

2024 Final Report

Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network

Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network



CEPOL



EIGE



EUAA



EUDA



eu-LISA



Eurojust



Europol



FRA



Frontex

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1. Foreword by the Executive Director ad interim of eu-LISA

The Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network (JHAAN) continues its remarkable evolution, fuelled by the active involvement of its member agencies and the pooling of their expertise.

CEPOL, EIGE, EUAA, EUDA, eu-LISA, Eurojust, Europol, FRA, and Frontex all contribute to the implementation of a growing number of EU policies: on migration, asylum, and external border management; the fight against serious cross-border crime, and drug addiction; the respect for fundamental rights and gender equality; the functioning of relevant EU IT systems; and law-enforcement training.

Furthermore, the agencies and the Network contribute to the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) cooperation framework, as well as to the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security. The Network constantly adapts to the general EU context and its shifting priorities and needs.

In 2024, eu-LISA had the honour of presiding the JHAAN and of being part of the first JHAAN Presidency trio, together with CEPOL and EUAA.

The 2024 work programme featured a high degree of continuity in its priorities, while also introducing new workstreams, in the spirit of tailoring the contents to the presiding agency's know-how. In 2024, the eu-LISA Presidency put a strong emphasis on digitalisation, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity, as well as on interinstitutional cooperation, data protection, social responsibility, and communication.

The aim of this report is, primarily, to raise awareness about the JHAAN, and the work of the agencies themselves. The document is organised around the various workstreams of the Network, with summaries of the outcomes for a general audience. It is supplemented by a series of annexes with more details.

As the eu-LISA Presidency comes to an end, I would like to thank all our colleagues from across the agencies and institutions who supported the eu-LISA Presidency, thus ensuring fruitful cooperation and constant dialogue. I would also like to extend my best wishes to Sirpa Rautio, Director of FRA, as FRA takes over the Network Presidency in 2025.



Marili MÄNNIK
Executive Director ad interim

2. About the Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network

The EU Agencies involved in implementing Union policies in the Area of Freedom, Security, and Justice – commonly known as the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies – first established cooperation in 2006. The aim was to streamline joint inter-agency activities, including at the operational level, and to set up and maintain regular contact between the agencies. In that context, the Justice and Home Affairs Agencies' Network (JHAAN) was established in 2010, when the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) agreed on a new approach for ensuring cooperation between the JHA agencies.

Since 2012, the Network comprises nine Agencies: CEPOL, EIGE, EUAA, EUDA, eu-LISA, Eurojust, Europol, FRA, and Frontex. The Network is presided each year by a different Agency on a rotating basis, which coordinates activities and meetings, and undertakes the Secretariat function. Following the recommendation of the JHAAN 10-year Assessment Report, a Trio Presidency format was introduced at the end of 2021. This has allowed for a higher degree of continuity of the Network priorities. CEPOL, EUAA, and eu-LISA were the first Trio Presidency team, for the period 2022-2024. The next Trio is formed by FRA (2025), EUDA (2026), and EIGE (2027).

The agenda and thematic priorities of a given Presidency are consulted not just with the JHA agencies but also with the Network observers, most notably DG HOME and DG JUST, in order to align its activities and focus with the general EU context. By acting together, the JHA agencies contribute to the implementation of EU policies in the fields of migration, asylum, and external border management; the fight against serious cross-border crime, inter alia organised crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism; and in the area of gender equality and respect for fundamental rights. They also facilitate the operation of relevant EU IT systems, contribute to EU activities on drugs and drug addiction, and facilitate law-enforcement training. Cooperation within the EMPACT framework is also part of the Network's work.

The JHAAN has several thematic Working Groups and expert clusters. A Final Report is produced yearly and forms the basis for annual presentations before the COSI and the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament. Other forms of awareness-raising activities and events are also organised regularly to ensure a high profile for the Network.

3. Executive summary

During its presidency of the JHAAN in 2024, eu-LISA focused on **four main priorities**:

1. **Digitalisation and Innovation**
2. **Security and Resilience**
3. **Social Responsibility and Green Deal**
4. **Identifying key JHA priorities**

Digitalisation and Innovation

Lunch Talks were organised over the year on the following topics: Generative AI for Public Services (17 April), where the use of AI in public services and its potential benefits were discussed; Open-Source Face Image Quality (19 November), in which OFIQ was presented as a tool aimed to assess the quality of facial images in biometric applications; and the HR-focused talk on the concept of fair, transparent, and accountable AI (27 November), in which AI use, legal requirements, and ethics were debated. A practical workshop on e-Learning for JHA agencies was also organised on 19 June, to foster dialogue and share best practices in e-learning, training, and professional development among the JHA agencies.

Security and Resilience

A security and business continuity exercise for IT systems was organised on 3 October, aimed at testing internal escalation procedures for large-scale IT systems. Moreover, a joint meeting of the Europol Security Committee and the eu-LISA Security Officers Network (SON) took place on 13-14 November, focusing on cybersecurity incident response and management. Experts from the Member States and JHA agencies presented case studies.

Social Responsibility and Green Deal

On 11 September, the agencies discussed the topic of Energy Efficiency of Buildings, during a lunch talk featuring experts who proposed various solutions for the real-time performance audit of buildings. Two workshops were also organised: on 24 September, a hybrid event on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion aimed at raising awareness and fostering actionable insights on those topics; while on 19 November, a workshop on Greening focused on environmental topics and promoted sustainable transformation across the agencies.

Identifying key JHA priorities

2024 was a crucial year marked by the EU elections and the formation of a new Commission. On 5 March, the JHA Executive Directors joined a workshop where they had the opportunity to outline shared expectations and collaborate on how to best achieve the desired outcomes for 2024 and beyond.

As part of the **general responsibilities of the JHAAN Presidency**, eu-LISA was in charge of several horizontal meetings aimed at enhancing cooperation among the Network members. Notably, eu-LISA led three regular meetings of the JHAAN contact points (on 18 April, 27 June, and 18-19 September respectively), where representatives from the agencies discussed various joint products, upcoming events, and cooperation activities; these events were all preceded by coordination meetings of the Trio Presidency. A meeting was also organised with the Hungarian Presidency of the Council, to discuss cooperation with the JHAAN and present its priorities and activities. Lastly, on 3-4 December eu-LISA gathered in Tallinn the Heads of the JHA agencies and representatives from the institutions, to take stock of the intense year, discuss strategic issues, and officially hand the Presidency over to FRA.

The key activities of the JHAAN **Working Groups** were supported by eu-LISA during its Presidency. The informal JHA Security Officers WG met twice (on 16 April and 3 September) to discuss, inter alia, communication, procurement, and information exchange. The WG on Data Protection held two meetings (on 18-19 April and 15 November) covering international transfers, AI, IT tools, cooperation between the EDPS and DPOs, cybersecurity, and data retention limits. The WG on ICT and Cybersecurity (21 May) focused on related activities and challenges, eu-LISA's zero-trust approach, and data protection for users of M365 services. The WG on Communication (12-13 June) discussed the 2024 communication plan, shared experiences and joint actions, highlighting modern corporate communication requirements and online accessibility. The WG on Training (19 September) dealt with, amongst others, training needs assessment, quality assurance, accreditation, and micro-credentials. The WG on External Relations (17 October) discussed the latest developments on external relations activities, and shared best practices and achievements. Lastly, the WG on European Situation Monitoring (27 November) covered inter alia disinformation and the use of open-source intelligence.

