

Note to the Management Board

Involvement of eu-LISA in the activities of JHA Agencies Network (JHAAN)

Background

The Justice and Home Affairs Agencies' Network (JHAAN) was **established in 2010**, when the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) agreed on a new approach for ensuring cooperation between JHA agencies.¹ The accompanying final report,² drafted jointly by CEPOL, Eurojust, Europol and Frontex, laid out sets of actions, which became the foundation of the JHAAN. Since 2012 the network comprises nine agencies: CEPOL, EASO, EIGE, EMCDDA, eu-LISA, Eurojust, Europol, FRA and Frontex.

JHAAN connects the EU Agencies implementing the EU policies of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. Together, the JHA agencies contribute to the implementation of EU's objectives in the fields of migration, asylum and external border management, the fight against organised crime, drug trafficking and terrorism, gender equality and respect for fundamental rights. They also facilitate the functioning of relevant EU IT systems, contribute to EU activities on drugs and drug addiction and facilitate law-enforcement training.

Since 2010, the JHA agencies have in turn chaired this network, coordinating the activities and meetings and carrying out the secretariat function.

JHAAN reports to COSI and the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament regarding the network's progress and achievements. In line with this requirement, a formal report, to be endorsed by the Heads of the JHA Agencies in their regular meeting at the end of each year, is presented to COSI in the beginning of next year.

eu-LISA in JHAAN

eu-LISA has joined JHAAN in 2012, right after Agency's' establishment. eu-LISA **chaired the Network in 2015** and will have the **next chairmanship (Presidency) in 2024**.

¹ *Ensuring consistency of action in the light of the joint report on cooperation between JHA agencies, Council of the European Union, 9441/2/10 REV 2, 26 May 2010.*

² *Final report on the cooperation between JHA Agencies, Council of the European Union, 5816/10 JAI 87 COSI 2, 9 April 2010.*

As per recommendation stemming from the JHAAN 10-year assessment report³, the **Trio Presidency** format was introduced in the end of 2021. Together with CEPOL and EUAA, eu-LISA is part of the first Trio Presidency team formed for the period 2022-2024.

JHAAN encompasses several thematic **Working Groups** and expert clusters. eu-LISA participates in the work of all the JHAAN groups as listed below:

- Contact Points (4 meetings in 2021)
- Training working group
- ICT & Cybersecurity Working Group (1 meeting in 2021)
- Communication working group (2 meetings in 2021)
- Data Protection working group (3 meetings in 2021)
- Public Access to Documents working group (1 meeting in 2021)
- Relex working group (1 meeting in 2021)
- European Situation Awareness working group (1 meeting in 2021)
- JHA Security Officers Network (JHA SON) (1 informal meeting in 2021)

The meetings of the Contact Points are held 3-4 times a year from Q1 to Q4. The Contact Points ensure general coordination and organise the annual high-level meeting of the Heads of Agencies in Q4. The thematic working group meetings are organised usually once a year but they can be organised more often if need be. eu-LISA participates in all working groups. The most recent working group, JHA Security Officers Network (JHA SON) is being set up on the lead of eu-LISA now in collaboration with other JHA agencies. All new working groups are approved by Heads of Agencies at their annual meeting in Q4.

eu-LISA contributes to JHAAN by active engagement in the Contact Points group as well as in the thematic working groups. In addition, eu-LISA is participating and, if requested, also presenting at the seminars and awareness raising events organised by the Presidency Agency. In 2021, there were five such events focussing on the priority topics set by the chairing Agency. JHAAN has also issued joint statements and joint papers on topical issues to express Network's commitment to assist EU Member States or to highlight the actions taken to overcome the situation. eu-LISA has actively contributed to and joined all such products. Most recently, the EU Justice and Home Affairs Agencies' Joint Statement on Ukraine was published on 7 March 2022.

With a view to the chairmanship in 2024, eu-LISA now supports the current chair, CEPOL, in drafting the objectives of the Network, setting the agenda of the contact point meetings, reviewing meeting documents and coordinating positions in any matters as needed. In the next year eu-LISA will support the next chair, EUAA, in running the Network, and in 2024 during eu-LISA's chairmanship the other Trio partners will support eu-LISA in carrying out the work.

³ https://prd.frontex.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/jhaan_assessment_report_2021.pdf