Order in criminal matters;
  - Council Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA<sup>30</sup> on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States;
  - Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA<sup>30</sup> on the application of the principle of mutual recognition of judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union;
  - Council Framework Decision 2008/947/JHA<sup>30</sup> on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments and probation decisions with a view to the supervision of probation measures and alternative sanctions;
  - Council Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA<sup>30</sup> on the application, between Member States of the European Union, of the principle of mutual recognition to decisions on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention;
  - Council Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA<sup>30</sup> on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to financial penalties;

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<sup>30</sup> See section “Legislative instrument references”.

- Regulation (EU) 2018/1805<sup>30</sup> on the mutual recognition of freezing orders and confiscation orders.

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

b) Priority shall also be given to:

- an efficient contribution to the European Security Union Strategy as regards the judicial responses to terrorism, notably on reinforcing the prevention of radicalisation, especially in prisons and after release from prison;
- implementation of the Commission Recommendation on detention and linked issues related to detention conditions, pre-trial detention and alternatives to detention, as well as raising awareness of case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and recommendations of the Council of Europe in this field;
- the functioning of Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Treaties or other Treaties containing provisions on MLA with third States (e.g. EU-US MLA Agreement, Budapest Cybercrime Convention and its Second Additional Protocol), including with respect to the exchange of electronic data.

Proposals not in line with priorities 1 and 2 may still be awarded funding, if applicants can justify this by:

- the necessity to improve the implementation and application of the civil or criminal justice EU acquis on the basis of an evidence-based needs assessment, showing that more activities are required for the proper application of EU law in the field to be covered;
- the need to improve judicial cooperation, e.g. in case of gaps in the acquis or to face newly emerging challenges, on the basis of an evidence-based needs assessment.

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

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

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

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

Strengthened national networks can promote better implementation of EU civil and criminal

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

#### **4. Support to the Member States for the linking and exchange of their biometric data with the ECRIS-TCN central system**

The main objective of this priority is to support national projects implementing the changes to national IT systems allowing for the appropriate linking and exchange of fingerprints and facial images with the ECRIS-TCN<sup>31</sup> central system.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

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

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

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

Activities under this topic, especially where they relate to IT software development (priority 1), will take into account existing solutions such as results from the e-CODEX project, CEF building blocks and ISA<sup>2</sup> Core vocabularies.

#### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

**For priorities 1 and 2:**

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<sup>31</sup> European Criminal Record Information System – Third Country Nationals.

- Increased capacity of national practitioners, courts and authorities to address issues related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and to the application of the EU instruments on civil and civil procedural law, as well as on criminal and criminal procedural law;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities (including courts) in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, including taking into account the relevant case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU);
- Alignment of the Member States' administrative practices related to the relevant legislation;
- 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;
- Improved cross-border cooperation between judicial authorities responsible for judicial cooperation in civil, commercial and criminal matters, and improved cooperation and coordination between these authorities and other responsible agencies and institutions across the EU; Prosecutors, judges and other stakeholders have better specialised knowledge and experience on the legislation and administrative practices related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- Acceleration of proceedings in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters; less breaches of time-limits;
- Increased awareness of policy makers related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- In particular for priority 2, improved situation of persons subject to measures in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, enhancement of their social rehabilitation and re-integrations, reduced risks of violation of their fundamental rights.

**For priority 3:**

- Better implementation of EU judicial cooperation instruments in civil and criminal matters;
- Increased capacity of national practitioners, courts and authorities to address issues related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and to the application of the EU instruments on civil and civil procedural law, as well as on criminal and criminal procedural law;
- Prosecutors, judges and other stakeholders have better specialised knowledge and experience on the legislation and administrative practices related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities (including courts) in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, including taking into account the relevant case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU);
- More efficient and better functioning national networks in order to ensure better implementation and case-handling at the national level;
- Increased input of national networks to the Network's activities to strengthen the Network as a whole.

**For priority 4:**

- Improved exchange of fingerprints and facial images between national IT systems and the ECRIS-TCN central system;

- Enhanced capacity of national IT systems dealing with fingerprints and facial images;
- Improved processes at national level allowing for the appropriate linking and exchange of fingerprints and facial images with the ECRIS-TCN central system.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

## 2.2. Operating grants for 2024 and 2025 under Framework Partnership Agreements in the area of facilitating and supporting judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters and/or in the area of access to justice

### LEGAL BASIS

Art. 3(2)(a), 3(2)(c) and Art. 8(f) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

### BUDGET LINES

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

### OBJECTIVES

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

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

### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

European networks 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.

### POLICY PRIORITIES

These grants aim to support the annual work programme for 2023 and 2024 of European networks active in the area of facilitating and supporting judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters and/or in the area of access to justice.



## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

These grants will fund operating costs and those activities of the network which have EU added value and contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Programme among others: analytical activities, training activities, mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination activities. Applicants must provide a detailed annual work programme for a period of 12 months. The Commission will assess the work programme essentially on the basis of the following award criteria:

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

## EXPECTED RESULTS

### **In the area of judicial cooperation:**

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

### **In the area of access to justice:**

- Improved knowledge of European judicial systems and increased capacity of national practitioners and authorities to address issues related to the application of EU law, including taking into account the relevant case-law of the CJEU;
- Compatibility of the national legal framework, regulations and administrative practice linked to the rights of persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings and to victims' rights with EU acquis;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national

authorities, European networks, NGOs and/or professional organisations in relation to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and of victims of crime;

- Reduced risks of breaches of fair trial rights;
- Improved public awareness and knowledge, also among relevant policy makers, about procedural rights of suspected and accused persons and victims' rights at both EU and national level;
- Improved knowledge about specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating issues such as referring victims to the relevant support services, victims' access to information in the area of victims' rights, individual assessment of victims' needs, use of procedural means to protect victims during criminal trial, including use of remote hearings and video testimonies;
- Improved support services to victims through:
  - Increased number of victims' support organisations providing general and specialist support services to victims of crimes and their family members, in particular in those Member States who currently do not provide such services or provide them in insufficient manner;
  - Increased quality of the services provided by victim support organisations;
  - Improved knowledge about national compensation schemes and increased support for victims claiming compensation.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

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

#### LEGAL BASIS

Art. 3(2)(b) and Art. 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 02: Support judicial training

#### OBJECTIVES

In line with the Commission Communication 'Ensuring justice in the EU — a European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024'<sup>32</sup>, the objective is to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law in the areas of civil law, criminal law and fundamental rights, as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the rule of law related issues, by helping to address the training needs of justice professionals in

<sup>32</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0713>.

these fields.

#### **TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED**

##### **Legal entities such as:**

- i. Public bodies;
- ii. Non-profit making private organisations;
- iii. International organisations;
- iv. Profit making private entities.

#### **POLICY PRIORITIES**

The priorities of 2023 and 2024 will concentrate funding on training activities and tools for training providers to support cross-border training of justice professionals.

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

Priority will notably be given to training on EU civil law, criminal law, the rule of law, and fundamental rights, as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and data protection. An evidenced-based training needs assessment for the topic of the training activity is always required. It should have already been carried out and should be outlined clearly in the project applications.

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

#### **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

This call supports cross-border training activities for:

- a) members of the judiciary and judicial staff, meaning judges, prosecutors, court and prosecution offices' staff, other justice professionals associated with the judiciary, such as lawyers in private practice, notaries, bailiffs, insolvency practitioners and mediators, as well as court interpreters and translators, prison and probation staff;
- b) newly appointed justice professionals in initial / induction training, and/or
- c) multipliers, such as judicial trainers or EU law court coordinators, where there are guarantees that the multipliers will pass on their knowledge to justice professionals in a systematic way, and/or
- d) cross-professional training, in order to stimulate discussions across justice professions about the application of EU law and contribute to a European judicial culture across professional boundaries on precisely identified topics of relevance to

the concerned professions.

