



Brussels, 1.12.2025
C(2025) 8078 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 1.12.2025

**on the financing of the Justice programme and the adoption of the work programme for
2026-2027**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union¹ ('the Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 110(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013 ('the programme')², and in particular Article 12(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the programme, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which is to constitute the multiannual work programme for 2026 and 2027 in accordance with Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ('the Financial Regulation').
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures³ adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
- (3) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (4) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to determine the changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (5) The activities should contribute to climate and gender-equality mainstreaming in line with the Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'⁴ and the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources⁵.

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.09.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>).

² OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 21, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/693/oj>.

³ See www.sanctionsmap.eu – Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In the case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

⁴ COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

⁵ Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary

- (6) Pursuant to Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c), of the Financial Regulation, indirect management is to be used for the actions specified in the work programme.
- (7) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regard to persons and entities entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 157(3) of the Financial Regulation. To that end, and before a contribution agreement can be signed, such persons and entities are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (8) It is necessary to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants in accordance with Article 198(1), point (d), of the Financial Regulation.
- (9) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Justice programme Committee established by Article 18 of Regulation (EU) 2021/693,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The work programme

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the Justice programme for 2026 and 2027, as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted.

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2026-2027 is set at EUR 80 988 000 (EUR 40 643 000 in 2026 and EUR 40 345 000 in 2027), and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 07 07 01: EUR 10 973 610 for 2026 and EUR 10 893 150 for 2027;
- (b) budget line 07 07 02: EUR 15 850 770 for 2026 and EUR 15 734 550 for 2027;
- (c) budget line 07 07 03: EUR 13 818 620 for 2026 and EUR 13 717 300 for 2027.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations:

- (a) as provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2026, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths;
- (b) as provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2027 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinstit/2020/1222/oj).

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 4
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities referred to in points 4.1 - 4.3 of the Annex or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in points 3.1 - 3.3 of the Annex.

Article 5
Grants awarded without a call for proposals

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex to the bodies selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in points 2.2 and 2.4 of the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 1.12.2025

For the Commission
Michael McGRATH
Member of the Commission



Brussels, 1.12.2025
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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

**on the financing of the Justice programme and the adoption of the work programme for
2026-2027**

ANNEX

Work programme 2026-2027 for the Justice programme

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Work programme for 2026-2027 for Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

1. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693¹, the general objective of the Justice programme is to contribute to the further development of a European area of justice based on the rule of law, on mutual recognition and mutual trust, and judicial cooperation, thereby also strengthening democracy, the rule of law and the protection of fundamental rights.

As set out in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693, the Justice programme has the following specific objectives:

- (a) to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and to promote the rule of law and the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including through supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems and the effective enforcement of decisions;
- (b) to support and promote judicial training, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture, as well as a culture based on the rule of law and to support and promote the consistent and effective implementation of the Union legal instruments that are relevant in the context of the Programme;
- (c) to facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, and effective remedy, including by electronic means (e-Justice), by promoting efficient civil and criminal procedures and by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

The Justice programme contributes to the implementation of key EU legislation that forms part of the EU's comprehensive response to both persistent and emerging challenges.

This multiannual work programme covers the two final years of the current 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and takes into consideration recent geo-political developments, which have, among other things, underlined the need for a rapid digitalisation of EU Member States' justice systems.

Building on the policy initiatives supported under the 2023-2025 work programme, the 2026-2027 work programme will continue to focus on the priorities identified under its three specific objectives (judicial cooperation, judicial training and access to justice), by supporting also the development and implementation of new EU policy strategies and legislative initiatives in these fields. The priorities listed in the work programme are broadly defined to keep them as flexible as possible to allow the Programme to tackle new emerging challenges and needs, thus also contributing to make the justice systems more resilient

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013, OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, pp. 21–38, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/693/oj>.

Rule of law

The rule of law is an essential safeguard for the well-functioning of our democracies, the protection of individual rights, and hence for the vitality and prosperity of our societies and economies. The importance of the rule of law was emphasised by President von der Leyen in her ‘Political guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029’²: *‘Europe’s democracy and economy rely on the rule of law. It makes our society work and ensures that rights are defended, corruption is punished, and contracts are enforced. Strengthening the rule of law will be our daily work and duty. Respect of the rule of law is – and will be – a must for EU funds’*. Since 2020 the Commission has established a comprehensive annual Rule of Law Cycle³ to strengthen its monitoring of the situation in the Member States. The Rule of Law Cycle acts as a preventive tool, promoting dialogue and joint awareness of rule-of-law issues. At the centre of the cycle is the annual Rule of Law Report⁴, which provides a summary of significant developments – both positive and negative – in all Member States and in the Union as a whole. In its Communication of 17 July 2019 on Strengthening the rule of law within the Union – A blueprint for action⁵, the Commission underlined that the European project relies on respect for the rule of law in all Member States. Therefore, judicial networks, legal professionals, justice practitioners and civil society organisations have a crucial role in helping to promote and uphold the rule of law, effectively monitor the rule-of-law situation on the ground and further strengthen the rule-of-law culture by promoting rule-of-law standards and educational activities for the general public.

Moreover, the 2025 EU Competitiveness Compass⁶ and the accompanying 2025 Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report⁷ recall that respect for the rule of law is central also to the functioning of the Single Market, providing a stable operating environment that gives the EU and its Member States a global competitive edge. Well-functioning and fully independent justice systems can have a positive impact on investment and are key for investment protection, thus contributing to productivity and competitiveness. The 2025 Communication to the European Semester Spring Package⁸ also emphasises the respect for the rule of law, in particular independent, quality and efficient justice systems, as key determinants of a business environment that fosters investment and innovation. Since 2013, the European Commission has published the EU Justice Scoreboard⁹, an annual comparative information tool aiming to assist the EU and help Member States make their national justice systems more effective. It does so by providing objective, reliable and comparable data on a number of indicators relevant to the assessment of (i) the efficiency, (ii) the quality and (iii) the independence of the Member States’ justice systems. It is key to continue developing and improving both national and EU tools for collecting this type of information. In addition to the data collected from national justice systems, information should also be gathered from judicial networks, legal professionals, justice practitioners and civil society organisations on how the justice systems work in practice (including the sharing of best practices) and how best to respond to and address potential challenges to their independence, quality and efficiency.

² [Political guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029](#).

³ [Annual Rule of Law Cycle](#).

⁴ [2024 Rule of Law Report](#).

⁵ [Communication “Strengthening the rule of law within the Union – A blueprint for action”](#).

⁶ [Communication “A Competitiveness Compass for the EU”](#).

⁷ [2025 Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report](#).

