



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 9 February 2015
(OR. en)

5946/15

LIMITE

JAI 66
COSI 18

NOTE

From: eu-LISA
To: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security
Subject: Priorities of the network of JHA Agencies in 2015

Delegations will find attached document a letter from the Executive Director of eu-LISA, Mr. Krum Garkov to the Chair of COSI regarding the priorities of the JHA Agencies' network in 2015 which are set out in annex to the letter.



Executive Director

Ms ILZE PĒTERSONE-GODMANE
Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Internal Security (COSI)
State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior of Latvia
Čiekurkalna 1. līnija 1 k-2, Rīga,
LV-1026
LATVIA

Tallinn, 4 February 2015

eu-LISA/ED/O-088-2015

Subject: Priorities of the JHA Agencies' Network in 2015

Dear Ms Pētersone-Godmane,

The European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (eu-LISA) took over the chairmanship of the Network of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies from the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in the end of last year. Following that, it is with great pleasure that I can inform you of the priorities of the JHA Agencies' Network in 2015.

I also take the opportunity to wish you a successful continuation of the Presidency. I stand ready to keep COSI regularly informed of the activities of the JHA Agencies Network as well as of eu-LISA in the course of your Presidency.



Krastjars BARKOV
Executive Director

Annex: Priorities of the network of JHA Agencies in 2015

European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice
Rävala pst 4 • 10143 Tallinn • Estonia

Role of EU Agencies in the JHA area

Ensuring freedom, security and justice will continue to be key objectives for the European Union in 2015 and in the years to come. The European Council adopted the strategic guidelines on the future development of the area of freedom, security and justice in June 2014. According to the new guidelines for the coming years, the overall priority is to consistently transpose, effectively implement and consolidate the legal instruments and policy measures in place and to ensure the protection and promotion of fundamental rights, human rights of women and data protection, whilst addressing security concerns, also in relation to third countries. In this sense, it will be important to enhance, as much as possible within the current legal framework, operational cooperation, while developing and strengthening further the roles of the different EU Agencies and ensuring the strategic use of EU funds in the justice and home affairs (JHA) area.

The JHA Agencies have been called upon by the EU institutions to play a key role in fulfilling these objectives. In the coming years, the JHA Agencies will continue to be at the forefront of the EU contributing to the practical achievements and developments of the EU in the JHA area. In this context, the JHA Agencies (CEPOL, EASO, EIGE, EMCDDA, eu-LISA, Eurojust, Europol, FRA and Frontex) will play key operational and advisory roles in the implementation of the EU priorities and objectives in this area. The JHA Agencies will further prove their added value by supporting the coherent and effective practical implementation of the EU *acquis*. The JHA Agencies will also provide operational and technical support to the Member States and the EU institutions, and deliver cross-agency evidence-based input to the policy- and decision-making processes at EU level.

Furthermore, the discussions on the revised Internal Security Strategy will be ongoing among Member States and EU institutions in 2015, which will lead to further policy priorities of direct relevance to JHA Agencies. The JHA Agencies will closely monitor the discussions, having submitted their contributions concerning future objectives and needs by the end of 2014, and will draw upon the results of the discussions when planning their activities.

Priorities of the JHA Agencies network for 2015

In line with the priorities set at EU level, the JHA Agencies will contribute to operational implementation of the EU objectives in the fields of migration, asylum and border management; organised crime, drug trafficking, terrorism and other forms of crime, e.g. environmental crime; judicial cooperation; and cooperation with third countries.

In 2015, the JHA Agencies will enhance further their overall cooperation and coordination channels in order to increase their contribution to the effective implementation of the new multiannual JHA guidelines and the Internal Security Strategy. The JHA Agencies, aiming to achieve greater coherence and consistency of actions and outcomes, will look to foster synergies among themselves and with other stakeholders, capitalizing on their joint expertise, lessons learnt and successes of cooperation EU-wide and beyond.

More particularly, in the course of 2015, the JHA Agencies will focus their bilateral and multilateral activities on the following strategic priorities:

- Further enhancing coordination of evidence-based input of JHA Agencies to the policy debate at EU level;
- Continue to keep JHA Agencies' operational activities as well as operational bilateral and multilateral cooperation in line with the political objectives and particular needs of the EU and the Member States in the respective areas of competence of the JHA Agencies and within the remit of their mandates;
- Fostering the JHA Agencies' coherent external communication strategy towards the EU institutions, with the objective of achieving greater coherence of the JHA Agencies' activities vis-à-vis the EU institutions;
- Increasing the visibility of the JHA Agencies vis-à-vis the EU institutions and bodies, the Member States as well as the general public to better indicate the relevance of the JHA Agencies' actions for the citizens, taking stock of the services provided by and tools available at the JHA Agencies.

The above strategic priorities will be implemented through a number of operational initiatives, all of which will contribute to the overall goals of enhanced coordination among the JHA Agencies and cooperation with EU institutions, increase responsiveness to Member States' and EU institutions' needs as well as increase visibility and communication of the actions and added value of the JHA Agencies.