This call funds training activities with participants (trainees) from different participating countries, such as:

- organisation of interactive, practice-oriented seminars;
- multilateral exchanges between justice professionals;
- cross-border initial training activities (online, face-to-face activities or exchanges), covering as many Member States as possible, to create a common European legal culture from the moment of entering a justice profession;
- training activities on the use of digital justice tools, including i.a. the European e-Justice Portal<sup>33</sup>, in combination with training on legal topics; joint study visits to European courts (such as the CJEU and the ECHR) by justice professionals from as many different Member States as possible;
- creation of training material, whether for presential learning, blended learning or e-learning, ready-to-use either by trainers or by practitioners for self-learning, in combination with the organisation of training activities, including the creation of 'Capsule' e-training (short, up to date, tightly focused) to address justice professionals' immediate needs in the context of a concrete case;
- pilot innovative online training using latest methodologies and tools;
- update and/or translation of existing training material possibly combined with adaptation to national settings, in combination with the organisation of cross-border training activities<sup>34</sup>;
- creation of tools or activities for training providers (for example: train-the-trainers on active and modern adult learning techniques, train-the-trainers on online training skills and tools, tools to support the organisation of cross-border training, etc.), including to facilitate their cooperation at EU-level;
- evaluation of the training activities on the basis of the participants' satisfaction, increased competence and, where possible, impact on their performance.

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

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased knowledge of EU civil, criminal and fundamental rights instruments among justice professionals and the methods to implement them;
- Increased knowledge of the European standards on the rule of law among justice professionals;
- Improved mutual trust between justice professionals in cross-border judicial cooperation;
- Increased ability to use e-justice and digital tools;
- Improved cooperation of training providers of the different justice professions;
- Increased awareness among justice professionals on the scope of application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and on existing remedies and redress.

<sup>33</sup> <https://e-justice.europa.eu/>.

<sup>34</sup> For e.g. among those available at: <https://e-justice.europa.eu/european-training-platform/search-training-materials.en>.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

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

#### LEGAL BASIS

Art. 3(2)(b) and Art. 11(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

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

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 02: Support judicial training

#### OBJECTIVES

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

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

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

Pursuant to Article 11(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013, the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) shall receive an operating grant to co-finance expenditure associated with its permanent work programme.

The work programme of the EJTN should be in line with the strategy on European judicial training<sup>35</sup> and, in particular, strive to increase its number of activities and of participants as well as continue to develop the AIAKOS exchange programme<sup>36</sup> for new judges and

<sup>35</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0713>.

<sup>36</sup> The AIAKOS Programme aims at bringing together future or newly appointed judges from different EU Member States, fostering mutual understanding of different European judicial cultures and systems and raising their awareness about the European dimension of their (future) work. Depending on the host country, the AIAKOS Programme takes place in a judicial training institution or in courts/prosecution offices.

prosecutors, while increasing the number of exchanges for experienced practitioners. It should also take into account the findings of the Commission's conferences of stakeholders<sup>37</sup>, including regarding training of newly appointed professionals.

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

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

Priorities for the 2023 and 2024 EJTN work programmes, are as follows:

- The topics covered by the training activities organised by the EJTN will take into account the conclusions of the annual joint European Commission - EJTN meetings on training needs assessment and will answer flexibly to urgent emerging training needs;
- The AIAKOS exchanges will aim at ensuring the participation of all new judges and prosecutors every year;
- The exchanges organised every year should reach at least 5% of all judges and prosecutors every year, while avoiding repetitive participants;
- The training activities organised in the field of criminal justice will notably include the topics of the protection of the financial interests of the EU, the European Public Prosecutor Office, of the fight against terrorism and of the countering of radicalisation leading to violent extremism including in prisons;
- The topic of the rule of law should continue to be the subject of specific training activities as well as embedded in training activities on other topics; the book "Rule of Law in Europe. Perspectives from practitioners and academics"<sup>38</sup> should be systematically promoted among participants in EJTN seminars;
- Training on judgecraft, non-legal knowledge and skills should be embedded in training activities on legal topics where relevant;
- Training topics should include the digitalisation of judicial proceedings, including cross-border judicial cooperation ones, any new and relevant EU instruments and the adequate protection of individuals' rights in the digital space (for e.g. data protection, privacy, protection of children);
- The online learning offer should be developed both to organise blended learning activities and to create self-standing learning material, using state of the art online learning methodologies;
- Training on legal foreign language in specific areas of law should continue;
- The specific training needs on EU law of court staff and prosecution services' staff should be taken into account when planning specific training or opening existing ones to their participation;
- The multiplying effect of EU level deliverables should be increased by boosting its

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<sup>37</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/conference\\_eu\\_judicial\\_training\\_2021\\_report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/conference_eu_judicial_training_2021_report.pdf); [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/conference\\_report-initial\\_training\\_of\\_justice\\_professionals\\_serving\\_the\\_rule\\_of\\_law-en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/conference_report-initial_training_of_justice_professionals_serving_the_rule_of_law-en.pdf).

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.ejtn.eu/News/Rule-of-Law-in-Europe--Perspectives-from-Practitioners-and-Academics1/>.

members' EU-law related offer.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

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

#### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Improved knowledge of EU law and know-how of the use of the EU judicial cooperation instruments, improved trust among justice professionals, improved efficiency of justice and legal security in the EU;
- Targeted training in relation to justice professionals' training needs.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG JUST

### **2.5. Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects in the fields of e-Justice, victims' rights and procedural rights**

#### **LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(c) and Art. 9 Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

#### **BUDGET LINE**

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

#### **OBJECTIVES**

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

#### **TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED**

**Legal entities such as:**

- i. Public bodies;

- ii. Non-profit making private organisations;
- iii. International organisations;
- iv. Profit making private entities.

## POLICY PRIORITIES

This biennial call for proposals, under the Access to justice specific objective, covers two priorities:

### 1. e-justice priority

The key objective under the e-Justice priority is to contribute to achieving the goals of the Commission Communication on the Digitalisation of Justice in the EU<sup>39</sup> and the Council European e-Justice Strategy<sup>40</sup> and Action Plan 2019-2023<sup>41</sup> by supporting the implementation of e-Justice projects at the European and national level (as far as they have a European dimension).

Primary priority will be given to projects aiming at joining or enhancing existing or on-going e-Justice projects:

- Projects facilitating electronic cross-border interaction and communication between judicial authorities, as well as with citizens, businesses and practitioners in judicial proceedings. For example, with regard to:
  - o Preparatory and implementation activities with regard to the Commission Proposal for a Regulation on the digitalisation of judicial cooperation and access to justice in cross-border civil, commercial and criminal matters, and amending certain acts in the judicial cooperation<sup>42</sup> (depending on the progress achieved in the negotiations process between the co-legislators);
  - o The use of videoconferencing in a cross-border setting, in particular with regard to standardisation and achieving interoperability.
- Participation in the e-Evidence Digital Exchange System, set up following the Council conclusions on improving criminal justice in cyberspace from 9 June 2016<sup>43</sup>;
- Integration of electronic multilingual standard forms into national e-government systems, in the context of Regulation (EU) 2016/1191<sup>44</sup>. In this regard, national implementations must use and comply with the common XML schemas (XSDs) developed by the Commission;
- Participation in the Find a Lawyer (FAL) search tool hosted on the e-Justice Portal;
- Participation in the Find a Notary (FAN) search tool hosted on the e-Justice Portal;
- Participation in the Find a Bailiff (FAB) search tool to be hosted on the e-Justice Portal;
- Implementation of the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI<sup>45</sup>) in case law repositories and interconnection with the e-Justice Portal;
- Participation in the Land Registers Interconnection (LRI) to be hosted on the e-Justice Portal;
- Participation in the European Court Database (in both civil and criminal matters) hosted

<sup>39</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2020:710:FIN>.

<sup>40</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG0313\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG0313(01)).

<sup>41</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG0313\(02\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG0313(02)&from=EN).

<sup>42</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021PC0759>.

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/24300/cyberspace-en.pdf>.

<sup>44</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016R1191>.

<sup>45</sup> Relevant activities could also relate to the adoption of / migration to the new ECLI Extension Language (“ECLI-XL”) standard: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9280-2019-REV-2/en/pdf>.



on the e-Justice Portal.

Secondary priority will be given to the development of concrete cases on the use of artificial intelligence and distributed ledger technology in the justice area.

The Artificial Intelligence Act complements existing Union law on non-discrimination with specific requirements for AI systems that create a high risk to the health and safety or fundamental rights of persons. Those high risk AI systems are identified as intended to assist a judicial authority in researching and interpreting facts and the law and in applying the law to a concrete set of facts. The specific rules aim to minimise the risk of algorithmic discrimination, in particular in relation to the design and the quality of data sets used for the development of AI systems, complemented with obligations for testing, risk management, data governance, documentation, human oversight and cybersecurity throughout the AI systems lifecycle.