⁸ [Communication “2025 European Semester - Spring Package”](#).

⁹ [EU Justice Scoreboard](#).

Judicial cooperation

Judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters still faces various obstacles and access to justice remains difficult in some cases. Reinforcing mutual trust in other Member States' judicial systems remains crucial as it is the foundation for effective mutual recognition and judicial cooperation. There is also a need to simplify and digitalise communications, facilitate access to procedures and legal information and strengthen the connection to and between national systems in a cross-border context.

It is therefore a key priority to continue to build mutual trust and to ensure the correct application and enforcement of the existing Union *acquis* on judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters.

In the area of civil justice, part of the Union *acquis* has been revised in the past years to make it more effective and better adapted to citizens' and practitioners' needs. Further reviews of the *acquis* as well as new initiatives may become necessary in the future to complement the existing framework, continue to build mutual trust and make civil justice more efficient, faster and more economical. To simplify and modernise the current framework, it is also necessary to support key actors through action and operating grants. The European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters (EJN civil) plays a fundamental role in the implementation and effective application of Union instruments in the area of civil justice, including in the context of digitalisation. This was highlighted in the 2024 strategic guidelines for legislative and operational planning within the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice¹⁰ as well as in the 2024 Council conclusions on competitiveness through civil justice, which also called for financial support to national networks.

In this respect, a first call for proposals was launched in 2018 for national networks in the area of civil justice cooperation, and continued funding must be ensured to allow members of the EJN¹¹ to establish, develop and strengthen national judicial cooperation networks. The objective of the funding is twofold: setting up national judicial cooperation networks in Member States that currently do not have any and strengthening the functioning of existing networks.

In the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, there is a need to continue improving the application of instruments implementing the principle of mutual recognition in criminal matters, in particular the European Arrest Warrant, the three Framework Decisions on detention and alternative measures to detention¹², Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA on financial penalties¹³, Directive 2014/41/EU on the European Investigation Order¹⁴ and Regulation (EU) 2018/1805 on the mutual recognition of freezing orders and confiscation orders¹⁵. Moreover, there are still many obstacles to the smooth functioning of judicial cooperation procedures under existing Union instruments. The evolving jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) also has a substantial impact on the functioning of judicial cooperation instruments.

Furthermore, in the digital age and in view of the challenges that came to the fore during the

¹⁰ [Justice and home affairs ministers define priorities for next five years - Consilium.](#)

¹¹ EJN civil is a network of Member States, and each Member State decides who should be appointed to the network. It is composed of contact points designated by the Member States, central bodies and authorities as provided for in the relevant EU legislation or in international instruments, liaison magistrates and any other appropriate judicial or administrative authority with responsibilities for judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters, and professional associations representing legal practitioners directly involved in the judicial cooperation. National network members are normally the courts, central authorities and representatives of the legal professions (Article 5(2)(a) and (i) of the EJN Council Decision).

¹² Framework Decisions 2008/909/JHA, 2008/947/JHA and 2009/829/JHA: see the 'Legislative instrument references' section.

¹³ For the full title and publication reference (OJ and ELI), see the 'Legislative instrument references' section.

¹⁴ Ibidem.

¹⁵ For the full title and publication reference (OJ and ELI), see the 'Legislative instrument references' section.

COVID-19 pandemic, judicial cooperation needs to make full use of electronic tools and channels to ensure that communication between the competent authorities and relevant actors is effective and secure. As crimes are also increasingly committed by relying on electronic means of communication, it is necessary to ensure better access to electronic evidence in criminal investigations. In 2026 new rules on cross-border access to electronic evidence¹⁶ will enter into force. A dedicated decentralised IT system should be set up to ensure that judicial practitioners and service providers are ready to apply them.

Moreover, following the adoption of the Commission Recommendation on detention¹⁷, there is a need for follow-up work on various detention-related issues to address the challenges of detention systems such as radicalisation in prisons and alternatives to detention.

Support will also continue to be provided to Member States for setting up and strengthening national networks in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

In the area of substantive criminal law, in view of the recent adoption of Directive (EU) 2024/1226 on the definition of criminal offences and penalties for the violation of Union restrictive measures¹⁸, there is a need to ensure that the Member States implement and apply these rules correctly, and support must also be provided to practitioners for this purpose. There is also a need to strengthen the implementation and application of Directive (EU) 2024/1203 on the protection of the environment through criminal law¹⁹.

Judicial training

Practitioners' knowledge of the relevant Union *acquis*, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (the 'Charter')²⁰ and other Union instruments, including the process of digitalisation of justice, needs to be improved across the Union. National training providers mainly invest their resources in training courses on national law, meaning there is not enough training on EU law, in particular cross-border training involving participants from different Member States.

The mission letter and the political guidelines of the new Commission both emphasise the importance of improving the implementation of the existing *acquis*. Similarly, the Council has called for the training of judges and legal practitioners to ensure EU legislation in the field of civil and criminal justice is effectively applied. National courts act as EU courts when applying EU law and the work of judges and justice practitioners involved in the application of EU law is essential in order for the Union area of justice to work smoothly. Training justice practitioners in EU law is therefore vital not only to ensure the correct and uniform application of EU law, but also to promote mutual trust in cross-border judicial proceedings and ensure the respect of the rule of law in the EU. The Justice programme will continue to support high-quality cross-border training projects with EU added value and in line with the new 2025-2030 Judicial Training Strategy, as well as the key role played by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN). The support provided to judicial training is aimed to align national and EU-judicial training efforts and address common priority training needs identified by justice professionals across the Member States.

For instance, independent and qualified justice professionals have a central role in applying fundamental rights norms in concrete cases. The importance of providing training to justice

¹⁶ Ibidem.

¹⁷ Recommendation on the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons subject to pre-trial detention and on material detention conditions, C(2022) 8987 final.

¹⁸ For the full title and publication reference (OJ and ELI), see the 'Legislative instrument references' section.

¹⁹ Ibidem.

²⁰ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, pp. 389–405, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2016/oj.

professionals on the fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter has been acknowledged in the Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU²¹. In the area of whistleblower protection, the Commission, in its 2024 report of transposition, underlined whistleblowers must be able to fully understand the extent of their rights and the conditions for protection without running the risk of “falling between the cracks” because of the vagueness or ambiguity of the applicable rules. Training of justice professionals is a key element to effectively implement Directive 2019/1937²² and to ensure that adequate protection to prevent or remedy retaliation is granted and that whistleblowers have access to the legal remedies provided for under the Directive.

Moreover, support for judicial training should also ensure that justice professionals acquire the necessary digital skills to keep pace with new technological developments, in line with Regulation (EU) 2023/2844²³. The 2025-2030 Judicial Training Strategy strongly focuses on digitalisation of justice.