Operational initiatives to deliver on strategic priorities

Initiatives to be continued:

- **Joint efforts in the area of further development of information exchange and analysis, including statistics, threat assessments and situational awareness products, based on fundamental rights and data protection principles**

The JHA Agencies will continue sharing information on the most recent developments in their areas of responsibility and key strategic documents. Information will be exchanged in particular on measures taken by JHA Agencies in the field of combating foreign fighters. The JHA Agencies will also continue discussions on the mutual exchange of information to make best use of existing data, information and analytical tools. The overall objective is to increase further added value of the JHA Agencies for their stakeholders, in accordance with the JHA Agencies' mandates, working arrangements and while fully respecting fundamental rights and data protection requirements.

Existing strategic, analytical and statistical reports, risk and threat assessments and situational awareness products will continue to be shared and a mapping of these analyses and reports should be carried out by the JHA Agencies to make better use of them. Furthermore, exchange of best practice and views related to the establishment and maintenance of operations involving personal data should be carried out among the JHA Agencies.

- **Synergies in the area of training**

The training matrix initiated in 2014 functions as a solid basis for structured exchange of information and coordinated planning in the fields of training and knowledge exchange. The matrix should, nevertheless, be extended and specified to better define the types of training provided by JHA Agencies and allow for a more detailed overview of the training products. Exchange of information amongst JHA Agencies should be enhanced through further harmonization of training programmes delivered by each JHA Agency. As a main tool for harmonization, the Law Enforcement Training Scheme (LETS) should be used. Within the present policy framework, and taking into account the experiences and specificities of each JHA Agency, best practice and existing EU standards, such as the Sectoral Qualification Frameworks (SQF), should also be considered by Agencies as appropriate tools for the further harmonization of training programmes and curricula design.

Furthermore, specific work on enhancing training effectiveness concerning the Schengen Evaluation and Monitoring Mechanism will be undertaken in 2015, primarily in partnership with the European Commission, CEPOL, eu-LISA, Frontex and FRA in accordance with the requirements of the new Schengen Evaluation and Monitoring Mechanism that entered into force on 26 November 2013, with close involvement and coordination by the European Commission.

JHA Agencies have valuable experience and could liaise with judicial training institutions and their EU network, the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), to give input as to training content and experts. In this view, next to law enforcement officials, also judges and prosecutors should be more and better trained enhancing a practical oriented judicial training.

- **Development of the reporting of bi- and multilateral activities, making more practical use of mapping activities**

The scorecard for taking stock of the various cooperation initiatives among JHA Agencies will continue to be updated on a regular basis. The document provides a detailed overview of bi- and multilateral activities and should serve as an even stronger basis for assessment of whether ongoing cooperation initiatives and areas could be extended to other JHA Agencies and/or related areas.

- **Coordination of joint efforts in external matters**

The Network will continue to promote in accordance with the provisions of the Roadmap on the follow-up to the Common Approach on EU decentralised agencies information sharing and joint action among JHA Agencies, the European Commission and EEAS with regard to key developments in third countries, including through ad hoc early exchange of information and the update of the Relex matrix. It will also continue to contribute and support organisation of regular meetings under the coordination of the European Commission in the area of external actions, in particularly in the context of the Task Force Mediterranean.

New initiatives:

- **Synergies in the areas of ICT and cybersecurity**

The JHA Agencies will further strengthen their efficient cooperation, exploring the use of ICT solutions and related economies of scale and joint projects in line with their respective mandates. The JHA Agencies will be invited to discuss possible synergies and economies of scale in the area of ICT and potential benefits to business continuity resulting from establishing, in the long term, shared ICT services and systems among JHA Agencies.

The JHA Agencies will be invited to exchange best practice in the field of cyber- and IT security, drawing on the practical experience of several JHA Agencies in this field. Lessons learnt and practical tools will be exchanged, as appropriate.

The JHA Agencies will also be invited to discuss joint development, maintenance and governance of a single (XML) standard for data exchange (e.g. UMF3).

- **Cooperation towards shared business processes**

The JHA Agencies will be invited to discuss the added value and benefits of shared business processes, such as recruitment, procurement and other horizontal processes. The business processes can in the long term be supported by shared ICT solutions and processes.

- **Cooperation among JHA Agencies to discuss the future of border management, including developments in the Smart Borders initiative**

The JHA Agencies will be invited to exchange views and know-how on the Smart Borders and the pilot carried out in 2015 by eu-LISA, and to assess how Smart Borders would impact processes and policy aspects within the remit of the JHA Agencies. The JHA Agencies will discuss the areas where utilising their diverse expertise could bring added value and help to shape the future implementation of the Entry-Exit System and the Registered Traveller Programme.

Upon agreement on priorities outlined above, eu-LISA will develop and share with all JHA Agencies and the European Commission an action plan and communication plan for their practical implementation.

Tentative calendar of meetings in 2015

1st network meeting	4 March
2nd network meeting and a working group on training	10-11 June
3rd network meeting and a meeting with the industry on ICT solutions	(tbc)
Heads of Agencies meeting	3 November
