



EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies'

cooperation in 2018

Final Report



Conclusions of the Heads of Justice and Home Affairs agencies' meeting on 23 November 2018, Vilnius

The annual meeting of the Heads of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies, organised under the Chair of EIGE took place on 23 November 2018 in Vilnius.

Participants acknowledged that JHA agencies play a vital role in implementing EU priorities in the areas of freedom, security and justice. Strong working partnerships among JHA agencies allow for resources to be **pooled, thereby increasing agencies'** efficiency, effectiveness, and their ability to respond to new challenges by adapting to rapidly changing circumstances. Working together across various areas of expertise the **agencies contribute to ensuring Europe's security** and safety, while continuing to protect human and fundamental rights and advance gender equality.

Heads of JHA agencies also acknowledged the importance of having dynamic relations with the main EU institutions and confirmed their readiness to continue close cooperation with the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council in implementing the European Agenda on Security and the European Agenda on Migration.

General observations

1. Regarding the negotiations on the EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027, the Heads of JHA agencies called for a balance between available resources and constantly increasing expectations as regards the role and tasks of the agencies. Although the human and financial resources to the JHA portfolio have overall increased considerably over the last years, not all agencies have benefited from this reinforcement.
2. Challenges posed by the development of different new technologies will remain an issue for law enforcement and judicial authorities. Implementation of interoperability of large-scale IT systems, secure communication among agencies, exchange of information with judicial national authorities (Digital Criminal Justice), electronic evidence, encryption require huge budget. It was noted that for some of the JHA agencies, this expenditure is not properly considered in the new MFF.
3. In the coming years the agencies will be confronted with additional challenges as a result of Brexit. The agencies need to prepare for that, although the final scenario is still unclear.
4. Directors acknowledged the importance of a well-coordinated approach to capacity building and cooperation with third countries and look forward to exploring possibilities of enhanced interagency cooperation in implementing joint capacity building projects with third countries.
5. Participants suggested that the Commission could involve JHA agencies more in the design and implementation of different projects related to cooperation with third countries, bringing in their expertise, even in those cases where the agencies are not directly implementing those.
6. JHA agencies should intensify their efforts to communicate the added value of this network. Over the past years, cooperation among the JHA agencies has been very intense, ranging from information exchange, joint projects, up to operational cooperation in the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime. There are many good stories of inter-agency cooperation (JITs for example), but these stories are not presented to the public. The agencies should invest more in communicating joint achievements as part of inter-agency cooperation and thus highlight the added value of the network.

Gender-related aspects in the work of JHA agencies

7. JHA agencies reaffirmed the important role of gender equality across all areas of work of the JHA **agencies and commended on EIGE's initiative to add the topic among the priorities of the network in 2018.**
8. Although internal security and migration are highly gendered in nature, the EU policy framework does not yet fully recognise the need to integrate the gender perspective in these sectors. The internal security sector of the EU should include a gender perspective in the work of law enforcement, border control, security legislation and judicial cooperation at national and European levels. Implementation of the EU Agenda on Migration could get a boost from enforced gender equality, especially in asylum procedures and integration processes.
9. **The JHA agencies' cooperation in mainstreaming gender into the areas of freedom, security and justice could be intensified.** When it comes to the implementation of the European Agenda on Migration, for example, JHA agencies could further explore possibilities for inter-agency actions to raise awareness of and support better capability to identify, refer and protect vulnerable groups, such as women and children, in migration and integration process.
10. In order to strengthen gender equality in the agencies, gender equality and diversity action plans should be in place, supported by top management of the agency in their implementation. It is necessary to create a respectful and trustful working environment and to consider work-life balance initiatives, to attract more female candidates to apply for positions in JHA agencies, in particular at managerial level. It is essential to monitor and follow up the implementation of gender equality and diversity action plans, making sure it delivers intended results.
11. There was a consensus that JHA agencies should step up their efforts to mainstream gender into their internal structures and procedures. In light of this, the agencies agreed to continue the discussions on internal aspects of gender equality in the work of the agencies in the coming years. Among the topics raised was prevention of sexual harassment at workplace, ensuring diversity and inclusion and addressing unconscious gender bias in the agencies.

Opportunities and challenges of digitalisation for young girls and boys

12. Digital technologies are playing a big role in the work of JHA agencies focused on security, justice and border management. Despite having a clear mandate to better protect boys and girls from the dangers in the digital world, including among others, trafficking in human beings, radicalisation and incorrect and unreliable information, the JHA agencies cooperate in prevention, awareness raising about trustable online information and sources, education and assistance that can minimize risks for children.
13. Cyber violence is a growing phenomenon that affects girls disproportionately. JHA agencies acknowledged that it is necessary to ensure better protection of vulnerable groups especially in the area of cyber-violence. JHA agencies will continue to cooperate in addressing children victims of cyber-violence, e.g. by identifying victims (in cases of sexual exploitation) and training law enforcement officers dealing with cases of cyber-violence to ensure they have full understanding of the challenges, right level of sensitivity and skills to deal with children victims. More attention should be placed on the prevention of **cyber-violence, through strengthening agencies' cooperation with civil society and private partnerships.**
14. Online child sexual exploitation has a clear cross-border dimension; therefore international cooperation is extremely important. Judicial authorities face the challenge of collecting and proving enough evidence that would be accepted as admissible in national courts. For this reason, early involvement of judicial authorities in investigations must be ensured. This could prevent the victims from further victimisation.

Training law enforcement officials in the JHA area

15. CEPOL presented results of the EU Strategic Training Needs Assessment 2019-2021, which is an excellent example of the engagement of all JHA agencies, bringing in their knowledge and expertise. The assessment identifies the EU-level training priorities in the area of internal security and its external aspects from a strategic perspective. This will help the agencies to build the capacity of law enforcement officials, while seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and achieve better training coordination through a multiannual perspective.
16. Current developments in the area of training show that training courses are getting more electronic (e-learning, online modules), which changes the nature of training courses and allows for a higher reach out among potential participants.
17. In the perspective of digitalisation, CEPOL is developing a new vision and a long-term strategy that will support the development of a technology-enhanced business model and learning system. As part of this future-facing strategy, CEPOL is now on the way to evolve its electronic learning platform into a new digital learning services environment, meeting the current needs with the ability to address future technological and educational trends. In this context and considering that fostering transparency and collaboration become top priorities, CEPOL proposed to establish interconnectivity and interoperability among the learning management systems of the JHA agencies, providing training support and expertise for Member States and the EU.

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18. Year 2019 will mark the 10th anniversary of coming into force of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. JHA agencies welcome FRA to lead discussions and reflections next year on possible inter-agency initiatives aimed at raising awareness among EU agencies on the significance of applying the Charter across their activities.

Foreword

The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies' network was established in 2006 and is made up of nine EU agencies working on a range of justice and security issues, such as migration and border management, combatting drug trafficking and organised crime, human trafficking, human and fundamental rights, and gender equality. The network was established to help agencies share information and get stronger synergies. This makes them more effective and better able to serve the public. The JHA agencies take turns chairing the network and the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) chaired the network in 2018.

This report outlines the main joint activities carried out over 2018 — an impressive number of inter-agency activities accomplished over the year — some 80 in the field of migration and about 90 in the area of security. The report also identifies opportunities for future inter-agency collaboration, to be taken forward by Europol, which will chair the network in 2019.

Throughout 2018, EIGE highlighted the **gender-related aspects of JHA agencies' work**. Led by EIGE, the network examined the impact of digitalisation in their respective areas of activity, with a specific focus given to the different ways technology is affecting young women and men. The results of this research outline how agencies can help negate risks, ensure security, and foster equality in Europe. The paper can be found in annex to this report.

JHA agencies also carried out activities on the ground to promote and protect fundamental rights and gender equality. For example, throughout 2018, the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and European Asylum Support Office (EASO) delivered capacity-building activities in migration hotspots focused on, inter alia, the prevention of sexual and gender based violence and child protection. EIGE has continued to encourage agencies to collect sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics in their operational areas.

Upon the initiative of EIGE JHA agencies also held a number of meetings to discuss how best prevent sexual harassment in their workplaces and issued a commitment to zero tolerance towards sexual harassment within their agencies.

This report shows that strong partnerships between JHA agencies allow pooling of resources and increase the effectiveness of agencies and their ability to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances. Working together across the **various areas of expertise will ensure Europe's security, while also protecting human rights and advancing gender equality**.

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Introduction

In recent years, Europe has faced challenges in the areas of freedom, security and justice, in particular the sustainable management of migration, responses to security external and internal threats and ongoing negotiations with the United Kingdom on Brexit.

In these difficult times, the combined efforts of the EU's agencies, institutions, Member States and civil society are more necessary than ever. The nine Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies¹ together with their partners in EU institutions, have worked to meet these challenges by enhancing bilateral and multilateral cooperation, creating synergies and, where necessary, adapting their work and activities to better deliver on their core mandates.

2018 saw a number of policy and legislative developments to better address challenges in the areas of freedom, security and justice. These related to information exchange and interoperability of large-scale IT systems, the launch of the new EU Policy Cycle, prevention of radicalisation, the EU Cybersecurity Strategy, the revision of the Schengen Borders Code, the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), stronger links between external and internal security policies, the Entry-Exit System (EES), the Directive on countering money laundering by criminal law, e-evidence and encryption.

Most of the JHA agencies have seen their mandates extended in recent years, or expect imminent changes to their legal frameworks in line with the changing focus of Union policies. In 2017, Europol's **mandate** was strengthened in order to step up **its support provided to Member States'** efforts to fight terrorism, cybercrime and other serious and organised forms of crime. Since 2016, Frontex has operated with an **enhanced mandate and reinforced resources to support Member States in ensuring security of the EU's external borders. This mandate may be further extended, in light of the Commission's September 2018 proposal for a reviewed European Border and Coast Guard Regulation.** In 2016, CEPOL broadened its previous limited mandate (in which it trained only senior police officers of the Member States) to all ranks of all branches of law enforcement, as well as the judiciary and with an enhanced external dimension. The revised eu-LISA Regulation (EU) 2018/1726 entered into force on 11 December 2018, enhancing the eu-LISA's capacity to develop EU large-scale information systems for security, border management and migration, to improve data quality, to carry out research, to participate in pilot projects and requesting the Agency to ensure interoperability between IT systems. The Regulation of EASO is currently subject to revision. The new Regulation will transform EASO into a fully-fledged EU Agency for Asylum, with a strengthened mandate, new tasks and responsibilities to support the implementation of a Common European Asylum System. The Eurojust Regulation was adopted on 6 November 2018. After the reform of Europol and Frontex, and the creation of **the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), the Eurojust Regulation completes the new EU criminal justice landscape by establishing Eurojust as the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation.** The Regulation establishes a new governance model, with an Executive Board to assist the College in its management functions and enhance operational effectiveness. It introduces rules on the relationship between Eurojust and the EPPO, as well as a new data protection regime, adapting it to the revised EU legal framework on data protection. **Finally, it aligns Eurojust's external relations with the principles introduced in the Treaty of Lisbon.** The EMCDDA Founding Regulation amendment has expanded **the Centre's mandate. The new legislative framework issued by the European Parliament and the Council,**

¹ There are nine Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies: European Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), EASO, EIGE, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom security and justice (eu-LISA), Eurojust, Europol, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).

applicable as of 23 November 2018, strengthens the EMCDDA's role, tasks and procedures in relation to information exchange, early warning system (EWS) and risk assessment (RA) procedures on new psychoactive substances (NPS). It also entails shorter deadlines for the completion of core obligations and new tasks, together with updated or developed cooperation agreements with Europol, European Medicines Agency (EMA), European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). These changes demonstrate the dynamism and adaptability of the JHA field.

In 2018, the joint efforts of the JHA agencies and their key stakeholders continued, as they sought to improve **the management of the EU's external borders, combat organised crime and counteract terrorism and cybercrime** - aware of the need to consider the fundamental rights implications. This report outlines the scope and key achievements of the JHA agencies joint work and cooperation in responding to challenges in the areas of freedom, security and justice in 2018.

Preamble

In 2018, the JHA agencies focused their bilateral and multilateral activities around two levels of cooperation (thematic and horizontal), which were further broken down into priority areas:

Thematic, policy-driven operational cooperation in the areas of:

- Migration and internal security:
 - Improve the capacity of the JHA agencies to respond in a timely and proactive way to a dynamic and changing situation in the areas of migration and internal security by strengthening technical and operational activities and the exchange of information among the JHA agencies, within the limits of their mandates, by using various cooperation platforms, including among others the EU Regional Task Force (EURTF), where those are operational;
- Gender-related aspects in the area of work of the JHA agencies:
 - Support current and upcoming EU Presidencies and EU policies by identifying gender related challenges of digitalisation in the area of work of the JHA agencies;
 - Highlight gender equality aspects in the work of the JHA agencies through encouraging them to collect and use sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics for relevant operational areas.

Horizontal cooperation on issues such as coordination and information exchange, training, external relations with third countries and communication activities:

- Synergies:
 - Continue creating synergies in all relevant areas linked to the operational work of the agencies, such as the provision of tailored training, sharing knowledge on ICT solutions and cybersecurity and the exchange of relevant data and analytical tools;
- Exchange views and experiences on work with third countries:
 - In close cooperation with the European Commission and the European External Action Service information was exchanged and coordination among the Agencies enhanced in the area of cooperation with Third countries, within the existing mandates of the JHA agencies;
- Communication:
 - **Communication of the activities of the JHA agencies' network to EU and national stakeholders, as well as other partners in order to raise awareness of the network's value, increase the Agencies' visibility, and improve their reputation vis-à-vis stakeholders and the general public.**

This report is structured around the network's priorities in 2018. An overview of joint activities in 2018 can be found in the scorecard (Annex 1). The JHA Training Matrix report for the previous year (2017) was presented separately and not annexed to this report. The focus of the JHA Training Matrix Report prepared by CEPOL focuses particularly on training activities jointly implemented by the agencies.

This report incorporates a joint JHA agencies' paper on opportunities and challenges of digitalisation for girls and boys in the areas of work of the JHA agencies. In addition to outlining the main challenges it also suggests some institutional responses to address them (see Annex 3).

Finally, the report concludes with a summary of priorities for joint action in 2019.

1. Implementation of thematic priorities in 2018

1.1 Migration, asylum and border management

- Strengthen collaboration among the JHA agencies and increase the effectiveness of joint activities in the area of migration, asylum and border management
- Support the Member States and EU institutions in implementing the European Agenda on Migration

On 28 June 2018, the European Council reiterated², that a functioning EU migration and asylum policy is **predicated on a comprehensive approach to migration, which combines more effective control of the EU's external borders, increased external action and internal aspects**, in line with EU principles and values. Since 2015, a number of measures have been put in place to achieve effective control of the EU's external borders. As a result, detected illegal border crossings into the EU have reduced by 95% compared to their peak in October 2015. Recently, however, flows have begun to increase once more on the Eastern and Western Mediterranean routes.

In 2018, the JHA agencies continued their intensive cooperation with EU institutions, providing information, advice and support for policy making in the field of migration and border management, as well as lending **operational support to Member States' border control authorities**. JHA agencies continued their technical support of the implementation of the European Agenda on Migration in all of its priority areas: irregular migration; border management including security checks; asylum policy and legal migration.

Throughout the year, the JHA agencies worked together on some 80 joint activities³ in the area of migration, asylum and border management (see Annex 1). Activities related to the implementation of various aspects of the European Agenda on Migration, covering data collection, training and expert contribution.

Key joint activities and achievements

Child protection

In 2017, nearly one-third of the total number of first-time asylum seekers in the EU were children (any person aged less than 18 years⁴). Statistics show that, in 2017, nearly 31,800 applications in the EU were from unaccompanied children. The JHA agencies recognise that the numbers of unaccompanied children at external borders require child protection to be addressed even more intensively. Recognising this reality, the JHA agencies continued their efforts to strengthen the ongoing work and synergies in the implementation of the actions of the European Commission Communication of 12 April 2017 **'The protection of children in migration' and others relating to the situation of unaccompanied/missing children** in the migration flow.

In 2018, the JHA agencies placed particular focus on both children at borders and asylum-seeking children in hotspots. Frontex (supported by FRA, EASO and other child protection experts in the EU) developed a training course on the protection of children at borders, which now forms part of its annual training offer.

² <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9-2018-INIT/en/pdf>

³ The number is an estimate based on the information provided in the scorecard; the list is not exhaustive and the number most likely is underestimated.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics#Age_and_gender_of_first-time_applicants

The course targets **border guards, training them to pay particular attention to children's rights and respect** the best interests of the child, thereby providing better protection for all children at the borders. The Joint Operation VEGA Children 2018 was launched to tackle the criminality associated with the movement of children at external air borders and promote best practice on special protection for those children in need. Seventeen Member States and seven third countries participated in the operation, through 24 hosting airports, with the support of one international organisation and one NGO. To support its operational activities, Frontex translated its **"VEGA Handbook – Children at air borders"**, into 23 EU languages and distributed it to 114 airports, thus raising border guards' awareness of children who are crossing the external air borders of the EU. The handbook was also translated into the languages of Eastern Partnership countries and distributed to airports in the region and will be soon available in local languages in the Western Balkans region. With contribution of EASO and FRA, Frontex also continued developing a version of the VEGA Children Handbook focused on land and sea operations.

Throughout 2018, FRA and EASO undertook a series of capacity-building activities in the hotspots, focusing on child protection. FRA also continued to lend its expertise to supporting the work of national authorities and other EU agencies (EASO and Frontex) in hotspots in Greece, with a particular focus on the protection of children and vulnerable persons, including women and girls as victims of crime. EASO continued to develop a number of support tools for authorities dealing with asylum-seeking children: **"EASO Guidance on Reception Conditions for unaccompanied children: operational standards and indicators"** and **"EASO Practical Guide on Best Interests Assessment"**. It also published an **"EASO Practical Guide on Age Assessment"**, while its **"EASO Practical Guide on Best Interests of the Child in the Asylum procedures"** has been finalised. Each of these initiatives was supported by FRA, which provided input as part of a reference group. Additionally, EASO has launched the Vulnerability Experts Network to enhance the identification and protection of vulnerable persons in need of international protection. As part of the Network's Steering Group, the European Commission and FRA participated in the First Annual Conference of the Vulnerability Expert Network on the 6-7 November 2018, which agreed the Strategic Planning for 2019.

The issue of guardianship of migrants and asylum-seeking children was also on the agenda in 2018, with FRA supporting a guardianship conference in Athens on 12 July 2018 and publishing a report on **"Guardianship for unaccompanied migrants and asylum-seeking children"**. In Italy, FRA and EASO continued to support the Italian Authority for Children and Adolescents with the implementation of the voluntary guardianship scheme set up by the 2017 law on unaccompanied children and the training of the voluntary guardians. FRA facilitated in November a study visit of representatives of the Greek Ministry of Labour to Netherlands and Belgium to learn about their guardianship systems. The study visit aimed to support authorities in developing Ministerial decrees for the implementation of the guardianship law adopted in 2018.

Frontex is reviewing its Fundamental Rights Strategy, with the aim of strengthening the elements on safeguarding children and aligning its measures with the technical and operational Strategy for a European integrated border management. FRA and EASO are members of the Frontex Consultative Forum on fundamental rights, through which they contribute to the revision of the strategy.

People smuggling

The fight against people-smuggling networks is one of the priorities in the European Agenda for Security and the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling (2015-2020). Recent conclusions of the European Council (18 October 2018) reiterated that the fight against people-smuggling networks needs to be strengthened, especially in respect of actions to investigate, apprehend and prosecute smugglers and traffickers, with a view to preventing people from embarking on perilous journeys and also avoiding criminalisation of those who provide genuine humanitarian assistance to people on the move.

Throughout 2018, the JHA agencies continued to support Member States in their efforts to counter and **prevent people smuggling, while ensuring the protection of migrants' human rights** and to exchange views on the risks of criminalisation of those providing genuine humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress (FRA and Eurojust). The JHA agencies participated in the contact group of EU agencies on migrant smuggling, which was set up to strengthen operational cooperation and information exchange between relevant EU agencies. They also engaged in a number of operational actions, including training activities, **within the "Facilitated Illegal Immigration" (FII) European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) priority under the EU Policy Cycle 2018-2021**. Alongside several EU Member States, Europol and Frontex were co-drivers for the priority. Europol led 3, co-led 7 and participated in 13 more Operational Actions out of 26. Frontex led 7, co-led 5 and participated in 10 more. CEPOL led 3 actions and participated in 2 more. eu-LISA led 1 action. Eurojust co-led 1 action and participated in 14 more. 8 Joint Action Days with a strong element of countering migrant smuggling took place in the course of 2018; three of them were coordinated by Europol and three by Frontex.

Eurojust and Frontex also increased their cooperation with Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) in its core task of supporting cross-border investigations to disrupt and prosecute organised crime groups, through regular knowledge and intelligence sharing. Eurojust is exploring the possibility of **further close cooperation with Europol's EMSC**.