Finally, as tertiary priority, other e-Justice projects related to the development of relevant EU policies such as victims' rights, rights of suspects and accused in criminal proceedings and projects which are in advanced stage of development or already live on the e-Justice Portal at the moment when the call is published could also be financed.

National projects will be funded insofar as they offer a clearly demonstrated EU added value, for instance providing best practices for other EU Member States or promoting interoperability. Notwithstanding, transnational (multi-country) projects will have priority over national ones.

## **2. Victims' rights and procedural rights priority**

Projects to be funded under this priority should:

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

In both areas (procedural rights and victims' rights), actions may include possible future EU initiatives regarding gaps in EU legislation where a further need for EU action is identified. Projects ensuring maximum practical benefits and impact for the target groups will be more favorably assessed than theoretical projects consisting mainly of research and other analytical activities. Successful projects shall ensure easy access to and wide dissemination of their results.

In the area of procedural rights, the main legislative measures concerned include in particular:

- Directive (EU) 2016/800<sup>46</sup> on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings;
- Directive (EU) 2016/1919<sup>46</sup> on legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings;
- Directive 2010/64/EU<sup>46</sup> on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings;
- Directive 2012/13/EU<sup>46</sup> on the right to information in criminal proceedings;

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<sup>46</sup> See section "Legislative instrument references".

- Directive 2013/48/EU<sup>46</sup> 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;
- Directive (EU) 2016/343<sup>46</sup> on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings.

In the area of victims' rights, the main legislative measures concerned include in particular:

- Directive 2012/29/EU<sup>46</sup> establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime;
- Council Directive 2004/80/EC<sup>46</sup> relating to compensation to crime victims;
- Directive 2011/99/EU<sup>46</sup> on the European protection order;
- Regulation (EU) No 606/2013<sup>46</sup> on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters;
- Directive (EU) 2017/541<sup>46</sup> on combating terrorism.

## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

### **For the e-justice priority:**

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<sup>47</sup>, the use of the Digital Building Blocks developed under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) programme<sup>48</sup>, as well as the results from the e-CODEX project and ISA<sup>2</sup> Core vocabularies, should be taken into account if and where relevant.

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

### **For the victims' rights and procedural rights priority:**

The following activities can be covered:

- mutual learning, exchange of good practices, development of working and learning methods which may be transferable to other participating countries;
- exchange and provision of information and development of information and educational tools;
- capacity building for professionals, including training in victim-sensitive communication;
- facilitating cooperation between competent authorities (including where relevant national experts or agencies dealing with the aspects covered by this call) and/or legal practitioners and/or service providers (including multi-disciplinary networks at EU or international, national, regional or local levels) and/or civil society organisations / National Human Rights Institutions / Equality bodies, Ombuds Institutions and national authorities (including at national and local level, where relevant);
- communication activities including dissemination of information about rights and

<sup>47</sup> Regulation (EU) 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

<sup>48</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/CEF+Digital+Home>.

activities raising awareness of the existing rules on rights at EU and national levels, relevant to the priorities of the call;

- training activities, as long as they are of ancillary nature and not the main purpose of the project; analytical activities, such as data collection and creation of data bases, surveys, research etc.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

### **For the e-justice priority:**

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

### **For the victims' rights and procedural rights priority:**

Expected results under the area of procedural rights are:

- Improved knowledge of the legislation and administrative practices related to specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating the rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings, and increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to such rights;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities, NGOs and professional organisations in relation to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime;
- Harmonisation of the administrative practices in relation to the relevant legislation in different Member States;
- Reduced risks of breaches of fair trial rights;
- Compatibility of the national legal framework and regulations linked to the rights of persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings with EU acquis;

Expected results under the area of victims' rights are:

- Increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to the rights of victims of crime;
- Improved cooperation among the competent national authorities, NGOs and/or professional organisations in the field of victims' rights, including for compensation in cross-border cases;
- Improved public awareness and knowledge about victims' rights at both EU and national level (including amongst the most vulnerable groups);
- Improved knowledge about specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating issues such as referring victims to the relevant support services, victims' access to information in the area of victims' rights, individual assessment of victims' needs, use of procedural means to protect victims during criminal trial, including use of remote hearings and video testimonies;
- Compatibility of the national legal framework and administrative practice related to victims' rights with the relevant EU acquis;

- Improved support services to victims through:
  - increased number of victims' support organisations providing general and specialist support services to victims of crimes and their family members, and of targeted and integrated specialist support services for victims with specific needs such as victims of domestic violence, victims of other forms of gender-based violence, child victims, victims of hate crime and migrant victims of crime, in a targeted, gender-sensitive and integrated manner that regroups psychological and social aid with a cooperation with police and judicial authorities;
  - improved access of victims to such support services;
  - increased quality of the services (including gender-sensitive, victim-centred and trauma-informed approaches to services) provided by victims support organisations;
- Increased awareness of the problematic of relations between victims and offenders including actions aimed at improving victims' access to justice and decreased re-offending via tools such as restorative justice.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG JUST

## **3. PROCUREMENT**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts is € 11 406 000 for 2023 and € 9 827 000 for 2024.

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

#### **LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(a) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

#### **BUDGET LINE**

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

#### **OBJECTIVES**

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

## DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

In 2023-2024, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tenders and framework contracts). The types of activities funded may include, for example, the following: conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities; development of training material and development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems; surveys, studies and impact assessments, in particular to monitor the proper implementation of existing legislation, prepare, or accompany, new legislation or respond to policy changes in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters (e.g.: support to the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters (EJN) and to the JURE database on the judgements in civil and commercial matters, presidencies conferences, etc.). Along with existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on evaluation, impact assessment and related policy support services as well as of policy work on judicial cooperation.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

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

## IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST and, where indicated, by the Publication Office based on a cross sub-delegation and by DIGIT based on a co-delegation. Other co-delegations might be also used, if needed.

### 3.2. Procurement activities under Specific objective: judicial training

#### LEGAL BASIS

Art. 3(2)(b) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 02: Support judicial training

#### OBJECTIVES

In line with the Commission Communication ‘Ensuring justice in the EU — a European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024’, the objective is to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law in the areas of civil law, criminal law and fundamental

rights, as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the rule of law related issues, by helping to address the training needs of justice professionals in these fields.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS**

In 2023-2024, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tenders and framework contracts). The types of activities funded may include, for example, the following: conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities; development of training material and development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems; surveys and studies, in particular to respond to policy changes in the area of judicial training. (e.g. meeting of the Expert group on European judicial training, annual conference of stakeholders on European judicial training, preparatory analysis services of training providers and training courses for the European Training Platform, IT management of the European Training Platform (ETP) of the European e-Justice Portal). Along with existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on evaluation, impact assessment and related policy support services as well as of policy work on judicial training.

#### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG JUST and, where indicated, by DGT based on a co-delegation. Other co-delegations might be also used, if needed.

### **3.3. Procurement activities under Specific objective: access to justice**

#### **LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(c) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

#### **BUDGET LINE**

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

#### **OBJECTIVES**

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

procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS**

In 2023-2024, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tenders and framework contracts). The types of activities funded may include, for example, the following: conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities; development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems; studies and impact assessments in particular to prepare, or accompany, new legislation or respond to policy changes in the area of access to justice (e.g. EU Centre of expertise on victims' rights, e-Justice portal, organisation of conferences or other events with the Council Presidencies). Along with existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on evaluation, impact assessment and related policy support services as well as of policy work on access to justice.

#### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG JUST and, where indicated, by DIGIT, DGT based on a co-delegation. Other co-delegations might be also used, if needed.

#### 4. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for indirect management activities is € 1 005 000 for 2023 and € 150 000 for 2024.

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

###### LEGAL BASIS

Art. 3(2)(a), Art. 11(2)(b) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

###### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

###### IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

Council of Europe

###### OBJECTIVES PURSUED

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

###### DESCRIPTION

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

###### a) SPACE report

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

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

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

The contribution to the Council of Europe covers activities aiming at the running of a



European forum of independent prison monitoring bodies such as National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) which Member States have set up following ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

The activity has started in 2016. It allows bodies monitoring prisons in the Member States to meet regularly within an informal network to discuss detention matters and exchange best practice in this field. Among the subjects discussed are the possible difficulties in relation to the application of Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA on the Transfer of Prisoners<sup>49</sup>, 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 of 5 April 2016 in joined Cases C-404/15 and C-659/15 PPU, Aranyosi and Caldaru.