A more coordinated training to implement EU-laws, including on digitalisation and digital justice, will empower justice professionals and contribute to a more unified, qualified and efficient European area of justice, beneficial to all citizens, businesses and economic growth.

Access to justice

In the area of criminal justice, further improvements are needed in the implementation and application of the six EU directives in the field of procedural rights of suspects and accused persons, namely: Directive 2010/64/EU on the right to interpretation and translation, Directive 2012/13/EU on the right to information, Directive 2013/48/EU on the right of access to a lawyer Directive (EU) 2016/343 on strengthening certain aspects of the principle on presumption of innocence and the right to be present at the trial, Directive (EU) 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children and Directive (EU) 2016/1919 on legal aid²⁴. There is also a need for better implementation of the 2013 Commission Recommendation on procedural safeguards for vulnerable persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings²⁵. Furthermore, it is crucial to raise awareness of the legislation adopted in this area and to explore possible further developments where gaps or challenges to the *acquis* have been identified. Such challenges include, among other things, the need to ensure the full application of the procedural rights standards set out in the above-mentioned Union *acquis* in the context of the digitalisation of criminal proceedings and the use of AI tools.

In the area of victims’ rights, the Commission will adopt in 2026 the next EU Strategy on Victims’ Rights. Among others, it will aim to ensure improved practical application of victim-centred justice systems and improved crime reporting. Moreover, in 2023, the Commission adopted a proposal for the revision of the Victims’ Rights Directive²⁶, which is currently under negotiation by the EU co-legislators. It is expected that in 2026 – 2027, Member States will work on the transposition of the revised Directive, with support by the Commission. The Commission will also continue to look into the situation of victims of core international crimes and how they can best be supported, in particular in relation to provision of their access to information, support and protection and will continue working on ensuring support and

²¹ COM/2020/711 final.

²² For the full title and publication reference (OJ and ELI), see the ‘Legislative instrument references’ section.

²³ Ibidem.

²⁴ Ibidem.

²⁵ Commission Recommendation of 27 November 2013 on procedural safeguards for vulnerable persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings, OJ C 378, 24.12.2013, pp. 8–10.

²⁶ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA, COM(2023) 424 final.

protection to victims of terrorism. Furthermore, the Commission will pay particular attention to the challenges faced by victims of crime in relation to digitalisation of justice and access to legal remedies. The Commission is also working to prolong the EU campaign on victims' rights²⁷. In general, in 2026 and 2027, the Commission will focus on improving the implementation of the EU rules on victims' rights and on raising awareness on the legislation in this area, notably on the Victims' Rights Directive²⁸, including its revised text, the Council Directive 2004/80 on compensation²⁹ and the EU rules on protection orders (Directive 2011/99/EU and Regulation (EU) 606/2013³⁰).

In the area of access to justice, it is overall crucial to keep improving how child-friendly criminal justice systems respond to the needs of children in contact with them, in line with the EU Strategy on the rights of the child³¹ and the criminal justice related standards set out in the 2024 Commission Recommendation on integrated child protection systems³².

The Commission also intends to continue the annual collection of data and information through the EU Justice Scoreboard and to further develop the indicators used.

Work will also continue on digitalisation of justice, with the aim of making justice more efficient and effective. The European e-Justice Portal³³, which has been in operation since July 2010, is a pertinent example. Since its launch, the portal has been constantly improved by adding new dynamic functionalities (e.g. interconnection of national insolvency registers, tools for finding a lawyer or a notary in the EU, the ECLI search engine for case law, the Competent Court Database, EU access to the Business Registers Interconnection System, etc.). It is important to ensure the proper functioning of the e-Justice Portal and the availability of its content in all EU languages. Implementing the initiatives set out in the forthcoming Commission Strategy on Digitalisation of Justice and in the European e-Justice Strategy (2024-2028) of the Council of the European Union³⁴ is a general objective for 2026 and 2027. This will be accomplished, among other things, by adding new content and features to and continuing to improve the e-Justice Portal, and by supporting e-Justice projects with a European dimension. e-Justice activities funded under the Justice programme during this period will be complementary to actions financed via the Digital Europe programme (DEP).

²⁷ [EU campaign on victims' rights](#).

²⁸ Directive 2012/29/EU: for the full title and publication reference (OJ and ELI), see the 'Legislative instrument references' section.

²⁹ For the full title and publication reference (OJ and ELI), see the 'Legislative instrument references' section.

³⁰ Ibidem.

³¹ [EU strategy on the rights of the child](#), COM(2021) 142 final.

³² [Commission Recommendation \(EU\) 2024/1238 of 23 April 2024 on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child](#), OJ L, 2024/1238, 14.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2024/1238/oj>.

³³ [European e-Justice Portal](#).

³⁴ [European e-Justice Strategy 2024-2028](#), OJ C, C/2025/437, 16.1.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/437/oj>.

BUDGET OVERVIEW FOR 2026-2027

The work programme strives to ensure a realistic and effective approach in planning. The budget available is concentrated on the most important priorities and necessary recurrent activities.

The allocation per specific objective is as follows:

Specific objective – Budget line	2026	% of 2026 programme funds ³⁵	2027	% of 2027 programme funds
<i>Judicial cooperation – 07 07 01</i>	€ 10 973 610	27%	€ 10 893 150	27%
<i>Judicial training – 07 07 02</i>	€ 15 850 770	39%	€ 15 734 550	39%
<i>Access to justice – 07 07 03</i>	€ 13 818 620	34%	€ 13 717 300	34%
TOTAL PROGRAMME	€ 40 643 000	100%	€ 40 345 000	100%

The following calls for proposals for action grants are planned in 2026-2027 to support primarily transnational projects in:

- Judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters (in 2026 and 2027);
- Judicial training covering civil law, criminal law and fundamental rights (in 2026 and 2027);
- e-Justice, victims' rights and procedural rights of persons suspected or accused of crime (in 2027).

Financial support will continue to be provided to the European networks that were selected in 2025 in the areas of access to justice and judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and to the EJTN. Their work programmes will be funded through operating grants.

This work programme also plans to continue supporting the annual contribution to the Council of Europe's work on the EU Justice Scoreboard and the EU network of prison monitoring bodies, as well as, in 2026, the phase II of the project on child-friendly justice. Also the support for the annual EU membership fee in the Hague Conference of Private International Law will continue.

The lump-sum system continues to apply for all calls for proposals, except those concerning operating grants.

³⁵ The Justice programme regulation earmarks allocations for individual budget lines as follows: 27% to 07 07 01, 36% to 07 07 02, 27% to 07 07 03, and the remaining 10% flexibility margin to any of the three lines, with priority given to actions that support the promotion of the rule of law.