The Information Clearing House (ICH) is part of Europol's EMSC since 2017. **Here, Europol works closely with Frontex**, as well as Interpol and the CSDP Mission European Union Naval Force – Mediterranean Operation Sophia (EUNAVFOR Med Sophia). Since October 2018, Frontex has deployed a staff member (in rotation) to facilitate the exchange of information and joint analytical work. In addition, Frontex supports the activities of the ICH by sharing information and its pre-frontier monitoring services. It plans to further enhance its involvement in the EMSC, including through long-term deployment of a liaison officer to the EMSC.

EASO cooperates with Europol's EMSC within the framework of its social media monitoring project. EASO's reports on criminal activity gleaned from its social media monitoring project feed into the EMSC's European Monitoring Team reports.

To date, Eurojust has worked closely with Europol to support Member State investigations and prosecutions on migrant smuggling. Europol participated in several coordination meetings and coordination centres at Eurojust.

Through its dedicated structure to deal with migrant smuggling (created in 2015), Eurojust continued its work to strengthen and formalise cooperation between national prosecutors and enhance mutual legal assistance. **On 30-31 May 2018 a migrant smuggling experts' meeting was organised by Eurojust, bringing together experts from Member States, the European Commission, the JHA agencies and other relevant**

stakeholders. Among the issues discussed at this meeting were Eurojust research findings showing that almost 75% of migrant smuggling cases involve more than two Member States. The smugglers also often engage in other criminal activities, such as document fraud, money laundering, and trafficking in human beings. The investigation and prosecution of migrant smugglers is not only cross-border in nature, but is also very complex and multi-layered, requiring enhanced cooperation among different actors in the field.

Discussions are continuing between Frontex and Eurojust on the opportunities for operational cooperation under the new legal framework of Frontex. In October 2018, the College of Eurojust decided to enter into formal negotiations with Frontex in view of concluding a cooperation agreement to allow for the transmission of operational information from Frontex to Eurojust.

Hotspots

Throughout 2018, the JHA agencies continued to work closely on operational activities related to the implementation of a hotspot approach in Italy and Greece. The European Border and Coast Guard teams, as well as experts from EASO, Europol and FRA have been deployed to these hotspots to support national authorities. Eurojust supports the hotspots via its National Desks, which receive information from its dedicated judicial contact points in Italy and Greece.

EASO provides operational support to process migrants' applications as quickly as possible and provide information on asylum procedures and relocation. Frontex supports Member States in registration and identification procedures, carries out debriefing activities and coordinates joint return of irregular migrants.

Eurojust, together with Europol, supports Member States with investigations to disassemble smuggling and trafficking networks. eu-LISA provides the ICT expertise needed to manage the Eurodac system ensuring the 24/7 availability of the centralised database to carry out identification and registration processes of asylum seekers and irregular migrants. Europol supports Member States by performing Secondary Security Checks (SSC), namely cross-checking data against data held in specialist counter-terrorist and other databases at Europol, and by facilitating rapid and secure information exchange between Member States.

FRA also continued to lend its expertise to supporting the work of national authorities and other EU agencies (EASO, Europol and Frontex) in hotspots in Greece, with a particular focus on the protection of children and vulnerable persons, including victims of sexual and gender based violence. In addition, FRA has also been developing guidance on prevention and response of self-harm incidents in the Greek hotspots and carried out an awareness raising session on the topic. In Italy, FRA visited various hotspots and selected first reception centres in Sicily, focusing on issues relating to sexual and gender-based violence, including trafficking in human beings.

Frontex, Europol and EASO, together with EUNAVFOR Med, cooperate in the EU Regional Task Force (EURTF) for better coordination of EU assistance to national authorities in the identification, registration and return of migrants. The EURTF offices in Italy and Greece also host Eurojust correspondents to ensure adequate judicial follow-up. A permanently deployed FRA staff member is also a permanent member of the EURTF office in Greece. In Italy, FRA facilitated EURTF meetings dedicated to the protection of fundamental rights.

Following the 2017-2018 EASO-Frontex cooperation plan, two working groups focusing on priority areas were created in 2018 within the framework of working towards a joint approach in the hotspots: one working group was responsible for reviewing learnings on joint work in the hotspots and putting in place a communication protocol for requests for Migration Management Support Teams (MMSTs) and a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for registration by those teams in the hotspots. In this context, the EASO training unit invited Frontex and Europol to cooperate on possible joint training for members of pools. EASO and Frontex continue to meet in regard to the development of draft SOPs for the MMSTs and will complete these through further consultation to which also Europol has started to contribute. The second working group focused on the creation of a common situational picture and information exchange.

Cooperation on return

Following the implementation of the EU Renewed Action Plan on Return, FRA, Frontex, EASO and Europol participated in the EU Commission Contact Committees on EU legislation relating to facilitation of irregular

migration, return and Immigration Liaison Officers (ILOs), as well as the European Migration Network- Return Experts Group (FRA, Frontex, EASO). On 3 May 2018, FRA participated in a first exchange of views with NGOs and the European Commission on monitoring returns, in order to have a common understanding of the state of play relating to possible risks of criminalisation for those providing genuine humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress.

Frontex continued to work closely with EASO on returns. Both agencies are working to align the functioning of **EASO's Information and Documentation System (IDS) and the Irregular Migration Management Application (IRMA)** platform, which Frontex will soon take over from the European Commission. A number of working meetings on the topic took place during the year.

Together with EASO, FRA organised a series of child protection training in the Greek hotspots, while Frontex lent its expertise on return as part of CEPOL training.

Migration and health

Following the conclusions of the Heads of JHA agencies meeting 2017, the issue of health and migration **was on JHA agencies' agendas this year. At the November 2017 meeting, the Heads of the JHA agencies discussed the health threats facing migrants and EU agencies' staff and deployed experts working at the external borders and in reception centres.** The discussion clarified the role of the JHA agencies and the responsibilities of the Member States, recalling the principles of subsidiarity and duty of care. The JHA agencies recognised the need to strike a balance between the security and health aspects of migration and acknowledged that the subject should be considered from both angles. Some of the agencies have already started work to develop and implement health and safety strategies to address this problem. The JHA agencies agreed to exchange experiences to further reinforce this area of their work.

With respect to the discussions above, in 2018 Frontex adopted a decision implementing a common policy on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) for the operational activities of Frontex. This policy guides the implementation of a number of related measures in this field, including dissemination of information on health and safety guidelines, education and training on OSH.

Frontex and EASO are also cooperating to harmonise health and safety policies in the hotspots. An initial meeting on organisational health was organised by EASO on 2 July 2018, with other JHA agencies (**Europol and Frontex**) participating. **Copies of the Frontex' health and safety guidelines were shared with Frontex and EASO operational staff in Italy and Greece, and EASO has been invited to participate in the revision of the Frontex guidelines in early 2019.**

In June 2018, FRA visited two hotspots and three reception centres for asylum seekers and trafficking victims in Sicily. During the visit, the issue of health (among others) was high on the agenda. The deteriorating mental health of the asylum seekers is an issue of concern. FRA has discussed with EMCDDA the issue of drug and alcohol abuse among asylum seekers including unaccompanied children in the Greek hotspots.

Finally, building on the conclusions of the 2017 Heads of JHA agencies meeting, the agencies agreed to create an inventory of existing materials and guidelines developed by the EU and international organisations on occupational health, prevention and training tools that could be applied to the staff deployed to work in the reception centres. Mapping of existing health strategies was done in 2018 under the initiative of EMCDDA.

Information exchange

Timely exchange of relevant data among all stakeholders is crucial for effective implementation of the EU Agenda on Migration. Throughout 2018, the JHA agencies continued to collect relevant data and regularly exchange information within the network and with the European Commission. EASO, Frontex, eu-LISA and FRA all shared monthly reports with the Commission.

Frontex continued to regularly send intelligence packages to Europol. Between February 2016 and December 2018, it transmitted almost 3,100 information packages, containing personal data on over 8,100 suspects, nearly 5,600 means of communication and over 1,000 locations, generating a significant number of hits (294) in Europol systems. These data were collected during debriefing activities implemented during Frontex joint operations and chiefly relate to migrant smuggling, with some information on potential foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs).

Frontex is also looking into the possibility of regularly sharing this data with Eurojust. In 2018, both agencies agreed to formally start negotiations on a working arrangement that would enable such an exchange.

In April 2018, Eurojust released a report on Eurojust's casework on migrant smuggling (EU doc LIMITED). The report was shared with other EU actors involved in the fight against migrant smuggling, including European External Action Service (EEAS) and EUNAVFOR Med.

Frontex continued to publish its annual and quarterly risk analysis reports on the indicators and trends of **irregular migration at the EU's external borders. It also produced regular reports on thematic issues (e.g. document fraud)** or linked to specific third countries or regions. These were based on risk analysis networks, in which Europol and EASO are frequent participants.

EASO produced weekly and monthly analytical reports on the asylum situation in the EU+. Its weekly reports on the situation in the hotspots in Greece and Italy increasingly fed into IPCR ISAA (Integrated Political Crisis Response Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis) reports. It also produced and shared reports based on big data for early warning of asylum-related migration. Throughout 2018, EASO produced and shared monthly Country Intelligence Reports, which analysed the implications (of push, pull and enabling factors on trends) and outlook (identification of upcoming events that may impact on migration, and a forward-looking analysis of trends) for selected countries of origin or transit (depending on emerging trends).

In 2018, EASO and Frontex launched their cooperation for information exchange, whereby EASO shares its monthly data on asylum applications, while Frontex shares its monthly data on detections of illegal border-crossing. In addition, EASO monthly reports now contain a Frontex chapter on irregular migration, while Frontex quarterly reports contain an EASO chapter on the asylum situation. Finally, in 2018, EASO, Europol and Frontex agreed to cooperate and produce joint analyses on secondary movements of migrants and asylum seekers within the EU.

Following EASO's social media monitoring project started in 2017, EASO continued producing weekly reports based on findings which it shared, among others, with Europol, for further follow-up on the findings.

In 2018, FRA continued to issue monthly and then bi-monthly reports on migration-related fundamental rights concerns in fourteen Member States particularly affected by large migration movements. As well as **outlining the scale and nature of new arrivals in these Member States, FRA's reports covered a variety of issues, including: key emerging and persisting fundamental rights concerns, situation at the borders; asylum**

procedures; reception conditions; child protection; legal, social and policy responses; and incidents of hate crime and hate speech.

Adding to its previous research in 2018, EIGE published its third study on estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the EU, focusing on situation in further six EU Members States- Belgium, France, Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Malta. The study takes into account new patterns of migration and provides more accurate qualitative and quantitative information on female genital mutilation and its risks among girls, residing in the EU. The study also provides a set of recommendations, including *inter alia* related to greater cross-border cooperation and data sharing among Member States as well as the role of border control and immigration officers in identifying and preventing FGM.

In addition to their existing cooperation, the JHA agencies looked for ways to further enhance their information exchange.

For example, Frontex and EASO have established a joint working group focusing on the creation of a common situational picture and exchange of information. Since October 2018, the two agencies exchange **monthly data on specific indicators. In addition, Frontex regularly contributes to EASO's monthly trend reports**, while EASO contributes to the Frontex quarterly reports.

As of 1 October 2018, the Frontex Situation Centre began to operate 24/7, thus allowing it to provide around-the-clock situation and crisis monitoring and to generate an up-to-date European situational picture and common pre-frontier intelligence picture, almost in real time. To promote the development of a network of Situation Centres operating 24/7, Frontex held a workshop on situation awareness and inter-agency cooperation on 3-5 December 2018. The workshop was attended by representatives from the JHA agencies, other EU institutions and international organisations, and focused on exchange of good practice, means of reinforcing inter-agency cooperation through effective partnership arrangements, and the possibility for enhanced performance and efficiency by reducing duplication. The discussions centred around operational information exchange, situation monitoring and crisis management.

On 14 May 2018, the Council adopted a decision allowing for the creation of a Crime Information Cell (CIC) within the framework of EUNAVFOR Med Operation Sophia. Europol and Frontex contribute to the CIC by deploying staff to the flagship of EUNAVFOR Med Sophia, with the aim of contributing to the objective to dismantle the networks of migrant smuggling. At the COSI-PSC meeting on 22-23 November 2018, the mandate of EUNAVFOR MED Sophia has been technically extended until March 2019 and the same has been for the CIC project.

Eurojust closely follows the developments in the CIC to ensure that the judicial dimension is considered at an early stage and to ensure that the information collected can be turned into evidence, as appropriate.

In November 2018, the Frontex Management Board adopted a revised common vulnerability assessment methodology, which, among other changes, broadened the scope of vulnerability assessment (VA) activities to include a new objective criterion to assess Member State capacity to prevent and detect cross-border crime. In light of this, Frontex and Europol intend to cooperate closely in 2019, exploring synergies between **Frontex VA and Europol's strategic analysis activities** especially in terms of methodology/knowledge sharing. Initial technical discussions at expert level have already taken place to map out a detailed cooperation plan. Such cooperation will include the exchange of tailored knowledge products, as well as early warnings and intelligence notifications. FRA and the Frontex Risk Analysis Network held a meeting in Vienna on 26 September to discuss, at a technical level, selected areas of work where cooperation could be

intensified, notably **how to make better use of FRA's data for** vulnerability assessment purposes under the EBCG Regulation.

Large-scale IT systems managed by eu-LISA significantly enhance efficient and effective cross-border information sharing among competent national authorities involved in operational cooperation. In border and migration management as well as in the fight against organised and serious criminal offences, it is crucial that competent national authorities have the most up-to-date information if they are to combat these crimes. Effective and timely information sharing among relevant authorities (typically best facilitated through well-designed and professionally managed technological solutions) is a prerequisite for successful action. The new systems that eu-LISA will develop in the coming years and the introduction of interoperability between IT systems, in particular, will ensure more effective information-led operational cooperation. Further developments to support operations through the provision of advanced tools may also be considered.

Challenges and opportunities for joint cooperation

Following the mid-term review of the European Agenda on Migration in September 2017, the JHA agencies were involved in a number of follow-up activities, such as improving the work and the potential of the hotspots approach, addressing the needs of vulnerable groups (particularly unaccompanied children and women in vulnerable situations), or increasing synergies in information exchange and interoperability of IT systems, in full compliance with fundamental rights.

The JHA agencies play an increasingly significant role in enhancing the multidisciplinary approach and they provide a specialised layer of support and expertise for Member States and the EU. It is therefore important that they continue their proactive engagement – within their respective mandates – and seek to further exploit complementarity and synergies between their activities in the context of the EU Policy Cycle.

The Council approved on 6 December 2018 a comprehensive and operational set of measures on enhancing the response to migrant smuggling networks, to which Europol, CEPOL, Frontex and Eurojust contributed.

1.2. Internal security

Strengthen and foster inter-agency cooperation while ensuring increased synergy and coherence and respecting fundamental rights in priority areas such as counter-terrorism, serious and organised crime and cybercrime in order to support implementation of the relevant policies in the areas covered by the renewed EU Internal Security Strategy 2015–2020 and the European Agenda on Security.

In recent years, internal security, and in particular terrorism, has become a central concern for European citizens. The most recent standard Eurobarometer (from June 2018) shows that terrorism remains a top concern for European citizens, second only to migration. A special **Eurobarometer entitled ‘Europeans’ attitudes towards security’⁵**, published in December 2017, showed that **‘a large majority of respondents regard terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime as key challenges to EU security’**. It also highlighted that these specific security challenges had remained of consistently high importance to EU citizens from 2011 to 2015, or even increased.

The JHA agencies, although with different roles to play, contribute in multiple ways to the implementation of key policy instruments, such as the European Agenda on Security. In May 2017, the EU Council adopted priorities for the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime 2018-2021: cybercrime; drugs trafficking; facilitated illegal immigration; organised property crime; trafficking in human beings; excise and missing trader intra-community fraud; firearms trafficking; environmental crime; criminal finances, money laundering and asset recovery; and document fraud.

Throughout 2018, the JHA agencies cooperated in about 90 activities⁶ (see Annex 1), working together to support Member States and the EU institutions to ensure security and contribute to the implementation of the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime. Through a number of cooperation activities (e.g. Joint Action Days or operational actions), the JHA agencies addressed various crime areas. For example, eight Joint Action Days took place in 2018, leading to 1026 cases/investigations initiated and 1137 suspects arrested.

Key joint activities and achievements

Organised crime

In 2018, several JHA Agencies (CEPOL, Eurojust, Europol, EMCDDA, Frontex and eu-LISA) were involved in the implementation of the new EU Policy Cycle 2018-2021 through annual Operational Action Plans (OAPs) in the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform against criminal threats (EMPACT).

Europol contributed to all stages of the EU Policy Cycle and supported EMPACT by:

- Providing administrative and logistical support to the drafting and implementation of the OAPs. In 2018, Europol arranged more than 50 OAP progress / status / drafting meetings.
- Providing support to Drivers, in particular with regard to cross-priority coordination, Joint Action Days and data collection.

⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/1569>

⁶ The number will be updated when all JHA agencies have contributed to the scorecard. The current number is an estimate based on the information provided in the scorecard; the list is not exhaustive and the number is likely to be underestimated.

- Managing the EU Policy Cycle funding from the Europol budget following the strategic guidance of COSI. With the implementation of the Europol Regulation, additional funds previously foreseen in **the EMPACT Delegation Agreement were integrated into Europol's** regular budget to allow Europol to financially support actions of the OAPs through organising meetings in this respect, i.e. more than 250 meetings related to the implementation of the specific actions in the OAPs were organised by Europol.
- Monitoring the **OAPs' progress, coordinating, supporting and aligning the progress reports by the** OAP Drivers, based on the reporting by Action Leaders and submitting these reports for discussion in the six-monthly meeting of the National EMPACT Coordinators and COSI.

Europol also played a major role in the implementation of the operational actions in the OAPs through dedicated EMPACT Support Managers (ESMs) for each OAP, co-driving 7 OAPs and participating in all OAPs and the High-level Expert Group on Document Fraud. The ESMs and Europol analysts and specialists are advising on the relevant crime area based on their expertise, keeping the participants updated about the development in each crime area, proactively assisting the Drivers and OAP participants to steer and facilitate the process, contributing to the planning of the Joint Action Days (JADs) and ensuring the activities are intelligence-led through data collection, analysis, operational support on the spot and organising and facilitating operational meetings both at Europol HQ and in the Member States when required.

Throughout the year Europol was also engaged in training, awareness and knowledge building. Europol elaborated the JAD 2018 Concept, endorsed by COSI Support Group and participated in the 8 JADs implemented during 2018. Europol also had a major role in coordinating the Global Airport Action Days-GAAD, the Cyber-Patrol and the Large-Scale JAD (LS-JAD) and drafting the final JADs 2018 results and evaluation report.

Eurojust participated in all EMPACT crime priority areas to support judicial follow-up in the related OAPs. This participation included facilitating coordination meetings, setting up Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) and identifying judicial contact points in relevant third countries. Eurojust supports 227 JITs, of which 85 were set up in 2018. In 2018, Europol supported 63 active JITs, 13 of which began in 2018. In several JITs, both Europol and Eurojust support the Member States.

Eurojust supported four JADs held within the 2018 OAPs (Global Airport Action Day (GAAD), Cyber-Patrolling Week, the JAD on Child Trafficking and the Large-Scale JAD). Its support consisted of placing its National Desks and Contact Points for the relevant crime priorities on-call 24/7 to ensure rapid transmission of information on request, as well as coordination at the judicial level.

Eurojust worked closely with Europol to support Member States in their investigations and prosecutions. Of 359 coordination meetings at Eurojust, Europol attended 125. Of 17 coordination centres at Eurojust, Europol participated in eight. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on JIT funding was signed in June 2018 between Eurojust and Europol.

On 6-7 June 2018, Eurojust hosted the 14th Annual Meeting of National Experts on Joint Investigation Teams (JITs), organised in close cooperation with Europol and the JIT Network Secretariat. Among the topics discussed were enhancing the use of JITs to make them faster, simpler and more effective, and the most common practical and administrative difficulties encountered in the setting up and operation of JITs, which may hinder their wider use. The meeting also offered the opportunity to evaluate existing tools to disseminate knowledge and exchange of best practice and lessons learned among JIT practitioners, and to consider the opportunity to develop new tools.

Eurojust and Europol continue their participation in joint CEPOL/European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) training initiatives for prosecutors and law enforcement officers to enhance the use of JITs by national practitioners.

Frontex participated in seven out of 10 EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT priorities, including the cross-cutting priority on document fraud. It also prepared for its accession to the priority on drugs (Cannabis/Cocaine/Heroin part) and took part in the 2019 OAP drafting. The agency exercised the concept of the multi-purpose JADs embedded in operational actions of EMPACT priorities, with the aim of bridging the gaps between police, border police and, in some cases, customs authorities. It also provided support to investigations in domains such as facilitated illegal immigration, document fraud, organised property crime (stolen vehicle smuggling), excise fraud (especially **tobacco products' smuggling**), **environmental crime**, trafficking in human beings and firearms trafficking. In total, Frontex is leading nine operational actions across the various OAPs, as well as co-leading 13 and participating in 35 others. Frontex coordinated three JADs, **co-led two and participated in several others. For comparison, JAD "Olympus" focused on document fraud, in connection with FII at EU external air borders. JAD "Mobile" focused on organised property crime (stolen vehicles smuggling), but also on FII and document fraud. JAD "Danube" III focused on excise fraud and FII along the external eastern land borders and those with the Western Balkans. Frontex also joined JADs led by Europol as a co-leader (GAAD) or participant (Large-Scale JAD).**

The 11th GAAD on 18-22 June 2018 is an example of a successful JAD co-led by two JHA agencies, Europol and Frontex, which brought together a significant number of countries (47), international organisations (eight) and private companies (75). The objective of GAAD is to fight fraudulent online purchases of flights with compromised or stolen credit card data with joint efforts and coordinated action from public and private sectors. In 2018, this JAD led to 141 arrests and 334 suspicious transactions reported.