The eu-LISA presidency also undertook several initiatives in the area of **JHAAN Communication and Promotion**. The EMPACT Communication Network (15 February) focused on the implementation of the EMPACT Joint Communication Strategy, raising awareness of EU efforts to combat serious and organised international crime. On 9 April and 4 September, the previous and incumbent JHAAN Presidencies (EUAA and eu-LISA) joined COSI and LIBE respectively, to present the JHAAN activities, the outcomes of 2023, and the main priorities for 2024. The second edition of the Staff Exchange Programme was successfully held in the period May-December, promoting day-to-day collaboration, sharing knowledge, and creating synergies between JHA agencies. Finally, a webinar on methodologies for drafting annual reports took place on 17 September 2024, giving agencies the opportunity to learn from each other, share successes and challenges, and improve analytical outputs from a communications perspective.

Several **products** were also prepared jointly. Most notably, in May, the 3rd joint paper on the agencies' contributions to the EU solidarity with Ukraine was published. A White Paper on the future of cooperation between the JHA agencies and the European Commission was finalised in December 2024.

4. Horizontal meetings

Trio coordination meetings (3 meetings)

These online meetings, chaired by eu-LISA, took place on 11 April, 19 June, and 6 September 2024 respectively. As a new feature, a fourth Agency, FRA, was present at its own request (as it would take up the Network Presidency in 2025) to ensure smooth transition from one Trio to the next.

The main goal of the meetings was to prepare in advance the Contact Point meetings usually taking place around a week later. This enabled greater coordination and enriched the agendas.

Contact Point meetings (3 meetings)

Meetings this year took place on 18 April, 27 June, and 18-19 September 2024, either online or in a hybrid format. Among the topics discussed were the JHAAN Staff Exchange Programme; the joint products of the Network; and preparations for upcoming meetings and events.

Throughout the year, the participants also had the chance to hear presentations from colleagues about updates on the latest activities of each agency, as well as on inter-agency cooperation.

Coordination was enabled by a shared virtual working space, a technical solution hosted by eu-LISA which in 2024 underwent several improvements.

The meetings also benefitted from the participation of observers from the Commission, the Parliament, and other bodies.

Trio meeting with the incoming Council Presidency (13 June 2024)

The Trio formed by eu-LISA, EUAA, and CEPOL had a meeting with the then-incoming Hungarian Presidency of the Council, to raise awareness about the Network and its priorities and activities, and to discuss how JHAAN could effectively support the Presidency in achieving its priorities. The latter also presented its priorities in relation to the JHA domain, and its main expectations in terms of cooperation with the Network. EUAA provided a brief presentation of the JHAAN, the 2023 JHAAN Annual Report, and the latest joint paper on EU solidarity with Ukraine. CEPOL presented the overarching priorities of the JHAAN Trio Presidency for 2022-2024, while eu-LISA presented the Network priorities for 2024.

Heads of Agencies meeting (3-4 December 2024)

For a day and a half, this annual event gathered in Tallinn several Heads of JHA agencies, as well as other agency representatives, with the valuable addition of observers from the institutions. Participants shared their perspectives on recent achievements and challenges, aligning their discussions with the European Commission's 2024-2029 Political Guidelines.

During her welcome address, Ms Marili Männik remarked on the critical role of collaboration in addressing shared challenges and driving progress across the Network. A key theme of the meeting was the vision for enhanced cooperation between the JHA agencies and the EU institutions. Preparations for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034 featured as a predominant topic.

The focus of the second day was on technology and security. The participants discussed the implications of the AI Act, focusing on strategies for compliance, resource requirements, and opportunities for cross-agency collaboration in adopting AI solutions. The conversations also addressed the increasing reliance on cloud computing and its role in enhancing operational effectiveness. In a notable step towards improved security coordination, the meeting endorsed the establishment of the JHA Security Officers Working Group, which had until then been operating informally.

The event concluded with reflections on the 2024 achievements and with the handover to the 2025 FRA Presidency.



5. Working Group meetings

JHA Security Officers WG (JHA SOWG) (2 meetings)

The first meeting of the JHA SOWG of 2024 was organised by eu-LISA on 16 April 2024 in Strasbourg, France. The event gathered representatives and Security Officers from the JHA agencies. The meeting was chaired by eu-LISA, and joined by representatives from EUDA, EUAA, EUROJUST, FRA and EUROPOL.

The second meeting took place in Brussels on 3 September 2024. With eu-LISA again as chair, the following participants joined: CEPOL, EUAA, EUDA, EUROJUST, EUROPOL, FRA, FRONTEX, EPPO, and EEAS.

In December 2024, during the Heads of Agencies meeting, the JHAAN endorsed the formal mandate for this group, which had until then been operating informally. The main aims of the JHA SOWG are the following:

- a) To bring together a network of security contact points in order to cooperate on common operational security challenges;
- b) To provide joint professional advice and guidance on the development of shared procedures and responses to security incidents;
- c) To support each other in conducting joint risk assessments.

WG on Data Protection (2 meetings)

On 18-19 April, eu-LISA hosted the first of the year's meetings of the Working Group on Data Protection, at the eu-LISA Headquarters in Tallinn, Estonia. The Data Protection Officers (DPOs) of all JHA agencies, plus one non-JHAAN member (EPPO), are part of this group. The meeting was held mainly in a physical format, chaired by the DPO of eu-LISA, and featured guest speakers from the eu-LISA Security Unit, the EDPS Office, and DG JUST (International Affairs and Data Flows). The meeting covered, inter alia, international transfers; artificial intelligence and data protection; supporting IT tools for the DPO function; cooperation between the EDPS and the DPOs; cybersecurity; and the SaaS questionnaire.

On 15 November, all JHAA DPOs participated in a second meeting online; EPPO's DPO participated too. The session was again chaired by the eu-LISA DPO and featured guest speakers from the Europol DPO Office and the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) Office. The Executive Director ad interim of eu-LISA opened the meeting and underscored eu-LISA's strong commitment to upholding high standards of data protection across the agency's operations. The agenda covered again key topics in data protection, including artificial intelligence and data protection; cooperation between the EDPS and JHAA DPOs; cybersecurity; and data retention limits for administrative personal data.

In both meetings, the DPOs in attendance presented updates from their agencies, namely on important tasks accomplished, relevant recent developments, and any challenges or difficulties faced.

WG on ICT and Cybersecurity (21 May 2024)

The Working Group on ICT and Cybersecurity meeting was organised and chaired by eu-LISA online. It gathered representatives from all Justice and Home Affairs agencies, in addition to the European Commission.

