



# The EU justice and home affairs agencies 2019



# EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

Warsaw, Poland  
Established in 2016

(on the foundation of Frontex,  
operational since 2005)

## Who we are

Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, supports EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries in the management of EU's external borders and fighting cross-border crime, for the implementation of a European integrated border management.



## Highlights 2019

A couple of examples of our activities:

**In 2019, Frontex has lead, co-lead and participated in 68 Operational Actions to counter serious cross-border crime.**

Frontex is a fully-fledged law enforcement Agency, actively participating in the EU Policy Cycle/ European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats (EMPACT). The Agency is gradually increasing not only the number of engagements, but also its scope and effectiveness.

### • Joint implementation of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)

ETIAS should become operational by the end of 2021 and Frontex, together with eu-LISA and Europol, is currently preparing for the implementation phase.

Frontex will be responsible for the ETIAS

## Cooperation with Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies

Given its role at the external borders, Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, cooperates closely with other JHA agencies in the area of migration and border management. These partnerships are crucial in many ways.

Some of these include operational activities in the hotspots, coordination of operational actions in the context of the EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT and regular exchange of border-related intelligence, situational awareness and risk analysis.

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# EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR THE OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF LARGE-SCALE IT SYSTEMS IN THE AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

Tallinn, Estonia  
Established in 2011

## Who we are

eu-LISA is responsible for the operational management of the Union's largest IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice. With information technology, the Agency safeguards the EU's internal security and supports the implementation of asylum, migration and border management policies for the benefit of European citizens.



## Highlights 2019

A couple of examples of our activities:

- Following the entry into force of the two interoperability regulations in June 2019, eu-LISA reinforced its preparations towards **setting up the new EU interoperability architecture**. The 1<sup>st</sup> interoperability Programme Management Board meeting was held on 30 October 2019, while the interoperability Advisory Group will be convened in January 2020 and shall gather on a monthly basis from then on.
- **eu-LISA 2.0**, the Agency's new organisational structure, entered into force on 1 September 2019. In order to deliver the extended mandate provided for in the revised establishing regulation, the Agency redesigned its operational processes. For the implementation of numerous new projects (EES, ETIAS, ECRIS-TCN, interoperability, etc.) eu-LISA is recruiting and will almost double its staff, reaching close to 400 by the end of 2023.

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## Cooperation with Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies

To facilitate reaching a viable solution and a common architecture for the implementation of the Entry-Exit System (EES) at the EU's external sea and land borders, the **Working Group on ICT Solutions for External Borders (sea/land)** was established by eu-LISA in late 2018. In addition to the relevant Member States, Frontex and Commission experts were part of the working group (WG). The WG elaborated substantial concepts on how expedited crossings of vehicles and pedestrians can be managed at the most challenging of the EU's external borders. Having held five meetings to discuss various scenarios for land and sea border crossings, the WG concluded its work with a final report in March 2019. The report set out the requirements for the ICT solutions and made recommendations for the next steps that Member States, in cooperation with Frontex, will need to take.

- 📺 [youtube.com/channel/UCGAXymjo8D1kXESrcbGqRKw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGAXymjo8D1kXESrcbGqRKw)
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# EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE

Valletta, Malta  
Established in 2011

## Who we are

The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) is active in implementing the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), strengthening cooperation with and amongst Member States and providing assistance to apply into practice the fundamental values of CEAS, work towards the harmonization of asylum practices and to ensure that individual asylum cases are systematically addressed by all Member States.

This is carried out through guidance material, COI publications, training, data collection and analysis, operational support and technical support, such as capacity building – including with third countries.

## Highlights 2019

A couple of examples of our studies:

- **Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2018**

The report is a flagship reference publication that aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the situation of asylum in the EU+ and the practical functioning of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

- **Practical Guide on the best interests of the child in asylum procedures**

This new practical guide aims to provide guidance and support to the competent national authorities on the required guarantees and safeguards which will ensure that the child's best interests are given primary consideration when making decisions affecting the child in the asylum procedures.



## Cooperation with Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies

In 2019, EASO supported FRA's information sessions on fundamental rights for officials working in reception centres in Spain, focussed on raising awareness concerning family reunification, child protection, gender consideration/LGBTI, sexual and gender based violence and trafficking in human beings. FRA also supported EASO during training sessions on access to the procedure for the asylum and reception authorities in Spain, a thematic Workshop on information provision to applicants, and a roundtable on age assessment.