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

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

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

### **Description of the activities**

This contribution will cover the following activities:

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

### **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;

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<sup>49</sup> Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA of 27 November 2008 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union.

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

## 4.2. Support to Council of Europe’s project on child-friendly justice

### LEGAL BASIS

Art. 3(2)(c) and Art. 11(2)(b) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

### BUDGET LINES

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

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

Council of Europe

### OBJECTIVES PURSUED

- Analyse the state of implementation of the CoE Guidelines on child-friendly justice (the “Guidelines”)<sup>50</sup> in connection with relevant EU *acquis* and policy frameworks on child-friendly justice;
- Facilitate and provide training and strengthening the skills of professionals interacting with children in the justice system, as well as supporting and equipping national/local training institutes for professionals in establishing their training programme/packages; Children who have been in contact with the justice system could act as trainers of professionals. Moreover, multi-disciplinary sessions could be integrated into the training programme;
- Inform, equip, involve and engage children who may need to access the justice system in an appropriate way on their rights to effectively participate in the justice system;
- Develop training programmes and child-friendly tools for children who are in contact with the justice system, ensuring to reach children in vulnerable situations;
- Promote the exchange of good practices among Member States on child-friendly justice systems and initiatives;
- Foster Member States legislative and policy reforms to meet child-friendly justice EU/CoE legal obligations and standards;
- Foster experience sharing with relevant stakeholders at national level, as well as to

<sup>50</sup> [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016804b2cf3](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016804b2cf3).

reinforce partnerships with relevant organisations.

## DESCRIPTION

**Child-friendly justice is one of the thematic priorities of both the EU and Council of Europe Strategies on the rights of the child.** The EU Strategy aims “to strengthen the implementation of the 2010 Guidelines on Child-friendly Justice with the Council of Europe”<sup>51</sup>.

The Council of Europe (CoE) has supported Member States on achieving child-friendly justice systems and closely collaborated with the Commission and the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) in promoting the CoE Guidelines, which are internationally endorsed and applied. The EU has adopted a wealth of legislation and policy on child-friendly justice, which are also based on the Guidelines principles.

The CoE develops policy and practical work on rights of the child and provides technical support to Governments on different topics related to the rights of the child, including child-friendly justice. The CoE is best placed to carry out a project to efficiently implement the Guidelines and relevant EU legal frameworks on child-friendly justice. In addition to the experience, competence and authority of the CoE as the institution in charge of developing the Guidelines, there is no better institution to develop such a project thanks to its unique knowhow, capacity, outreach and authoritative presence. The CoE will implement the project closely involving the Commission and FRA, notably in the governance structure.

### **Description of the activities:**

With the overall aim to foster a practical implementation of the CoE Guidelines on child-friendly justice and to ensure the application of the relevant international, EU and CoE legal frameworks and standards on child-friendly justice, activities will include the development of:

- A Child-Friendly Justice Self-Assessment Tool, an implementation guide and national evaluation reports;
- Recommendations to address gaps on child-friendly justice;
- Trainings, such as: National Training Needs Assessments (TNA) to identify gaps on child-friendly justice; deploy the updated HELP training on child-friendly justice at national level; other specific and cross sectorial training materials through an EU adaptable multidisciplinary training programme;
- Child-friendly materials and tools to facilitate consultations with children when identifying gaps of child-friendly justice systems and to support the formulation of recommendations. Materials and tools could be improved with the support of children to ensure that the rights and best interests of children in judicial procedures are better protected;
- Child-friendly safeguarding policies, codes of conduct and consent forms improved with the support of children;
- A Report on the state of play of child-friendly justice in Europe;
- A Multidisciplinary training programme that can be adapted to any country with training for trainers including trainers who could be children;
- Other specific resources and tools in particular those that would foster quality child participation in the justice sector that can be adapted to national needs and

<sup>51</sup> EU Strategy on the rights of the child.

environments;

- A Handbook with good practices, mutual learning activities, recommendations to improve legislation and policies;

A limited number of EU/CoE Member States are to be selected as focus countries. These will pilot the implementation of activities at national level to collect data, identify gaps on child-friendly justice, improve legislation and practices. Additional Member States should be selected as country partners to stand in the Steering Committee of the project and advise on the project's activities, share approaches and good practices and also benefit from the progressive achievements of the project (new tools translated, good practices collected, capacity building, awareness raising).

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The project will improve the general understanding and awareness of the current, factual state of child-friendly justice in the EU. It will enhance the effective implementation of EU legal and policy frameworks on child-friendly justice, as regards the CoE Child-friendly justice Guidelines.

In general:

- Children benefit from stronger national frameworks and action in selected EU/Council of Europe Member States (focus countries) with targeted measures to improve child-friendly justice systems; they also benefit from the dissemination of national good practices to improve legislation, policies and other measures in the field of child-friendly justice through the development of model resources and tools made available to stakeholders.

In addition:

- National authorities and professionals in selected focus countries working with and for children in the justice systems have improved their knowledge and awareness of child-friendly procedures, mechanisms and practices, including on child participation activities for improved law and policymaking and service on child-friendly justice;
- Decision makers, justice sector professionals and their networks, international civil society organisations and other partner international organisations as well as children understand better the existing challenges to child-friendly justice and promote the recommended improvements and can thus propose measures to improve child-friendly justice in Europe.

## **5. OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURE**

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

#### **LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(a) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013 Council Decision (EC) No 2006/719 of 5 October 2006 on the accession of the Community to

the Hague Conference on Private International Law<sup>52</sup>.

#### **AMOUNT**

The budget reserved is EUR 39 000 for each of 2023 and 2024 (under budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation)

#### **DESCRIPTION**

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

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<sup>52</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32006D0719>, OJ L 297, 26.10.2006, p. 1.

## LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENT REFERENCES

Legislative instrument full name	Reference
Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the <b>Justice Programme</b> and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013	OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 21–38 <a href="http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/693/oj">http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/693/oj</a> <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013R1382">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013R1382</a>
Regulation (EU) No <b>655/2014</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 establishing a <b>European Account Preservation Order procedure to facilitate cross-border debt recovery in civil and commercial matters</b>	OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 59–92 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0655">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0655</a>
Regulation (EU) <b>2015/848</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 on <b>insolvency proceedings</b> (recast)	OJ L 141, 5.6.2015, p. 19–72 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015R0848">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015R0848</a>
Regulation (EU) <b>2015/2421</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 861/2007 establishing a European Small Claims Procedure and Regulation (EC) No 1896/2006 creating a <b>European order for payment procedure</b> <i>applicable since July 2017</i>	OJ L 341, 24.12.2015, p. 1–13 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015R2421">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015R2421</a>
Regulation (EU) <b>2016/1191</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 on <b>promoting the free movement of citizens by simplifying the requirements for presenting certain public documents in the European Union</b> and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012	OJ L 200, 26.7.2016, p. 1–136 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1191">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1191</a>
Council Regulation (EC) No <b>2201/2003</b> of 27 November 2003 concerning <b>jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility</b> , repealing Regulation (EC) No 1347/2000	OJ L 338, 23.12.2003, p. 1–29 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32003R2201">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32003R2201</a>
Council Regulation (EU) <b>2016/1103</b> of 24 June 2016 implementing <b>enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of matrimonial property regimes</b>	OJ L 183, 8.7.2016, p. 1–29 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1103">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1103</a>
Council Regulation (EU) <b>2016/1104</b> of 24 June 2016 implementing <b>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</b>	OJ L 183, 8.7.2016, p. 30–56 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1104">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1104</a>
Regulation (EU) No <b>910/2014</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on <b>electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market</b> and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC	OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p. 73–114 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0910">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0910</a>