The focus of the meeting was on the following:

- Outlining the work of the JHAAN, specifically within the context of the eu-LISA Presidency priority on Security, Resilience and Data Protection.
- Updating one another on the current status of recent/ongoing activities and projects related to ICT and cybersecurity, such as challenges relating to increased mandates; and sharing the eu-LISA cybersecurity approach (culture of zero-trust).

WG on Communication (12-13 June 2024)

On 13 June, the JHA Heads of Communication gathered at eu-LISA's headquarters in Tallinn for their annual meeting. The hybrid event brought together both in-person and online participants from the nine Agencies and from DG HOME, to discuss the 2024 communication plan, share experiences, and shape future joint actions.

As the holder of the 2024 JHAAN presidency, eu-LISA highlighted the importance of strategic communication to enhance visibility and plan joint actions.

The meeting featured sessions on best practices and innovative solutions for improving communication about the network's operations and values. Highlights included presentations on modern corporate communication requirements, such as online accessibility, challenges posed by social media algorithms and fighting misinformation, which are crucial in today's digital landscape.

The meeting concluded with a visit to the e-Estonia Centre, providing participants with a first-hand look at Estonia's pioneering digital initiatives.

This meeting underscored the JHA agencies' commitment to enhancing communication efforts, ensuring that their work and values are effectively conveyed to the public.

WG on Training (19 September 2024)

The JHAAN Training Working Group annual meeting took place on 19 September in an online format. The event was organised and chaired by CEPOL with participants joining from EUAA, EUDA, eu-LISA, Europol, FRA, Frontex, as well as from DG HOME and DG JUST. Continuing the previous year's discussion on learning and development in the context of EU educational progresses, the meeting focused on the latest developments on training needs assessment, quality assurance, accreditation, micro-credentials, this time from vocational trainings in lifelong learning perspective and new initiatives of mutual interest to the participating agencies.

The event served as a platform to present and consult with agencies on the outcomes of the process and impact evaluation of CEPOL's EU Strategic Training Needs Assessment (EU-STNA) 2022-2025.

The meeting participants discussed progress made in relation to qualification, accreditation, and micro-credentials. The shared best practices and achievements provided the participants with an opportunity to take a look at lessons learned and to keep informed about ongoing programmes and anticipated deliverables. Further topics included CEPOL's initiatives for a joint online manual on document fraud, and a pilot project on the potential use of AI in training development.

The group agreed to further explore quality assurance, accreditation, and lifelong learning, while recognising the opportunities that these areas present for the JHA agencies' community.

WG on External Relations (17 October 2024)

The JHAAN Relex Working Group meeting on the external dimension took place in Brussels on 17 October, co-chaired by EUAA and eu-LISA. The meeting gathered representatives from EUAA, eu-LISA, Frontex, Europol, Eurojust, EUDA as well as DG HOME, DG NEAR, and EEAS, to discuss key legal and policy developments, capacity-building efforts, and cooperation with third countries and international organizations.

Discussions focused on several strategic topics, including requests for cooperation from the recently designated EU candidate countries—Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia—and the status of ongoing projects. The meeting also explored collaboration between JHA agencies and EU Delegations, highlighting opportunities for enhanced coordination and operational support. Another key agenda item was the integration of Western Balkan partners into EU knowledge networks, and advancing their engagement in the enlargement process.

Given FRA's limited mandate on the external dimension, it was agreed that the 2025 Relex Working Group meeting will be organized by FRA in collaboration with EUDA.

WG on European Situation Monitoring (27 November 2024)

Frontex, as the permanent chair of the JHAAN Working Group on European Situation Monitoring, hosted a meeting on disinformation on 27 November 2024 in Frontex's headquarters in Warsaw.

The objective of this meeting was to develop critical skills in open-source intelligence in the field of disinformation. Frontex gave a presentation on how to recognise manipulated content as well as backtrack its sources. Additionally, there was a presentation on practical tools and techniques to detect disinformation efficiently, which was rounded off by an exchange of views among the participants.

6. Thematic events: Digitalisation

Lunch Talk: Generative AI for Public Services (17 April 2024)

This online session focused on public services. It was organised by eu-LISA and participation was open to all the JHA agencies. A presentation was given by Dr Jonathan Bright (Head of AI for Public Services and Head of Online Safety at the Alan Turing Institute). After a brief introduction on the concept of generative AI, Dr Bright spoke on current AI uses, both in terms of AI type and sector uptake, as well as other potential uses. He then explored the challenges and opportunities of adopting AI, and the various approaches to it. Finally, the participants had a chance to ask questions about this fast-developing topic of common interest to the JHA agencies.

Workshop on e-Learning for JHA agencies (19 June 2024)

e-Learning experts from across the JHA agencies as well as their counterparts from the Council of Europe, Interpol, the University of Tartu, and other international organisations, convened at eu-LISA's headquarters in Tallinn for this workshop.

Delegates gathered in-person and online, for the second time since the creation of the JHAAN, and discussed topics that included evaluation strategies and challenges in digital learning, user experience in digital learning environments, as well as, interactivity and engagement in the context of digital learning. In addition, the programme included presentations from Tartu University and Google.

Lunch Talk: Biometrics: Open-Source Face Image Quality (OFIQ) (19 November 2024)

OFIQ is a powerful open-source tool for assessing the quality of facial images, such as those stored in eu-LISA's shared Biometric Matching Service (sBMS). It was developed by the German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) in the context of a project initiated within the ISO Sub-Committee 37 (ISO SC37) for the standardisation of biometric technology. OFIQ has been designated as the official reference implementation for the ISO/IEC 29794-5 standard on face image quality, and in July 2024 eu-LISA took over maintenance duties of the software.

In this webinar, open to all JHA agencies, Dr Christoph Busch (Norwegian University of Science and Technology) and Dr Javier Galbally (eu-LISA) shared insights on the software and on the importance of face image quality in biometric applications, especially for large-scale IT systems such as the ones managed by the agency.

Lunch Talk: Fair, transparent, and accountable AI (27 November 2024)

Delivered by Professor Sandra Wachter from the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, the talk focused on what is legally required, what is ethically desired, and what is technically feasible regarding AI use.

7. Thematic events: European Green Deal in JHA agencies; Social responsibility

Lunch Talk: Energy Efficiency of Buildings (11 September 2024)

This event featured Mr Martin Thalfeld and Mr Kalle Kuusk, two experts from the FinEst Centre for Smart Cities, who shared insights from the DigiAudit project (a solution for real-time performance audit of buildings). FinEst Centre for Smart Cities is an international research and development centre under Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech), founded in 2019 by TalTech, Aalto University, Forum Virium Helsinki and the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications.

The DigiAudit solution provides reliable data for monitoring building conditions and energy consumption. It simplifies compliance with the European Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) by providing real-time energy and indoor climate assessments to property owners. The insights shared will be invaluable as we strive towards the EU's ambitious goal of achieving near-zero emissions by 2050.