Funding	2026 (€)	Allocation	2027 (€)	Allocation
Grants	31 450 000	77.38%	31 225 000	77.4%
Procurement	8 261 500	20.33%	8 618 500	21.36%
Indirect management	890 000	2.19%	460 000	1.14%
Other expenditures	41 500	0.10%	41 500	0.10%
Total	40 643 000	100%	40 345 000	100%

All EU Member States participate in the Justice programme, with the exception of Denmark. The list of non-EU countries that have concluded an agreement with the Union to participate in the Justice programme is regularly updated³⁶.

Activities implemented under this work programme shall ensure consistency, complementarity and synergies with activities supported by other Union instruments, including, in particular, with the Citizens, Rights, Equality and Values Programme (CERV), the Internal Security Fund (ISF), the Digital Europe programme (DEP) and Horizon Europe.

The work programme shall finance actions with European added value. The European added value of actions, including that of small-scale and national actions, shall be assessed in the light of criteria such as: their contribution to the effective and consistent implementation of Union law and to wide public awareness about the rights deriving from it; their potential to develop mutual trust among Member States and to improve cross-border cooperation; their transnational impact; their contribution to the elaboration and dissemination of best practices or their potential to create practical tools and solutions that address cross-border or Unionwide challenges.

All activities implemented under this work programme shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, promote gender mainstreaming and the mainstreaming of non-discrimination, as well as the mainstreaming of the rights of the child.

Based on the objectives laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for the years 2026-2027 as follows:

- (a) for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2);
- (b) for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 3);
- (c) for actions implemented in indirect management (point 4);
- (d) for other actions or expenditure (point 5).

³⁶ [List of participating third countries.](#)

2. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 31 450 000 for 2026 and EUR 31 225 000 for 2027.

Specific objective – Budget lines	2026	2027	Total
Judicial cooperation – 07 07 01	€ 8 250 000	€ 8 250 000	€ 16 500 000
Judicial training – 07 07 02	€ 15 500 000	€ 15 275 000	€ 30 775 000
Access to justice – 07 07 03	€ 7 700 000	€ 7 700 000	€ 15 400 000
Total	€ 31 450 000	€ 31 225 000	€ 62 675 000

2.1. Call for proposals for action grants to promote judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 3(2)(a) and Art. 9 Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

OBJECTIVES

Facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and promote the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions.

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

For priorities 1 (judicial cooperation in civil matters) and 2 (judicial cooperation in criminal matters), legal entities such as:

- i. Public bodies;
- ii. Non-profit private organisations;
- iii. International organisations;
- iv. Profit-making private entities.

For priority 3 (Support to Member States for the setting up and strengthening of

national networks active in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters):

- i. Officially appointed members of the EJM in civil and commercial matters or national authorities, courts and professional associations representing the officially appointed members of EJM in civil and commercial matters;
- ii. National authorities, courts, prosecution services in the area of criminal matters and professional associations representing them.

POLICY PRIORITIES

The following priorities will be supported in 2026 and 2027:

- (1) Judicial cooperation in civil matters;
- (2) Judicial cooperation in criminal matters;
- (3) Support to the Member States for the setting up and strengthening of national networks active in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters.

EXPECTED RESULTS

For priorities 1 (Judicial cooperation in civil matters) and 2 (Judicial cooperation in criminal matters):

- o Increased capacity, including digital capacity, of national practitioners, courts and authorities to address issues related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and to the application of Union instruments on civil and civil procedural law and criminal and criminal procedural law;
- o Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities (including courts) in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, including taking into account the relevant case law of the CJEU;
- o Alignment of the Member States' administrative practices related to the relevant legislation;
- o The legal framework and regulations linked to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters are in line with EU *acquis* and relevant case-law of the CJEU;
- o Improved cross-border cooperation between judicial authorities responsible for judicial cooperation in civil, commercial and criminal matters, and improved cooperation and coordination between these authorities and other responsible agencies and institutions across the EU;
- o Prosecutors, judges and other stakeholders have better specialised knowledge and experience on the legislation and administrative practices related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- o Acceleration of proceedings in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters; less breaches of time-limits;
- o Increased awareness of policy makers related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- o In particular for priority 2, improved situation of persons subject to measures in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, enhancement of their social rehabilitation and re-integrations, reduced risks of violation of their fundamental rights.

For priority 3 (Support to the Member States for the setting up and strengthening of national networks active in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters):

- o Better implementation of Union judicial cooperation instruments in civil and criminal matters;
- o Increased capacity, including digital capacity, of national practitioners, courts and authorities to address issues related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and to the application of the Union instruments on civil and civil procedural law, as well as on criminal and criminal procedural law;
- o Prosecutors, judges and other stakeholders gaining better specialised knowledge and experience on the legislation and administrative practices related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- o Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between the competent national authorities (including courts) in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, including taking into account the relevant case law of the CJEU;
- o More efficient and better-functioning national networks able to ensure better implementation and case-handling at national level;
- o Increased input of national networks to the EJM's activities to strengthen the network as a whole;
- o Improved awareness of judicial cooperation and enhanced visibility of the relevant networks.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

2.2. Operating grants for 2027 and 2028 under Framework Partnership Agreements in the area of facilitating and supporting judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters and/or in the area of access to justice

LEGAL BASIS

Articles 3(2)(a), 3(2)(c) and 8(f) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693

BUDGET LINES

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

OBJECTIVES

In the area of judicial cooperation: to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and promote the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions.

In the area of access to justice: to facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice

for all, and effective redress, including by electronic means (e-justice), by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures, by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime, as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings, and by promoting the rule of law and supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems.

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

European networks that have signed Framework Partnership Agreements with the Commission.

POLICY PRIORITIES

These grants aim to support the 2027 and 2028 annual work programme of European networks active in the area of facilitating and supporting judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters and/or in the area of access to justice.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The following priorities will be supported in 2027 and 2028:

In the area of judicial cooperation:

- o Increased capacity, including digital capacity, of national practitioners, courts and authorities to address issues related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and to the application of the Union instruments on civil and criminal law and on civil and criminal procedural law;
- o Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between the competent national authorities in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, including taking into account the relevant case law of the CJEU;
- o Harmonisation of Member States' administrative practices in relation to the relevant legislation;
- o Alignment of the legal framework and regulations on judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters with EU *acquis* and relevant case law of the CJEU;
- o Improved cross-border cooperation between judicial authorities responsible for judicial cooperation in civil, commercial and criminal matters, and improved cooperation and coordination between these authorities and other responsible agencies and institutions across the EU;
- o For prosecutors, judges and stakeholders, increased specialised knowledge of and experience with the legislation and administrative practices related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- o Faster proceedings in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and decrease in breaches of time-limits;
- o Improved situation of persons subject to measures in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters and increased opportunities for social rehabilitation and re-integration;
- o Increased awareness of policy makers related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters;
- o Enhanced awareness of judicial cooperation and greater visibility of the relevant networks;
- o Improved promotion of the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, particularly through: the collection of information on the rule-of-law situation at national

level; the collection of data on the independence, quality and efficiency of national justice systems; and the promotion and upholding of European standards and best practices in these areas.