Regulation (EU) <b>2018/1805</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the <b>mutual recognition of freezing orders and confiscation orders</b>	OJ L 303, 28.11.2018, p. 1–38 <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1805">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1805</a>
Directive (EU) <b>2019/1937</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the <b>protection of persons who report breaches of Union law</b> <i>Applicable as from 17 December 2021</i>	OJ L 305, 26.11.2019, p. 17-56
Directive <b>2010/64/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the <b>right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings</b> <i>Applicable as from 27 October 2013</i>	OJ L 280, 26.10.2010, p.1-7
Directive <b>2012/13/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 on the <b>right to information in criminal proceedings</b> <i>Applicable as from 2 June 2014</i>	OJ L 142, 1.6.2012, p.1-10
Directive <b>2013/48/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on the <b>right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings</b> , and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty <i>Applicable as from 27 November 2016</i>	OJ L 294, 6.11.2013, p.1-12
Directive (EU) <b>2016/343</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on the <b>strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings</b> <i>Applicable as from 1 April 2018</i>	OJ L 65, 11.3.2016, p.1-11
Directive (EU) <b>2016/800</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on <b>procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings</b> <i>Applicable as from 11 June 2019</i>	OJ L132, 21.5.2016, p.1-20
Directive (EU) <b>2016/1919</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on <b>legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings</b> <i>applicable from 5 May 2019</i>	OJ L 297, 4.11.2016, p. 1–8 <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016L1919">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016L1919</a>
Directive <b>2012/29/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing <b>minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime</b> , and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA	OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 57–73 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0029">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0029</a>
Council Directive <b>2004/80/EC</b> of 29 April 2004 relating to <b>compensation to crime victims</b>	OJ L 261, 6.8.2004, p. 15–18 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-</a>

	<a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32004L0080">content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32004L0080</a>
Regulation (EU) No <b>606/2013</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on <b>mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters</b>	OJ L181, 29.06.2013, p. 4–12 <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32013R0606">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32013R0606</a>
Directive <b>2011/99/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the <b>European protection order (in criminal matters)</b>	OJ L 338, 21.12.2011, p. 2–18 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011L0099">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011L0099</a>
Directive (EU) <b>2017/541</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on <b>combating terrorism</b> and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA and amending Council Decision 2005/671/JHA	OJ L 88, 31.3.2017, p. 6–21 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017L0541">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017L0541</a>
Directive <b>2014/41/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 regarding the <b>European Investigation Order in criminal matters</b> <i>applicable since 22 May 2017</i>	OJ L 130, 1.5.2014, p. 1–36 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0041">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0041</a>
Directive <b>2012/17/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2012 amending Council Directive 89/666/EEC and Directives 2005/56/EC and 2009/101/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the <b>interconnection of central, commercial and companies registers</b> <i>applicable from June 2017</i>	OJ L 156, 16.6.2012, p. 1–9 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0017">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0017</a>
Council Framework Decision <b>2002/584/JHA</b> of 13 June 2002 on the <b>European arrest warrant</b> and the surrender procedures between Member States	OJ L 190, 18.7.2002, p. 1–20 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32002F0584">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32002F0584</a>
Council Framework Decision <b>2008/909/JHA</b> of 27 November 2008 on the <b>application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union</b>	OJ L 327, 5.12.2008, p. 27–46 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0909">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0909</a>
Council Framework Decision <b>2008/947/JHA</b> of 27 November 2008 on the <b>application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments and probation decisions with a view to the supervision of probation measures and alternative sanctions</b>	OJ L 337, 16.12.2008, p. 102–122 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0947">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0947</a>
Council Framework Decision <b>2009/829/JHA</b> of 23 October 2009 on the <b>application, between Member States of the European Union, of the principle of mutual recognition to decisions on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention</b>	OJ L 294, 11.11.2009 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009F0829">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009F0829</a>
Council Framework Decision <b>2005/214/JHA</b> of 24 February 2005 on the <b>application of the principle of mutual recognition to financial penalties</b>	OJ L 76, 22.3.2005, p. 16–30 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32005F0214">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32005F0214</a>



Council Framework Decision <b>2008/913/JHA</b> of 28 November 2008 on <b>combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law</b>	OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 55–58 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0913">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0913</a>
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## **ANNEX II**

### **Justice work programme for 2025**

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**Work programme for 2025 for Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013**

## **6. INTRODUCTION**

The year 2025 under the current work programme of the justice Programme is in continuity with the policy priorities covered in 2023 and 2024 and will continue addressing priorities identified under its three specific objectives (judicial cooperation, access to justice and judicial training).

The priorities herein are specified broadly to keep the maximum margin of flexibility and allow the programme to tackle new emerging challenges and needs.

Also, the actions for 2025 take into consideration the recent geo-political developments, which have, among others, underlined the need for the rapid digitalisation of the EU Member States' justice systems.

### **BUDGET OVERVIEW FOR 2025**

The allocation per specific objective is as follows:

<b>Specific objective – Budget line</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>% of the 2025 Programme funds</b>
Judicial cooperation – 07 07 01	€ 10 885 500	27 %
Judicial training – 07 07 02	€ 15 853 500	39 %
Access to justice – 07 07 03	€ 13 911 000	34 %
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>€ 40 650 000</b>	<b>100 %</b>

The following calls for proposals for action grants are planned in 2025 to support primarily transnational projects in:

4. judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
5. judicial training covering civil law, criminal law and fundamental rights;
6. the area of e-Justice, victims' rights and procedural rights of persons suspected or accused of crime.

Financial support will continue to be provided to the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN). In 2025, a new open call to select justice framework partners for the period 2026-2028 and support their work programmes will be launched.

For 2025, the work programme also plans to support the annual contribution to the Council of Europe's work on the EU Justice Scoreboard, the SPACE report and the EU network of prison monitoring bodies, as well as the annual EU membership fee in the Hague Conference of Private International Law.

The actions for 2025 apply the lump-sums system for all calls for proposals except those for operating grants.

<b>Funding</b>	<b>2025 (€)</b>	<b>allocation</b>
Grants	31 000 000	76.26 %
Procurement	9 226 000	22.69 %
Indirect management	385 000	0.95 %
Other expenditures	39 000	0.10 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40 650 000</b>	<b>100 %</b>

At present, the countries participating in the Programme are all EU Member States, with the exception of Denmark. The list of non-EU countries that have concluded an agreement with the Union to participate in the justice programme is announced in the relevant calls for proposals<sup>53</sup>.

Activities implemented under this work programme shall ensure consistency, complementarity and synergies with activities supported by other Union instruments (including, in particular, those indicated in Annex I).

The work 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, promote gender mainstreaming and the mainstreaming of non-discrimination, as well as the mainstreaming of rights of the child.

On the basis of the objectives set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for the year 2025 as follows:

- e) for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2),
- f) for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 3),
- g) for actions implemented in indirect management (point 4),
- h) for other actions or expenditure (point 5).

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<sup>53</sup> [List of participating third countries.](#)

## 7. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is € 31 000 000 for 2025.

Specific objective – Budget lines	2025
Judicial cooperation – 07 07 01	€ 7 935 000
Judicial training – 07 07 02	€ 15 275 000
Access to justice – 07 07 03	€ 7 790 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 31 000 000</b>

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

#### LEGAL BASIS

Art. 3(2)(a) and Art. 9 Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

#### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

#### OBJECTIVES

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

#### TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

**For priorities 1 (judicial cooperation in civil matters) and 2 (judicial cooperation in criminal matters), legal entities such as:**

- i. Public bodies;
- ii. Non-profit making private organisations;
- iii. International organisations;
- iv. Profit making private entities.

**For priority 3 (Support to the Member States for the setting up and strengthening of national networks active in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters):**

- iii. Officially appointed members of EJN in civil and commercial matters or national authorities, courts and professional associations representing the officially appointed members of EJN in civil and commercial matters;
- iv. National authorities, courts, prosecution services in the area of criminal matters and professional associations representing them.

**POLICY PRIORITIES**

The following priorities will be supported in 2025:

**5. Judicial cooperation in civil matters**

**6. Judicial cooperation in criminal matters**

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

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

**For priorities 1 (Judicial cooperation in civil matters) and 2 (Judicial cooperation in criminal matters):**

- Increased capacity of national practitioners, courts and authorities to address issues related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and to the application of the EU instruments on civil and civil procedural law, as well as on criminal and criminal procedural law;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities (including courts) in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, including taking into account the relevant case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU);
- Alignment of the Member States' administrative practices related to the relevant legislation;
- 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;
- Improved cross-border cooperation between judicial authorities responsible for judicial cooperation in civil, commercial and criminal matters, and improved cooperation and coordination between these authorities and other responsible agencies and institutions across the EU;
- Prosecutors, judges and other stakeholders have better specialised knowledge and experience on the legislation and administrative practices related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- Acceleration of proceedings in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters; less breaches of time-limits;
- Increased awareness of policy makers related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- In particular for priority 2, improved situation of persons subject to measures in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, enhancement of their social

rehabilitation and re-integrations, reduced risks of violation of their fundamental rights;

- In particular for priority 2, improved exchange of information extracted from the criminal record via the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS).

