



**Brussels, 10 March 2016
(OR. en)**

6882/16

LIMITE

**DAPIX 35
ENFOPOL 68
ENFOCUSTOM 38
CRIMORG 18**

NOTE

From: German delegation
To: Working Party on Information Exchange and Data Protection (DAPIX)
Subject: Universal Message Format (UMF) 3
Proposal for the 5th IMS action list

1. Introduction

The Council Conclusions on a renewed Information Management Strategy (IMS) for EU internal security (15701/1/14 JAI 897 DAPIX 175 CRIMORG 109 ENFOPOL 372) set out that steps should be taken to develop and, where necessary, update a detailed action list in order to fulfil the overall aims and objectives of the strategy.

The current note is intended to serve as the reference document for the UMF3 project as an IMS action proposed for the 5th action list. It sets out the current status, the objectives as well as organisational aspects of the project, deliverables and the way forward.

2. Status

In January 2015, Germany, that is more specifically the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), filed a UMF3 project application based on the call for tenders made by the European Commission under the central part of the Internal Security Fund 2014 (ISF2014), which was positively evaluated and found eligible for funding by the Commission.

Following an evaluation by the Commission and the clarification of financial details, it was decided in agreement with the Commission that the official start of the project should be **1 November 2015**.

The duration of the project is 30 months with a project budget of nearly 1.6 million EUR of which 90 % are funded by means of the ISF2014 of the Commission. The remaining expenses shall be divided among the project partners.

All in all, 18¹ Member States participate in the project as well as the Commission, Europol, eu-LISA and Frontex. As an international organization, Interpol is involved as well. OLAF, Eurojust and Switzerland are observers.

3. Objectives

- Further development of the contents of the UMF standard by taking into account the preliminary work done by Europol and some Member States within the framework of the previous UMF2 project: One of the most recent examples of optimization is the current revision and fine-tuning of the UMF standard in relation to the "weapons" data group.
- Development of structures with a view to standardization. Ideally, UMF3 should be a European exchange standard for law enforcement authorities (LEAs) which is used in case of system adaptations or the development of new systems. The use of the standard is a gradual process which is going to take many years. Therefore, we need to develop an organizational form, the governance model, in order to guarantee the maintenance and further development of the standard.
- Six pilot projects (Europol & five Member States)
Europol is going to develop a web service where the pilot Member States can make real-time queries of operational databases (its internal name at Europol is QUEST - Querying Europol Systems). In the interest of the desired optimization, the pilot – Member States are also going to develop software which enables them to query their national databases and the Europol database (EIS) at the same time without making double entries.
The pilot Member States are Estonia, Finland, Greece, Poland and Spain.

¹ 18 Member States means in fact: 17 MS and Norway.
The following EU MS do not participate:
Belgium, France, Ireland, Croatia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Cyprus.

4. Organizational preliminaries and next steps

Infrastructure:

Germany as project coordinator has founded a UMF3 project group within the BKA which disposes of technical infrastructure and appropriate human resources.

The staffing of the project team is divided into the following subareas:

- Project management (head of section/ BKA)
- Project office (permanently available, supported by a representative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior and an assistant of the BKA)
- Technical assistance provided by:
 - A specialist for IT system architecture (BKA)
 - A specialist for IT processes (BKA)
- Financial management (section responsible for EU projects within the BKA)

The official email address of the project office, which has already been communicated to all project participants, is: IT-UMF@bka.bund.de

Information package:

The UMF3 project team is compiling an information package which will be dispatched to all partners in time before the first main conference. The package contains the essential parts of the grant agreements, an overview over the project parts, technical descriptions and a questionnaire. By sending out the questionnaire, we want to make sure that incoming replies from the partners will be included at an early stage in the initial discussions and subsequent planning of the details.

First main conference with all partners:

The first conference with all partners is scheduled for 16-17 March 2016 in The Hague. It is a merger of the "kick-off meeting" listed in the project plan and the "Opening Conference in NL", so that approximately EUR 30,000 can be saved in travelling expenses while maintaining the same quality.

First Working Group meeting with the pilot partners (PILOT Focus Group):

"Workstream 3" will reflect the results of the further development of the UMF standard. This is to prove its functioning in practise, that is during daily information exchange. By and large, this concerns simultaneous queries of national and international systems from the same interface on the monitor (GUI)². In this way, double entries and possible mistakes are avoided and the speed of the queries and information supplies is increased. As both organizational and technical preliminary works are necessary for implementation on the partners' sites and as these works will take months, an early involvement of the pilot partners is of great importance.

The first Working Group meeting of a "PILOT Focus Group" took place at Europol in mid-February 2016 to convey basic knowledge and to reconcile the individual needs of the partners. The results of this meeting will also have an impact on the first main conference taking place in March 2016.

Other consultations:

- Already in mid-December 2015, a first meeting with Europol took place, at which the UMF2 results and the further steps were discussed from a Europol viewpoint.
- ADEP (Automated Data Exchange Procedure), previously called EPRIS, is another EU-sponsored project which represents another practical application of cross-border exchange of data and/or queries of databases in other Member States. Similar to "Prüm", standardized queries are to be directed to the partner MS and replies are to be sent to the requesting state on a HIT/NO-HIT basis.

² GUI (Graphical User Interface)

During a meeting held on 19 January 2016 with the ADEP project partners, it was agreed that the transmission of the queries and replies shall be carried out in conformity with the UMF standard. Mutual information and cooperation in concrete cases are to guarantee that uncoordinated double work is prevented and that both projects - and therefore the Member States or institutional data owners - can profit from each other.

5. Reports

The results of the first "Focus Group Meeting on PILOTS" and the first "Main Conference with all Partners", an updated intermediate status and the subsequent steps will be communicated during one of the next DAPIX meetings, preferably during the 2nd quarter of 2016.