In the area of access to justice:

- o Improved knowledge of European judicial systems and increased capacity of national practitioners and authorities to address issues related to the application of EU law, including by considering the relevant case law of the CJEU;
- o Alignment of national legal frameworks, regulations and administrative practices relating to the rights of victims of crime and the rights of persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings with the EU *acquis*;
- o Improved promotion of the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, particularly through: the collection of information on the rule-of-law situation at national level; the collection of data on the independence, quality and efficiency of national justice systems; and the promotion and upholding of European standards and best practices in these areas;
- o Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities, European networks, NGOs and/or professional organisations on victims' rights and the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime;
- o Reduced risks of breaches of fair trial rights;
- o Improved public awareness and knowledge, including among relevant policy makers, about victims' rights and the procedural rights of suspected and accused persons at both EU and national level;
- o Increased awareness and knowledge on the use of digital and AI tools in criminal proceedings (in particular the use of videoconferencing technology) and its impact (benefits and risks) on victims' rights and on the procedural rights of suspected and accused persons at both EU and national level;
- o Increased awareness and knowledge about the specific needs of the most vulnerable victims, including victims of terrorism, and the most vulnerable suspects and accused persons;
- o Improved knowledge about specific provisions of the EU *acquis* regulating issues such as: the referral of victims to the relevant support services; victims' access to information on their rights; individual assessment of victims' needs; and the use of procedural means to protect victims during criminal trial, including the use of remote hearings and video testimonies;
- o Improved knowledge about legal remedies available for victims in case of a violation of their rights as well as increased knowledge about the challenges and benefits of digitalisation of justice for victims;
- o Improved support services for victims through:
 - Increased number of victims' support organisations providing general and specialist support services to victims of crimes and their family members, in particular in those Member States which currently do not provide or provide only a limited number of such services;
 - Increased quality of the services provided by victim support organisations;
 - Improved knowledge about national compensation schemes, including on issues related to the EU rules on compensation to victims of crime in light of the recent case law of the CJEU, and increased support for victims claiming compensation.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

2.3. Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects on judicial training covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights

LEGAL BASIS

Articles 3(2)(b) and 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/693

BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 02: Support judicial training

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this call is to contribute to the effective and consistent application of EU law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, by helping to address the training needs of justice professionals in line with the new Judicial Training Strategy. This call finances also training activities and tools for training providers to be then rolled out at national level.

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Legal entities such as:

- i. Public bodies;
- ii. Non-profit private organisations;
- iii. International organisations;
- iv. Profit-making private entities.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Training funded under this call in 2026 and 2027 should contribute to the effective and consistent application of EU law in the areas of civil law, commercial law, criminal law and fundamental rights, including non-discrimination, equality and the rule of law. This call supports also training which helps build the digital capacity of justice professionals and promotes the digital transition of judicial training methodologies.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- o Enhanced knowledge of EU civil law, commercial law, criminal law and fundamental rights related instruments (including on the scope of application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and on existing remedies and redress) among justice professionals;
- o Increased digital capacity of justice professionals;
- o Improved digital transition of judicial training methodologies;
- o Improved mutual trust between justice professionals in cross-border judicial cooperation;
- o Improved cooperation of training providers of different justice professions;
- o Increased legal certainty for citizens and businesses.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

2.4. Operating grant to beneficiary identified in the basic act (EJTN)

LEGAL BASIS

Articles 3(2)(b) and 11(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693

Article 198(1)(d) of the Financial Regulation

BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 02: Support judicial training

OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to Article 11(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013, the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) shall receive an operating grant to co-finance expenditure associated with its permanent work programme.

The work programme of EJTN should support and promote training of judges, prosecutors, court staff and prosecution offices' staff, with a view to fostering a common legal, judicial and rule-of-law culture and ensuring the consistent and effective implementation of the Union's legal instruments relevant in the context of this programme, with a strong focus on providing a supportive environment for the digitalisation of justice.

POLICY PRIORITIES

The 2027 and 2028 EJTN work programmes should continue to provide high-quality training on specific Union legal instruments, in line with the objectives of the new European Judicial training strategy. In this regard, the work programmes should also promote and coordinate activities relating to the digitalisation of judicial cross-border cooperation and access to digital justice.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Targeted training according to justice professionals' training needs;
- Improved capacity to apply EU law and Union cross-border cooperation instruments adapted to the needs of the digital transition in the justice sector;
- Improved trust among justice professionals;
- Increased quality, independence and efficiency of justice systems as foundational elements of the rule of law and important drivers of growth and legal security in the EU;
- Enhanced capacity of justice professionals to use digital tools and infrastructure effectively, handle the impact of digitalisation on court proceedings and procedural rights and apply digitalised cross-border judicial cooperation tools as per Regulation (EU) 2023/2844³⁷ and its implementing acts;
- Increased awareness of justice professionals of the potential benefits and risks of digital tools (including AI), their impact on legal proceedings, access to justice and protection of fundamental rights.

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For the full title and publication reference (OJ and ELI), see the 'Legislative instrument references' section.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

2.5. Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects in the fields of e-Justice, victims' rights and procedural rights

LEGAL BASIS

Articles 3(2)(c) and 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/693

BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

OBJECTIVES

Facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, and effective redress, including by electronic means (e-Justice), by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures, and by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

TYPE OF APPLICANTS TARGETED

Legal entities such as:

- i. Public bodies;
- ii. Non-profit private organisations;
- iii. International organisations;
- iv. Profit-making private entities.

POLICY PRIORITIES

This call for proposals covers two priorities:

- 1. e-justice
- 2. Victims' rights and procedural rights

EXPECTED RESULTS

For priority 1 (e-justice):

- o Initiatives supporting the digitalisation of cross-border judicial procedures, in particular the use of videoconferencing, as mentioned also in the European e-Justice Strategy (2024-2028) of the Council of the European Union³⁸;

³⁸

European e-Justice Strategy 2024-2028, OJ C, C/2025/437, 16.1.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/437/oj>.