**For priority 3 (Support to the Member States for the setting up and strengthening of national networks active in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters):**

- Better implementation of EU judicial cooperation instruments in civil and criminal matters;
- Increased capacity of national practitioners, courts and authorities to address issues related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and to the application of the EU instruments on civil and civil procedural law, as well as on criminal and criminal procedural law;
- Prosecutors, judges and other stakeholders have better specialised knowledge and experience on the legislation and administrative practices related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities (including courts) in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, including taking into account the relevant case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU);
- More efficient and better functioning national networks in order to ensure better implementation and case-handling at the national level;
- Increased input of national networks to the Network's activities to strengthen the Network as a whole;
- Enhanced visibility of judicial cooperation and the relevant Networks.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG JUST

### **7.2. Call for 3-year Framework Partnership Agreements to support European networks active in the area of facilitating and promoting judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters and/or in the area of access to justice**

## **LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(a), 3(2)(c) and Art. 8(f) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

## **BUDGET LINES**

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

## OBJECTIVES

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

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

## TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

This call will establish 3-year Framework Partnership Agreements with European networks active in the fields of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and/or access to justice.

## POLICY PRIORITIES

This call aims to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters and/or access to justice for all.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

The annual operating grants to be signed on the basis of these Framework Partnership Agreements should enhance the capacities of the selected European networks to contribute actively to the development and implementation of EU policies in these two policy areas.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

## 2.3 3-year framework partnership agreement - award without a call for proposals to EJTN

### LEGAL BASIS

Art. 3(2)(b) and Art. 11(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

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

### BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 02: Support judicial training

## OBJECTIVES



Pursuant to Article 11(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013, the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) shall receive an operating grant to co-finance expenditure associated with its permanent work programme.

The work programme of EJTN should support and promote training of judges, prosecutors, court staff and prosecution offices' staff, with a view to fostering a common legal, judicial and rule of law culture, as well as the consistent and effective implementation of the Union's legal instruments relevant in the context of this programme.

## **POLICY PRIORITIES**

The work programme of the EJTN should be in line with the policy on European judicial training and should also take into account the findings of the Commission's 2024 and 2025 conferences of judicial training stakeholders.

As a priority, the 2026 EJTN work programme should prioritise supporting the digitalisation of national justice systems and the digitalisation of judicial proceedings, including cross-border judicial cooperation, the impact of digitalisation on the cases handled by justice professionals and decentralised IT systems under the Regulation (EU) 2023/2844.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Awareness of the decentralised IT systems under the Regulation (EU) 2023/2844;
- Increased digital capacity of justice professionals and support to stronger digitalisation of national judiciaries;
- Improved knowledge and capacity to apply EU law and know-how of the use of the EU judicial cooperation instruments, improved trust among justice professionals, improved efficiency of justice and legal security in the EU;
- Targeted training in relation to justice professionals' training needs.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG JUST

## **2.4 Operating grants for 2026 under Framework Partnership Agreements in the area of facilitating and supporting judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters and/or in the area of access to justice**

### **LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(a), 3(2)(c) and Art. 8(f) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

### **BUDGET LINES**

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

## OBJECTIVES

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

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

## TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

European networks which have signed Framework Partnership Agreements with the Commission.

## POLICY PRIORITIES

These grants aim to support the annual work programme for 2026 of European networks active in the area of facilitating and supporting judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters and/or in the area of access to justice.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

### **In the area of judicial cooperation:**

- Increased capacity of national practitioners courts and authorities to address issues related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and to the application of the Union instruments on civil and criminal law and on civil and criminal procedural law;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, including considering the relevant case-law of the CJEU;
- Harmonisation of the administrative practices in relation to the relevant legislation in different Member States;
- 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;
- Improved cross-border cooperation between judicial authorities responsible for judicial cooperation in civil, commercial and criminal matters, and improved cooperation and coordination between these authorities and other responsible agencies and institutions across the EU;
- Prosecutors, judges and other stakeholders have better specialised knowledge and experience on the legislation and administrative practices related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- Acceleration of proceedings in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and decrease in breaches of time-limits;
- Improved situation of persons subject to measures in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters; enhancement of their social rehabilitation and re-integrations;
- Increased awareness of policy makers related to judicial cooperation in civil and

criminal matters;

- Enhanced visibility of judicial cooperation and the relevant Networks.

**In the area of access to justice:**

- Improved knowledge of European judicial systems and increased capacity of national practitioners and authorities to address issues related to the application of EU law, including taking into account the relevant case-law of the CJEU;
- Compatibility of the national legal framework, regulations and administrative practice linked to the rights of persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings and to victims' rights with EU acquis;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities, European networks, NGOs and/or professional organisations in relation to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and of victims of crime;
- Reduced risks of breaches of fair trial rights;
- Improved public awareness and knowledge, also among relevant policy makers, about procedural rights of suspected and accused persons and victims' rights at both EU and national level;
- Improved knowledge about specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating issues such as referring victims to the relevant support services, victims' access to information in the area of victims' rights, individual assessment of victims' needs, use of procedural means to protect victims during criminal trial, including use of remote hearings and video testimonies;
- Improved support services to victims through:
  - Increased number of victims' support organisations providing general and specialist support services to victims of crimes and their family members, in particular in those Member States who currently do not provide such services or provide them in insufficient manner;
  - Increased quality of the services provided by victim support organisations;
  - Improved knowledge about national compensation schemes and increased support for victims claiming compensation.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG JUST

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

**LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(b) and Art. 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

**BUDGET LINE**

Budget line 07 07 02: Support judicial training

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this call is to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law, by helping to address the training needs of justice professionals. This call finances training activities and tools for training providers to support cross-border training of justice professionals to be then rolled out at the national judicial training activities.

## **TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED**

### **Legal entities such as:**

- i. Public bodies;
- ii. Non-profit making private organisations;
- iii. International organisations;
- iv. Profit making private entities.

## **POLICY PRIORITIES**

Training funded under this call should contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law in the areas of civil law, commercial law, criminal law and fundamental rights, including non-discrimination, equality and the rule of law. A priority shall be training on the decentralised IT systems under the Regulation (EU) 2023/2844, as well as other training which can build the “digital capacity” of justice professionals and promote the digital transition of judicial training methodologies.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Support proper implementation of the decentralised IT systems under the Regulation (EU) 2023/2844;
- Support the digitalisation of national justice systems by strengthening the “digital capacity” of justice professionals;
- Contribute to the digital transition of judicial training methodologies;
- Increased expertise among justice professionals on the scope of application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and on existing remedies and redress, including in the process of digitalisation of national justice systems;
- Improved mutual trust between justice professionals in cross-border judicial cooperation;
- Increased knowledge of EU civil law, commercial law, criminal law and fundamental rights related instruments among justice professionals and the methods to apply them;
- Improved cooperation of training providers of the different justice professions;
- Increased knowledge among justice professionals on victims’ rights, in particular of women victims of gender-based violence, including improved methods of communication with victims in a gender-sensitive, impartial, respectful, and professional manner.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG JUST

## **2.6 Operating grant to beneficiary identified in the legal base - EJTN**

### **LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(b) and Art. 11(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

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

### **BUDGET LINE**

Budget line 07 07 02: Support judicial training

### **OBJECTIVES**

Pursuant to Article 11(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013, the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) shall receive an operating grant to co-finance expenditure associated with its permanent work programme.

The work programme of EJTN should support and promote training of judges, prosecutors, court staff and prosecution offices' staff, with a view to fostering a common legal, judicial and rule of law culture, as well as the consistent and effective implementation of the Union's legal instruments relevant in the context of this programme.

### **POLICY PRIORITIES**

The work programme of the EJTN should be in line with the policy on European judicial training and should also take into account the findings of the Commission's 2024 and 2025 conferences of judicial training stakeholders.

As a priority, the 2026 EJTN work programme should prioritise supporting the digitalisation of national justice systems and the digitalisation of judicial proceedings, including cross-border judicial cooperation, the impact of digitalisation on the cases handled by justice professionals and decentralised IT systems under the Regulation (EU) 2023/2844;.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Awareness of the decentralised IT systems under the Regulation (EU) 2023/2844;
- Increased digital capacity of justice professionals and support to stronger digitalisation of national judiciaries;
- Improved knowledge and capacity to apply EU law and know-how of the use of the EU judicial cooperation instruments, improved trust among justice professionals, improved efficiency of justice and legal security in the EU;
- Targeted training in relation to justice professionals' training needs.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG JUST

## **2.7 Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects in the fields of e-Justice, victims' rights and procedural rights**

### **LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(c) and Art. 9 Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

### **BUDGET LINE**

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

### **OBJECTIVES**

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

### **TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED**

#### **Legal entities such as:**

- i. Public bodies;
- ii. Non-profit making private organisations;
- iii. International organisations;
- iv. Profit making private entities.