This session was especially relevant for colleagues engaged in facility management, offering a glimpse into the benefits of utilizing solutions such as DigiAudit to monitor and enhance the facilities' energy performance.

Workshop on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (24 September 2024)

eu-LISA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Team organised this ambitious hybrid workshop, open to all EU Agencies, at the Tallinn Headquarters. The event attracted participants from across 23 different organisations and provided an opportunity for fruitful discussion and exchange of best practices.

eu-LISA's DEI Ambassador kicked off the day with opening remarks, which were followed by an online keynote speech on De-biasing the Talent Journey by an expert facilitator.

With its focus on onsite activities, the day's agenda moved on to two parallel working groups: one on "Diversity in Leadership", focusing on how to ensure diversity on multiple dimensions in various managerial layers; and another on Representation vs. Participation, discussing how to identify and define meaningful tools and metrics to track the progress of DEI initiatives.

The participants identified potential barriers, challenges, and friction points, and discussed in groups at what stage in an employee's life journey each challenge may occur. After pinpointing the crucial moments that matter most to employees and when participation frictions can have the strongest negative impact, each group shared their top problems. Afterwards, they selected the most important actions to help measure participation and to flip them into positive actions. By describing an employee's high satisfaction situation, the participants turned the problem into a positive version. A common conclusion that all teams arrived at, despite choosing different problems as a starting point, was that growth can only start when a safe environment has been created in the workplace. At the end of the very creative and intense day, the workshop participants agreed on actionable steps to improve, and set the KPI and metrics for future DEI initiatives.

There are many benefits of diversity in leadership such as a culture of creativity and innovation; inclusiveness and talent attraction; improved decision-making, engagement, problem-solving, and understanding diverse markets. After group discussions and sharing ideas, the participants in this group identified the following three top issues: a lack of diversity in recruitment, a lack of leadership in the area of development opportunities, and personal biases. They then arrived at ideas for solving them and what the next steps in ensuring diversity would be in an EU environment. Most notably, they included targeted outreach campaigns to attract qualified applicants from underrepresented groups, and foster employer branding; building a pipeline through talent reviews by providing development opportunities and training to existing staff, as well as succession planning.

Workshop on Greening (19 November 2024)

eu-LISA had the pleasure of chairing this new event for the JHA agencies with a focus on climate change and the challenges of driving sustainable transformation across the agencies. In collaboration with an experienced consultancy firm, the Go Green Team curated an engaging programme to raise awareness on greening and foster actionable insights.

The workshop was attended by colleagues from Frontex, EUAA, EIGE, and FRA. They did some brainstorming on relevant environmental topics for each agency, namely waste management, travel, mission, mobility, and energy performance.

The first workshop was led by Occupational Health, Safety, and Environment (OHSE) colleagues. It included the building of the fresco Act Now!, a climate challenge for awareness about environmental and human impacts.

In the afternoon, the second workshop focused on the psychology of change, addressing the question of how our brain works. This enabled participants to reflect on behavioural change through stimulating discussion.



8. Thematic events: Security and Resilience

Security Officers Network (SON) meeting (17-18 April 2024)

The 19th SON meeting took place at the eu-LISA Operational site in Strasbourg, France. Organised by the eu-LISA Security Unit, the meeting gathered representatives from the Member States, associated countries, and observers from the JHA SOWG. The aim was to renew the objectives of the SON, covering themes such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, security risk management practices, security culture, data protection, and protective security. The meeting provided participants with a rich overview of the latest changes in the security domain.

Security and Business Continuity Exercise for IT systems (3 October 2024)

eu-LISA held the 2024 Security and Business Continuity Exercise aimed at testing and implementing internal escalation procedures pertaining to the large-scale IT systems in its portfolio.

This year's exercise involved personnel from eu-LISA's operational site in Strasbourg, as well as non-technical teams from the eu-LISA headquarters in Tallinn. Furthermore, the chair and deputy chairpersons from the eu-LISA Advisory Groups on the tested systems took an active role in the exercise.

The Business Continuity Exercise was run over the course of seven hours and involved more than 80 participants. The players were observed in order to assess their responsiveness to unforeseen incidents, and their overall knowledge of the Security and Business Continuity Plans and related processes and procedures.

Incidents were simulated via email with more than 500 separate communication items generated throughout the Execution Day impacting core business systems in operation or in development (SIS, VIS, Eurodac, and EES). The results of the exercise will be used by eu-LISA, the participating Member States, and other stakeholders to further improve the preparedness of teams to react to unexpected events and disruptive incidents.

Security and Business Continuity exercises have been run on a yearly basis since 2017 and have focused on different IT systems, sometimes multiple ones. Over time, they have become more intricate and more extensive, with some scenarios planned to run for several months.

Joint meeting of the Europol Security Committee and the eu-LISA SON (13-14 November 2024)

Under the auspices of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council, the 4th Joint Meeting of the Europol Security Committee and eu-LISA Security Officers Network was held in Budapest, Hungary. Additionally, under the JHAAN presidency held by eu-LISA, members of the JHA SOWG were also invited to participate in these events.

Around the theme of Cybersecurity Incident Response – A Breach Will Teach, the meeting gathered together experts from the Member States and the Justice and Home Affairs agencies for presentations and discussion on various perspectives relating to cybersecurity incident response and management.

Following the Joint Meeting, eu-LISA also hosted the 20th SON Meeting. It was noted that this meeting marked the 10th anniversary of the Security Officers Network.

The meetings marked successful and notable events which contributed to the ongoing valued exchange of insights and continue to strengthen collaboration within the security community.

9. Thematic events: JHAAN Communication and Promotion

EMPACT Communication Network (15 February 2024)

On 15 February 2024, eu-LISA hosted the annual meeting of the European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) Communication Network at its headquarters in Tallinn. The meeting was chaired by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU and the Council General Secretariat.

The meeting focused on the implementation of the EMPACT Joint Communication Strategy, the main objective of which is to raise awareness of the EU's efforts to combat organised and serious international crime and to increase the visibility of EMPACT as the leading instrument in this effort. The achievements related to the communication objectives were presented by the Member States, and ways to enhance qualitative analysis in communication-related surveys were discussed. The JHA agencies also elaborated on the support that they provide to enhance the Member States' efforts related to EMPACT.

The participants were informed about the ongoing independent evaluation of EMPACT 2022-2025. The evaluation results will be published together with the outcomes of the Network meeting in a joint evaluation report on the implementation of the EMPACT Communication Joint Strategy.

Workshop for JHA agency Executive Directors on the White Paper (5 March 2024)

This workshop took place in Brussels at the DG HOME premises and was chaired by eu-LISA. It successfully convened the Executive Directors of most of the JHA agencies. The workshop began with contextual remarks aligning the initiative with the 2024 JHAAN priorities. The Executive Directors outlined their shared expectations, showing support for collaboration on how to best achieve the desired outcomes for 2024 and beyond. Strategic ties with the Directorates-General (DGs) were explored based on an assessment of the key tasks and challenges facing the JHA community. The workshop launched the preparation of the White Paper (see more on the White Paper below).