- o Activities supporting the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2023/2844³⁹;
- o Improved participation, with the aim of achieving full EU coverage, in the various e-justice interconnection projects.

For priority 2 (victims' rights and procedural rights):

Expected results in the area of procedural rights are:

- o Improved knowledge of the legislation and administrative practices related to specific provisions of the Union *acquis* regulating the rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings;
- o Increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to such rights, including in the context of digitalisation of justice and the use of AI tools;
- o Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities, NGOs and professional organisations in relation to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime;
- o Increased harmonisation of the administrative practices in relation to the relevant legislation in different Member States;
- o Reduced risks of breaches of fair trial rights;
- o Enhanced compatibility of the national legal frameworks and regulations on the rights of persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings with the relevant Union *acquis*;
- o Identification of remaining challenges and/or developments in the field of procedural rights and safeguards for suspects and accused persons which would merit to be addressed in future amendments of the Union *acquis*.

Expected results in the area of victims' rights are:

- o Increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to the rights of victims of crime, including in the context of digitalisation of justice;
- o Improved knowledge among national practitioners on issues related to the EU rules on compensation to victims of crime in light of the recent case law of the CJEU;
- o Improved cooperation among the competent national authorities, NGOs and/or professional organisations in the field of victims' rights, including for compensation in cross-border cases;
- o Improved public awareness and knowledge about victims' rights at both EU and national level (including among the most vulnerable groups);
- o Improved knowledge about specific provisions of the Union *acquis* regulating issues such as: the referral of victims to the relevant support services; victims' access to information on their rights; individual assessment of victims' needs; and the use of procedural means to protect victims during criminal trial, including the use of remote hearings and video testimonies;
- o Improved knowledge about legal remedies available for victims in case of a violation of their rights and increased knowledge about the challenges and benefits of digitalisation of justice for victims;
- o Enhanced compatibility of the national legal frameworks and administrative practices on victims' rights with the relevant Union *acquis*;
- o Improved support services for victims;

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For the full title and publication reference (OJ and ELI), see the 'Legislative instrument references' section.

- o Increased awareness of the complexities of the relationship between victims and offenders, including actions aimed at improving victims' access to justice and decreased reoffending via tools such as restorative justice.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST

3. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts is EUR 8 261 500 for 2026 and EUR 8 618 500 for 2027.

3.1. Procurement activities under Specific objective: judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

LEGAL BASIS

Article 3(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693

BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation

OBJECTIVES

Facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and promote the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

In 2026 and 2027, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tenders and framework contracts). The types of activities funded may include, for example, the following: (i) conferences, expert meetings, meetings of committees in support of implementing Union legislative acts, seminars, communication activities; (ii) development of training materials and development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems; (iii) surveys, studies and impact assessments, in particular to monitor the proper implementation of existing legislation, prepare, or accompany, new legislation or respond to policy changes in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters (e.g.: support to the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters (EJN-civil), presidencies, conferences, etc.).

Along with existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on evaluation, impact assessment and related policy support services as well as of policy work on judicial cooperation.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased capacity of national practitioners, courts and authorities to address issues related to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and to the application of the

<p>Union instruments on civil and civil procedural law, as well as on criminal and criminal procedural law;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities (including courts) in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters; • Better preparedness in evaluating existing instruments and/or preparing new legislation in the field of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters.
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IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST and, where indicated, by the Publication Office based on a cross sub-delegation and by DIGIT based on a co-delegation. Other co-delegations might also be used, if needed.

If the Commission estimates that some policy actions foreseen under procurement would be better implemented - taking into account the evolution of the policy context - through indirect management, then contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities working in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters may be concluded in accordance with Title VI 'Indirect management' of the Financial Regulation. This concerns organisations which have been subject to an ex-ante assessment pursuant to Article 157 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement concluded with the Commission pursuant to Art. 4 of Regulation (EU) 2016/369⁴⁰, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations. Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the actions. This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' entrustment requirements, on the basis of the competence and experience of the organisation and their project team, including operational resources (human, technical and other). The proposal for the action and request of funding will be assessed based on the relevance of the action against the objectives of the Programme, the quality of the action and its impact. Examples of organisations that can be selected as implementing entities include, but are not limited to, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), as well as agencies of the United Nations.

3.2. Procurement activities under Specific objective: judicial training

LEGAL BASIS

Article 3(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693

BUDGET LINE

⁴⁰ Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 of 15 March 2016 on the provision of emergency support within the Union, OJ L 70, 16.3.2016, pp. 1–6, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/369/oj>.

OBJECTIVES

The objective is to contribute to the effective and consistent application of EU law in the areas of civil law, commercial law, criminal law and fundamental rights (as enshrined in the Charter) and rule of law-related issues, by helping to address the training needs of justice professionals in these fields.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

In 2026 and 2027, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tenders and framework contracts). The types of activities funded may include the following: (i) conferences, expert meetings, meetings of committees in support of implementing Union legislative acts, seminars, communication activities; (ii) development of training material, development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems; (iii) surveys and studies, including when responding to policy changes in the area of judicial training (e.g. meeting of the Expert group on European judicial training, annual conference of stakeholders on European judicial training, preparatory analysis services of training providers and training courses for the European Training Platform, IT management of the European Training Platform (ETP) of the European e-Justice Portal).

Along with the existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on policy work on judicial training.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased knowledge among justice professionals of Union civil, commercial, criminal and fundamental rights instruments and the methods to implement them;
- Proper application of the decentralised IT systems under Regulation (EU) 2023/2844 ;
- Increased ability to use digital justice tools;
- Increased knowledge of the European standards on the rule of law;
- Improved mutual trust between justice professionals in cross-border judicial cooperation.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST and, where indicated, by DGT based on a co-delegation. Other co-delegations might also be used, if needed.

If the Commission estimates that some policy actions foreseen under procurement would be better implemented - taking into account the evolution of the policy context - through indirect management, then contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities working in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters may be concluded in accordance with Title VI 'Indirect management' of the Financial Regulation. This concerns organisations which have been subject to an ex-ante assessment pursuant to Article 157 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement concluded with the

Commission pursuant to Art. 4 of Regulation (EU) 2016/369⁴¹, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations. Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the actions. This capacity will be assessed together with the ‘Quality’ entrustment requirements, on the basis of the competence and experience of the organisation and their project team, including operational resources (human, technical and other). The proposal for the action and request of funding will be assessed based on the relevance of the action against the objectives of the Programme, the quality of the action and its impact. Examples of organisations that can be selected as implementing entities include, but are not limited to, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), as well as agencies of the United Nations.

