

What is the EJNI?

A network of national contact points for the facilitation of judicial co-operation in criminal matters has been in operation within the European Union since 1998. The network was created by the Joint Action 98/428 JHA of 29 June 1998 in order to fulfil recommendation no 21 of the Action Plan to Combat Organised Crime, adopted by the Council in 1997.



EJN

European Judicial Network



EUROPEAN JUDICIAL NETWORK

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What is the purpose of the EJM?

To improve judicial co-operation between the Member States of the European Union, particularly in combating forms of serious crime, by means of:

- *facilitating and speeding up judicial co-operation;*
- *providing legal and practical information to competent local authorities; and*
- *providing support with requests for assistance.*

How does the EJM work?

Each country has appointed one or more contact points to the EJM from the central authorities responsible for international judicial co-operation, as well as the judicial and prosecuting authorities working in this field. These contact points are active intermediaries in the chain of judicial co-operation, but are not an additional layer of bureaucracy. Their work is based on the exchange of information and informal contacts.

How does the EJM carry out its functions?

The contact points promote judicial co-operation between the competent local authorities for the purpose of, for example, the dispatch and implementation of requests for judicial assistance as well as the facilitation of the most appropriate direct contacts. In addition, the contact points can help in resolving difficulties arising from the implementation of such requests.

The contact points meet three times a year to gather knowledge on the various legal systems of the EU Member States, to discuss difficulties in the provision of judicial assistance, and to make proposals for the resolution of conflicts.

The network is also developing information tools that can be used by the competent national authorities to support direct co-operation (e.g., the tools can be used in order to ascertain to whom a request for judicial assistance or an EAW should be sent, or to obtain information on particular legal requirements...).

You can access these tools through the EJM website:

<http://www.ejm-crimjust.europa.eu>

The EJM can be of assistance to you

- *in identifying and establishing direct contacts with the competent local authority in another EU Member State to which you may be sending a request for judicial assistance or a European Arrest Warrant;*
- *in obtaining legal and practical information on the provision of judicial co-operation in another EU Member State;*
- *in mediating to resolve difficulties, delays and conflicts that arise in the implementation of requests for judicial assistance; and*
- *in the provision of advice on the correct approach to co-operation in complex criminal cases between competent authorities in Member States.*

You may be approached by your national contact points if the competent authorities of other EU Member States ask the EJM for assistance in relation to the matters mentioned above.