JHAAN Presentations to COSI (9 April 2024) and LIBE (4 September 2024)

As is the usual practice, the previous and incumbent JHAAN Presidencies (EUAA and eu-LISA) were invited to present jointly their activities, in Brussels, both at the Standing Committee on Internal Security (COSI) and to the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs (LIBE).

At COSI, Ms Nina Gregori, the Executive Director of EUAA, provided an overview of the JHAAN's priorities for the previous year, 2023, which were: digitalisation, the implementation of the EU Green Deal, information provision in mixed migration situations, cybersecurity, and communication and promotion of the network. Ms Gregori briefly outlined the main activities falling under those priorities in 2023, and other regular activities of the JHAAN under the EUAA Presidency.

Then, an eu-LISA representative delivered a presentation on the Network's priorities for 2024. Additionally, COSI was informed that eu-LISA will be continuing the Network's efforts to enhance communication with its stakeholders and coordinating other initiatives, such as the joint paper on JHA agencies' Contribution to the EU Solidarity with Ukraine. The agency also emphasised the positive role of the trio Presidency format for harmonising the work of consecutive JHAAN Presidencies.

At LIBE later that year, Ms Marili Männik, the Executive Director ad interim of eu-LISA, outlined the four main priorities for 2024, which are: digitalisation and innovation, security and resilience, social responsibility and the Green Deal, and future cooperation in justice and home affairs. She concluded with an overview of key upcoming events. In turn, Ms Gregori presented the outcomes of the EUAA 2023 Presidency of the Network.

Staff exchange programme (May-December 2024)

In 2023, a JHAAN-exclusive staff exchange programme (SEP) was successfully piloted by EUAA. On a voluntary and non-reciprocal basis, this programme gave staff the opportunity to be hosted at another JHA agency for a specific period of time negotiated bilaterally. The purpose is to exchange good practices and share knowledge and expertise. It also enables closer day-to-day collaboration by allowing staff members working in the same sphere, but from afar, to meet, bond and cooperate. The exchanges are meant to create synergies, deepen understanding of other agencies' roles and functions, and lead to more collaboration projects. Desired outcomes include improved efficiency, increased innovation, and ultimately, better service delivery to EU citizens.

In 2024, six JHA agencies participated in the second edition of the programme, this time coordinated by eu-LISA. The kick-off meeting took place on 15 May 2024. Therein the JHAAN contact points and the appointed experts (largely HR specialists from each agency) endorsed the concept note and timeline proposed by eu-LISA, and had the chance to provide insights based on their own experiences. This helped further finetune the SEP. Strict data protection measures were applied to minimise personal data and to comply with DPO recommendations.

Subsequently, a total of 54 offers to host colleagues were made, covering a variety of business areas. The most represented were operations, human resources, and stakeholder management. 125 applications were received in total (a 39% increase on 2023), and this resulted in 50 bilateral exchanges ultimately taking place during the second half of 2024.

Each exchange was adapted to the interests of the visitor, and feedback was once again highly positive. Moreover, the programme was promoted by the participating agencies via both internal and external communication channels, thereby raising awareness also among the general public about the Network and the agencies' roles.

Webinar on methodologies for drafting annual reports (17 September 2024)

Following up on three successful meetings in 2020, 2021 and 2023, EUAA organised another online meeting on the evolution of annual reports. This was a forum in which to learn from each other and share successes and challenges.

EUAA's presentation provided a quick recap on its flagship report, the Asylum Report, focusing on its content, its inhouse production, research methods, diversity of sources, Management Board adoption, and its accompanying resources. Additionally, EUAA presented general tips and tricks on revamping analytical outputs from a communications perspective.

FRA's presentation focused on recent changes made to the Fundamental Rights Report 2024. The structure and content of the report were amended after a decision of the FRA Management Board in May 2023 to reduce the size of the report by half. As the topics addressed within the report change each year, it means that new data must be collected, and there will be no trends over time to compare.

EUDA's presentation focused on the **European Drug Report 2024**, which was the second digital-first report by the agency. The publication is rich in graphics and data, and the agency will continue to produce more open data-friendly digital-first publications (as PDFs are not easily tracked by search engines). They take a modular approach online and use a neutral format to allow for desktop and mobile viewing and printing.

The presentation by Eurojust explained that, before 2022, the Agency's Annual Report had a less stable structure. Now, the Table of Contents remains similar so that readers know where to find comparable information from year to year. Challenges are often linked to different needs of different audiences. For example, while requested to shorten the length of the report, the Corporate Communication unit were also tasked with including more content on certain topics. In addition, some stakeholders, including staff, appreciated the comprehensive, lengthy version to, for example, extract information for meetings and presentations, while some other audiences preferred a shorter, more dynamic report. The 2024 edition of the Annual Report will be reduced by half, and a consultation will be launched in 2025 concerning future editions. Ideas for the future include: a short summary report accompanied by targeted assets, such as country reports, videos by topic, a case catalogue, factsheets, etc. and a more dynamic web version that does not duplicate the PDF.

10. Products

Joint Paper on the JHA agencies' Contributions to the EU Solidarity with Ukraine (May 2024)

In May 2024, the nine JHA agencies [published](#) their 3rd Joint Paper highlighting their contribution to supporting Ukraine amidst the ongoing war of aggression. This marked the third consecutive release since 2022, covering the period from February 2023 to February 2024. The Joint Paper is subject to regular updates for as long as the situation continues.

This comprehensive document provides an overview of the concerted efforts undertaken by the JHA agencies in response to the conflict in Ukraine. It encompasses a wide array of actions, including both individual initiatives tailored to each agency and collaborative endeavours across agencies. These agencies play a crucial role in implementing EU-level political decisions, aiding Member States and third countries, and in providing support to those affected by the conflict, particularly for individuals displaced from Ukraine.

White Paper on future cooperation between the JHA agencies and the European Commission (December 2024)

The nine Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies were set up to contribute to the implementation of European policies in the area of freedom, security, and justice. Their specific mandates enable them to play a pivotal role in achieving objectives in the JHA field. They cover a wide range of thematic areas: ensuring fundamental rights and gender equality; combatting drug trafficking and all other forms of serious cross-border crime; making the external borders safer; supporting all phases of the return process; providing law enforcement training; strengthening judicial cooperation and coordinating investigations and prosecutions; providing operational and IT services; conducting operational activities and supporting capacity building in third countries through a wide range of measures; among others. The size and mandate of each agency differ, but their commitment to work with the Commission and to serve the European Union are clear and shared aims.

Over the years, these decentralised agencies have become stronger and more mature in their functioning; their understanding of the EU landscape has deepened; and their implementation of EU policies is more effective. Their experience and expertise make them reliable and competent partners for the European Commission. Looking ahead to the new political cycle, this group of agencies renews its commitment to developing structured and constructive relations with the Commission.