The EMCDDA contributed to EU Policy cycle/EMPACT crime priorities on drugs and NPS. It also led, co-led or participated in activities related to: testing and reporting of drugs; drug smuggling and trafficking; development of scientific methodologies and training; and production of threat assessment reports. The EMCDDA also participated in two technical meetings of EMPACT: the cannabis/cocaine/heroin strategic meeting and the initial meeting of the synthetic drugs/NPS and EU Strategic Training Needs Assessment (STNA) expert consultation.

All OAPs contain training, mostly implemented by CEPOL and supported by other agencies. **Around two-thirds of CEPOL's total training activity is directly linked to supporting the EU Policy Cycle.**

After a little less than two years of intense effort, at the beginning of 2018, eu-LISA successfully launched the SIS II AFIS introducing a biometric search capability in SIS II. AFIS enables the identification of a person from his/her fingerprints alone and comparison with existing fingerprints in SIS II. As such, it will strengthen the daily fight against crime in Europe. Using AFIS to locate those who have hidden their identity or changed it to avoid detection is paramount to Europe's security, while fully respecting fundamental rights safeguards.

Counter-terrorism

In the three years since the Charlie Hebdo terrorist attacks in January 2015, the JHA agencies have been increasingly mobilised to support Member States in the fight against terrorism. This is a positive trend across the agencies and proves the added value of European cooperation in this field. The JHA agencies (Europol, Eurojust, Frontex, CEPOL and FRA) are working more closely together and contributing to the

implementation of EU policies in this field. They support cooperation between the EU and national governments by pooling technical and specialist expertise.

On 20-21 June, Eurojust organised its annual meeting on counter-terrorism, with the participation of practitioners from the Member States and third countries, as well as EU partners such as Europol, Frontex, EEAS, the Office of the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (CTC), the European Commission, and the Special Advisor to the President of the Commission on compensation of victims of crime. The event focused on two key topics: the judicial response to persons returning to Europe from the combat zones in Iraq and Syria; and support for victims of terrorist attacks. Prior to the meeting, Ministers from four Member States published a declaration calling for the creation of a European judicial counter-terrorism register at Eurojust that would make it possible to proactively establish links between cases and identify coordination needs for their investigation. In November 2018, several Member States formally launched the initiative to establish such a register at Eurojust.

In 2018, Eurojust published its Memorandum on Battlefield Evidence, which aims at mapping challenges and best practice in using information collected by the military on the battlefield, for the purpose of investigations and prosecutions of terrorist offences (EU doc. LIMITED). It was prepared in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the European network of contact points in respect of persons responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (Genocide network), hosted at Eurojust.

Throughout 2018, Europol cooperated extensively with the European Parliament's new Special Committee on Terrorism (TERR). The key priority, as highlighted by the European Counter-Terrorism Centre (ECTC), is the need for additional resources and technical innovation so that Europol can process the huge amounts of data shared with them by national authorities.

In October 2017, Europol launched a platform called SIRIUS, which is a secure web platform for law enforcement and the judiciary, allowing them to share knowledge, best practice and expertise in the field of EU-US cooperation in cross-border access to electronic evidence (e-evidence). This network currently connects 1,266 law enforcement and judiciary representatives. The platform was enhanced in December 2017, on receipt of a grant from the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI). Eurojust is associated with the platform since the beginning of 2018, becoming a member of the Advisory Board. Eurojust's involvement brings the judicial dimension to project deliverables and manages discussion with the judicial community.

Building on the success of the ECTC's first high-level Conference on Online Terrorist Propaganda, in April 2018 Europol hosted the second conference of the ECTC Advisory Group to present and discuss new strategies against online terrorist propaganda and radicalisation.

On 20 June 2018, Europol presented the 2018 EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) to the **European Parliament's LIBE Committee**, which provides a concise overview of the nature of the terrorist threat faced by the EU in 2017. Eurojust contributed to the TE-SAT.

Several JHA agencies (Eurojust, Europol, FRA and CEPOL) participated in the European Commission's High-level Expert Group on Radicalisation. In May 2018 the Group released its final report, in which it confirmed the call to Member States to "support the Eurojust work on monitoring and analysing terrorism-related convictions, including the use of alternatives to prosecution and detention, in particular by the improved provision of information and to explore ways of following up on findings." The Group also recommended

that the Member States “work closely with Eurojust as regards the work on possible alternatives to prison, particularly relevant as regards women and children”.

There are two areas where FRA data contribute to the implementation of the EU Policy Cycle: (1) EU minorities and discrimination survey, which data were released last December; and (2) the guide on fighting discriminatory ethnic profiling, for which the data have been updated (previous edition 2010), with the new edition including updated findings and legal and technical developments.

In 2018, FRA provided input to the European **Parliament’s Special** Committee on Terrorism. In its final report, the Committee called on the European Commission and FRA to examine the challenges that exist in the field of counter-terrorism policies and to identify best practices within Member States, including practices, which take into account the specific circumstances of vulnerable people.

This year, CEPOL ran residential courses in two pilot Knowledge Centres, one of which was on counter-terrorism. It also engaged in joint training with the ECTC, communicating expert profiles and preparing online modules on prevention of radicalisation, firearms, terrorism and organised crime, and financial investigation. On 4-6 July 2018, Eurojust hosted an expert meeting of the CEPOL Knowledge Centre on Counter-Terrorism.

In 2018, Frontex continued to support counter-terrorism efforts within the border dimension through the implementation of the common risk indicators, both within its own coordinated activities and – importantly – by empowering the respective authorities of the Member States and Schengen Associated Countries. In addition to engaging with the relevant border control authorities, Frontex also sought the input of national law enforcement bodies, through Europol.

In early 2018, Frontex hosted a table-top exercise on travelling terrorists, with participants coming from the relevant national authorities. This was done in collaboration with the ECTC. Frontex also provided trainers for a number of specialised CEPOL training sessions on counter-terrorism efforts, contributing both **knowledge and products. The agency also contributes to the work of the Steering Board of CEPOL’s** Knowledge Centre on Counter-Terrorism.

Terrorism has a significant cross-border element, as highlighted in the European Agenda on Security. Europe-wide large-scale IT systems thus provide the best means for efficient and effective cross-border information sharing among law enforcement entities and others involved in counter-terrorism work. eu-LISA, as the operational management authority for large-scale IT systems in the JHA area (such as SIS II, VIS and Eurodac at this stage) plays an important role in counter-terrorism efforts. The infrastructural developments, including the upgrade of the current systems performed in 2018, together with the preparations for the development of new systems (such as EES, ETIAS and ECRIS-TCN) and interoperability, will be game-changers in the fight against terrorism.

At the end of 2018, the JHA agencies updated the toolbox to address the phenomenon of FTFs. The toolbox provides an up-to-date overview of the role of each agency and the measures it contributes to the overall policy objectives on the prevention, investigation and prosecution of FTFs, in addition to measures that the JHA agencies take to follow-up and cooperate with third countries.

Cybercrime

EU Council Conclusions on 18 October 2018 reiterated that the EU will join efforts to further strengthen its deterrence and resilience against hybrid and cyber threats, as well as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats. Recalling its previous conclusions concerning the Salisbury attack, the European Council condemned the hostile cyber-attack carried out against the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The European Council also called for measures to combat cyber and cyber-enabled illegal and malicious activities and build strong cybersecurity. Work on the capacity to respond to and deter cyberattacks through EU restrictive measures should be taken forward, as per the 19 June 2017 Council conclusions⁷. In order to strengthen EU resilience against cyberattacks, negotiations on all cybersecurity proposals should be concluded before the end of the legislature period.

Enhanced judicial cooperation is required to cope with the increasing numbers and complexity of cybercrime cases. On 7-8 March 2018, participants from more than 60 countries around the world met at Eurojust to gain a better understanding of the assistance available to practitioners in the pursuit of a common criminal policy toward cybercrime and the gathering of e-evidence. The conference was co-organised by Eurojust and the Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe (C-PROC) within the framework of the Global Action on Cybercrime Extended (GLACY+) Project. Topics discussed included **Eurojust's mission, objectives, core tasks and work in the field of cybercrime; challenges, obstacles and constraints** in international cooperation; capacity-building projects of the Council of Europe; the implementation of the Budapest Convention and the role of the Cybercrime Convention Committee; cooperation with the private sector; case examples and practical experience; and the way forward. At the end of this conference, participants were better able to use Eurojust and the Budapest Convention in terms of judicial cooperation in cybercrime matters and e-evidence collection.

Eurojust hosted two plenary meetings of the European Judicial Cybercrime Network (EJCN). The meetings were attended by EJCN members from 22 Member States and Norway, as well as representatives from Eurojust, the European Judicial Network (EJN), the European Council, the European Commission, Europol, the Council of Europe and Joint Cybercrime Action Task Force. Among the issues discussed were the legislative developments in the area of e-evidence; follow-up on the developments in the field of data retention, including the impact of the entry into force of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on the domains database; and support in the development of an encryption observatory in collaboration with Eurojust and the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) at Europol (25-26 of November). The first meeting discussed the legislative developments in the area of e-evidence, including the impact of an entry into force of the GDPR on the WHOIS domain database and the contribution and support of different initiatives related to the training activities in the area of cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime (8-9 November).

Eurojust is closely following the developments in relation to the legislative proposals on e-evidence made by the Commission in April 2018. It analysed the provisions of the Draft Regulation and assessed the possible impact of the Regulation on its role and tasks. A Eurojust opinion was subsequently formulated in September 2018, whereby it stated that the proposals were a positive step forward and suggested further enhancing its role, based on its current mandate.

For its part, Eurojust participated in the cybercrime priority under the relevant EMPACT OAPs: attacks against information systems; child sexual exploitation; and non-cash payment fraud. In those three OAPs, Eurojust is a participant in 25 operational actions and co-leader in six others. Eurojust and Europol work together on the updated joint Europol-Eurojust paper on common challenges in cybercrime cases.

⁷ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/23999/st10384en17-conclusions-on-eu-external-action-on-counter-terrorism.pdf>

Based on the measures proposed by the Commission in its 11th progress report towards an effective and genuine security Union, Europol and Eurojust have begun work on the creation of an encryption observatory function. Terms of Reference (ToR) for the encryption observatory function were drafted and a joint report on encryption will be finalised by the end of the year.

On 18 September 2018, Europol's 2018 Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) was released. Each year the report highlights cyberattacks of an unprecedented scope and scale. This year was no different, demonstrating the continuing need for greater cooperation and collaboration within the law enforcement community. In addition, eu-LISA issued a report on modern technical approaches to improving IT (and cyber-security), as one of its biannual reports on research and technology monitoring.

Europol co-led a Cyber-Patrolling Week JAD from 2-6 July 2018, with participation from Eurojust and 17 countries. The operation focused on mapping out the criminality on the dark web (marketplaces and vendors) per crime area, supported by Dutch prosecution services and Eurojust. The aim was to develop arrest and disruption opportunities to counter the evolving criminality and to develop a common law enforcement approach by producing intelligence packages on priority targets, in line with the agreed high value target (HVT) selection criteria. The initiative saw 247 HVTs identified in the dark web marketplaces (81 in connection with weapons and explosives; 49 drugs; 42 non-cash payment fraud; 20 cybercrime facilitators; 13 counterfeit goods 24 document fraud; nine forgeries of money and five trafficking in human beings).

FRA has begun work, at the request of the European Parliament, on a joint FRA-Council of Europe Handbook on European Law on cybercrime and fundamental rights (expected to be finished in 2020), with the full support of Europol and Eurojust. On 15-16 November FRA, together with the Council of Europe's Cybercrime Programme Officer, organised an expert meeting to define the scope of this joint project.

The JHA agencies have also discussed cybercrime as part of the joint work on opportunities and challenges of digitalisation for girls and boys in the JHA area (one of the priority topics suggested by the current Chair of the network). The findings can be found in Annex 3 to this report.

Training on cyber-crime has become an important part of CEPOL's training agenda. This year, Europol supported two CEPOL residential courses and five webinars on the topic. Eurojust and the EJCN also contributed to CEPOL training.

Trafficking in human beings

The JHA agencies continued to coordinate their activities in the fight against trafficking in human beings in the framework of regular meetings organised by the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator. Throughout the year, the agencies contributed to the matrix developed by the Office of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and **which outlines JHA agencies' activities to counter trafficking in human beings.**

On 13 June 2018, the Heads of JHA agencies, together with the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) signed Joint Statement renewing their 2011 commitment to continue working together to address trafficking in human beings, ensuring a coordinated, coherent and comprehensive response. The Joint Statement is a key concrete action set out in the December 2017 Commission Communication stepping up action to address trafficking in human beings.

A number of operational actions and JADs on trafficking in human beings were prepared and implemented under the EMPACT priority on trafficking in human beings, with Europol, Eurojust and Frontex all participating. Other actions were also undertaken in conjunction with the EMPACT priority on FII.

As requested by the 2017 Commission's Communication on trafficking, FRA has been preparing a practical guide on **"Children deprived of parental care in an EU Member State other than their own. A practical guide to enhance protection and transnational cooperation for children who are or may become victims of trafficking."** Eurojust and Europol have been working on a guide on the intra-EU transfer of EU children who had been trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced begging, petty crime, labour exploitation or benefit fraud. A peer review meeting took place on 28-29 November 2018 at Eurojust, with the participation of Eurojust and Europol.

Europol and Eurojust worked closely together to support the Member States in their investigations and prosecutions, with Europol participating in about 25% of the coordination meetings held at Eurojust. JITs are a frequently used tool in human trafficking cases, and 2018 saw 21 new JITs set up with the support of Eurojust.

EIGE's report 'Gender-specific measures in anti-trafficking actions' provides a gender analysis of the provisions and obligations under the Anti-Trafficking Directive and the Victims' Rights Directive, identifying strengths and opportunities for improvement in the protection and response to the needs of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. Furthermore, the report presents a set of recommendations and indicators developed by EIGE to guide the Member States in introducing and monitoring of gender-specific measures to better identify, help and support victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

EIGE analysed both the **EU Anti-Trafficking Directive and the Victims' Rights Directive from a gender perspective.** The Institute, in cooperation with the European Commission, developed gender and child-specific recommendations to help Member States to implement the Directives and monitor their progress. Both Directives need to be implemented in complementary terms in order to maximise their potential to protect the vulnerable. National strategies to address trafficking for sexual exploitation should be included in a broader national strategy to combat gender-based violence.

Given the horizontal character of issues relating to vulnerable persons (identification, special needs assessment, referral, etc.) and that persons in need of international protection frequently present more than **one vulnerability, EASO launched a Vulnerability Experts Network.** As part of the **Network's Steering Group,** the European Commission and FRA participated in the First Annual Conference of the Vulnerability Expert Network on the 6-7 November 2018, at which the 2019 Strategic Planning was agreed. This Network supersedes the two current networks: EASO Expert Network on Activities on Children (EASO ENAC) and the EASO Expert Network on Trafficking in Human Beings (EASO THBNet). The Vulnerability Expert Network will address these topics and crosscutting issues in a holistic fashion while responding to their specificities in the context of international protection. EIGE also participates in the activities of the network.

As mentioned under child protection, the Frontex **Joint Operation "VEGA Children 2018" was launched to tackle the criminality associated with the movement of children at the external air borders and provide best practice on special protection needs for children identified during this Joint Operation.** Based on the **experiences gained, the "VEGA Handbook - Children at land borders and sea borders" was drafted and will be shortly tested.** VEGA was used by Frontex to support the JADs related to trafficking in human beings. Frontex delivers awareness sessions/workshops on this topic within Joint Operation **"Themis"** and **"Poseidon"** briefings. To date, in 2018, the briefings under Joint Operation **"Themis"** were attended by

approximately 500 team members. The Handbook has also been influential in dealing with children in the hotspots.

CEPOL, supported by other agencies, provided a comprehensive training portfolio on trafficking in human beings, running three residential courses, four webinars, one e-learning module and one online course in 2018.

Drugs

Several JHA agencies contribute to the implementation of EU Policy Cycle priorities related to illicit drugs and NPS. The EMCDDA, together with Europol, has been actively engaged through the provision of information and analysis of drug markets, as well as developing methods and tools for collecting information on drugs and contributing to the training activities. In April 2018, Eurojust published its analysis report on the current situation in judicial cooperation in NPS and (pre)precursor cases.

In 2018, seven training modules (on the EU EWS, NPS, heroin and cocaine smuggling, synthetic illicit laboratories dismantling and synthetic drugs) were developed by CEPOL, the EMCDDA and Europol (with CEPOL leading five modules, and the EMCDDA and Europol leading one apiece). For the second time, the EMCDDA-CEPOL residential training course **“Drug crime and markets - strategic analysis”** took place in June 2018. The course targeted senior law enforcement officers and sought to enhance their knowledge of the current situation in the European drug market and drug trade in order to enhance strategic level decision-making in the area of combating drug trafficking (for more information on training activities, see the dedicated section of this report).

The EMCDDA, together with Europol, is currently developing the third edition of the EU Drug Markets Report (to be launched in 2019). The report will provide an overview of drug production, trafficking and **consumption in Europe, and will combine the EMCDDA’s structured data sets** with the latest trends and intelligence on organised crime from Europol. Several JHA agencies are contributing to the report (Frontex, Eurojust and CEPOL). Eurojust published in April an analysis report on current situation in judicial cooperation in new psychoactive substance and (pre)precursor cases (EU doc).

The EMCDDA and Europol also implement the EU EWS on NPS. In 2018, the EMCDDA and Europol issued 55 formal notifications of NPS, and seven public health-related risk communications to the EU EWS Network. In 2017 and 2018, the extended Scientific Committee of the EMCDDA conducted 11 risk assessments on NPS. In 2018, the EU reacted to serious concerns over the use of NPS by deciding to subject four such substances **to “control measures” throughout** the EU. The decisions (on May 2018 and September 2018) were based on the findings of formal risk assessments of the substances, conducted by the extended EMCDDA Scientific Committee in November 2017 and March 2018, respectively, with the participation of additional experts from the Member States, European Commission, Europol and the EMA. The risk assessment considered the health and social risks of the drugs, as well as international trafficking and the involvement of organised crime. The remaining seven substances which underwent risk assessment in 2017 were controlled internationally (listed in the 1961 or in the 1971 United Nations Conventions) in 2018.

Europol and Eurojust jointly contributed to the Handbook on Controlled Deliveries, a project led by the Council of Europe.

IT systems and interoperability

Operations in the JHA domain are highly data-driven, thus the exchange and sharing of information is significant and can only be accomplished efficiently and effectively through the deployment and use of large-scale IT systems.

The High-Level Group on Interoperability (HLEG), involving several JHA agencies, finished its work in 2017, concluding that it is technically feasible to work towards particular instruments for interoperability and that these instruments can be established in compliance with data protection requirements. In 2018, a number of follow-up studies and operational meetings were undertaken to accomplish the interoperability of the systems, in line with the HLEG conclusions. In addition, FRA issued a number of legal opinions on the Commission proposals on interoperability of EU IT systems,⁸ on the revised Visa Information System⁹ and on the security features in identity cards and residence documents.¹⁰ The JHA agencies have a significant role in many of the planned activities.

During the general coordination meeting on interoperability organised by eu-LISA in January 2018, a specific interest was identified in the Common Repository for Reporting and Statistics (CRRS), the first component to become fully operational as foreseen in the HLEG proposals. In 2018, several JHA agencies (eu-LISA, Europol, Eurojust, Frontex, FRA and EASO) participated in a series of meetings on interoperability. Led by eu-LISA, the meetings mainly focused on the CRRS and aimed to build mutual awareness of each **agency's current use of statistical data, explore possible benefits stemming from the future establishment of CRRS and identify the sets of data that might be of particular interest in terms of each agency's business needs**. At the April 2018 meeting, eu-LISA presented the showcase initiative of the CRRS, followed by a demonstration of its capabilities. Participants appreciated the opportunity to understand the possibilities offered by the tool and visualise various data representations prepared *ad hoc* at their request. In considering the likely business uses of the CRRS as the basis for further development, the discussions focused on the frequency of update of particular datapoints in various interfaces and the likely utility of trend analysis and anomaly detection information provided by the CRRS. At the July 2018 meeting, the agencies discussed data quality analysis and data cataloguing, current state of play and requirements deriving from CRRS, i.e. the contribution, roles and responsibility of respective agencies. At the meeting, Frontex presented a joint contribution on the design of the CRSS, underlining the need for full access to depersonalised data of all systems for the agencies. eu-LISA finalised a business case on CRRS in 2018, with the business requirements foreseen to be completed in early 2019. eu-LISA prepared a discussion paper on data quality in CRRS in December 2018 and disseminated it to the members of the JHA Agencies group on interoperability and CRRS.

eu-LISA delivered and supported the interoperability feasibility studies. The agency delivered the final outcomes of studies on the shared Biometric Matching Service (sBMS) and Central Repository for Reporting and Statistics (CRRS), as well as providing full support to Commission studies on the European Search Portal (ESP) and Common Identity Repository (CIR). The objective of all studies is to identify the best possible

⁸ FRA (2018), [Opinion of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights on interoperability and fundamental rights implications](https://fra.europa.eu/en/opinion/2018/interoperability), FRA Opinion – 1/2018 [Interoperability], Vienna, 11 April 2018, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/opinion/2018/interoperability>

⁹ FRA (2018), [Opinion of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights on the revised Visa Information System and its fundamental rights implications](https://fra.europa.eu/en/opinion/2018/visa-system), FRA Opinion – 2/2018 [VIS], 30 August 2018, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/opinion/2018/visa-system>

¹⁰ FRA (2018), [Opinion of the European Union Agency for Fundamental rights on the fundamental rights implications of storing biometric data in identity documents and residence cards](https://fra.europa.eu/en/opinion/2018/biometric-id), FRA Opinion -3/2018 [Security features ID], 5 September 2018, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/opinion/2018/biometric-id>

technical solutions to move interoperability architecture forward as soon as the interoperability proposals are approved.