3.3. Procurement activities under Specific objective: access to justice

LEGAL BASIS

Article 3(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693

BUDGET LINE

Budget line 07 07 03: Promoting effective access to justice

OBJECTIVES

Facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice, in particular by digital means, by promoting efficient civil and criminal procedures, by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS

In 2026 and 2027, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (open calls for tenders and framework contracts). The types of activities funded may include the following: (i) conferences, expert meetings, meetings of committees in support of implementing Union legislative acts, seminars, communication activities; (ii) development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems, creation of platforms to collect and exchange information on the state of digitalisation of justice in Member States and identify needs in the area of artificial intelligence (AI); (iii) activities related to the EU-wide awareness-raising campaign on victims’ rights; (iv) studies and impact assessments in particular to prepare, or accompany, new legislation or respond to policy changes in the area of access to justice (e.g. e-Justice portal, organisation of conferences or other events with the Council Presidencies).

Along with the existing, new framework contracts may be envisaged especially in support to the

⁴¹ Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 of 15 March 2016 on the provision of emergency support within the Union, OJ L 70, 16.3.2016, pp. 1–6, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/369/oj>.

organisation of workshops and policy meetings, on evaluation, impact assessment and related policy support services as well as of policy work on access to justice.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to the rights of victims of crime and to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime;
- Improved knowledge of the legislation and administrative practices related to specific provisions of the Union acquis regulating the rights of victims of crime and the rights of suspects and accused in criminal proceedings;
- Increased awareness among the relevant policy makers of the rights of victims of crime and the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime;
- Improved awareness of ongoing and future e-Justice activities and contribution to the development of further policy actions;
- Better use of AI by justice professionals.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct management by DG JUST and, where indicated, by DIGIT or DGT based on a co-delegation. Other co-delegations might also be used, if needed.

If the Commission estimates that some policy actions foreseen under procurement would be better implemented - taking into account the evolution of the policy context - through indirect management, then contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities working in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters may be concluded in accordance with Title VI 'Indirect management' of the Financial Regulation. This concerns organisations which have been subject to an ex-ante assessment pursuant to Article 157 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement concluded with the Commission pursuant to Art. 4 of Regulation (EU) 2016/369⁴², or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations. Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the actions. This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' entrustment requirements, on the basis of the competence and experience of the organisation and their project team, including operational resources (human, technical and other). The proposal for the action and request of funding will be assessed based on the relevance of the action against the objectives of the Programme, the quality of the action and its impact. Examples of organisations that can be selected as implementing entities include, but are not limited to, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), as well as agencies of the United Nations.

⁴² Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 of 15 March 2016 on the provision of emergency support within the Union, OJ L 70, 16.3.2016, pp. 1–6, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/369/oj>.

4. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for indirect management activities is EUR 890 000 for 2026 and EUR 460 000 for 2027.

4.1. Support to the Council of Europe for the EU network of prison monitoring bodies

IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

Council of Europe

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and promote the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions.

DESCRIPTION

<p>This contribution to the Council of Europe covers activities related to running the European forum of independent prison monitoring bodies. Such bodies include the National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) set up by Member States following the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT).</p>
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<p>The activity started in 2016 and allows bodies monitoring prisons in the Member States to meet regularly within an informal network to discuss detention matters and exchange best practice in this field.</p>

<p>The cooperation between the Commission and the Council of Europe will ensure optimal use, in the context of EU judicial cooperation, of existing expertise in this field, as the Council of Europe is already managing the main prison monitoring body, i.e. the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), which has developed a methodology and established relevant contacts with EU NPMs in this field.</p>

<p>The objectives are: organise (bi)annual meetings supported by a regular newsletter distributed to the European NPM forum members; create good practice models to ensure effective follow-up of NPM recommendations; and organise joint monitoring visits to exchange best practices.</p>

EXPECTED RESULTS

- | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National authorities responsible for monitoring of detention conditions operate in cooperation and coordination with other responsible agencies and institutions across the EU;• Improved standards for measuring detention conditions in the Member States in line with the Union acquis, in particular the Charter and international instruments such as the Council of Europe European Prison Rules ;• Approximation of Member States' administrative practices on prisons monitoring;• Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national |
|---|

<p>authorities in relation to detention conditions in the Member States;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved knowledge of the legislation and administrative practices related to detention conditions in the Member States; • Reduced risks of detention issues affecting judicial cooperation in criminal matters in proceedings related to the European arrest warrant and the transfer of custodial sentences to other Member States; • Improved awareness and implementation of the Commission Recommendation on procedural rights of suspects or accused persons in pre-trial detention and material conditions of detention.
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4.2. Support to the Council of Europe for the EU Justice Scoreboard

IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

Council of Europe

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Promote the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems and the effective enforcement of decisions.

DESCRIPTION

The cooperation with the Council of Europe's European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) is necessary to carry out an annual study which provides comparative data on the efficiency, quality and independence of justice systems among the EU Member States.

The study also provides detailed comments and country-specific factsheets.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Improved effectiveness of national justice systems;
- Collection of data on the essential parameters of an effective justice system;
- Improved dialogue with national authorities.

4.3. Support for the Council of Europe's project on child-friendly justice (Phase II)

IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

Council of Europe

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Building on the achievements of the first phase of the EU-Council of Europe Project on child-friendly justice., the Phase II will aim at scaling up and adapting the Child-friendly Justice Assessment Tool in other EU Member States and at developing and piloting some of its annexes on new thematic areas.

DESCRIPTION

The phase II will be carried out in four selected EU Member States, ensuring a multi-

stakeholder approach, and will aim, in particular, to achieve the following objectives:

- Child-friendly justice assessments carried out in two focus countries scaling up the Child-friendly Justice Assessment Tool;
- Focusing further analysis on specific child-friendly justice areas, in consideration of the CoE guidelines and related Union *acquis*, such as: assessments on diversion and child-friendly alternatives to detention, restorative justice, prevention of first offences and recidivism.

Related activities could, for instance, take the form of:

- Roundtables and/or conferences to present and discuss reports on child-friendly justice assessments;
- Training-of-trainers activities;
- Awareness-raising sessions with and for children in contact with the law, including vulnerable groups of children;
- Awareness-raising sessions for carers developed with input from children in contact with the law.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Improved child-friendly justice mechanisms and practices at national level;
- Gaps in legal and policy frameworks identified in two focus countries followed by the adoption of appropriate measures and initiatives to ensure effective child-friendly justice;
- Strengthened capacities of stakeholders to ensure effective child-friendly justice;
- Increased awareness of children and carers about the rights of children in contact with the law.

5. OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURE

5.1. EU membership fee in the Hague Conference of Private International Law

LEGAL BASIS

Article 3(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2021/693

Council Decision (EC) No 2006/719 of 5 October 2006 on the accession of the Community to the Hague Conference on Private International Law⁴³.

AMOUNT

The budget reserved is EUR 41 500 for both 2026 and 2027 (under budget line 07 07 01: Promoting judicial cooperation)

DESCRIPTION

On 5 October 2006, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted a decision on the accession of the European Union to the Hague Conference on Private International Law ('HCCH'). The purpose of this international intergovernmental organisation is to work for the progressive unification of the rules of private international law in the participating countries. Most of the conventions developed by the Hague Conference fall within the exclusive or partial external competence of the EU and are part of the EU *acquis*. Since 2007, the EU, along with its Member States, is a Member of the Hague Conference and has the obligation to contribute a membership fee, in accordance with Article 9(2) of the Hague's Statute⁴⁴, to cover additional administrative expenses arising from its membership. The Union pursues its international action in relation to civil justice mainly through this international intergovernmental organisation. This international action in the field of civil justice covers both legislative action (in the form of civil judicial cooperation conventions) and implementation of existing Hague Conventions to the benefit of EU citizens.

⁴³ Council Decision of 5 October 2006 on the accession of the Community to the Hague Conference on Private International Law, *OJ L 297*, 26.10.2006, pp. 1–14, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2006/719/oj>.

⁴⁴ Statute of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

INDICATIVE LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENT REFERENCES

Legislative instrument full name	Reference
Council Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA of 13 June 2002 on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States	OJ L 190, 18.7.2002, p. 1-20 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_framw/2002/584/oj
Council Directive 2004/80/EC of 29 April 2004 relating to compensation to crime victims	OJ L 261, 6.8.2004, p. 15-18 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2004/80/oj
Council Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA of 24 February 2005 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to financial penalties	OJ L 76, 22.3.2005, p. 16-30 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_framw/2005/214/oj
Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA of 27 November 2008 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union	OJ L 327, 5.12.2008, p. 27-46 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_framw/2008/909/oj
Council Framework Decision 2008/947/JHA of 27 November 2008 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments and probation decisions with a view to the supervision of probation measures and alternative sanctions	OJ L 337, 16.12.2008, p. 102-122 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_framw/2008/947/oj
Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law	OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 55-58 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_framw/2008/913/oj
Council Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA of 23 October 2009 on the application, between Member States of the European Union, of the principle of mutual recognition to decisions on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention	OJ L 294, 11.11.2009, pp. 20–40 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_framw/2009/829/oj
Directive 2010/64/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings	OJ L 280, 26.10.2010, p. 1-7 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2010/64/oj
Directive 2011/99/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the European protection order (in criminal matters)	OJ L 338, 21.12.2011, p. 2-18 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/99/oj
Directive 2012/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 on the right to information in criminal proceedings	OJ L 142, 1.6.2012, p. 1-10 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2012/13/oj
Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime , and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA	OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 57-73 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2012/29/oj
Regulation (EU) No 606/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters	OJ L181.29.6.2013, p. 4-12 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/606/oj

Directive 2013/48/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings, and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty	OJ L 294, 6.11.2013, p. 1-12 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2013/48/oj
Directive 2014/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 regarding the European Investigation Order in criminal matters	OJ L 130, 1.5.2014, p. 1-36 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/41/oj
Regulation (EU) No 655/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 establishing a European Account Preservation Order procedure to facilitate cross border debt recovery in civil and commercial matters	OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 59-92 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/655/oj
Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC	OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p. 73-114 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/910/oj
Regulation (EU) 2015/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 on insolvency proceedings (recast)	OJ L 141, 5.6.2015, p. 19-72 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2015/848/oj
Regulation (EU) 2015/2421 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 861/2007 establishing a European Small Claims Procedure and Regulation (EC) No 1896/2006 creating a European order for payment procedure	OJ L 341, 24.12.2015, p. 1-13 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2015/2421/oj
Directive (EU) 2016/343 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings	OJ L 65, 11.3.2016, p. 1-11 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/343/oj
Directive (EU) 2016/800 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings	OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 1-20 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/800/oj
Council Regulation (EU) 2016/1103 of 24 June 2016 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of matrimonial property regimes	OJ L 183, 8.7.2016, p. 1-29 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/1103/oj
Council Regulation (EU) 2016/1104 of 24 June 2016 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of the property consequences of registered partnerships	OJ L 183, 8.7.2016, p. 30-56 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/1104/oj
Regulation (EU) 2016/1191 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 on promoting the free movement of citizens by simplifying the requirements for presenting certain public documents in the European Union and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012	OJ L 200, 26.7.2016, p. 1-136 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/1191/oj
Directive (EU) 2016/1919 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings	OJ L 297, 4.11.2016, p. 1-8 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/1919/oj

Directive (EU) 2017/541 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on combating terrorism and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA and amending Council Decision 2005/671/JHA	OJ L 88, 31.3.2017, p. 6-21 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2017/541/oj
Regulation (EU) 2018/1805 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the mutual recognition of freezing orders and confiscation orders	OJ L 303, 28.11.2018, p. 1-38 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1805/oj
Council Regulation (EU) No 2019/1111 of 25 June 2019 on jurisdiction, the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility, and on international child abduction (recast)	OJ L 178, 2.7.2019, p. 1-115 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1111/oj
Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law	OJ L 305, 26.11.2019, p. 17-56 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/1937/oj
Regulation (EU) 2023/1543 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 2023 on European Production Orders and European Preservation Orders for electronic evidence in criminal proceedings and for the execution of custodial	OJ L 191, 28.7.2023, p. 118-180 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1543/oj
Directive (EU) 2023/1544 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 2023 laying down harmonised rules on the designation of designated establishments and the appointment of legal representatives for the purpose of gathering electronic evidence in criminal proceedings	OJ L 191, 28.7.2023, p. 181-190 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/1544/oj
Regulation (EU) 2023/2844 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2023 on the digitalisation of judicial cooperation and access to justice in cross-border civil, commercial and criminal matters, and amending certain acts	OJ L, 2023/2844, 27.12.2023 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2844/oj
Directive (EU) 2024/1203 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on the protection of the environment through criminal law and replacing Directives 2008/99/EC and 2009/123/EC	OJ L, 2024/1203, 30.4.2024 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1203/oj
Directive (EU) 2024/1226 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024 on the definition of criminal offences and penalties for the violation of Union restrictive measures and amending Directive (EU) 2018/1673	OJ L, 2024/1226, 29.4.2024 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1226/oj
Regulation (EU) 2024/3011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 on the transfer of proceedings in criminal matters	OJ L, 2024/3011, 18.12.2024 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/3011/oj