In this spirit, a White Paper was drawn up, a joint product of the nine JHA agencies, to reflect both the valuable agency contributions and the challenges that the agencies face. This paper provides incoming Commissioners with an overall snapshot of the landscape in which the JHA agencies operate. This should both raise awareness and initiate valued dialogue on enhanced cooperation with the Commission.

Schengen Barometer+ reporting mapping (November 2024)

On 22 May 2024, a Schengen Barometer Workshop, co-organised by the Commission and the BE PRES, identified eight joint operational conclusions aimed at making concrete improvements to Schengen.

In relation to the first conclusion, the JHAAN was invited to conduct a mapping of the agencies' Schengen-relevant reporting frameworks on migrant smuggling and drug trafficking, eu-LISA led the information gathering process among the relevant JHA agencies. Several rounds of discussions were held on how to implement this action, and a key coordination meeting was held on 9 October 2024 with the participation of eight JHA agencies (CEPOL, EUAA, EUDA, eu-LISA, Eurojust, Europol, FRA, and Frontex) and DG HOME representatives.

Subsequently, a template was designed in cooperation with DG HOME and then circulated to the agencies for each to populate it with the relevant reporting frameworks in place. eu-LISA then collated the responses received, and finally, provided an overview of the results of this mapping exercise at the meeting of the Working Party for Schengen Matters on 28 November 2024. In a meeting on 21 October 2024, eu-LISA had also updated the said WP on the status of the initiative.

Position statement of JHA agencies in relation to the MFF 2028-2034 (February 2025)

During the Heads of Agencies meeting in December 2024, the JHAAN's nine agencies and representatives from their partner DGs had a productive exchange of views on how to efficiently cooperate in support of the negotiations for the next MFF (2028-2034). Following this discussion, the agencies agreed to issue a position statement on the said MFF. In this statement, the agencies share the opinion that the negotiations for the next MFF represent a good opportunity to discuss the respective financial situations and flexibility and contingency measures in resource allocation. This would support the efficient delivery of the priorities of the European Union for the period 2024-2029, including the Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029. The position statement was endorsed by the Heads of the JHA agencies in early 2025, and subsequently disseminated to the relevant stakeholders (European Commission and Budgetary Authority).



11. Highlights of inter-agency cooperation in 2024

CEPOL - Europol cooperation

The good cooperation between CEPOL and Europol combined capacity-building and operational expertise. Europol's support has been pivotal in several key initiatives, such as in assisting CEPOL in designing a state-of-the-art cybercrime lab in Moldova. Their joint expertise helped identify an optimal collaborative forensic approach tailored to the country's needs. Similarly, Europol's involvement in establishing a roadmap and guide for the creation of a fusion centre in Libya highlights the collaborative efforts between the agencies.

The structured collaboration within the framework of the EMPACT Support Network (ESN), EU-MENA Information Sharing and Analysis Network (EMISA), and jointly organised Strategic Cooperation Forum (SCF) further reflects the complementary strengths of both organisations. CEPOL, Europol, EU Member States, and key non-EU countries have engaged in mutually beneficial exchanges, enhancing their collective capacity to address transnational threats. The relationship between capacity-building initiatives and operational outcomes is further exemplified by Europol's role as an implementing partner in three major CEPOL projects, underscoring the seamless integration of training efforts with operational objectives. Under this umbrella, the development of regional SOCTAs in the Eastern Partnership and Middle East and North Africa regions stands as a testament to the tangible results achieved through this cooperation.

Through these initiatives, CEPOL and Europol have not only advanced their shared mission but also reinforced the connection between capacity building and operational impact, benefiting both EU Member States and partner countries in their collective efforts to combat crime and enhance security.

EIGE - FRA cooperation on the EU Gender-Based Violence Survey

The EIGE and FRA cooperation on collecting data on Violence against Women in the EU continued in 2024. On 25 November 2024, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Eurostat, FRA and EIGE published a focus paper with the key findings from their joint EU gender-based violence survey. The survey captures the experiences of almost 115,000 women from across the EU and is the biggest-ever EU survey on violence against women. The paper focuses on the prevalence of various forms of violence against women in the EU, as well as the consequences of that violence, and victims' contact with different services which assist survivors of violence.

Analysis of the survey data will also continue next year. In the second half of 2025, a detailed analysis of the data on both the prevalence of violence and the consequences of violence will be presented in a joint Eurostat-FRA-EIGE survey report.

EUAA - EUDA cooperation on topics of reception and drug-use prevention

In 2024, following an exchange of letters between the two Executive Directors, EUAA and EUDA collaborated on the development of the European Asylum Curriculum module on safe and healthy reception environment: a prevention focused approach to health conditions, substance use and safety risks. The collaboration proved to be very constructive and successful; EUDA colleagues extensively reviewed the relevant parts of the training content and provided both general feedback and specific comments, including literature recommendations and practical tools, thus significantly contributing to the overall quality of this EUAA training module. Furthermore, in 2024 EUAA and EUDA cooperated in the development of material on substance use prevention to be used in reception settings in EU+ countries. EUAA developed a video on substance-use prevention for adolescent boy applicants to be used as a trigger for discussions with members of the target group. The video is supplemented by guidance for reception professionals on how to use it for conducting group discussions oriented towards prevention. The consultations provided by EUDA were instrumental in integrating the right prevention approach into the material.

eu-LISA-led Workshop on e-Learning for JHA agencies

The event (see section 6 on this Report) fostered and enriched inter-agency dialogue regarding e-learning, training, and professional development. Covering technical, theoretical, and various other topics related to this very specific training ecosystem, several Agencies contributed by sharing best practices. Ultimately, this innovative workshop underscored the commitment of the JHA agencies, and partners present, to enhancing training formats and efforts, ensuring that the recipients and users of digital training, today and tomorrow, can benefit to the utmost from tailored content.

Inter-agency cooperation through projects implemented by Eurojust and CEPOL

The EuroMed Justice project, implemented by Eurojust, joined the event “*Building Capacity in Law Enforcement Sectors to Address Future Security Challenges*”, co-organised by the EuroMed Police project, implemented by CEPOL, and the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) in June 2024. The EuroMed Justice project team worked closely with the EuroMed Police team, providing input on the objectives and on the thematic areas of the capacity building event. They also facilitated the participation of eleven judicial professionals from South Partner Countries and EU Member States, thus fostering exchanges between the law enforcement and the judiciary.

In July 2024, the Western Balkans Criminal Justice (WBCJ) project, implemented by Eurojust, organised with the support of the WB PaCT project implemented by CEPOL, the JIJs Network Secretariat hosted at Eurojust and the Academy of European Law (ERA), the first edition of the training on Joint Investigation Teams for Western Balkan practitioners. The training took place at Eurojust in The Hague and gathered twenty-eight prosecutors and investigators from the six Western Balkan countries covered by the project.