On 9 October 2018, European Parliament and Council Regulations 2018/1240 and 2018/1241 establishing the European Travel Information Authorisation System (ETIAS) entered into force. Close inter-agency cooperation is essential in implementing ETIAS, with eu-LISA responsible for the development and technical management of the ETIAS Information System, Frontex managing the ETIAS Central Unit and Europol setting up the ETIAS watchlist. The ETIAS Regulation provides for a formal role for FRA as member of the ETIAS Fundamental Rights Guidance Board, alongside other EU bodies.

Finally, the JHA agencies have clearly identified a need for closer cooperation with private sector companies **working in the ICT sector. The roundtable event “EU external borders- streamlining of information exchange” organised by eu-LISA** in close cooperation with the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU took place in Sofia, Bulgaria in May 2018 and brought together private and non-private entities. The event focused on the impacts of the two new large-scale IT systems to be launched in the JHA area (i.e. the Entry/Exit System (EES) and ETIAS) on carriers and other organisations executing carrier checks against existing IT systems. As referenced in the 2017 conclusions of the Heads of JHA agencies, the invitation to take part in the event was expanded to all JHA agencies. As a result, several JHA agencies participated in the event in May, looking closely at the possibilities for synergies and cooperation with the private sector.

On 17 October, eu-LISA, in cooperation with Frontex, **co-hosted the Conference “EU Borders – Getting Smarter through Technology” in Tallinn, Estonia. The event was organised under the auspices of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU** and focused on new trends, technologies and challenges in external border management, from both a strategic and an operational point of view. The conference gathered nearly 180 delegates representing Member States, EU institutions and JHA agencies, practitioners and industry.

Reflections between CEPOL, eu-LISA and Frontex have started on the future implementation of the training needs arising from the interoperability package.

Challenges and opportunities for joint cooperation

In the coming years a strong emphasis will be placed on **large-scale IT systems’ interoperability, such as SIS, VIS, Eurodac, ETIAS, EES and ECRIS-TCN**. The development of the EES will modernise Schengen external border management and border cooperation by improving the quality and efficiency of border controls and enabling the registration of entry and exit of third country nationals. Eu-LISA, Frontex, Europol, CEPOL and FRA are to engage in even closer collaboration for the implementation and/or use of the new system. The development of ETIAS will help to improve internal security, prevent illegal immigration and serious crime, and reduce delays at the borders, by identifying persons who may pose a risk in one of these areas before they arrive at the external borders. Agencies such as eu-LISA (which will be responsible for the development of the system), Frontex (which will run the Central Unit) and Europol will need to cooperate closely and contribute to translating the proposal into practice. CEPOL will play a role in training law enforcement officials on the new system. The agencies will also need to work with FRA (FRA is a member of the ETIAS Fundamental Rights Guidance Board) to ensure respect of fundamental rights.

The further development of **Europol’s European Cybercrime Centre (EC3)** to fight an increasingly professional cybercrime landscape requires adequate resources for Europol. CEPOL continues to focus on

training law enforcement officials in the cybercrime/cybersecurity area, in cooperation with other EU agencies such as Europol and the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA).

From an operational perspective, the JHA agencies will be confronted – as is currently the case for Eurojust - with a steady increase in casework in response to increasing demands from Member States that need to receive adequate and immediate response. Close cooperation, in particular the exchange of information between Eurojust, the EPPO and Europol, will positively reinforce the operational action of the EU in the fight against organised crime affecting the financial interests of the EU (so-called “PIF” crimes).

The agencies cooperate at operational and strategic levels. A good example of the latter was the joint meeting of the Frontex and Europol Management Boards in October. The meeting was an excellent occasion to take stock of the key areas of cooperation, explore new synergies and agree a way forward. A joint Statement of Principles for Collaboration was signed by the **Executive Directors of both agencies**. **Europol’s** databases and criminal investigations will be strengthened by information gathered by Frontex during **operational activities**. **Information from Europol will facilitate even more efficient management of the EU’s** external borders and intelligence-based targeted action against criminal groups and terrorists.

1.3. Gender-related aspects in the areas of work of the JHA agencies

- Support current and upcoming EU presidencies and policies by identifying gender-related challenges of digitalisation in the areas of work of the JHA agencies.
- Highlight gender equality aspects in the work of the JHA agencies by encouraging them to collect and use sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics for relevant operational areas.

EIGE, as Chair of the JHA agencies’ network in 2018, proposed adding discussions on gender-related aspects in the areas of work of the JHA agencies to the network agenda.

Key joint activities and achievements

Gender-related challenges of digitalisation in the areas of work of the JHA agencies

In 2017, the JHA agencies, under the chair of the EMCDDA, explored the use of the Internet for criminal purposes. It looked into the challenges and opportunities presented by the expanding influence of the Internet and transformational change of new technologies with respect to the work of the JHA agencies. Building on this successful initiative, in 2018 EIGE proposed to identify and discuss opportunities and risks of digital technologies to girls and boys (aged 15-18) in the areas of freedom, security and justice. To facilitate the discussion, on 19 June 2018, EIGE organised an expert meeting on the topic. The meeting gathered representatives of five JHA agencies (CEPOL, EIGE, eu-LISA, Eurojust and FRA), as well as a representative from Estonia, for a comprehensive overview from different perspectives, bringing a **gendered and children’s rights perspective to digitalisation wherever possible**.

Based on these discussions and written contributions from all nine JHA agencies, EIGE coordinated the preparation of a joint paper on the topic (see Annex 3). Through their work, the JHA agencies are building Member State capacity to protect children, either generally or specifically, or are informing and reaching out to the public on these issues. In their written contributions for this paper, the JHA agencies provided insights into how girls and boys are impacted by digitalisation in their areas of work, and how they can contribute to negating risks, ensuring security and promoting equality and rights. This, together with greater

collaboration between the agencies, offers scope to better understand the issue and thus realise the opportunities and minimise the risks of digitalisation through EU and Member State policies and programmes.

Collection and use of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics for relevant operational areas

In 2018, EIGE suggested that the JHA agencies should discuss how the agencies could contribute to improved gender equality by encouraging the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics for selected operational areas of their work. On 12 April 2018, EIGE organised a dedicated workshop to discuss the importance of gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data in effective monitoring of policy implementation. EASO, EMCDDA, Europol, FRA and Frontex attended the workshop, discussing the benefits of making data more gender-sensitive, the difference between gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data, and how gender statistics might best be used in the work of the JHA agencies.

Following the workshop, EMCDDA engaged EIGE's knowledge and expertise in gender statistics in the development of a survey for its upcoming project on women professionals working in the drug field.

Prevention and handling of sexual harassment in the workplace

On 13 December 2017, the Heads of JHA agencies, initiated by EIGE, signed a Joint Statement on zero tolerance towards sexual harassment and gender-based violence in the workplace. Subsequently, on 8 March 2018, the Heads of EU agencies and joint undertakings (41 in total) published a joint declaration committing to zero tolerance towards sexual harassment in the workplace.

Building on this initiative, EIGE proposed to join efforts and led discussions among EU agencies on the prevention and handling of sexual harassment in the workplace to ensure that zero tolerance to sexual harassment in the workplace a reality. To this end, EIGE initiated and organised several dedicated workshops: a workshop on 14 June 2018 for confidential counsellors of EU agencies (bringing together participants from 18 EU agencies and joint undertakings as well as General Secretariat of the Council); and a workshop on 8 October 2018 for HR and middle management (bringing together participants from 22 EU agencies and joint undertakings as well as European External Action Service). The first meeting focused on common challenges faced by the confidential counsellors and the opportunities for counsellors to be one of the cornerstones for prevention and handling of sexual harassment in the workplace. The second workshop reflected on the experience shared by the confidential counsellors, further analysed the implementation of both informal and formal procedures, handled by human resource and middle managers, and identified areas for improvement. In addition, participants shared functioning practices and experience, including information and/or training on some less well-known aspects (e.g. gendered language, including gender-sensitive training). EIGE has foreseen to develop materials which would guide relevant officials in better prevention and handling cases of sexual harassment within EU agencies.

EIGE aims to increase awareness of and commitment to the topic at the highest level. EIGE will explore the possibility of informal experience sharing among Heads of EU agencies and joint undertakings, to analyse success factors and identify procedural weaknesses.

Challenges and opportunities for joint cooperation

Although security is highly gendered in nature, the EU policy framework does not yet fully recognise the need to integrate a gender perspective into the security sector. The European Agenda on Security

recognises the need to integrate fundamental rights into **the EU's security framework as one of its five key principles**, but it does not address gender equality as a core issue, resulting in a gender-blind approach to the security framework of the EU. While attention has increasingly been paid to the protection of human **rights in the EU's internal security measures, there is still little consideration of how these measures impact individual women and men and how it can be assured that such measures promote, rather than hinder, gender equality.**

The **JHA agencies' cooperation in mainstreaming gender into the areas of freedom, security and justice** could be intensified. When it comes to the implementation of the European Agenda on Migration, for example, the JHA agencies could further explore possibilities for inter-agency actions to raise awareness and support better capability to identify, refer and protect vulnerable groups (such as women and children) in migration flow, as well as the need to ensure their better protection and integration.

Gender mainstreaming in the internal security sector of the EU should include the introduction of a gender perspective into the work of law enforcement, border control, security legislation and judicial cooperation at national and European levels. The European Agenda on Security (2015) highlights the need for a more joined-up inter-agency and cross-sectoral approach as its fourth key principle, underlining the importance of coordination among all relevant EU agencies. Mainstreaming gender into JHA inter-agency cooperation would help to identify sustainable solutions to improve gender equality, including their implementation at **national level. EIGE has suggested that the JHA agencies' network continues** the discussions started in 2018 on gender-related aspects of the work of the JHA agencies in the coming years.

2. Regular (horizontal) activities of the network in 2018

2.1 Coordination and information exchange on developments in various areas of expertise and responsibility of the JHA agencies

- Increase efforts to exchange information on current developments in various areas of expertise and responsibility of the JHA agencies, including in the areas of ICT and cybersecurity.
- Share key strategic documents, data and analytical tools to strengthen and coordinate joint actions in the JHA area, while fully respecting data protection and fundamental rights.

Key joint activities and achievements

ICT

In 2018 the JHA agencies focused on improving their exchange of information in relation to service management, compliance and performance, as well as addressing matters of shared interest with respect to streamlining security inspections and risk assessments conducted by the EU institutions.

Led by eu-LISA (as agreed with the current network Chair), a meeting of the JHA agencies group on ICT and Security took place on 13 September 2018 in Brussels. Representatives of all nine JHA agencies attended the meeting and discussed a number of topics of shared interest, including exchange of EU Classified information (EUCI) and exchange of non-classified sensitive information via encrypted email, document management (eDocX) between the JHA agencies, electronic signature, digital process automation and digital shared services.

On the exchange of EUCI, the agencies are discussing the implementation of an accredited system for the handling of EUCI at the level of EU RESTRICTED. In this context, the Commission is preparing a new version of the EU RESTRICTED information handling system (RUE X), the use of which is planned to be extended to decentralised agencies. Most of the JHA agencies are looking at this solution, as it would also enable the exchange of restricted information between themselves. Given the high degree of interest in the subject, the agencies decided to follow-up developments at the next meeting, led by eu-LISA, in 2019.

On the exchange of non-classified sensitive information via encrypted email, the agencies are discussing encryption technologies and their implications, as well as exchange of certificates. One of the solutions used by some of the agencies is the use of SecABC for sharing global address lists between EU bodies and institutions. As the practice had positive results, other JHA agencies also expressed their interest in participating. The agencies have also agreed to further discuss sensitive non-classified document marking, as the new Commission proposal provides challenges for implementation outside the Commission context.

The EMCDDA, eu-LISA and EASO began a pilot study on digital communication, eDelivery, an initiative enabling the sharing and co-authoring of documents. This type of cooperation is becoming increasingly relevant due to the involvement of agencies in common projects (e.g. joint development of systems). Other agencies are now considering joining the initiative.

The JHA agencies are looking into the possibility of implementing qualified electronic signatures as a service within their organisations. Several agencies (Frontex, EASO) already use these signatures or will soon

implement it. As the Commission has extensive experience on the matter, the JHA agencies are considering raising the matter with DG DIGIT for its input.

Digital process automation and digital shared services are other topics of shared interest for the JHA agencies. Current discussions among the agencies include the possibilities of shared code repositories and digital shared services (for instance an e-recruitment platform, jointly designed and implemented by eu-LISA and Eurojust).

The JHA agencies acknowledge that sharing information on upcoming projects allows the agencies to cooperate on similar activities. They intend to share information on their forthcoming projects at the beginning of each year (preferably January), starting in 2019. eu-LISA has volunteered to prepare a template for sharing this data in the regular JHA ICT space, with the administrative process to be supported by the network Chair.

The JHA agencies' network further exploited the advantages offered by the common document repository set up by eu-LISA, by restructuring it and refilling existing content to make it more efficient and user-friendly.

Exchange of views with the European Parliament on budgetary matters

On 10 July 2018, in an annual European Parliament BUDG Committee meeting with EU agencies, Frontex representing the nine JHA agencies together with the newly established EPPO, exchanged views with the BUDG Committee on inter-agency cooperation within this cluster and the financial resources allocated to fund these activities.

In a joint presentation by the Frontex Executive Director, on behalf of all nine JHA agencies, the network noted that although the overall assignment of human and financial resources to the JHA portfolio had increased considerably over several years, not all agencies impacted by the increase in activity had benefitted from such increases. In some cases, the agencies, despite having reached capacity, are asked to deliver more with fewer resources. In light of this, the agencies noted that establishment plans should be reinforced not only for extended mandates but also where there is qualitative and quantitative growth in the operational and strategic responses to EU security threats.

2.2 Training

- Further enhance cooperation in the area of training and capacity-building to promote synergies and joint planning, and avoid duplication of effort.
- Exchange best practice through sharing methodologies and tools.

In 2018, the JHA agencies continued to cooperate in the area of training and capacity-building, and further cemented their cooperation with other significant partners in the justice, security and migration field in the EU (chiefly, the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and the EJTN). Information on training is systematically updated through the JHA Training Matrix, hosted by CEPOL.

According to provisional data entered in the JHA Training Matrix, the JHA agencies and the EJTN implemented 24 joint training activities in 2018. For example, in June 2018, the EMCDDA, together with CEPOL, organised a training course for senior law enforcement officers on the current situation in the European drug market and drug trade in order to enhance strategic level decision-making in the area of combating drug trafficking. In 2018, Frontex and CEPOL implemented a pilot Joint Exchange Programme.

As a result, 49 Border and Coast Guards undertook an exchange, the success of which sees the programme set to continue in 2019.

Throughout 2018 EASO supported training organised by several agencies, most notably CEPOL, Frontex and FRA by delivering focused sessions on trafficking in human beings, identification of vulnerable persons within mixed migration flows, child trafficking, fundamental rights and the role of EASO in hotspots. EASO, together with Frontex and Europol, is developing a common training programme for the MMSTs, based on the needs of the participating agencies strongly linked to their experiences in the existing hotspots. The pilot training is due to be delivered in 2019, with the suggestion that other agencies (eu-LISA, the EMCDDA, FRA) **could also attend if interested. A more comprehensive list of the JHA agencies' joint training activities** during 2018 will be presented in a separate JHA Training Matrix report, available in spring 2019.

In 2018, the JHA agencies contributed to the development of a glossary that facilitates more consistent use **of the Training Matrix, particularly with the respect to the "aid to planning" feature. The exchange on best practice** in training organisation and tools carried on throughout the year in various formats, one of which **was the JHA agencies' network training contact group meeting, hosted by CEPOL in Budapest on 17-18 July 2018.** All of these efforts contribute to promoting synergies within the JHA network and creating a platform for enhanced joint planning in order to avoid duplication of effort. Particular emphasis was given to cyber-related training, in line with the activities under the EMCDDA chairpersonship in 2017. Potential for further synergies were identified at various points, e.g. learning management systems, quality assurance and capacity-building in third countries. The agencies continue to work to exploiting these synergies to the greatest extent possible.

Of particular note was the agencies' contribution to CEPOL's production of the EU Strategic Training Needs Assessment, a report that sets out the basis for the relevant training for law enforcement officials throughout Europe in the coming four years, according to training needs and priorities.

2.3 External relations

- Develop synergies among the JHA agencies in their technical and operational cooperation with non-EU countries.
- Adopt a coherent approach towards partner countries, in close cooperation with the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Migration and security are at the top of the EU's external relations priorities, embedded in the Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy, the new Migration Partnership Framework and the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM). Continued engagement with third countries, especially the Western Balkans, Turkey, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and Eastern Partnership countries, are all essential for security in the EU.

Responding to rapidly evolving migration and security challenges requires maximising synergies with EU institutions and Member States in the field of international cooperation and seeking to ensure a **shared focus between the EU's internal and external priorities. In the area of freedom, security and justice,** EU agencies benefit from well-established cooperation – through bilateral partnerships as well as the **JHA agencies' network. An annual meeting of JHA agencies' external relations officers convened on 20 September 2018** in Brussels ahead of a joint JHA agencies meeting with the European Commission and EEAS on external relations. The agencies intend to maintain and further develop these links, particularly in light

of the growing policy needs and renewed mandates of the majority of the JHA agencies (Frontex, EASO, Eurojust, Europol, EMCDDA, CEPOL).

Key joint activities and achievements

In response to the developments in the area of justice, freedom and security, and following the extension of mandates or changes in legal regulation of the agencies, several JHA agencies have revised their external relations strategies. A revision of the EASO external dimension strategy was launched on 25-26 September **2018 at the meeting of the agency's Management Board. The new international cooperation strategy for Frontex** has been in place since January 2018. A list of priority partners with which Europol may conclude working arrangements was approved at its Management Board meeting at the end of 2017. An updated list was adopted by the Management Board meeting in December 2018.

Following consultations with the European Commission, the JHA agencies engaged in numerous cooperation and capacity-building activities in third countries, such as delivering training, sharing expertise or providing technical assistance. This included the establishment, operational management and assistance in the use of specialised IT systems, and promoting gender equality and fundamental rights.

It is worth noting that, as in other parts of this report, the examples presented below relate only to bilateral and multilateral activities. The JHA agencies also actively contributed to EU counter-terrorism dialogues with third countries during the year, and indeed third countries are increasingly involved in the operational actions/JADs within the EMPACT priorities.

In 2018 the EMCDDA continued its technical assistance project with the Western Balkan countries initiated 10 years ago and aiming at preparing them to participate effectively in the activities of the EMCDDA and the Reitox network upon accession. On 1st January 2019, the EMCDDA project EU4MonitoringDrug (preparations were ongoing in 2018), which will cover Eastern and Southern Partnership partners and explore the links between security and drugs was officially launched. Close cooperation with Frontex, CEPOL and Europol will be important to the success of this project. The EMCDDA encourages synergies with other Agencies when implementing technical assistance projects and 2017 and 2018 organised the annual meeting of the informal network of EU Agencies implementing ENP and/or IPA programmes.

CEPOL began a project on financial investigations in the Western Balkans with the support of Europol and Eurojust. Another CEPOL capacity-building project started this year is the CT2 on counter terrorism in six MENA countries, also supported by Europol.

Frontex, in cooperation with EASO and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), is implementing a regional support project on protection-sensitive migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Phase II of the project (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II) will continue in 2019.

With the support of DG DEVCO, Frontex is strengthening the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community (AFIC) through a dedicated technical assistance project. Launched in September 2017, it aims to provide support to all of the AFIC stakeholders through training and capacity-building activities. An essential component of the project is the establishment of Risk Analysis Cells (RAC) in priority countries: Senegal, Niger, Ghana, **Gambia, Nigeria, Mali, Guinea and Kenya. Europol's operational activities are gradually being integrated into the AFIC work.** As of December 2018, Frontex will begin a new technical assistance project in the Southern Neighbourhood (EU4Border Security). The objective of the project is to contribute to enhancing border security in the Southern Neighbourhood, through bilateral and regional co-operation, while facilitating

bona fide travel, and to increase the capacity of Southern Neighbourhood countries for integrated border management.

