

EuroMed Prosecutors General Forum Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025

1. International efforts to address organised crime, illicit cross border trade and movement, require multidisciplinary responses that integrate rule of law, development, human rights, social and security approaches, involving all sectors of government and society at the national, regional and international levels.

The mission of the EuroMed Forum of Prosecutors General (EM PG Forum) is to facilitate the effective and efficient cross – border investigation and prosecutions, to identify and discuss difficulties and obstacles of legal or practical nature and to ease the cooperation between national prosecution authorities from European Union (EU) and South Partner Countries (SPCs).

2. The Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2025 prepared at a critical juncture for the cross-regional cooperation in the Mediterranean basin, health and security challenges, marks the beginning of a new strategic phase of the current EuroMed Justice Programme, implemented through Eurojust – the EU Agency for judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

3. The Strategic Plan overall goal is to continue to strengthen the prosecutors' judicial cooperation in the Mediterranean.

4. The Strategic Plan is relevant for the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16>. It will contribute to achieving the relevant SDGs goals. In particular, designing effective responses, understanding the nature and extent of illicit cross-border trafficking, as well as the size of markets, flows of goods, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat organised crime.

5. The Strategic Plan recognises the benefits of the close coordination in combating transnational crime with relevant international stakeholders, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (UN CTED); the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); the Council of Europe and the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP);

6. The EuroMed PG Forum has set six strategic goals for the period 2022 - 2025, organised around two major Cross-Mediterranean priority themes:

A. Judicial cooperation on countering the trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants

To strengthen the capacities to engage in judicial cooperation to combat migrant smuggling, making use of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Supplementing Protocol to prevent, suppress and and punish trafficking in human beings, especially women and children and its Supplementing Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (Smuggling of Migrants Protocol), as well as other relevant international and regional instruments)

B. Judicial cooperation on confiscation of crime proceeds and assets recovery

To strengthen the capacities to engage in judicial cooperation on crime proceeds and assets recovery, making use of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

(UNTOC) and United Nations Convention Against Corruption, as well as other relevant international and regional instruments)

The main motive for cross-border organised crime, is financial gain. Organised criminal groups operate without borders through corruption and mafia-type criminal organisation, and increasingly acquire assets in states other than those in which they are based. As a consequence the effective prevention of and fight against organised crime and corruption should be achieved by neutralising the proceeds of crime. There is an increasing need for effective international cooperation on asset recovery and mutual legal assistance¹

Strategic Goal 1: (capacities development)

To further develop prosecutors' knowledge, skills and ability to investigate, prosecute and cooperate in complex, cross-border operating environments. PG Offices will share good practices, organise joint trainings, use of EuroMed Justice and other relevant organisations legal and gaps analyses, manuals and guides.

Strategic goal 2: (operational cooperation)

To increase the speed, efficiency and effectiveness of cross-border investigations and prosecutions. To explore with PGO and relevant organisations the use of joint investigations and special investigative techniques and the creation of operational groups to assist with regards to criminal groups and their support networks.

Strategic goal 3: (mutual legal assistance)

To strengthen the ability and responsiveness of PGO – in close coordination with central authorities - to the requests for cooperation related to cases from partners, as well as to participate whenever appropriate in coordinated investigative efforts, share and discuss standards and experiences, and to be able to direct requests for capacity building and technical assistance toward partners.

Strategic goal 4: (direct contacts)

To use the channels of direct communication between counterparts, notably through the Eurojust, Eurojust Contact Points, EJM Secretariat, EMJ Directory, EMJNet, Liaison Magistrates, INTERPOL, Europol, CARIN, Egmont group. Coordination with programmes implemented by Europol, Frontex, CEPOL.

Strategic goal 5: (planning cycle)

To explore and develop with participating PGO action plans and methodologies to increase and further streamline and expedite cooperation in criminal matters

Strategic goal 6: (organisational aspects)

To further explore concrete actions to formalise and streamline cooperation between SPCs PGO and Eurojust, the Secretariats and Networks, EJM, EJCEN, JITs Network, especially by making EMJNet operational and Eurojust contact points more active and by using EMJ Directory as initial tool of communication between SPCs – EU MS and Eurojust.

¹ DIRECTIVE 2014/42/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 3 April 2014 on the freezing and confiscation of instrumentalities and proceeds of crime in the European Union



7. EuroMed Justice will ensure at this stage the implementation of the Strategic Plan in coordination with CrimEx and the representatives of the Prosecutors General through the development and application of practical action plans for judicial cooperation on countering the trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants and on confiscation of crime proceeds and assets recovery

EuroMed Justice will assure the monitoring of the implementation of the plan based on performance indicators and will report to the stakeholders on the progress made.