### **POLICY PRIORITIES**

This call for proposals covers two priorities:

- 1. e-justice**
- 2. Victims' rights and procedural rights**

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

#### **For priority 1 (e-justice):**

- Initiatives supporting the digitalisation of cross-border judicial procedures, in particular the use of videoconferencing, as mentioned also in the European e-Justice Strategy (2024-2028) of the Council of the European Union;
- The development and promotion of the use of AI tools in justice, as mentioned also in the European e-Justice Strategy (2024-2028) of the Council of the European Union;
- Activities supporting the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2023/2844;
- Promoting in the judiciary the awareness of the need for digitalisation of justice and the use of projects digitalising justice;
- Improved participation, with the aim of achieving full EU coverage concerning the

various e-justice interconnection projects.

**For priority 2 (victims' rights and procedural rights):**

Expected results under the area of procedural rights are:

- Improved knowledge of the legislation and administrative practices related to specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating the rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings, and increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to such rights;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities, NGOs and professional organisations in relation to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime;
- Harmonisation of the administrative practices in relation to the relevant legislation in different Member States;
- Reduced risks of breaches of fair trial rights;
- Compatibility of the national legal framework and regulations linked to the rights of persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings with EU acquis;
- Identification of important remaining challenges and/or developments in the field of procedural rights and safeguards for suspects and accused persons which would merit an enhancement of the EU acquis.

Expected results under the area of victims' rights are:

- Increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to the rights of victims of crime;
- Improved cooperation among the competent national authorities, NGOs and/or professional organisations in the field of victims' rights, including for compensation in cross-border cases;
- Improved public awareness and knowledge about victims' rights at both EU and national level (including amongst the most vulnerable groups);
- Improved knowledge about specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating issues such as referring victims to the relevant support services, victims' access to information in the area of victims' rights, individual assessment of victims' needs, use of procedural means to protect victims during criminal trial, including use of remote hearings and video testimonies;
- Compatibility of the national legal framework and administrative practice related to victims' rights with the relevant EU acquis;
- Improved support services to victims;
- Increased awareness of the problematic of relations between victims and offenders including actions aimed at improving victims' access to justice and decreased re-offending via tools such as restorative justice.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG JUST

## **8. PROCUREMENT**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts is € 9 226 000 for 2025.

### **8.1. Procurement activities under Specific objective: judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters**

#### **LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(a) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

#### **BUDGET LINE**

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

#### **OBJECTIVES**

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

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS**

In 2025, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tenders and framework contracts). The types of activities funded may include, for example, the following: conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities; development of training material and development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems; surveys, studies and impact assessments, in particular to monitor the proper implementation of existing legislation, prepare, or accompany, new legislation or respond to policy changes in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters (e.g.: support to the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters (EJN) and to the JURE database on the judgements in civil and commercial matters, presidencies conferences, etc.). Along with existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on evaluation, impact assessment and related policy support services as well as of policy work on judicial cooperation.

If the Commission estimates that some policy actions foreseen under procurement would be better implemented - taking into account the evolution of the policy context - through indirect management, then contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities working in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters may be concluded in accordance with Title VI 'Indirect management' of the Financial Regulation. This concerns organisations which have been subject to an ex-ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement concluded with the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/369, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations. Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and



must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the actions. This capacity will be assessed together with the ‘Quality’ entrustment requirements, on the basis of the competence and experience of the organisation and their project team, including operational resources (human, technical and other). The proposal for the action and request of funding will be assessed based on the relevance of the action against the objectives of the programme, the quality of the action and its impact.

Examples of organisations that can be selected as implementing entities include, but are not limited to, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as well as agencies of the United Nations.

#### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG JUST and, where indicated, by the Publication Office based on a cross sub-delegation and by DIGIT based on a co-delegation. Other co-delegations might be also used, if needed.

### **8.2. Procurement activities under Specific objective: judicial training**

#### **LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(b) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

#### **BUDGET LINE**

Budget line 07 07 02: Support judicial training

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The objective is to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law in the areas of civil law, commercial law, criminal law and fundamental rights (as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights) and the rule of law related issues, by helping to address the training needs of justice professionals in these fields.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

The Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tenders and framework contracts). The types of activities funded may include the following: conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities; development of training material, development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems; surveys and studies, including when responding to policy changes in the area of judicial training (e.g. meeting of the Expert group on European judicial training, annual conference of stakeholders on European judicial training, preparatory analysis services of training providers and training courses for the European Training Platform, IT management of the European Training Platform (ETP) of the European e-Justice Portal). Along with the existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on policy work on judicial training.

If the Commission estimates that some policy actions foreseen under procurement would be better implemented - taking into account the evolution of the policy context - through indirect management, then contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities working in the area of judicial training may be concluded in accordance with Title VI 'Indirect management' of the Financial Regulation. This concerns organisations which have been subject to an ex-ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement concluded with the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/369, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations. Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action in the area of judicial training and must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the actions. This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' entrustment requirements, on the basis of the competence and experience of the organisation and their project team, including operational resources (human, technical and other). The proposal for the action and request of funding will be assessed based on the relevance of the action against the objectives of the programme, the quality of the action and its impact.

Examples of organisations that can be selected as implementing entities include, but are not limited to, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as well as agencies of the United Nations.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased knowledge of EU civil, commercial, criminal and fundamental rights instruments among justice professionals and the methods to implement them;
- Proper application of the decentralised IT systems under the Regulations (EU) 2023/2844;
- Increased ability to use digital justice tools;
- Increased knowledge of the European standards on the rule of law;
- Improved mutual trust between justice professionals in cross-border judicial cooperation.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST and, where indicated, by DGT based on a co-delegation.

Other co-delegations might be also used, if needed.

### **8.3. Procurement activities under Specific objective: access to justice**

#### **LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(c) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

#### **BUDGET LINE**

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

#### **OBJECTIVES**

Facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice, in particular by digital means, by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures, by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS**

In 2025, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tenders and framework contracts). The types of activities funded may include, the following: conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities; development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems, creation of a platform to exchange information and identify needs in the area of Artificial Intelligence; activities related to the EU awareness-raising campaign on victims' rights; studies and impact assessments in particular to prepare, or accompany, new legislation or respond to policy changes in the area of access to justice (e.g. EU Centre of expertise on victims' rights, e-Justice portal, organisation of conferences or other events with the Council Presidencies, High-Level Group on the digitalisation of justice). Along with the existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on evaluation, impact assessment and related policy support services as well as of policy work on access to justice.

If the Commission estimates that some policy actions foreseen under procurement would be better implemented - taking into account the evolution of the policy context - through indirect management, then contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities working in the area of access to justice may be concluded in accordance with Title VI 'Indirect management' of the Financial Regulation. This concerns organisations which have been subject to an ex-ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement concluded with the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/369, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations. Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action in the area of access to justice and must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the actions. This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' entrustment

requirements, on the basis of the competence and experience of the organisation and their project team, including operational resources (human, technical and other). The proposal for the action and request of funding will be assessed based on the relevance of the action against the objectives of the programme, the quality of the action and its impact.

Examples of organisations that can be selected as implementing entities include, but are not limited to, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as well as agencies of the United Nations.

#### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Direct management by DG JUST and, where indicated, by DIGIT, DGT based on a co-delegation. Other co-delegations might be also used, if needed.

## 9. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for indirect management activities is € 385 000 for 2025.

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

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

Council of Europe
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#### OBJECTIVES PURSUED

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

Cooperation with the Council of Europe covers two items:

##### 1. 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 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.

##### 2. European forum of prison monitoring bodies in the Member States

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

The activity started in 2016 and 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.

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

EU NPMs in this field.