The Eastern Partnership Integrated Border Management Capacity Building project carried out by Frontex came to an end in December 2018, having been in operation for more than four years.

Several JHA agencies cooperate with CSDP operations and missions. Europol, Eurojust and Frontex cooperate with EUNAVFOR Med Operation Sophia, sharing information and supporting the training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Libyan General Administration for Coastal Security (GACS). EASO, too, supports training activities for EUNAVFOR Med in Italy. In addition, on 14 May 2018, the Council adopted a decision allowing for the creation of the Crime Information Cell (CIC), which has been activated on board the EUNAVFOR Med Operation Sophia Task Force operating in the Central Mediterranean Sea. Five specialised personnel from Europol, Frontex and EUNAVFOR Med have embarked on board the flagship of EUNAVFOR Med Operation Sophia, an Italian navy ship. The establishment of the CIC opens a new chapter in operational cooperation between CSDP and JHA actors that will strengthen their collective effectiveness and operational impact. The CIC will further enhance the exchange of information on criminal activity in the **Central Mediterranean and will provide a platform to make full use of the agencies' unique capabilities to disrupt criminal networks in the area of EUNAVFOR Med operation and beyond.**

CEPOL, Frontex and Europol also cooperate with the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) in Libya. In 2018, Frontex supported EUBAM Libya through the deployment of experts on an *ad hoc* short-term basis in a number of specific areas, ranging from maritime affairs to risk analysis and integrated border management. Europol also deployed an officer to EUBAM Libya, which served to increase information sharing, develop synergies and improve coordination of effort. In July 2018, EUBAM facilitated the visit of a Libyan delegation composed of senior representatives of the Ministry of Justice to Eurojust. Coming on the heels of the **European Council's 28 June 2018 conclusions, this visit was well-timed** to strengthen the cooperation between Eurojust and Libya in fighting organised cross-border crime and facilitate more frequent involvement of Libya in Eurojust cases.

In 2018, EUBAM Moldova and Ukraine attended a coordination meeting held at Eurojust to support the Member States. In September 2018, EUBAM facilitated the visit of a delegation of the Libyan Police Academy to CEPOL.

This year the network of liaison officers (LOs) deployed by JHA agencies (EASO, Frontex, Europol) or received at third countries (Europol) was developed further. Frontex currently has three LOs deployed to third countries, Turkey, Niger and Serbia (with the regional mandate for the Western Balkans). The Frontex Management Board has approved priority regions for further deployments of LOs – Western Balkans, North Africa, West Africa, Horn of Africa and the Silk Routes region.

In 2018, Europol was preparing to delegate LOs in the Western Balkans (three countries identified: Albania, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina) under the IPA instrument, financed by the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR). Procedural arrangements for the deployment of LOs to Albania and Serbia in early 2019 are underway, while there is some delay in the planned deployment to Bosnia and Herzegovina due to domestic reasons. Europol also cooperates with Frontex regarding LOs in Western Balkan countries. Other LOs that Europol has deployed are at Interpol (in France, Singapore and two staff members in Washington DC).

EASO has an External Action Strategy which identifies two support pillars – resettlement and third country support in the field of reception and asylum – for two geographical areas, i.e. the Western Balkans and the Middle East & North Africa. Currently, EASO does not have any LOs in place, nor are any foreseen, as this is contingent on the new regulation transforming it into the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). However, EASO has one Seconded National Expert (SNE) hosted in the EU delegation in Ankara, Turkey, focusing on broad resettlement issues. Also in Turkey, EASO is to establish a resettlement support facility to support Member States’ resettlement programmes. **EASO is also directly involved in the EU “Frank” project on resettlement.** EASO does not have working arrangements in place with any third countries (although this is provided for in its current regulation). It does, however, have a range of activities underway across the Western Balkans and countries in the Middle East and North Africa region which are delivered through **‘national roadmaps’ and which identify the range of activities foreseen. EASO cooperates with Frontex** (and other stakeholders) in the Western Balkans through a DG NEAR-funded IPA project (phases I & II).

On 4 June 2018, the EU Council adopted eight decisions authorising the opening of negotiations for EU agreements with Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria and Jordan on the exchange of **personal data between Europol and those countries’** competent authorities for fighting serious crime and terrorism. These decisions contain a mandate for the European Commission to enter into negotiations with the respective countries. Since the entry into force of the new Europol Regulation on 1 May 2017, the Commission is responsible for negotiating international agreements between the EU and third countries on the exchange of personal data with Europol. Following the entry into force of the new Eurojust Regulation (likely the end of 2019), this approach to negotiating international agreements will also apply to Eurojust.

Eurojust is exploring the possibilities for enhanced cooperation with the Western Balkans, Turkey, Tunisia, Israel and some Latin American countries. Third countries that have entered into a cooperation agreement with Eurojust may second a Liaison Prosecutor to Eurojust, such as those seconded by Norway, Switzerland, the USA and Montenegro. During the course of 2018, Liaison Prosecutors for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Ukraine, as well as a deputy Liaison Prosecutor for the USA, also joined Eurojust. Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust registered a total of 169 cases. Eurojust continued to post Seconded National Experts (i.e. specialised prosecutors) to the EC3 and the ECTC.

Challenges and opportunities for joint cooperation

On 19 November 2018, the Council and the member states adopted conclusions¹¹ on the establishment of a civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) compact. These conclusions set the strategic guidelines for the strengthening of civilian CSDP and contain 22 political commitments by the Council and the member states.

The Civilian CSDP compact calls for a more joined up civilian CSDP and closer mutually reinforcing cooperation and synergies between civilian CSDP missions, Commission services and JHA actors. This includes building on their respective unique roles and within their mandates, as well as added value, from strategic planning to operational conduct and information sharing, including by strengthening the JHA related expertise within relevant CSDP structures. This also includes involving, where appropriate, Commission services and JHA actors in consultations, concept development, planning, assessments and evaluation in full respect of the institutional framework.

JHA agencies also made efforts to develop synergies in their technical and operational cooperation with non-EU countries and adopt a coherent approach towards partner countries. **A network of JHA agencies’**

¹¹ <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14305-2018-INIT/en/pdf>

external relations officers (formed in 2017) meets **regularly to discuss agencies' cooperation with third countries. Information on JHA agencies' international relation strategies, agreements with DGs (on general matters and specifically on external relations) and agreements with EEAS are mapped in the matrix on the external dimension of the JHA agencies' network. In 2018, the matrix was expanded to include information on liaison officers deployed by (or deployed at) JHA agencies.**

In the annual meeting of the Heads of JHA agencies in Vilnius (23 November 2018) the agencies acknowledged the importance of a well-coordinated approach to capacity building and cooperation with third countries and look forward to exploring possibilities of enhanced interagency cooperation in implementing joint capacity building projects with third countries.

2.4 Communication activities

- Promote and enhance visibility of the joint work and of the added value of the agencies

Communicating the work of the network to enhance its visibility and showcase its added value, in particular among its main stakeholders (EU institutions, national authorities and the general public), was one of the horizontal areas specified among the network's priorities for 2018.

Awareness-raising

In consultation with the JHA agencies' network, EIGE produced a webpage at the beginning of 2018 (<https://eige.europa.eu/about-eige/our-work/justice-and-home-affairs-jha-agencies-network>), outlining the work of the network, its priorities for the year and key dates. This webpage embeds the JHA video, JHA brochure and a new one-page flyer. An animated banner was also placed on the JHA agencies' websites. EIGE also opened a discussion on the possibility of placing JHA agencies' webpages on the extranet of the EU agencies' network (<https://euagencies.eu/>). With a revamp of the latter planned, the agencies agreed to proceed with the relocation of the webpage once the update of the website is concluded.

In 2018, EIGE refreshed the brochure of the JHA agencies' network, bringing it up-to-date and making it available in digital format to allow annual updates.

EU institutions and bodies

The network's 'Priorities paper' was shared with COSI, as well as the LIBE and FEMM Committees of the European Parliament in April 2018.

EIGE and Europol will jointly present the key achievements of the network in 2018, together with its priorities for 2019 (as outlined in its annual report) to COSI at the beginning of 2019. The abovementioned annual report will also be presented to the LIBE and FEMM Committees early in 2019.

News, social media and advertisements

Three news releases were published on the webpage of the JHA agencies' network. One related to EIGE taking up the chair of the network and its chosen priorities for the year: <https://eige.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/women-and-men-digital-europe>

Other news releases related to joint statements of the Heads of JHA agencies, one on 8 March 2018 relating to the agencies taking a stand against sexual harassment at the workplace (<https://eige.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/eu-agencies-take-stand-against-harassment>), and another relating to the agencies taking a stand against trafficking in human beings <https://eige.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/eu-agencies-stand-together-against-human-trafficking>

The JHA agencies also shared information on planned press releases or social media posts related to topics of common concern and disseminated this information among their stakeholders for wider outreach and engagement. Europol and Eurojust regularly published joint press releases on operational cases.

2.5 Data protection

- Develop common strategies/capabilities and identify good practices in implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Directive (EU) 2016/680

In 2018, the JHA agencies continued their cooperation in the area of data protection. On 18 May, Data Protection Officers of the JHA agencies gathered in Vilnius to exchange their views on the implementation of the GDPR and Data Protection Directive (EU) 2016/680 as well as to assess the incoming changes of revised regulation 45/2001. Among the topics discussed was the development of a model for registry, privacy notices in HR, contractual technical measures to ensure the obligations of an outsourced data processor and a data protection clause in contracts and service level agreements.

Frontex closely followed the developments of the incoming Data Protection Regulation applicable to EU institutions and agencies, entering into force on 11 December 2018. Some provisions of this new Regulation are tailored to the effective exchange of operational personal data in the areas of police and judicial cooperation. These provisions are not applicable to Europol, which operates their own tailored regime. The Regulation contains a chapter on operational data which will apply to Eurojust from the moment of entry into force of the Eurojust Regulation (December 2019).

However, Frontex aims to use these provisions to process the data on suspects of cross-border crime. The scope of applicability will be clarified by EDPS.

Priorities for 2019

The Heads of the JHA agencies agreed that the network will be chaired by Europol in 2019 and Eurojust in 2020. In 2019, the JHA agencies' network intends to engage in a joint strategic reflection on the role of **JHA agencies' cooperation in the future development of the EU security architecture.**

2019 will be an important year for the European Union. Upcoming elections to the European Parliament and a newly appointed European Commission are likely to have an impact on the Justice and Home Affairs field and the work of the agencies.

The network believes this priority topic would allow the JHA agencies' network to foresee and adapt to potential structural and strategic changes stemming from the new Parliament and the Commission. The focus on cooperation among the JHA agencies will continue, and, to facilitate the exercise, a number of sub-topics will be selected in relation to strengthening cooperation and coordination among the JHA agencies and developing a common strategy.

Europol believes this would help the network to support the current and upcoming Presidencies of the Council and to implement policies according to the current and future EU Agenda on Migration and EU Agenda on Security.

The network will continue to focus on creating synergies in all relevant areas linked to their operational work, such as the provision of tailored training, sharing knowledge on ICT solutions and cybersecurity, and establishing a streamlined communication channel with the main EU stakeholders and Member States.

In cooperation with the Commission and the EEAS, the network will also focus its activity on the external relations of the agencies, given that the increasing connections between internal and external security challenges require a comprehensive approach.

Finally, the network will focus on diversity and inclusion, reflecting both on how to raise awareness and promote positive action within the agencies and how to foster diversity & inclusion in their core product and services. The reflexion should focus on all aspects of diversity and inclusion relevant to JHA agencies. **The network will especially build on the conclusions of the Heads of JHA agencies' meeting of 23 November 2018** on how to foster gender equality in the work of the JHA agencies with the aim to step up their efforts to mainstream gender equality and diversity into the internal structures and procedures of the JHA agencies.

Similarly, leading up to the 10th Anniversary of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in 2019, JHA Agencies welcomed inter-agency initiatives to further step up the application of the Charter and raise awareness on the Charter in their work.

List of annexes:

Annex 1: 2018 JHA agencies' Scorecard

Annex 2: Inter-agency activities 2018 (infographics)

Annex 3: Maximising opportunities, minimising risks – meeting the digital challenge for girls and boys

Annex 4: List of acronyms and abbreviations

Multilateral JHA Agencies Scorecard 2018

	Field of the Action	Detail of the Action / Reference	State of play	Agencies involved
A	OPERATIONAL COOPERATION or OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES			
1.	MIGRATION, ASYLUM AND BORDER MANAGEMENT (INCLUDING JOINT ACTIVITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE EUROPEAN AGENDA ON MIGRATION)			
1.1	Asylum, migration and border management	Participation in the Common Visa policy (including VIS) evaluations	ONGOING	EU-LISA EUROPOL
		Preparations for the operational management of the Entry-Exit System (EES) and European Travel Identification and Authorisation System (ETIAS), discussions in the Smart Borders Committee	ONGOING	EU-LISA FRONTEX EUROPOL
		<p>Coordination of operational activities related to the hotspot initiatives in Italy and Greece in the framework of the European Migration Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency initiative between Frontex, eu-LISA and EASO for practical support to Migration Management Support Teams in 'hotspot' areas in Greece and Italy (including EU regional task forces (EURTFs)), enhancing the identification and registration process and the availability of technical solutions. • Frontex, EASO, Europol presence in the hotspots in Greece and Italy. FRA regular visits to the Greek hotspots with a permanently deployed FRA staff member in Greece. In Italy, FRA visits to various hotspots to assess the fundamental rights situation. • Enhanced information exchange and situation monitoring for all EU agencies involved in hotspot initiatives, via Eurosur Fusion Services provided by Frontex. • Expertise provided by FRA and by EIGE, to support the work of EASO and Frontex, with a particular focus on the protection of children and vulnerable groups of people, including women/girls as victims of crime. • Expertise provided by EASO to all agencies in areas relating to vulnerable groups, children, human trafficking and identification of persons with special needs. 	ONGOING	EASO EU-LISA EUROJUST EUROPOL FRA FRONTEX EIGE

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of readmission activities as part of the hotspot approach in Greece. • Inter- Agency (Frontex, EASO, EUROPOL) participation in operational/pre-deployment briefing sessions for experts deployed in Greece and Italy. Field deployments to hotspots in Greece and Italy, involving joint agency coordination of operational activities. • Eurojust participated in 14 OAs and was co-leader in 1 OA focussing on the North-East smuggling route which aimed specifically at detecting and disrupting OCGs involved in the facilitation of migrant smuggling from the Russian Federation to Belarus. 		
		<p>Participation in the European Migration Network — Return Experts Group</p> <p>Participation in the Frontex Risk Analysis Network (FRAN)</p> <p>Participation in the Frontex African Intelligence Community (AFIC)</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	<p>FRA, FRONTEX, EASO</p>
		<p>Participation in Commission Contact Committees on EU legislation relating to Asylum, Facilitation and/or Return.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	<p>EASO EUROPOL FRONTEX FRA</p>
		<p>Inter-agency cooperation on the development of a network of Situation Centres, operating 24/7 and supporting information exchange, in order to increase synergies, exchange good practices and enhance the performance and efficiency of the actors.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	<p>FRONTEX CEPOL EASO EIGE EMCDDA EU-LISA EUROPOL EUROJUST FRA</p>
		<p>Agencies participation in the follow up to the EU Action Plan on Return. Actions addressed in the 'Renewed Action Plan' are being carried out. Frontex developed the 'Implementation framework' document and planned other operational activities to contribute to its implementation.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	<p>EASO FRA FRONTEX</p>

		<p>Coordination of operational actions, including training activities, in the context of the EU Policy Cycle/European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) among relevant JHA agencies leading or participating in relevant operational actions.</p> <p>Out of all Frontex activities within EMPACT (see paragraph 2.2) the Agency is the co-driver for the strategic priority 'Facilitated Illegal Immigration' and has coordinated 3 Joint Action Days, co-led 2 and participated in a few more JADs with a focus migrant smuggling and other cross-border crime priorities. The Agency also contributed to the Large-Scale JAD organized by Europol and JAD WB Firearms within the remits of counteraction of the facilitated illegal immigration.</p> <p>EU JHA Agencies got involved in the MASP and OAP drafting process for new EU Policy Cycle 2018–2021.</p>	<p>ONGOING (FROM 2017)</p>	<p>EUROJUST EUROPOL FRONTEX</p>
		<p>Development of the Toolbox on Migration. This tool that shows where agencies intervene in the various stages of a 'migration journey', but also identifies where gaps exist.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	<p>ALL JHA AGENCIES</p>
		<p>Participation of EASO in the Frontex Monthly Operational Briefing to newly deployed experts under the Themis Joint Operation in Rome, including a specific session on the presentation of EASO operations in Italy and on the Tools on Access to the Asylum Procedure for First-Contact Officials.</p> <p>In addition, Europol contributes to the operational briefings to Frontex deployed experts. As part of the briefings, an informative package on profiling of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) is delivered to Frontex experts.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	<p>FRONTEX EASO EUROPOL</p>
		<p>A training module developed by EASO with FRA and Frontex contributions on 'Interpreting in the Asylum Context', to facilitate communication between the applicant and the national asylum authorities, as well as with other relevant stakeholders involved in the field of asylum.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	<p>EASO FRONTEX FRA</p>
		<p>CEPOL and Frontex implementing 49 joint CEPOL-Frontex training exchanges.</p> <p>EUROPOL is supporting 9 residential CEPOL training activities in 2019 (FII & THB).</p>	<p>DONE</p> <p>ONGOING</p>	<p>CEPOL FRONTEX EUROPOL</p>

		Study on gender sensitive measures through education, for the integration of newly arrived third country nationals	ONGOING	EIGE
1.2.	Child Protection	<p>Expertise provided by FRA (through on-site visits and regular Director's letters) to support the work of national authorities as well as EU Agencies such as EASO and Frontex in the hotspots, with a particular focus on the protection of children and vulnerable groups of people, including women/girls as victims of crime</p> <p>FRA organised a series of child protection training in the Greek hotspots, in cooperation with EASO</p> <p>FRA support to guardianship conference in Athens on 12 July 2018 and FRA Greek Ministry of Labour on some outstanding issues related to guardianship that will be regulated by ministerial decrees. In November FRA organised a study visit of Ministry's representatives to Netherlands and Belgium to learn about their guardianship systems.</p>	<p>ONGOING VISITS TO THE HOTSPOTS + REGULAR PRESENCE IN GREECE BY DEPLOYED FRA STAFF (SINCE JANUARY)</p> <p>SERIES OF TRAINING ON CHILD PROTECTION CARRIED OUT DEC 2017 – FEB 2018</p>	<p>FRA</p> <p>FRA, EASO</p>
		On 28-29 November, a meeting with FRA, Europol and Eurojust to follow up on the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of trafficking in human beings with a focus on combating the trafficking of EU children took place at Eurojust.	DONE	EUROJUST FRA EUROPOL
		<p>Communication from the Commission on Child Protection in Migration, and related action plan. The activities serve to implement the Action Plan against Smuggling of Migrants.</p> <p>For example, EASO is developing a number of support tools — with support from FRA — for authorities dealing with asylum-seeking children.</p>	ONGOING	EASO FRA FRONTEX
		<p>Development of Frontex training and training material on child protection (at the borders) in cooperation with FRA, EASO and other child protection experts in the EU.</p> <p>Ongoing draft of VEGA children handbook related to protection of children at sea ports and hotspots.</p> <p>In order to raise Frontex newly deployed experts' awareness during the Frontex Joint Operations' Operational briefings, focus has been given to the identification and referral of vulnerable persons with special emphasis on child protection.</p>	ONGOING	FRA FRONTEX EASO

1.3.	People smuggling	Participation in the Commission Contact Group of EU agencies on migrant smuggling and the EU Cooperation Platforms on Migrant Smuggling.	ONGOING	ALL JHA AGENCIES, PLUS EFCA
		Operational Actions, including training activities and Joint Action Days, within 'Facilitated Illegal Immigration' (FII) EMPACT Priority, with the aim of dismantling the criminal networks behind people smuggling.	ONGOING	EUROPOL EUROJUST FRONTEX CEPOL EU-LISA
		Information Clearing House at Europol's EMSC	ONGOING	EUROPOL FRONTEX
		Increased cooperation with MS immigration liaison officer (ILO) networks and corresponding support offices.	ONGOING	FRONTEX EUROPOL EASO
		Co-operation with EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia, with the aim of disrupting the business model of migrant smugglers and human traffickers in the southern central Mediterranean. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europol and Frontex contribute to Crime Information Cell (CIC), with deployment of staff to the flagship of EUNAVFOR MED Sophia (where CIC has been activated); • Europol and EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia concluded a MoU and a Liaison Officer was deployed from EUNAVFOR MED at Europol/EMSC. • Frontex and EASO — provision of training in the framework of EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia to the Libyan Coast Guard. • Frontex maintains regular cooperation by deploying LO to EUNAVFOR MED and sharing various operational information; enhanced cooperation in the future is envisaged. • In the context of the implementation of Eurojust's Letter of Understanding with EUNAVFORMED(October 2015) strategic information was exchanged and several meetings took place to discuss ongoing projects and the involvement of Eurojust. 	ONGOING	FRONTEX EUROJUST EASO EUROPOL
		Outcome Report Eurojust meeting on migrant smuggling, 30-31 May, attended by practitioners from EU Member States, relevant third countries as well as representatives of the EEAS,EUNAVFOR MED, EMSC and the Commission	DONE	EUROJUST EUROPOL FRONTEX