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# EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Vilnius, Lithuania  
Established in 2010

## Who we are

EIGE works to strengthen equality between women and men in the EU, so that everyone can have the same opportunities in life. Our research paves the way to make all areas of society more gender-equal. This is the recipe for a stronger and fairer Europe.

## Highlights 2019

A couple of examples of our work:

### • Gender Equality Index 2019

Gender Equality Index measures the progress of gender equality in the EU in six core domains –work, money, knowledge, time, power and health – and two additional domains: violence against women and intersecting inequalities. Work-life balance and its connection to gender equality was a special focus of Index 2019.

### • Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in EU MS

Review of developments in all 12 BPfA areas of concern at EU level. It tracks progress and assesses new challenges, including those brought by digitalisation, recent migration flows and a mounting backlash against gender equality.



## Cooperation with Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies

In 2019, EIGE launched a **Guide for Risk Assessment and Management of Intimate Partner Violence against Women for Police**. This guide provides the police with practical guidelines and recommendations on how to develop and implement risk assessment and risk management approaches. EIGE consulted CEPOL in developing the Guide and cooperated with Europol in disseminating it among EU MS.

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# EUROPEAN MONITORING CENTRE FOR DRUGS AND DRUG ADDICTION

Lisbon, Portugal  
Established in 1993

## Contributing to a healthier and more secure Europe

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is the hub of drug-related information in Europe. For over 20 years, it has been collecting, analysing and disseminating scientifically sound information on drugs and drug addiction and their consequences, providing its audiences with an evidence-based picture of the drug phenomenon at European level.



## Cooperation with Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies

**Strategic analysis:** By working closely with JHA agencies, the EMCDDA strengthens its capacity for strategic analysis and threat assessments. One example of this is the joint EMCDDA–Europol EU Drug Markets Report, published every three years (see opposite).  
**Capacity building:** To support EU-wide capacity-building exercises for law enforcement, the EMCDDA provides technical expertise to initiatives such as CEPOL training activities and technical assistance projects in non-EU countries. As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening cooperation, the agency is running an EU-funded project — ‘EU4Monitoring Drugs’ — involving countries in the European Neighbourhood Policy area. The project supports national and regional readiness to identify and respond to drug-related security and health threats.

## Highlights 2019

A couple of examples of our work :

### •European Drug Report 2019:

This annual overview of the European drug situation provides an analysis of the latest tendencies across 30 countries. This edition covers the challenges associated with heroin, synthetic opioids, cannabis, synthetic drug production in Europe and the use of digital technologies for health benefits in the drugs field.

### EU Drug Markets Report 2019

The EMCDDA and Europol provide their third state-of-the-art overview of the European illicit drug market in this report, which covers trends along the supply chain from production and trafficking to distribution and sales.

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## Who we are

CEPOL is an agency of the European Union dedicated to develop, implement and coordinate training for law enforcement officials. We bring together a network of EU based law enforcement training institutes and support them in providing frontline training on security priorities, law enforcement cooperation and information exchange.

## Highlights 2019

A couple of examples of our key activities:

- **A wide range of training opportunities and an exchange programme for law enforcement officials**

Over 20 000 law enforcement (LE) officials participated in the training activities organized by CEPOL in 2019 across Europe and online (residential activities, webinars, online courses). Furthermore, over 400 LE officials took part in our flagship CEPOL Exchange Programme within the EU, its candidate countries or Eastern Partnership partners.

- **European Joint Master Programme 2017-2019**

CEPOL has successfully completed its second edition of the European Joint Master Programme (EJMP). 28 graduates from across Europe have completed their Master Degree in "Policing in Europe" and defended their Master Theses during the summer of 2019. The EJMP graduation ceremony attended by Commissioner Avramopoulos took place at CEPOL HQ in October 2019.

Budapest, Hungary  
Established in 2000



## Cooperation with Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies

Since 2018, CEPOL and Frontex are implementing a pilot joint exchange programme for participants exercising border and coast guard duties within the CEPOL Exchange Programme (CEP). In 2019 it is expected to have 94 exchangees.

In 2019, CEPOL and eu-LISA implement two joint residential training courses:

- SIS II for SIRENE staff with technical knowledge of SIS II (in Estonia)
- Train the technical trainers – SIS II, VIS, Eurodac – IT operators (in Estonia).

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# EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION

The Hague, the Netherlands  
Established in 1994

## Making Europe safer

Europol connects national law enforcement authorities such as police forces, customs, and security services. The Agency supports EU Member States in their fight against serious and organised crime, terrorism and crime affecting a common interest of the Union. Through its analytical and coordination capabilities, Europol is the central hub for information on criminal activities for EU law enforcement intelligence.