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

#### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- National authorities responsible for monitoring of detention conditions operate in cooperation and coordination with other responsible agencies and institutions across the EU;
- Improved standards for measuring detention conditions in the Member States in line with EU acquis, in particular the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and international instruments such as the Council of Europe European Prison Rules;
- Approximation of the administrative practices in relation to monitoring of prisons in different Member States;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities in relation to detention conditions in the Member States;
- Improved knowledge on the legislation and administrative practices related to detention conditions in the Member States;
- Reduced risks of detention issues affecting judicial cooperation in criminal matters in proceedings related to the European arrest warrant and transfer of custodial sentences to other Member States;
- Enhanced awareness and implementation of the Commission Recommendation of 8 December 2022 on procedural rights of suspects or accused persons in pre-trial detention and material conditions of detention – Recommendation C(2022) 8987 final.

## **4.2 Support to Council of Europe for the EU Justice Scoreboard**

#### **IMPLEMENTING ENTITY**

Council of Europe

#### **OBJECTIVES PURSUED**

Promote the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems and the effective enforcement of decisions.

#### **DESCRIPTION**

The cooperation with the Council of Europe's European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) is necessary to carry out an annual study which provides comparative data on the efficiency, quality, and independence of justice systems among the EU Member States.

The study also provides detailed comments and country-specific factsheets.

#### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Improved effectiveness of national justice systems;

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identification of essential parameters of an effective justice system;</li><li>• Improved dialogue with national authorities.</li></ul> |
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## **10. OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURE**

### **10.1. EU membership fee in the Hague Conference of Private International Law**

#### **LEGAL BASIS**

Art. 3(2)(a) Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013  
Council Decision (EC) No 2006/719 of 5 October 2006 on the accession of the Community to the Hague Conference on Private International Law<sup>54</sup>.

#### **AMOUNT**

The budget reserved is EUR 39 000 for 2025 (under budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation)

#### **DESCRIPTION**

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

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<sup>54</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32006D0719>, OJ L 297, 26.10.2006, p. 1.



## INDICATIVE LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENT REFERENCES

Legislative instrument full name	Reference
Regulation (EU) <b>2021/693</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the <b>Justice Programme</b> and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013	OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 21–38 <a href="http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/693/oj">http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/693/oj</a> <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013R1382">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013R1382</a>
Regulation (EU) No <b>655/2014</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 establishing a <b>European Account Preservation Order procedure to facilitate cross-border debt recovery in civil and commercial matters</b>	OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 59–92 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0655">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0655</a>
Regulation (EU) <b>2015/848</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 on <b>insolvency proceedings</b> (recast)	OJ L 141, 5.6.2015, p. 19–72 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015R0848">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015R0848</a>
Regulation (EU) <b>2015/2421</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 861/2007 establishing a European Small Claims Procedure and Regulation (EC) No 1896/2006 creating a <b>European order for payment procedure</b>	OJ L 341, 24.12.2015, p. 1–13 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015R2421">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015R2421</a>
Regulation (EU) <b>2016/1191</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 on <b>promoting the free movement of citizens by simplifying the requirements for presenting certain public documents in the European Union</b> and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012	OJ L 200, 26.7.2016, p. 1–136 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1191">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1191</a>
Council Regulation (EC) No <b>2201/2003</b> of 27 November 2003 concerning <b>jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility</b> , repealing Regulation (EC) No 1347/2000	OJ L 338, 23.12.2003, p. 1–29 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32003R2201">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32003R2201</a>
Council Regulation (EU) <b>2016/1103</b> of 24 June 2016 implementing <b>enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of matrimonial property regimes</b>	OJ L 183, 8.7.2016, p. 1–29 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1103">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1103</a>
Council Regulation (EU) <b>2016/1104</b> of 24 June 2016 implementing <b>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</b>	OJ L 183, 8.7.2016, p. 30–56 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1104">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1104</a>
Regulation (EU) No <b>910/2014</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on <b>electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market</b> and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC	OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p. 73–114 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0910">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0910</a>
Regulation (EU) <b>2018/1805</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the <b>mutual recognition</b>	OJ L 303, 28.11.2018, p. 1–38

<b>of freezing orders and confiscation orders</b>	<a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1805">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1805</a>
Directive (EU) <b>2019/1937</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the <b>protection of persons who report breaches of Union law</b> <i>Applicable as from 17 December 2021</i>	OJ L 305, 26.11.2019, p. 17-56 <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32019L1937">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32019L1937</a>
Directive <b>2010/64/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the <b>right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings</b> <i>Applicable as from 27 October 2013</i>	OJ L 280, 26.10.2010, p.1-7 <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32010L0064">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32010L0064</a>
Directive <b>2012/13/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 on the <b>right to information in criminal proceedings</b> <i>Applicable as from 2 June 2014</i>	OJ L 142, 1.6.2012, p.1-10 <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32012L0013">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32012L0013</a>
Directive <b>2013/48/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on the <b>right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings</b> , and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty <i>Applicable as from 27 November 2016</i>	OJ L 294, 6.11.2013, p.1-12 <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32013L0048">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32013L0048</a>
Directive (EU) <b>2016/343</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on the <b>strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings</b> <i>Applicable as from 1 April 2018</i>	OJ L 65, 11.3.2016, p.1-11 <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/343/oj">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/343/oj</a>
Directive (EU) <b>2016/800</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on <b>procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings</b> <i>Applicable as from 11 June 2019</i>	OJ L132, 21.5.2016, p.1-20 <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016L0800">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016L0800</a>
Directive (EU) <b>2016/1919</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on <b>legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings</b> <i>applicable from 5 May 2019</i>	OJ L 297, 4.11.2016, p. 1–8 <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016L1919">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016L1919</a>
Directive <b>2012/29/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing <b>minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime</b> , and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA	OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 57–73 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0029">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0029</a>
Council Directive <b>2004/80/EC</b> of 29 April 2004 relating to <b>compensation to crime victims</b>	OJ L 261, 6.8.2004, p. 15–18 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32004L0080">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32004L0080</a>

Regulation (EU) No <b>606/2013</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on <b>mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters</b>	OJ L181,29.06.2013, p. 4-12 <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32013R0606">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32013R0606</a>
Directive <b>2011/99/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the <b>European protection order (in criminal matters)</b>	OJ L 338, 21.12.2011, p. 2–18 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011L0099">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011L0099</a>
Directive (EU) <b>2017/541</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on <b>combating terrorism</b> and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA and amending Council Decision 2005/671/JHA	OJ L 88, 31.3.2017, p. 6–21 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017L0541">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017L0541</a>
Directive <b>2014/41/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 regarding the <b>European Investigation Order in criminal matters</b> <i>applicable since 22 May 2017</i>	OJ L 130, 1.5.2014, p. 1–36 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0041">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0041</a>
Directive <b>2012/17/EU</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2012 amending Council Directive 89/666/EEC and Directives 2005/56/EC and 2009/101/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the <b>interconnection of central, commercial and companies registers</b> <i>applicable from June 2017</i>	OJ L 156, 16.6.2012, p. 1–9 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0017">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0017</a>
Council Framework Decision <b>2002/584/JHA</b> of 13 June 2002 on the <b>European arrest warrant</b> and the surrender procedures between Member States	OJ L 190, 18.7.2002, p. 1–20 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32002F0584">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32002F0584</a>
Council Framework Decision <b>2008/909/JHA</b> of 27 November 2008 on the <b>application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union</b>	OJ L 327, 5.12.2008, p. 27–46 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0909">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0909</a>
Council Framework Decision <b>2008/947/JHA</b> of 27 November 2008 on the <b>application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments and probation decisions with a view to the supervision of probation measures and alternative sanctions</b>	OJ L 337, 16.12.2008, p. 102–122 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0947">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0947</a>
Council Framework Decision <b>2009/829/JHA</b> of 23 October 2009 on the <b>application, between Member States of the European Union, of the principle of mutual recognition to decisions on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention</b>	OJ L 294, 11.11.2009 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009F0829">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009F0829</a>
Council Framework Decision <b>2005/214/JHA</b> of 24 February 2005 on the <b>application of the principle of mutual recognition to financial penalties</b>	OJ L 76, 22.3.2005, p. 16–30 <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32005F0214">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32005F0214</a>
Council Framework Decision <b>2008/913/JHA</b> of 28 November 2008 on <b>combating certain forms and expressions of racism</b>	OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 55–58

and xenophobia by means of criminal law	<a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0913">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008F0913</a>
Regulation (EU) <b>2023/2844</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2023 on the <b>digitalisation of judicial cooperation and access to justice in cross-border civil, commercial and criminal matters, and amending certain acts in the field of judicial cooperation</b>	OJ L, 2023/2844, 27.12.2023 <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202302844">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202302844</a>