		Eurojust worked closely with Europol on cases dealing with migrant smuggling, supporting the Member States with their investigations and prosecutions; Europol participated in 7 out of 17 CMs and 2 out of 3 coordination centres in the area of migration held at Eurojust.	ONGOING	EUROJUST EUROPOL
		Europol/EMSC have strengthened cooperation with EEAS; a strategic analyst was deployed to Brussels to assist in the streamlining of the information flow and the drafting of future CSDP mission mandates. In addition, Europol/EMSC deployed experts to EUBAM Libya for an initial assessment of the possibilities of engaging with the competent Libyan authorities. Frontex has been regularly deploying experts to support EUBAM's work with border management expertise.	DONE	EUROPOL FRONTEX
		Provision of gender equality expertise by EIGE to support the work of EASO, Frontex and Europol, with a particular focus on women/girls as victims of illegal migration/THB.	ONGOING	EIGE EASO FRONTEX EUROPOL
		CEPOL organised six residential training activities, three webinars (in cooperation with Frontex and Eurojust), and one online module (in cooperation with Frontex and Europol) related to people smuggling.	DONE	CEPOL FRONTEX EUROJUST EUROPOL
1.4.	Early warning and risk analysis	Support to the EC assessment of the visa liberalisation mechanism in third countries. Frontex provided input to the EC second report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism.	ONGOING	EU-LISA FRONTEX
		FRA guide on preventing discriminatory profiling published in December 2018 covers also border management and use of algorithms; Frontex was involved in the peer review exercise (both experts meeting and written review) of the draft.	DONE (DECEMBER 2018)	FRA, FRONTEX,
		Regular exchange of border-related situational awareness and operational media monitoring products between Frontex, Europol, EASO, Eurojust, FRA, eu-LISA and the EC. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frontex Situation Centre (FSC) products (e.g. daily overviews). • Europol's European Monitoring Team Report (EPMT); EMSC's and Frontex weekly contributions to the Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis (ISAA) report; Europol's contribution to Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR)-related events, both working and high level - supporting its contributions with the 	ONGOING	EASO EU-LISA EUROJUST EUROPOL FRA FRONTEX

		<p>necessary documentation. EMSC drafting Early Warning Notifications (EWN), intelligence notifications and targeted country reports in relation to newly detected modus operandi and trends in the migrant smuggling sphere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRA regular overviews on the fundamental rights situation in 14 EU MSs affected by current migration and asylum flows, published monthly (February and March) and bimonthly (May, July, September, November). • EASO weekly updates to the EC; weekly reports shared with the IPCR; weekly reports on Italy and Greece shared with the EC. • eu-LISA — weekly updates on EuroDac statistics are provided to the EC for the ISAA report. • Frontex and Europol provide updates on trends in irregular migration within FII EMPACT Priority meetings, and share their products within the Europol Platform for Experts for FII Priority. • Frontex regular risk analysis products (biweekly, monthly, quarterly, annual). <p>Expanded Frontex third country intelligence portfolio (all-sources ad hoc assessments covering key source and transit countries for irregular migration).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint procurement of third country intelligence by EASO and Frontex. • EASO Monthly Trend Analysis Reports; EASO Country Intelligence Reports on selected countries of origin or transit; EASO Social Media Monitoring Reports shared with the EC and Frontex. <p>Exchange of input between Frontex and EASO for the Analytical Annual Reports on the EU Asylum/Borders Situation.</p> <p>Initial technical discussions took place in order to enhance cooperation between Frontex - Vulnerability Assessment (VA) and Europol - Strategic Analysis activities. Following the adoption of the revised Common Vulnerability Assessment Methodology, it is foreseen that in 2019 cooperation will include the exchange of tailored knowledge products, early warnings and intelligence notifications in the area of cross-border crime.</p>		
		<p>Common drafting of an EU Threat Assessment on Migrant Smuggling</p>	<p>ONGOING, TO BE PUBLISHED IN EARLY 2019</p>	<p>FRONTEX EUROPOL EASO</p>

		EASO and Frontex (with Eurostat) continue work towards improving the quality of quantitative information collected on migration, asylum and border management (e.g. on return of migrants).	ONGOING	EASO FRONTEX
		Europol is preparing its connection to the Visa Information System (VIS) and EuroDac for consultation of the system within its mandate.	ONGOING	EUROPOL EU-LISA
		Implementation of activities regarding early warning and risk analysis as laid down in the Frontex-EASO cooperation plan.	ONGOING (FROM 2017)	EASO FRONTEX
1.5.	Fundamental rights and gender equality	Provision of gender equality expertise by EIGE to support the work of the agencies where needed and demanded, including training of LEA trainers/officers.	ONGOING	EIGE ALL JHA AGENCIES
		FRA Opinion on "Challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights" FRA consulted all EU Agencies, including structured telephone interviews with JHA Agencies	DONE (SEPTEMBER 2018)	FRA ALL JHA AGENCIES
1.6.	External dimension	Participation in the JHA Agencies Network meeting on the external dimension, lead by the EC and EEAS	DONE	ALL JHA AGENCIES
		Cooperation between the agencies and EEAS, contributing to the strengthening of CSDP missions.	ONGOING	FRONTEX EASO EUROJUST EUROPOL CEPOL
		Participation in EU COM initiated and organized Immigration Liaison Officers (ILO) regulation evaluation meetings	CARRIED OUT END-2017 – MID-2018	EU COM FRONTEX EASO EUROPOL
		In line with the Malta Declaration Implementation Plan, Europol/EMSC established the Information Clearing House (ICH) as a platform to enhance information exchange among a wide range of actors, including information from the military. Frontex, Eurogendfor and Interpol supporting the initiative. EUNAVFOR MED has already deployed an LO to the ICH. Frontex has supported the activities of the ICH since its creation by sharing information and its pre-frontier monitoring services. Since October 2018 Frontex has been deploying by rotation one of its staff to facilitate the exchange of information and the joint analytical	ONGOING	EUROPOL FRONTEX

		work. Frontex is planning to further enhance its involvement in EMSC, and plans to deploy a Frontex liaison officer to EMSC on a long term basis.		
		Cooperation between Frontex and EASO continues in the framework of the Frontex led technical assistance project 'Regional support to protection-sensitive migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey', to cover the period 2015–2018 (financed by the New Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II)).	ONGOING	EASO FRONTEX
		Gradual Integration of Europol's operational activity in the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community.	ONGOING	FRONTEX EUROPOL
		Communication from the EC on establishing a new Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration, announced in June 2016.	ONGOING	EUROPOL EASO FRONTEX
		Engaging third countries in activities supporting Operational Actions and Joint Action Days within 'Facilitated Illegal Immigration' EMPACT Priority.	ONGOING	FRONTEX EUROPOL
1.7.	Forced return monitors	Use of the forced-return monitors on the Frontex-coordinated and co-financed return operations. Participation in the FReM II project led by International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).	PHASE II TO CLOSE SOON; PHASE III TO START IN 2019	FRA, FRONTEX
		Cooperation between Frontex and FRA in the field of capacity-building for the forcedreturn monitors.	ONGOING	FRA FRONTEX
		Updated overview table on the forced return monitoring mechanisms EU28 and interactive toolkit (available at FRA's website).	2018	FRA
2.	SECURITY AND SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME (INCLUDING JOINT ACTIVITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE EUROPEAN AGENDA ON SECURITY)			
2.1	Trafficking in human beings (THB)	JHA agencies' joint statement of commitment to working together against trafficking in human beings on 13 June 2018	DONE	ALL JHA AGENCIES
		Regular meetings on the coordination of the work against THB lead by the EC.	ONGOING	ALL JHA AGENCIES

		Preparation of a practical guide on “Children deprived of parental care in an EU Member State other than their own. A practical guide to enhance protection and transnational cooperation for children who are or may become victims of trafficking.”	ONGOING	FRA, EUROJUST, EUROPOL, EU- LISA
		Report on gender specific measures in anti-trafficking actions (aim to establish if the Anti-Trafficking Directive, read in conjunction with the Victims’ Rights Directive, contains an exhaustive understanding of women-specific risks and vulnerabilities to THB for sexual exploitation)	OCTOBER, 2018	EIGE
		Participation in meetings of the working group on THB organised by the EC, to plan and follow up on the implementation of the EU Anti-trafficking strategy (2012–2016) and to discuss the next phase.	ONGOING	CEPOL EASO EIGE EUROJUST EUROPOL FRA FRONTEX
		Eurojust worked closely with Europol in supporting the MSs with their investigations and prosecutions; Europol participated in 11 out of 43 coordination meetings in the area of THB held at Eurojust.	DONE	EUROJUST EUROPOL
		Operational Actions and JADs on THB prepared and implemented under the THB EMPACT Priority; some also undertaken in conjunction with the ‘Facilitated Illegal Immigration’ EMPACT Priority. Eurojust participated in 11 OAs.	ONGOING	EUROPOL FRONTEX EUROJUST
		Participation of FRA and Frontex in the development of the EASO training module on THB for asylum officials.	ONGOING	EASO FRA FRONTEX
		CEPOL training course addressing the issue of child trafficking, with a particular focus on detection and prevention of child trafficking, interviewing techniques for both suspects and victims, international cooperation and ethical behaviour.	NOVEMBER 2018	CEPOL
2.2	Organised crime	Facilitation of improvements in information exchange related to the terrorism threat assessments envisaged in the new SIS II (recast)	ONGOING	EU-LISA EUROPOL EUROJUST

		<p>EMCDDA is leading, co-leading or participating in activities related to testing and reporting on drugs, drugs smuggling and trafficking, developing scientific methodologies as well as training, and producing threat assessments.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	<p>EMCDDA EUROPOL</p>
		<p>The JHA agencies are involved in drafting Multi-Annual Strategic Plans (MASPs) and OAPs 2019.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	<p>EMCDDA EUROJUST FRONTEX EUROPOL CEPOL EU-LISA</p>
		<p>Implementation of the OAPs in the framework of EMPACT.</p> <p>Some examples of how agencies contributed in 2018 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eurojust participates in all EMPACT crime priority areas to increase judicial support to the related OAPs, by facilitating coordination meetings, supporting setting up of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) and identifying judicial contact points in relevant third countries. In the OAPs 2018, Eurojust was involved in 90 OAs in total, including, in 7 OAs, as co-leader concerning Cyber Crime and Facilitated Illegal Immigration. • Eurojust supported four JADs held within the OAPs 2018 (the Global Airport Action Day(GAAD), the Cyber-Patrolling Week, the JAD Child Trafficking and the Large-Scale JAD) by 24/7 availability on-call to ensure, upon request, transmission of information and coordination at the judicial level. • Frontex exercises the concept of the multi-purpose JADs embedded in Operational Actions of EMPACT priorities. It aims at bridging the gaps between police, border police and in some cases customs authorities, and tends to increase the prevention and detection of crime impact, and provide support to investigations in domains such as facilitated illegal immigration, organised property crime (stolen vehicle smuggling), excise fraud (e.g. tobacco smuggling), environmental crime, THB, document fraud and firearms trafficking. • In 2018, Frontex has been leading on 9 Operational Actions across the various OAPs, co-leading 13 and is participating in 35 others. Three JADs have been coordinated by Frontex in 2018. 	<p>ONGOING</p>	<p>EUROPOL CEPOL EMCDDA EU-LISA EUROJUST FRONTEX</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMCDDA is leading, co-leading or participating in activities related to testing and reporting on drugs, drugs smuggling and trafficking, developing scientific methodologies as well as training, and producing threat assessments. 		
	On 17 September a joint meeting of Eurojust Contact Points to Europol Analysis Projects and Europol Project managers was held to discuss further enhancing the cooperation between Eurojust and Europol.	DONE	EUROPOL EUROJUST
	Conclusions of the 14 th Meeting of national experts on JITs, organised by the JITs Network Secretariat in close cooperation with Eurojust and Europol.	ONGOING	EUROJUST EUROPOL
	Memorandum of Understanding between Eurojust and Europol on JIT funding (June 2018)	DONE	EUROJUST EUROPOL
	The 8 th Round of Mutual Evaluations devoted to the practical implementation and operation of the European policies on prevention and combating environmental crime was started in 2017 and continues in 2018. Eurojust and Europol are involved as observers.	ONGOING	EUROJUST EUROPOL
	The Commission set up the Environmental Compliance Governance Forum and the Group of Experts on Environmental Compliance and Governance. Eurojust and Europol contributed to the draft Guidance on strategies for combating environmental crimes and other related breaches.	ONGOING	EUROJUST EUROPOL
	Europol and Eurojust, contributed to the mid-term progress report on the implementation of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking (published in October 2018).	ONGOING	EUROJUST EUROPOL
	Eurojust worked closely with Europol on cases dealing with environmental crime, supporting the MSs in their investigations and prosecutions. Europol attended 3 out of 6 coordination meetings related to environmental crime held at Eurojust.	ONGOING	EUROJUST EUROPOL
	OLAF, CEPOL, Europol, Eurojust, EUIPO and the Commission participated in the High Level Meeting on a joint strategy related to IP crime (January 2018) and adopted a joint statement, followed by the adoption of the Cooperation Framework Agreement establishing the High Level Group on Joint Efforts against IP Crime.	DONE	EUROJUST EUROPOL CEPOL PLUS OLAF, EUIPO

		CEPOL is organising 37 residential training activities (in cooperation with Europol and Eurojust), 66 webinars (in cooperation with Europol, Frontex and Eurojust), and 7 e-learning online modules and 3 online courses (in cooperation with Europol and Eurojust), in the field of organised crime . These relate to, for example, firearms, money laundering, counterfeit goods, smuggling and trafficking of goods, etc .	ONGOING	CEPOL EUROPOL EUROJUST FRONTEX
2.3	Cybercrime	8 CEPOL residential training courses and 7 webinars in 2018 supported by Europol.	DONE	CEPOL, EUROPOL
		FRA-CoE Handbook on European Law relating to cybercrime and fundamental rights in the making (expected to be finished in 2020), with full support of Europol and Eurojust.	ONGOING	FRA, EUROJUST, EUROPOL
		FRA co-organised with the CoE's Cybercrime Programme Office in Bucharest an expert meeting on 15-16 November 2018 to define the scope of the project	DONE	
		Workshop on opportunities and challenges of Digitalisation for girls and boys in JHA area and joint JHA agencies' paper on the topic	DONE	ALL JHA AGENCIES
		Implementation of the OAPs in the framework of EMPACT with the participation of CEPOL, Eurojust, Europol, Frontex and eu-LISA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Airline Action Day, co-led by Frontex In 2018 Eurojust was involved in 31 OAs in the area of cybercrime, including 6 as co-leader in 2018 Eurojust was involved in 31 OAs in the area of cybercrime, including 6 as a co-leader 	DONE	EUROPOL CEPOL EU-LISA EUROJUST FRONTEX
		Eurojust worked closely with Europol on cases dealing with cybercrime, supporting the MSs in their investigations and prosecutions; Europol participated in 16 out of 28 coordination meetings and 1 out of 2 coordination centres held at Eurojust in the area of cybercrime.	DONE	EUROJUST EUROPOL
		Temporary placement of a Eurojust representative at the European Cybercrime Center (EC3)	ONGOING	EUROJUST EUROPOL
		SIRIUS Platform launched by Europol in 2017 (this network currently connects 1266 representatives of law enforcement and judiciary). In the beginning of 2018, Eurojust became associated with the platform and member of the Advisory Board of the project,	DONE	EUROPOL EUROJUST

		bringing the judicial dimension to project deliverables and managing discussion form of the judicial community.		
		Updated joint Europol-Eurojust paper on common challenges in cybercrime cases	DONE	EUROJUST EUROPOL
		Joint Europol-Eurojust paper for the encryption observatory function	DONE	EUROPOL EUROJUST
		GLACY Cybercrime Conference: (7-8 March 2018) conference on Judicial Cooperation in Cybercrime matters was organised jointly with the Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe, in the framework of the GLACY+ Project	DONE	EUROJUST EUROPOL CEPOL
		Eurojust supports the activities of the EJCN, and hosted the meetings of the network(25-26 April and 8-9 November) which are attended by Europol and other stakeholders. Eurojust and the EJCN cooperate on certain projects and topics, e.g. the Cybercrime Judicial Monitor and e-Evidence.	ONGOING	EUROJUST EUROPOL
2.4	Counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation	Support the counter-terrorism domain via the Operational Actions and JADs under the firearms EMPACT priority, aiming among other things at the counteracting of firearms trafficking and misuse, which could be explored by terrorists.	ONGOING	EUROPOL EUROJUST CEPOL FRONTEX EU-LISA
		Participation in Commission's High Level Expert Group on Radicalisation (until May 2018)	DONE	CEPOL, EUROJUST, EUROPOL, FRA
		Frontex, and in cooperation with Europol, continues to support counter-terrorism efforts within the border dimension through the implementation of the common risk indicators, both within Frontex coordinated activities and importantly through empowering the respective MS and SAC authorities. An updated version issued in early 2018 is already available to MS and SAC in twelve EU languages.	ONGOING	EUROPOL FRONTEX
		PeDRA — processing and transmission to Europol of data packages, including personal data of people suspected of involvement in the smuggling of migrants, trafficking of human	ONGOING	FRONTEX EUROPOL

		beings, terrorism and other forms of cross-border crime, collected during joint operations coordinated by Frontex.		
		CEPOL organised 12 residential training activities (in cooperation with Europol, Eurojust and eu-LISA), 1 e-learning module and 5 webinars (in cooperation with Europol) in the area of counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation. Themes included airport security, PNR, FTF, etc. CEPOL Knowledge Centers(CT-CSDP) Eurojust hosted an expert meeting of the CEPOL CT Knowledge Center.	DONE	CEPOL EUROPOL EUROJUST EU-LISA
		On 20-21 June Eurojust organised the 2018 Eurojust Meeting on Counter Terrorism with the participation of practitioners from the EU Member States, third States and EU stakeholders, including Europol, Frontex, the Office of the EU CTC, the European Commission and the EEAS. The meeting focused on judicial treatment of returning FTFs and support to victims of terrorism.	DONE	EUROJUST EUROPOL FRONTEX
		Eurojust worked closely with Europol on supporting the MSs with their CT investigations and prosecutions; Europol participated in 9 out of 20 coordination meetings held at Eurojust in the area of counter-terrorism.	DONE	EUROJUST EUROPOL
		Temporary Placement of a Eurojust representative at the ECTC	ONGOING	EUROPOL EUROJUST
		Europol's EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report published with the contribution of Eurojust.	DONE	EUROPOL EUROJUST
2.5	Drug markets and drug trafficking	2 CEPOL residential training courses in 2018 supported by Europol.	DONE	CEPOL, EUROPOL
		EMCDDA and Europol are developing the next <i>EU Drug Markets Report</i> , which will be launched in 2019 (third edition).	ONGOING	EMCDDA EUROPOL EUROJUST FRONTEX
		Joint work on development and improvement of the drug-related reporting tools on synthetic drugs, cocaine and cannabis (ERISSP, ERICES and ERICP), and delivery of training to MSs conducted jointly by Europol, EMCDDA and CEPOL within the EMPACT.	ONGOING	EMCDDA CEPOL EUROPOL
		A 'Trilateral workgroup on precursors' was established between the EMCDDA, Europol and the EC, focused on preventing drug precursors diversion in the EU.	ONGOING	EMCDDA EUROPOL
		Europol and the EMCDDA will issue a joint threat assessment on synthetic opioids in the EU.	ONGOING	EUROPOL EMCDDA

		Europol and the EMCDDA to issue a joint threat assessment on methamphetamine in the EU.	ONGOING	EUROPOL EMCDDA
		CEPOL, the EMCDDA and Europol developed seven training modules (courses, programmes, webinars and online modules) — with CEPOL in the lead for five, and the EMCDDA and Europol leading one each — related to the EU Early Warning System, NPS, heroin and cocaine smuggling, synthetic illicit laboratories dismantling, synthetic drugs, etc.	DONE	CEPOL EMCDDA EUROPOL
		EMCDDA-Cepol residential training course 'Drug crime and markets - strategic analysis', run for the second time in June 2018.	DONE	EMCDDA CEPOL
		Joint Eurojust-Europol contribution to the <i>Handbook on Controlled Deliveries</i> of the Council of Europe.	ONGOING	EUROJUST EUROPOL
		Eurojust worked closely with Europol in supporting the MSs in their investigations and prosecutions; Europol participated in 26 out of 78 coordination meetings held at Eurojust in the area of drug trafficking.	DONE	EUROPOL EUROJUST
2.6	Early warning and risk analysis	Regular meetings of the Security Officers Network and security experts.	ONGOING	EU-LISA
		During 2018, the EMCDDA issued 55 formal notifications on a new psychoactive substance (NPS), and 7 public health-related risk communications to the EU EWS Network.	DONE	EMCDDA EUROPOL
		2 risk assesments conducted in 2018 on Methoxyacetylfentanyl and Cyclopropylfentanyl	DONE	EMCDDA EUROPOL
		9 reports from the risk assesments conduced last year were published in 2018	DONE	EMCDDA EUROPOL
		EMCDDA–Europol Joint Reports prepared in 2017, published in 2018; 2-methoxy-N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide (methoxyacetylfentanyl) and N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]cyclopropanecarboxamide (cyclopropylfentanyl).	DONE	EMCDDA EUROPOL
		Europol-EMCDDA INTELLIGENCE NOTIFICATION Fentanils: Reducing the risk of occupational exposure in law enforcement personnel.	DONE	EMCDDA EUROPOL