## Highlights 2019

A couple of examples of our activities:

- **Europol and Frontex signed a Joint Action Plan**

The JAP will strengthen Europol and Frontex common efforts in enhancing the security of EU citizens. Europol's databases and criminal investigations will be strengthened by information gathered by Frontex.

Information from Europol will facilitate more efficient management of the EU's external borders and targeted action against criminal groups and terrorists.





- **Europe's Most Wanted campaign**

As a result of a two-week media campaign in October, five of Europe's most sought after fugitives were arrested. This is due to the attention generated to the EU Most Wanted website. On the request of EU Member States, this year's campaign focused on gender, highlighting the fact that women are just as capable as men of committing serious and violent crimes.

## Cooperation with Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies

Authorities from seven countries, with the active support of Eurojust, Europol and the European anti-fraud office OLAF, have dismantled an international organised crime group (OCG) which was involved in the large scale illegal trade of tobacco. During an action day, coordinated at Eurojust, 18 persons from different nationalities have been arrested, who are suspected of money laundering and the illegal trade and storage of around 670.000 kilos of tobacco.

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Vienna, Austria

Established in 2007

## Who we are

FRA provides independent, evidence-based advice on fundamental rights. These are enshrined in the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights. FRA's reports highlight promising practices and challenges when Member States implement EU law. FRA produces handbooks and practical guidance to help practitioners and policy-makers in their work. FRA also provides support through capacity building activities.



## Highlights 2019

Our activities in 2019 included:

### › Regular overviews of migration-related fundamental rights concerns

Every three months, FRA reports on migration-related fundamental rights concerns in those Member States and EU candidate countries that are particularly affected by migration movements.

### › Children deprived of parental care found in an EU Member State other than their own

Through a set of 10 actions, the guide provides practical suggestions on how to identify, refer and support children deprived of parental care found in another EU Member State other than their own. It explains how to implement principles, such as the right of the child to be heard and how to ensure their best interests, when deciding on a durable solution.

to residence permits, family reunification, education, housing and social assistance in six EU Member States.

## Cooperation with Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies

The data that FRA collects and analyses provide evidence, which can aid JHA agencies when they formulate operational responses, for example, by highlighting the victim's viewpoint. FRA also advises JHA agencies on how to integrate or mainstream fundamental rights into their work. A priority area for FRA's work is the provision of fundamental rights expertise in relation to EU large-scale information systems and their interoperability.

FRA continues to provide expertise to support the work of the European Commission and other EU agencies (EASO, Europol and Frontex), as well as national authorities in the hotspots in Greece and Italy. FRA focuses on the protection of children and other groups at risk as well as on the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence.

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# EUROJUST

The Hague, the Netherlands  
Established in 2002



## Who we are

Eurojust supports and strengthens coordination and cooperation between national investigating and prosecuting authorities in the fight against serious cross-border crime. We are a bridge-maker between the different legal systems and practices in the European Union. We build trust between Member States and foster the shaping of a joint criminal justice response to defeat criminal networks, convict the criminals involved and ensure security and justice to our fellow EU citizens. Eurojust looks forward to hosting the JHA agencies network in 2020.

## Cooperation with Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies

Eurojust works closely together with the other JHA Agencies in best practice development and operational matters. A criminal network involved in transnational money laundering was targeted by national authorities of the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, with Eurojust's and Europol's cooperation. A coordination centre was set up at Eurojust to coordinate the joint action day in all 5 countries involved, swiftly sharing case-related information on the spot, and collecting and exchanging valuable evidence.

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## Highlights 2019

A couple of examples of our activities:

- **Eurojust supported 5800 cross-border criminal investigations in the first six months of 2019**, ranging from drug trafficking, cybercrime, trafficking in human beings and terrorism to fraud, such as the illegal selling of contaminated fish and large scale fraud with counterfeit olive oil. In September 2019, Eurojust supported the 100th coordination center, where prosecutors monitor a joint action day in real time, supervising simultaneous arrests, house searches and seizures across Europe from the purpose built facility at Eurojust.
- **A counter terrorism register (CTR) was launched at Eurojust to reinforce the judicial response in member states to terrorist threats** and to improve security for citizens. The CTR centralizes key judicial information to establish links in proceedings against suspects of terrorist offences. It is managed by Eurojust on a 24hour basis and provides proactive support to national judicial authorities.

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