Cooperation between Europol and Eurojust in the framework of the SIRIUS Project

Since 2018, Europol and Eurojust have been collaborating on the SIRIUS Project, which supports EU authorities in the existing processes relating to cross-border access to electronic evidence. The Project has been funded by the European Commission since 2018, with Eurojust becoming a full co-implementing partner in 2021. Through close cooperation with international stakeholders and the industry, the SIRIUS Project has emerged as a central hub for knowledge sharing on cross-border access to electronic evidence in the EU, and became the first-ranked source of information for EU law enforcement seeking assistance to prepare direct requests for data from foreign-based Service Providers, as well as an essential reference point for EU judicial authorities seeking know-how in relation to data acquisition methods in cross-border circumstances. The restricted SIRIUS platform, which hosts information on more than 1,000 Service Providers, has now over 8,700 members from 47 countries, including all EU Member States, and the European Public Prosecutor’s Office.

In 2024, Europol and Eurojust continued to work closely together and with the European Commission setting the ground for the successful extension of the Project to Phase III (2025-2027). The SIRIUS Annual Conference, which took place on 5-7 November 2024 brought together law enforcement, judicial authorities, policy makers, and service providers to discuss the challenges in cross-border access to electronic evidence. The 2024 edition of the SIRIUS European Union Electronic Evidence Situation Report was published jointly by Eurojust, Europol and the European Judicial Network, providing a comprehensive update on the rapidly evolving electronic evidence landscape and key recommendations for stakeholders in the field.

Frontex - EUAA cooperation

EUAA and Frontex have been working closely throughout 2024 on the preparation for the implementation of the new Pact on Migration and Asylum. Both agencies held meetings on return and asylum related aspects and coordination of inputs in the new border procedure under the Pact. In addition, Frontex and EUAA worked on best practices related to alternatives to detention and set preliminary estimations related to required capacities for the new processes and procedures foreseen to come into effect in 2026. Additionally, Frontex continues its partnership with EUAA, for the implementation of Phase III of the EU-funded programme on EU Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management Systems in the Western Balkans, Phase III. It benefits from an EU Grant of EUR 5.5 million from the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III), managed on behalf of the DG NEAR.

Frontex - Europol cooperation

Frontex, in cooperation with Europol, continues to support counter-terrorism efforts within the border dimension through the implementation of the Common Risk Indicators, (CRI), both within Frontex coordinated activities and importantly by empowering the respective MS and SAC authorities, including via dedicated CT Workshops for the EU Member States and selected non-EU border authorities. The CRI handbook is currently being updated. Frontex, in cooperation with the Member States, is also working on enhancing the identification of the links between firearms trafficking and terrorist groups, particularly in the wake of the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine. Moreover, Frontex through selected locations under different Joint Operations supported the Interpol-led Operation Neptune VI, where Europol and WCO also participated, focused on detecting the border movements of travelling terrorists at the European external borders in the Mediterranean Sea. Additionally, both agencies held high-level meetings to discuss activities to strengthen counter-terrorism collaboration at EU borders by improving intelligence sharing, operational cooperation and enhancing training efforts. Frontex and Europol further enhanced cooperation in 2024 by exchanging Liaison Officers (LOs). Europol deployed its LO to Frontex in September 2024, and the Frontex LO was deployed to Europol in December 2023.

