

EMCDDA chairs Justice and Home Affairs agencies' network in 2017



Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies' network

The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies' network was established in 2006 to boost cooperation in the migration and security fields and to develop synergies in areas of common interest, such as operational work, training and external relations. Since the EMCDDA and EIGE joined in 2011, the network has been composed of nine agencies (CEPOL, EASO, EIGE, EMCDDA, eu-LISA, Eurojust, Europol, FRA and Frontex).

The JHA agencies are required to report jointly to the Council's Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) regarding progress and achievements in the area of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. In line with this requirement, a formal report, to be endorsed by the Heads of the JHA agencies in November in Lisbon, will be presented to COSI by the end of the year.

Focus on the internet

The agencies work together on a wide range of issues, including human trafficking, migration and border management, drug trafficking and combating organised crime. The theme chosen for the 2017 mandate is the internet. At an expert meeting, held in Lisbon from 20–21 April, guest speakers, together with representatives of the JHA agencies, addressed the challenges and opportunities posed by the expanding influence of the internet and the exploitation of cyberspace for criminal activities. This will lead to a meeting report which will be presented to the JHA agencies' Directors and COSI.



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Key meetings in 2017

9–10 February: 1st JHA network meeting

20–21 April: Internet and new technology expert meeting

19 May: JHA agencies' network meeting on external relations

9 June: ICT expert meeting

19 June: Training experts' meeting

20–21 June: 2nd JHA network meeting

28–29 September: 3rd JHA network meeting

28 November: Heads of JHA agencies' meeting

Message from EMCDDA Director Alexis Goosdeel

“Current migration and security situations in Europe call for ever closer cooperation between the EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies. Through this small network, the nine agencies assess how to improve their collaboration — in areas from information exchange to work on the ground in migration “hotspots”— in order to respond in a timely and efficient way to a dynamic and changing environment. Strong cooperation within this cluster over the last decade has shown what can be achieved when agencies build solid working relationships and enhance each other's work. ”