		18th Annual Meeting of the Reitox Early Warning System Network — Lisbon, 5–6 June 2018. Annual expert meeting of the EMCDDA with contribution of Europol.	DONE	EMCDDA EUROPOL
		EMCDDA–Europol 2017 Annual Report on the implementation of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA, published in 2018.	DONE	EMCDDA EUROPOL
		Europol produced SOCTA 2017, laying the foundation of the future EU Policy Cycle. The 'Key areas to target' strategic analysis document was disseminated to MSs' EMPACT representatives and assisted the drafting of the MASP and OAP 2018.	DONE	EUROPOL FRONTEX EMCDDA EUROJUST
		Update of the 2010 FRA guide on discriminatory profiling covers also border management and use of algorithms. Frontex was involved in the peer review exercise (both experts meeting and written review) of the draft	DECEMBER 2018	FRA, FRONTEX
2.7	Fundamental rights and gender equality	EIGE Study on risk assessment by police of intimate partner violence against women, expert level consultations with other JHA agencies	ONGOING	EIGE, CEPOL
		CEPOL organised 3 residential training activities, 9 webinars (in cooperation with FRA) and two e-learning modules (in cooperation with FRA and EIGE) in the area of fundamental rights and gender equality.	DONE	CEPOL FRA EIGE
		Update of the online training manual on gender-based violence.	DONE	FRA CEPOL
2.8	External dimension	Participation of Europol, CEPOL and Frontex in the EU-Lebanon, EU-Turkey and EU-Israel counter-terrorism dialogue.	ONGOING	CEPOL EUROPOL
		Involvement of Third Countries in the Operational Actions/JADs within various EMPACT priorities (for more details, see paragraph 2.2).	ONGOING	FRONTEX EUROJUST EUROPOL
		EU4 Monitoring Drugs in development: EU-funded project for developing capacity for drug monitoring and responses in neighbouring countries to the south and east of the EU.	ONGOING	EMCDDA CEPOL EUROPOL FRONTEX
		Following discussions on the proposal for a regulation establishing a centralised system for the identification of MSs holding conviction information on third-country nationals and stateless persons (TCNs) to supplement and support the European Criminal Records	ONGOING	EU-LISA EUROJUST EUROPOL

		Information System (ECRIS-TCN), preparations were made to provide contributions and technical expertise relevant to the mandates of involved agencies.		
		Providing statistics and risk/threat assessments to the EC with regards to TCs. Examples from Frontex TCI such as NANE Bi-weekly, AFIC Monthly, Early Warnings on all-sources monitoring and analysis of the main migratory routes as well as support to monitoring of post-visa liberalisation, negotiations of readmission agreements, EU cooperation platforms).	ONGOING	EASO FRONTEX EUROPOL
2.9	Interoperability Advance Information	CEPOL and eu-LISA are coordinating how best to implement the training activities related to interoperability and new large-scale IT systems.	ONGOING	CEPOL EU-LISA
		Discussions among involved JHA Agencies on possible ways to implement interoperable solutions during the meeting on 17 January 2018. Targeted meetings on the central repository for reporting and statistics on 21 April, 19 July 2018.	DONE	EU-LISA FRONTEX EUROPOL FRA EUROJUST EASO
		Follow-up activities on interoperability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribution to the ongoing studies for interoperability (Data Warehouse study, • Shared Biometric Matching Service, Common Identity Repository, European Search Portal); • participation in follow-up activities after conclusion of the HLEG work, so that the vision of interoperable systems outlined can be realised. 	ONGOING	EASO EU-LISA EUROPOL FRA FRONTEX
		Participation of Europol in Frontex-led Advance Information Working Group meetings.	ONGOING (FROM 2017)	FRONTEX EUROPOL
		Joint conference of eu-LISA and Frontex on 17 October dedicated to advanced information exchange for border management	DONE	EU-LISA FRONTEX JHA AGENCIES
		Industry Roundtable with discussions on appropriate solutions for the EU land borders on 18 October 2018	DONE	EU-LISA JHA AGENCIES
		Series of consultations with relevant JHA Agencies when drafting FRA Legal Opinion on interoperability and fundamental rights implications Europol actively and constructively communicated with the FRA in regard to the general and Europol-specific aspects of the Interoperability developments concerning data protection and fundamental rights.	SUBMITTED TO THE EP IN APRIL 2018	FRA, EU-LISA, EUROPOL, FRONTEX, EASO

B	HORIZONTAL COOPERATION			
3.	COORDINATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE, INCLUDING ON ICT & CYBERSECURITY			
3.1	Working arrangements and Memoranda of understanding	Memorandum of Understanding between Europol and EMCDDA has been revised.	DONE	EMCDDA EUROPOL
		Memorandum of Understanding between Eurojust and Europol on rules and conditions for financial support to JITs	DONE	EUROJUST EUROPOL
		Frontex and Europol sign Statement of Principles for Collaboration	DONE	FRONTEX EUROPOL
		Ongoing negotiations of the WA between Frontex and CEPOL. Cooperation plan to be signed for 2019-2020.	ONGOING	FRONTEX CEPOL
		Frontex-Eurojust dialogue on enhanced cooperation, particularly in the area of information exchange, and commencement of negotiations on a cooperation agreement	ONGOING	FRONTEX EUROJUST
3.2	Further development of ICT cooperation	Meeting of the ICT and Security Experts on 13 September 2018 in Brussels organised by eu-LISA on behalf of the chair of the JHAAN.	DONE	ALL JHA AGENCIES
		EU fundamental rights Information System- (EFRIS): Public online tool under development which will bring together relevant EU, UN and Council of Europe information on fundamental rights related to EU Member States (and those observers to FRA) to improve visibility and accessibility of the 80 plus mechanisms with a strong human rights remit.	ONGOING	FRA
		To facilitate the process of the exchange of EUCI, the European Commission has prepared two templates for decentralised agencies on security rules for handling RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED and for up to SECRET UE/EU SECRET. These templates include provisions foreseen in the Commission Decisions 444/2015 and 443/2015 on the necessary security framework for the implementation of a system handling EUCI. Most of the JHA agencies are looking into this solution as it will enable the exchange of RUE also between themselves.	ONGOING	ALL JHA AGENCIES

		Due to the high interest on the subject, the Agencies decided to follow up on the developments on this matter during the next meeting and eu-LISA proposed to lead this topic.		
		Regarding the exchange on non-classified sensitive information via encrypted email, the discussion between the Agencies followed the matter of encryption technologies and its implications. On the matter of sensitive non-classified documents marking, the agencies aim to follow with a further discussion on a new Commission proposal on the matter.	ONGOING	ALL JHA AGENCIES
		Facilitate the identification of technical solutions based on common needs identified among JHA agencies at business level.	ONGOING	ALL JHA AGENCIES
		eDocX2017 project. The initial pilot on this initiative has proved successful with the agencies managing to exchange encrypted messages. The next stage of the project is looking into solutions for enhancing the capabilities for metadata exchange.	ONGOING	EU-LISA EMCDDA EASO
		Support to the Agencies with regards to the implementation of the disaster recovery plan and ensuring business continuity.	ONGOING	EU-LISA FRONTEX EASO
4.	TRAINING			
4.1	Training coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEPOL held the annual meeting of Training Contact Group of the JHA Agencies' Network on 17/18 July 2018. • JHA Agencies using the JHA Training Matrix to report their training activities. Efforts started to coordinate the planning of training activities facilitated by the Matrix. JHA TM Glossary finalised. • Shared use of learning and training resources encouraged (sharing Moodle-related best practices and ToRs; CEPOL's Lecturers, Trainers, Researchers' Database and EBSCO tools). • CEPOL has carried out the first EU Strategic Training Needs Assessment supported by other Agencies 	DONE	ALL JHA AGENCIES
		For Police Cooperation evaluations, eu-LISA has participated in CEPOL's training with a general presentation on its mandate and systems managed. For Management of the external borders evaluations, eu-LISA contributes to Frontex-led training with pre-course material.		CEPOL FRONTEX EU-LISA

		Delivering CEPOL webinars on various topics	ONGOING/REGULAR	CEPOL, SUPPORTED BY ALL JHA AGENCIES
		Provision of Frontex expertise on returns to Cepol's trainings.	ONGOING	FRONTEX CEPOL
		CEPOL-Frontex Joint Exchange Programme	ONGOING	FRONTEX CEPOL
		Migration Management Support Teams Joint Training.	ONGOING	EASO FRONTEX EUROPOL
		Eurojust and Europol continue participating in joint EJTN/CEPOL training initiatives for prosecutors and law enforcement officers to enhance the use of JITs by national practitioners.	ONGOING	CEPOL EUROJUST EUROPOL
4.2	Schengen evaluation	<p>Since 2015, eu-LISA has regularly participated in all on-site evaluations. eu-LISA set up a pool of observers composed by staff with technical SIS II and security expertise;</p> <p>Prior deployment, eu-LISA organises on a regular base a webinar for the evaluation team encompassing technical information and statistical data on the evaluated country; eu-LISA contributes to the annual CEPOL' training for future evaluators in this field.</p> <p>Since 2015, Frontex has regularly participated in all on-site evaluations. Frontex also provided, supporting the mechanism, risk analysis prior to the visits. Frontex has implemented vulnerability assessment as second quality control mechanism. An intensive cooperation has also been established between the vulnerability assessment and the Schengen evaluation.</p>	SOC, CT THREATS AND POLICE COOPERATION REPORT FOR MS; EUROPOL OBSERVER IN ALL ON-SITE EVALUATIONS	EU-LISA EUROPOL CEPOL
		Delivery of and participation in training courses for Schengen evaluators by CEPOL, euLISA, Frontex and FRA, in the following fields: border management, police cooperation, return and readmission, and SIS II and SIRENE.	DONE	CEPOL EU-LISA FRA FRONTEX

5.	COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES RELATING TO JHA AGENCIES' NETWORK			
5.1	Communication (external and internal)	Statement of EU Agencies on Joint Commitment to zero tolerance towards sexual harassment at workplace.	8 MARCH 2018	EU agencies (including all jha agencies)
		Joint EU Agencies' statement of commitment to working together against trafficking in human beings.	13 JUNE 2018	Under initiative of EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, ALL JHA AGENCIES and EUROFOUND
		EIGE created a 'working together' webpage to highlight JHA agencies coordination and cooperation.	ONGOING	ALL JHA AGENCIES
		Joint/Collaborative press releases and social media activities on operational cases supported by Europol and Eurojust.	ONGOING	EUROPOL EUROJUST
		Promotion of the work of JHA agency network on respective websites	ONGOING	ALL JHA AGENCIES
6.	DATA PROTECTION IN THE JHA FIELD			
6.1	Data protection in the JHA field	Awareness raising session on data protection organised by FRA (outlining key GDPR principles) in course of registration and identification in Greek hotspots.	SEPTEMBER 2018	FRA, FRONTEX, EUROPOL
		Meeting of JHA Agencies' Data Protection officers.	MAY 2018	ALL JHA AGENCIES
		Use of collaborative platform 'Data Protection Experts Network', sponsored by Europol.	ONGOING	ALL JHA AGENCIES



Justice and Home Affairs agencies network

Inter-agency activities in 2018



Migration, asylum and border management

Approximately

80

inter-agency activities



Security and serious organised crime

Approximately

90

inter-agency activities



Gender equality-related aspects in the work of the JHA agencies

2 + 1

- training on gender statistics
- experts' meeting on gender equality related aspects of digitalisation

joint paper on gender equality-related aspects of digitalisation



JHA training activities

24

inter-agency trainings



Analytical products

149 8

products

joint products

8,5% of all analytical products





Maximising opportunities, minimising risks –
meeting the digital challenge
for girls and boys

Annex 3



Foreword

Digitalisation is rapidly changing our world and young people are on the frontline and technology is transforming the way we work, socialise, and engage with politics. In order to ensure Europe reaps the benefits of the digital revolution while protecting citizens, it is necessary to identify trends and risks.

As the 2018 Chair of the JHA agencies' network, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) proposed JHA agencies assess the impact of digitalisation on European citizens. The agencies have a clear mandate to protect boys and girls from the dangers of the digital world, which include trafficking in human beings, radicalisation, and incorrect and unreliable information. The agencies are committed to working together to minimise the risks children face through prevention, awareness raising about trustworthy online information, and education and assistance. In their contributions to this paper, the agencies present how the use of digital technologies help address the challenges outlined. Digital opportunities and risks are therefore often two sides of the same coin.

EIGE's research shows that digitalisation is affecting girls and boys, and women and men, in different ways. Gender norms are being replicated in the online world, where they often become exacerbated. Girls are more likely to be affected by cyber violence than boys, including sexual cyberbullying. They are less likely to engage in political discussions for fear of online backlash. Gender stereotypes in education and the labour market have resulted in only 17% of the 8 million ICT professionals in the EU being women.

Digitalisation also brings many opportunities in the struggle to increase gender equality and eliminate gender-based violence. Digital jobs offer a chance for better work-life balance, which helps make the lives of women and men more meaningful. The internet and social media can be powerful tools for social change, as we have seen with #MeToo.

This paper makes some initial proposals for actions that would enable EU institutions and Member States to harness the possibilities of digitalisation and empower digital citizens of the future.

Virginija LANGBAKK,

EIGE Director

Introduction

More than half the world's population is connected to the digital world and numbers are rising, including in Europe.¹ The fast-paced digital evolution of recent decades has unequivocally revolutionised people's lives. It has brought tangible benefits to people's social, economic and political activity and their personal development through previously unimaginable opportunities. It is also evident that the integration of digital technology into every facet of modern life is having a profound impact on human behaviour and a new culture is emerging. This has given birth to complex challenges and risks that undermine democratic values, human rights, gender equality and security.

With operational mandates to ensure freedom, security and justice in the European Union, the nine EU Justice and Home Affairs Agencies (JHA)² are themselves feeling the impact of the digital revolution, both in the mushrooming challenges and restraints they face and the systems and responses they must develop to address them. This paper aims to look closer at available JHA knowledge on the impact of digitalisation on young people, specifically boys and girls aged between 15-18 years.

It is the youth that are the largest online users³ and the most tech savvy. With an increasingly tech-dependent future on the immediate horizon with social, economic, political and security implications, it is this generation that is on the digital frontline. The digital skills and experiences acquired in Europe today will help determine how that future unfolds. With millennials due to make up nearly half of the global workforce by 2020⁴, how these skills are used will also determine the economic competitiveness and social cohesion of the region.

A generation increasingly skilled at using digital technology is an asset for society but without the maturity or guidance on how best to use its talents, those skills pose a risk. Despite the growing body of research and policies on digitalisation and youth, there is a limited understanding of and response to its impact on teenage girls and boys. They are especially vulnerable as they navigate the digital world and assert their independence. Developing increasingly sophisticated digital skills as they grow older paradoxically not only opens up teenagers to more positive online opportunities, it also exposes them to risky⁵ and potentially criminal behaviour without constraints of national borders. This has implications for their rights, security and for increased gender equality. The spotlight of both attention and action is mainly on crime, security and blocking access, and less so on measures to fulfil the potential of digitalisation.

Through their work, JHA agencies are either generally or specifically building the capacity of Member States to protect children or are informing and reaching out to the public. In 2018, coordinated by EIGE, each agency provided insights for this paper on how boys and girls are impacted by digitalisation in their area of work, and how they can contribute to negating risks, ensure security and promote gender equality and rights. This and greater collaboration between the agencies going forward offer scope to better understand the issue so as to realise the opportunities of digitalisation and minimise its risks through EU and Member State policies and programmes.

¹ *Opportunities and risks of digitalisation for boys and girls, JHA network, Experts Meeting, CEPOL*

² CEPOL, EASO, EIGE, EMCDDA, eu-LISA, Eurojust, Europol, FRA, Frontex

³ *Gender equality and youth: Opportunities and risks of Digitalisation, EIGE*

⁴ *How young people view the digitalization of the world, Le Bacon-Gaillard, Digitalist magazine*

⁵ *Balancing opportunities and risks in teenagers' use of the internet, the role of online skills and internet self-efficacy, S. Livingstone, E. Helsper, 2009*

Opportunities offered by digital technologies

By 2014, 46 per cent of all children between 9-16 years in seven European countries already owned smartphones,⁶ statistics that will have geographically and numerically expanded since. Undoubtedly, the internet, social media, and easy access to them, have provided girls and boys with extraordinary opportunities that have changed the ways in which they seek and acquire knowledge, interact with peers and society at large, and develop their interests and personalities. Uniquely creative outlets for self-expression and empowerment, digital platforms also impact on careers and economic prospects and facilitate social and political participation with knock-on benefits for inclusion and integration into new societies and economies. There is clearly significant potential to harness digital technologies for active youth citizenship and to deliver on a major concern of young people, namely – equal opportunities for all.⁷

The freedom and scope unleashed by online technologies have been embraced by girls and boys alike, as seen by their high level of participation on social media networks. They create new content, engage in online discussions, and follow debates, although gender disparities begin to show in how and why they engage and participate.⁸

While gender gaps exist virtually everywhere, gender equality or near equality has been achieved on two aspects: 92 per cent of 16-19-year-old boys and girls use the internet daily while 59 per cent of boys this age and 55 per cent of girls have above basic digital skills.⁹ Despite this, girls indicate being less confident about their digital skills. For example, on average, 73 per cent of 15-16-year-old boys compared to 63 per cent of girls are comfortable using unfamiliar digital devices,¹⁰ with long-term ramifications.

Currently, girls see few prospects for them in ICT careers despite their equal footing with boys in overall educational attainment. Insufficient digital skills in the European labour market have for long meant a large shortage of ICT specialists with women making up just 17 per cent of eight million ICT specialists, a statistic that has barely changed in a decade.¹¹

For this to change and to achieve gender equality in terms of digital abilities and opportunities throughout adulthood, closer attention has to be paid to girls in digital curricula in schools. Boosting their confidence in the wider application of digital skills needs to start at an early age. Content for STEM education should also be broadened to ensure both girls and boys are reached. EIGE research shows that narrowing the gender gap in STEM education would create up to 1.2 million more jobs and increase long-term GDP by up to 820 billion Euros by 2050.¹²

A pre-requisite is digital training for teachers throughout their careers. It is estimated that only 20-25 per cent of students in Europe are taught by digitally confident teachers¹³ in a profession heavily represented by women. Career-long training would also close gender gaps in digital skills among adults and ensure **teachers are equipped to pass on high levels of digital literacy. This includes strengthening children's critical thinking abilities to better judge online content.**

⁶ *Smartphones are bad for some teens, not all.* Odgers, Nature, 21st Feb, 2018

⁷ *How young people view the digitalization of the world*, Le Bacon-Gaillard, Digitalist magazine

⁸ *Gender equality and youth: Opportunities and risks of Digitalisation*, EIGE, 2018

⁹ Eurostat 2017

¹⁰ *Gender equality and youth: Opportunities and risks of Digitalisation*, EIGE, 2018

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² *Economic benefits of gender equality in the EU: How gender equality in STEM education leads to economic growth*, EIGE, 2017

¹³ Ibid.

Extending that training to parents and carers, who often lack the digital literacy to influence their more technologically adept offspring, would guide children to navigate the digital world more effectively and safely. Partnerships with the big tech companies could help fund such ongoing training and human investment.

The underbelly of a changing culture

With digital technologies providing an unprecedented scope for self-expression, to obtain and share information, and to easily access people, goods and services across national boundaries, modern culture is irrevocably changing. EIGE research shows offline gender norms and behaviour being extended into the online world and exacerbated, adding a dynamic complex challenge to efforts towards gender equality and the elimination of gender-based violence. While fears of digitalisation driving the downfall of an entire generation are not supported,¹⁴ online activities may, however, be perpetuating and even worsening existing inequalities. Digital opportunities and risks for girls and boys are, therefore, often two sides of the same coin with risks compounded by the dark web and its implications for cybercrime, security and justice.

According to JHA law enforcement agencies, cybercrime is one of the fastest growing and evolving areas in serious organised and transnational crime and a significant EU priority. However, a lack of legal synergies between EU Member States hampers Europe-wide investigations. These occur through uncoordinated parallel domestic investigations and conflicts of jurisdiction across borders; different national laws; victims across several countries; issues over the admissibility of e-evidence in court proceedings; and transferring criminal proceedings from one country to another. Conflicting legislation can also hinder law enforcement, such as data protection laws that contradict security measures.

Cyber violence

There is mounting evidence that cyber violence is a growing phenomenon and girls are disproportionately affected. Girls are less likely to post comments or engage with political and civic issues for fear of online backlash. Among 15-year-olds, 12 per cent of girls report being cyberbullied compared to seven per cent of boys. After witnessing cyberbullying, 51 per cent of girls as opposed to 42 per cent of boys hesitate to engage in or disengage from social media for fear of abuse or judgement with consequences for their civic participation. Aggressive online behaviour is now expected and normalized within groups.¹⁵

The objectification of women and girls through online media, peer pressure to share explicit images or sexting for fun, contents of which are then shared without consent to the viral world, and victim-blaming, have also sexualised cyberbullying. Together with cyberstalking, cyber harassment, sexting and grooming, definitions of which languish in legal grey areas, children, and girls in particular, are more vulnerable to cyber violence than ever before.

The global reach of digital sharing ensures victims are impacted indefinitely beyond a specific location, moment or group. Efforts to address the many forms of cyber violence are hampered by insufficient awareness and understanding of cyberbullying and gender-based violence among law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities.

¹⁴ *Smartphones are bad for some teens, not all*. Odgers, Nature, 21st February, 2018

¹⁵ *Gender equality and youth: Opportunities and risks of Digitalisation*, EIGE, 2018

Child sexual exploitation

According to Europol's **European Cybercrime Centre (EC3)**, the internet is facilitating hands-on abuse of minors with child online sexual exploitation one of the worst forms of cybercrime. In a 2015 EU study,¹⁶ estimated prevalence rates for online sexual abuse of girls were higher than for boys in almost all of a group of European countries, while other research by IWF found 77.1 per cent of online sexual content of 16-20-year-olds featured girls. Among children aged 15 years and younger, that figure was 93.1 per cent.¹⁷

A growing phenomenon is the sexual coercion and/or extortion of minors who have shared compromising images of themselves before being blackmailed for more sexual materials or money. Likely to be subjected to repeated demands, victims are trapped and isolated, and can self-harm or commit suicide. Of the 70 per cent of European countries reporting such cases to Europol, more than half indicate sexual coercion and extortion as a growing problem. Equally of concern is that 70 per cent of sexual extortion cases brought to law enforcement attention involve only minors, a concern compounded by lack of legal clarity on what to do with juvenile perpetrators.

Radicalisation

While the role of the internet and social media in radicalising young people is acknowledged, scholars disagree on whether radicalisation occurs only through internet activities.¹⁸ One 2017 study argues that due to traditional cultural and gender norms, the recruitment of boys and young men can more easily occur in physical spaces outside the home, but for women and girls, this happens more online and in private environments.¹⁹ Online recruitment is also gendered with different roles and expectations for boys and men, compared to girls and women. Women are targeted with anti-feminism messages or called upon to fulfil a higher sense of purpose as wives and mothers, although military reverses in 2017 led to ISIS calling for women to take up arms for the first time.²⁰ Female suicide bombers may be unusual, but radicalised women and girls are not. A 2014 report estimated that 18 per cent of all European ISIS members are women and girls.²¹

The complexity around the radicalisation and online recruitment of boys and girls into terrorism or extremism underlines tensions between protecting fundamental rights and security. The issue of radicalisation should be addressed through a holistic, multidimensional approach, which goes beyond security and law enforcement measures only. To combat radicalisation, educational settings should foster citizenship and common values. Working with local communities and families should be increased and effective coordination among the various actors should be enhanced.

¹⁶ *Combatting child sexual abuse online. Study for the LIBE Committee*, P. Jeney, 2015

¹⁷ *Emerging Patterns and Trends Report #1 Online-Produced Sexual Content*, IWF, 2015

¹⁸ *Radicalisation and violent extremism – focus on women: How women become radicalised, and how to empower them to prevent radicalisation*, De Leede, Hauptfleisch, Korolkova, Natter, 2017

¹⁹ *Women, gender and Daesh radicalisation*, The RUSI Journal, E. Pearson, E. Winterbotham, 2017

²⁰ *Isis calls on women to fight and launch terror attacks for first time*, Dearden, The Independent, 2017

²¹ *How ISIS attracts women and girls from Europe with false offer of 'empowerment'*, Dearden, The Independent, 2017

Hate speech

When it comes to the impact of hate speech online on boys and girls, EIGE's research on youth and digitalisation has highlighted that the effects of hate speech and online harassment more generally affect young women disproportionately. After witnessing or experiencing online hate speech or abuse, 51 % of young women and 42 % of young men in the EU hesitate to engage in social media debates due to fear of experiencing abuse, hate speech or threats. The report analysed that cyber-harassment from peers and strangers often make young people, especially girls, restrict their political activities online (as they also do offline), thereby missing out on the full advantages of digital media.

FRA's paper "**Challenges to women's human rights in the EU: Gender discrimination, sexist hate speech and gender-based violence against women and girls**"²² suggest that the increase in the use of information and communication technologies as tools to abuse women and girls underlines the need for taking specific action, such as removing content and developing codes of conduct. However, the internet can also be a powerful tool to promote human rights and to empower women and girls to exercise their freedom of expression, as in the Twitter and Facebook hashtag campaign #MeToo.

Child trafficking and smuggling

According to a 2015 Eurostat report on Trafficking in Human Beings, 17 per cent of victims between 2010-2012 were 12-17 years-old. Where gender/age data was available, girls accounted for 13 per cent of trafficked victims in 2012, compared to three percent for boys. The European Commission has acknowledged that criminal networks have exploited the migration crisis to target vulnerable women and children. Trafficking networks frequently track digital platforms for sources of information on young people, particularly migrant children. Recognising this reality, EASO has used the digital world to reach out to potential migrants and potential victims of smuggling and THB including children. Through its Social Media Monitoring project, EASO has collected data which has been instrumental for the understanding of the general trends and discourse on social networks related to flight and migration, smuggling networks, document fraud and integration issues. When detecting cybercrime, some of which may affect vulnerable migrants including children active on the social media, EASO has relayed its findings to Europol.

Following the success of its research on Social Media, EASO has actively engaged in countering messages of smugglers through its online **pilot information campaign 'Journey to Europe'**. Given that the Internet, social media (Facebook in particular) and smartphones are widely used in Nigeria, EASO has used Facebook as the main communication channel for publicising, *inter alia*, video testimonials of Nigerian migrants, including victims of trafficking in human beings. The project aims to provide information to migrants and/or potential migrants from Nigeria, including children, to Europe about asylum in the EU and the dangers of travelling to Europe via smugglers, such as human trafficking, forced prostitution, sex trafficking, torture, modern slavery, forced labour, drowning at sea, domestic servitude, etc. in order to help them make informed **decisions**. **EASO's Facebook page has over 100,000 followers** and its video testimonials have been watched nearly 1m times.

Drug use and online gambling

Analysis by EMCDDA points out that illicit drug use remains high in Europe. An estimated 18.9 million young adults aged 15-34 used drugs in the last year, with twice as many males as females reporting doing so.

²² [Challenges to women's human rights in the EU](#), FRA (2017)

Recent years have seen the appearance and use of new psychoactive substances on the drug market with the internet increasingly shaping drug-related behaviours and attitudes. Digital technology is also changing how people acquire drugs with social media reportedly contributing to an expansion in online drug markets.

Although gambling for money was the least common online activity among all schoolchildren in a 2015 mapping of internet use in 34 European countries by ESPAD23, 24 per cent of 15-16-year-old boys had gambled online at least once in the past 12 months, compared to eight per cent of girls the same age. Frequent online gambling was reported by an average of three per cent of respondents – six per cent of boys compared to one per cent of girls.

Possible ways forward

Primary consideration in responses to opportunities and risks of digitalisation for boys and girls has to be in the best interests of children, taking their own views into account – a right enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Potential sources of harm can be addressed without unreasonably restricting access to digital platforms. Equipping them with relevant knowledge and critical thinking skills, possibly by making **digital literacy a “fourth pillar” of learning on par with reading, writing and maths**,²⁴ remains the most effective and empowering safeguard against digital risks. Equally important is ending social tolerance of gender violence in any arena. Changing attitudes to de-normalise cyber violence is a key path to gender equality.

Strengthened institutional responses

Any institutional response needs to have a holistic approach, without resorting only to security and law enforcement measures. Those include areas as relevant as education, awareness raising, and research and data collection.

Better data and analysis, simple mechanisms making it easier for boys and girls to report abuse and seek help, improved coordination on investigations, technology and training can strengthen institutional responses.

EU-wide initiatives could include introducing or raising awareness of a national Ombudsperson for children and how s/he can help; establishing web-based national hotlines connected to child helplines and police that enable children and adults to report sites **violating children’s sexual rights, and appointing “web constables” who facilitate safe online communication with children and adults to prevent or respond to cyber violence and child sexual exploitation** – examples from Estonia. Current crime recording and analysis systems in Member States to better understand the prevalence, scope and nature of all cybersex crimes affecting children should also be upgraded.

Law enforcement needs to strengthen efforts to protect girls and women from hate speech online. Women who have experienced online sexist hatred describe the standard response they receive from the police as suggesting to simply take a break from the internet. Efforts should however be placed in the accountability of perpetrators.

²³ http://www.espad.org/sites/espad.org/files/ESPAD_report_2015.pdf

²⁴ *Disinformation and ‘fake news’: Interim Report, Fifth Report of Session 2017-2019*, Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, House of Commons, 2018

For successful cybercrime investigations, the early involvement of Europol is essential. Centralising cases nationally and more effective international cooperation and coordination between JHA law enforcement agencies and Member States would strengthen investigations. Joint Investigation Teams (JIT) of relevant authorities from concerned Member States, with Eurojust and Europol participating, have shown promise in facilitating easy, swift cooperation and exchange of evidence and can be developed.

Because of the use of the digital technologies, EU wide Joint Operational Activities could take place at the same time targeting any child specific aspect. An example of such activity is Frontex Joint Operation VEGA Children 2018, which has been launched to tackle criminality associated with the movement of children at external air borders and to provide best practices on special protection needs that children identified during the operation require.

The Schengen Information System (SIS II) run 24/7/365 by eu-LISA is a highly efficient large-scale information system that supports law enforcement cooperation and external border control throughout the Member States of the European Union (and Schengen Associated Countries). The SIS II enables competent authorities, for example, police officers and border guards, to enter and consult alerts on specific categories of wanted or missing persons and objects. SIS II acts as an information sharing system between all the countries that use it and holds information in the form of "alerts". Each Person alert can contain biographical information such as, name, date of birth, gender and nationality. In addition to this, SIS II also stores fingerprints and photographs of the person an alert is related to. Although the legal basis of SIS II permits the storage of fingerprints, prior to this year they have only been used to confirm the identity of a person who has been identified following a check on his/her name and/or date of birth. Though this feature has been useful, the real added value of fingerprints is to be able to identify a person from his/her fingerprints alone. In order for this to occur, an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) was launched by eu-LISA in 2018. It will also facilitate the identification of persons of interest, particularly those who have changed their identity to avoid detection.

Existing CEPOL training of law enforcers on various forms of cybercrime, including cyber violence against girls and women, could extend to clarifying understanding on the boundaries between sexting, grooming and sexual exploitation. Gender perspectives in cyber-related crime affecting children should be incorporated into the training.

Through capacity building activities EU Border Officials could also be informed about specific issues related to children. A wide variety of different digital methods are available, like e-learning, digital newsletters, etc. An example of this is the Frontex-FRA video on child protection, which is presented to border guards during operational briefings before deployment.

Stronger accountability and oversight

The importance and complexity of digitalisation is reflected in a myriad of EU policies and initiatives relating to digitalisation, including, on a safer internet for children.²⁵ Adding a gender perspective to these and all EU policies on youth would significantly enhance the efforts of EU Member States to combat all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence. Proposals for strengthening digital opportunities include an intersectional analysis of vulnerabilities and obstacles to digital opportunities for boys and girls; establishing baselines and setting and monitoring gender specific targets on initiatives to bring more girls into the ICT sector; working with teachers on gender aspects of digitalisation and ensuring youth of all sexes are involved in the planning and decision-making processes.

²⁵ For example, the *European Strategy for a Better Internet for Children and a Digital Agenda for Europe*

However, without laws to regulate certain types of behaviour, the effects of policies are undermined. The definition and inclusion of various forms of gender-based cyber violence in EU definitions of cybercrime is critical in addressing this violence. EU and Member States should also ratify the Istanbul Convention and apply it to cyber violence.

Although an EU legal framework on child sexual abuse exists, similarly comprehensive EU-wide legal instruments on cybercrime and their enforcement would significantly help to address the transnational nature of the phenomenon. This involves strengthening European law enforcement capacity to respond to and prevent cybercrime, including among relevant JHA agencies.

Currently, only a few EU Member States regulate or render social networks and digital service providers liable for spreading hate speech and inciting violence. Internet service providers and operators of social media platforms could therefore be encouraged to be more proactive in removing and enabling the reporting of discriminatory and abusive content, including sexist hate speech. Inspiration and guidance could be taken from the code of conduct on illegal online hate speech agreed by the European Commission and information technologies (IT) companies in May 2016. The code of conduct could be extended to cover sexist hate speech.

Furthermore, the tech and social media companies could be held more accountable for the spread of harmful content, timelier removal of content, better data protection, and ensuring terms of conditions are age appropriate and age ratified. Alternatively, rules on accuracy and impartiality standards for broadcasters could serve as a basis for standard setting for online content, as recently proposed in a British parliamentary committee report on disinformation²⁶.

Children can also be encouraged to self-regulate and develop their knowledge of the boundaries between legal, ethical and acceptable. Gender elements should be included in codes of conduct to effectively capture and counter the gender dimensions of online hate speech, gender-based cybercrime, and to better understand the root causes.

Partnerships to solve a complex challenge

The multi-faceted challenges of the digitalisation of boys and girls require a multi-disciplinary response. Education and prevention are key to unlocking opportunities, but only if all stakeholders and sectors are involved in identifying **and implementing solutions**. A 2017 report on cyberbullying for the EU's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee noted the correlation between the quality of policy implementation and stakeholder involvement, stressing the importance of public sector engagement in ensuring safer internet activities.

Children and youth organisations such as the European Youth Forum are crucial actors and should be adequately supported in their work. The new EU Youth Strategy is a great opportunity to address the challenges raised in this paper.

Self-regulatory EU partnership initiatives such as the Alliance to Better Protect Minors Online could be scaled up or the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition, aimed at boosting digital education and training to address ICT

²⁶ *Disinformation and 'fake news': Interim Report, Fifth Report of Session 2017-2019, Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, House of Commons, 2018*

skills shortages in the labour market could be a blueprint for action on digital literacy that ensures safe online practices for children.

JHA collaboration on this paper has underlined that evidence of its impact remains scarce. The dearth of sex-disaggregated data also inhibits the identification of gender specific patterns. Partnerships on collecting and sharing sex-disaggregated data, including by JHA agencies, will significantly contribute to more effective EU responses.

The role of JHA

Digital technologies are playing a big role in the work of JHA agencies focused on security, justice and border management. Despite a clear mandate to better protect boys and girls from the dangers in the digital world, including among others, trafficking in human beings, radicalisation and incorrect and unreliable information the JHA agencies cooperate in prevention, awareness raising about trustable online information and sources, education and assistance that can minimize risks for children, . In contributions to this paper, they underline how their own reliance on digital technologies can address the challenges outlined. JHA agencies can play an active, major role in countering false information related to asylum and widely promote correct information to children.

To prevent online radicalisation and recruitment of children and young people, Eurojust facilitates the exchange of lessons learnt from prosecutions and convictions for terrorist offences based on its casework and the information received from Member States on ongoing and concluded terrorism proceedings.

Awareness raising digital campaigns are used to target children on a wide range of issues, such as Europol's SayNo campaign that aims to raise awareness on online sexual coercion and extortion of children. Similarly, the EC3 has also promoted advice for young people and their parents and educators on the risks and consequences associated with becoming involved in cybercrime: Cyber Crime vs Cyber Security: What Will You Choose? EASO's pilot information campaign 'Journey to Europe' provides information to migrants and/or potential migrants about asylum in the EU and the dangers of travelling to Europe via smugglers, such as human trafficking, forced prostitution, sex trafficking, torture, modern slavery, forced labour, drowning at sea or domestic servitude.

E-learning has become an increasingly important method for CEPOL's training of law enforcement officers on all aspects of cybercrime, while the increasing role of digital technologies in crime overall has necessitated incorporating training in online intelligence and investigation methods.

Digital tools and platforms also provide opportunities for asylum case workers to facilitate their work. For instance, some of the guides made available online by EASO include a guide on age assessment and a guide on family tracing. An EASO online tool²⁷ helps Member State asylum caseworkers detect early signs of child trafficking, and ensure an appropriate individual response to the special needs of the particular applicant, including children. eu-LISA managed large-scale IT systems can be used to identify, track, rescue and assist registered missing or trafficked persons, including minors.

Child-specific statistics gathered during Frontex operations together with data from Member States on children and unaccompanied minors give a better understanding of trends pertaining to children at external borders and help identify vulnerable children with special protection needs, including victims of trafficking. These analyses also aim to help policymakers develop child-sensitive policies and measures.

²⁷ <https://ipsn.easo.europa.eu/about-tool-0>

EMCDDA highlights how digital platforms are providing new opportunities for targeted health interventions on substance abuse, including for young people. They are playing an increasing role in collecting information on drug use and related problems. Monitoring of open source information, including drug user forums; on line shops; darknet, media reports, and web surveys are among the new methods used by the EMCDDA to complement regular monitoring data collection in order to get more timely information on new trends and emerging issues.

Building on previous analysis of cyber violence as a form of violence against women (VAW)²⁸, EIGE's research for the 2018 Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU identified several gender differences in how digitalisation affects boys and girls aged 15-18 years. It highlighted the need for a gender perspective to be included in all digitalisation and youth policies.

Through its various research, including on how the digital world affects genders differently on issues such as cyber violence and cyberbullying or data protection and implications for children, FRA is providing insights into gender specific dynamics of digital behaviour.

A workshop in June 2018 at EIGE and this paper are initial moves to map a way forward on overcoming challenges together. Future steps to strengthen synergies for effective action on the theme of this paper have been identified.

Only close and well coordinated stakeholder engagement will ensure success in addressing the scale and complexity of the challenges posed by the transnational and inter-connected digital world for boys and girls. This includes among JHA agencies whose mandates provide the bedrock for European security, justice, equality and rights. A concerted effort to improve sex disaggregated data collection is crucial for informed action. Interventions need to focus on changing the digital culture through learning to create and mobilise responsible and empowered digital citizens of the future. EU political awareness and leadership on the opportunities and risks of digitalisation for boys and girls and their linkage to existing strategic policies is just as crucial.

²⁸ <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/eiges-studies-gender-based-violence/cyber-violence-against-women>

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List of acronyms and abbreviations

AFIC	Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community
AFIS	Automated Fingerprint Identification System
BMS	Biometric Matching Service
CBRN	Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear
CIC	Crime Information Cell
COSI	Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security
CRI	Common risk indicator
CRRS	Common Repository for Reporting and Statistics
CSDP	Common Security and Defence Policy
C-PROC	Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe
DG HOME	Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs
DG JUST	Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
EASO	European Asylum Support Office
EBCG	European Border and Coast Guard
EC3	European Cybercrime Centre
ECRIS-TCN	European Criminal Records Information System – Third Country Nationals
ECTC	European Counter-Terrorism Centre
EEAS	European External Action Service
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
EDPS	European Data Protection Supervisor
EES	Entry-Exit System
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EIGE	European Institute for Gender Equality
EJCN	European Judicial Cybercrime Network
EJTN	European Judicial Training Network
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
EMPACT	European Multi-Disciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats
EMSC	European Migrant Smuggling Centre
ENAC	Expert Network on Activities on Children
ENISA	European Union Agency for Network and Information Security
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ESDC	European Security and Defence College
ESM	EMPACT Support Manager
ESP	European Search Portal
ETIAS	European Travel Information and Authorisation System
EU	European Union

Annex 4

EUBAM	EU Border Assistance Mission
EUCI	EU Classified Information
EU CTC	EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator
EUNAVFOR Med	European Union Naval Force Mediterranean
EURODAC	
EURTF	EU Regional Task Force
EWS	Early warning system
FEMM	European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
FII	Facilitation of Illegal Immigration
FTF	Foreign terrorist fighters
FRA	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
GAAD	Global Airport Action Day
GAAM	Global Approach to Migration and Mobility
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HLCEG-R	High-Level Commission Expert Group on Radicalisation
HLEG	High-Level Expert Group on Information Systems and Interoperability
HVT	High value target
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IDS	Information and Documentation System
ILO	Immigration Liaison Officers
IOCTA	Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPCR ISAA	Integrated Political Crisis Response Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis
IRMA	Irregular Migration Management Application
JAD	Joint Action Day
JIT	Joint Investigation Team
JHA	Justice and Home Affairs
JO	Joint Operation
LIBE Committee	European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
LO	Liaison Officer
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MMST	Migration Management Support Team
MFF	Multi-Annual Financial Framework
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NPS	New psychoactive substances
OAP	Operational Action Plans
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Annex 4

OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
PSC	Political and Security Committee
RAC	Risk Analysis Cells
SIS	Schengen Information System
SOP	Standard operating procedure
STNA	Strategic Training Needs Analysis
TC	Third country
TE-SAT	EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report
TERR	European Parliament's Special Committee on Terrorism
THBNet	Expert Network on Trafficking in Human Beings
ToR	Terms of reference
VA	Vulnerability assessment
VIS	