12. Annexes

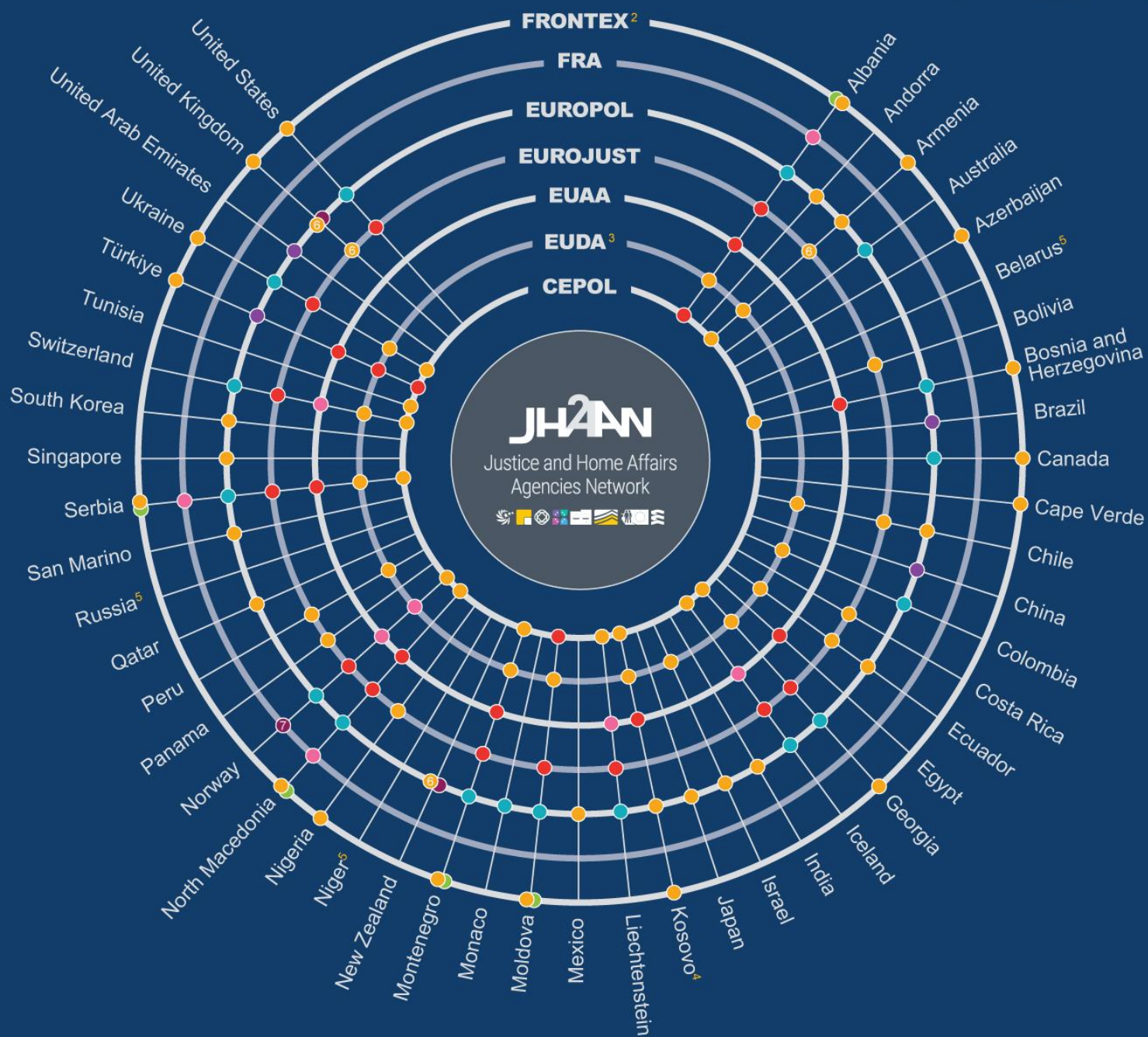
Full calendar

Quarter	Date	Description	Location	Responsible Agency
Q1	15 Feb	EMPACT Communication Experts Network	Tallinn	eu-LISA
Q1	5 Mar	Workshop for Heads of JHA agencies	Brussels (DG HOME)	eu-LISA
Q2	9 Apr	Presentations to COSI: JHAAN activities and priorities	Brussels	eu-LISA / EUAA
Q2	11 Apr	JHAAN Trio (+FRA) Contact Points	Online	eu-LISA
Q2	16 Apr	JHA Security Officers WG	Strasbourg	eu-LISA
Q2	17 Apr	R&D lunch talk: Generative AI: Opportunities and challenges	Online	eu-LISA
Q2	17-18 Apr	Security Officers Network	Strasbourg	eu-LISA
Q2	18 Apr	JHAAN Contact Points	Online	eu-LISA
Q2	18-19 Apr	WG on Data Protection	Tallinn hybrid	eu-LISA
Q2	7 May	Presentation to COSI SG: Ukraine paper	Brussels	eu-LISA
Q2	15 May	Ad-hoc coordination meeting: JHAAN Staff Exchange Programme 2024	Online	eu-LISA
Q2	21 May	WG on ICT & Cybersecurity	Online	eu-LISA
Q2	6 Jun	Ad-hoc coordination meeting: JHAAN Extranet revamp	Online	eu-LISA
Q2	11-12 Jun	eu-LISA Industry Roundtable: Going to the Cloud: Why it matters for the EU public sector and how to make it work	Antwerp hybrid	eu-LISA
Q2	12-13 Jun	WG on Communication	Tallinn hybrid	eu-LISA
Q2	13 Jun	Trio Heads of Agencies meeting with incoming HU Pres	Luxembourg hybrid	eu-LISA
Q2	19 Jun	Workshop on e-Learning	Tallinn hybrid	eu-LISA

Q2	19 Jun	JHAAN Trio (+ FRA) Contact Points	Online	eu-LISA
Q2	27 Jun	JHAAN Contact Points	Tallinn hybrid	eu-LISA
Q3	3 Sep	JHA Security Officers WG	Brussels	eu-LISA
Q3	4 Sept	Presentations to LIBE: JHAAN activities and priorities	Brussels	EUAA / eu-LISA
Q3	6 Sept	JHAAN Trio (+FRA) Contact Points	Online	eu-LISA
Q3	11 Sep	R&D lunch talk: Energy Efficiency of Buildings	Online	eu-LISA
Q3	17 Sep	Webinar: Methodologies for drafting annual reports	Online	EUAA
Q3	18-19 Sep	JHAAN Contact Points	Strasbourg hybrid	eu-LISA
Q3	19 Sep	WG on Training	Online	CEPOL
Q3	24 Sep	Workshop on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Tallinn hybrid	eu-LISA
Q4	3 Oct	Business Continuity Exercise	Strasbourg	eu-LISA
Q4	3 Oct	Ad-hoc coordination meeting: JHAAN White Paper	Online	eu-LISA
Q4	9 Oct	Ad-hoc coordination meeting: Schengen Barometer+	Online	eu-LISA
Q4	17 Oct	WG on External Relations	Brussels	EUAA / eu-LISA
Q4	18 Oct	Ad-hoc coordination meeting: preparations for Heads of Agencies meeting	Online	eu-LISA
Q4	12-13 Nov	eu-LISA Industry Roundtable: EU JHA in the Age of AI	Budapest hybrid	eu-LISA
Q4	13-14 Nov	Joint meeting of the Europol Security Committee and the eu-LISA Security Officers Network	Budapest	eu-LISA / Europol
Q4	15 Nov	WG on Data Protection	Online	eu-LISA
Q4	19 Nov	Workshop on Greening	SXB hybrid	eu-LISA
Q4	19 Nov	Research Lunch Talk: Biometric quality: Open-Source Face Image Quality	Online	eu-LISA
Q4	27 Nov	WG on European Situation Monitoring	Warsaw	FRONTEX
Q4	27 Nov	HR Lunch Talk: Fair, transparent, and accountable AI	Online	eu-LISA

Q4	28 Nov	Presentation to WP for Schengen Matters: Schengen Barometer+ reporting	Brussels	eu-LISA
Q4	3-4 Dec	Heads of JHA agencies	Tallinn hybrid	eu-LISA

Cooperation instruments with third countries^{1,4}



LEGEND

- Cooperation agreement
- Operational agreement
- Administrative arrangement for cooperation / Exchange of letters
- Working arrangement
- Council decision
- Strategic agreement
- EU Status Agreement

(1) This infographic portrays different types of agreements concluded by the agencies with third countries. It does not cover other types of cooperation, such as capacity building projects.

(2) For Frontex, States participating in the Schengen acquis are not considered third countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland).

(3) For the EUDA, up to 2015, the terminology used for the existing instruments was *Memorandum of Understanding*.

(4) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

(5) Cooperation has been suspended in line with EU general policy guidelines, following the 2022 invasion of Ukraine (for Russia and Belarus), and the 2023 coup d'état (Niger).

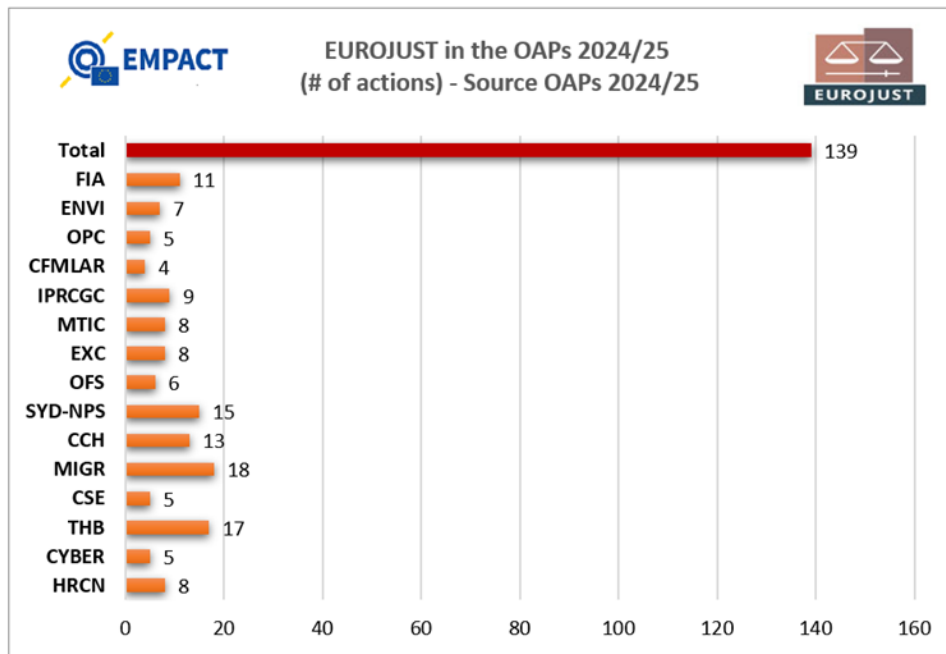
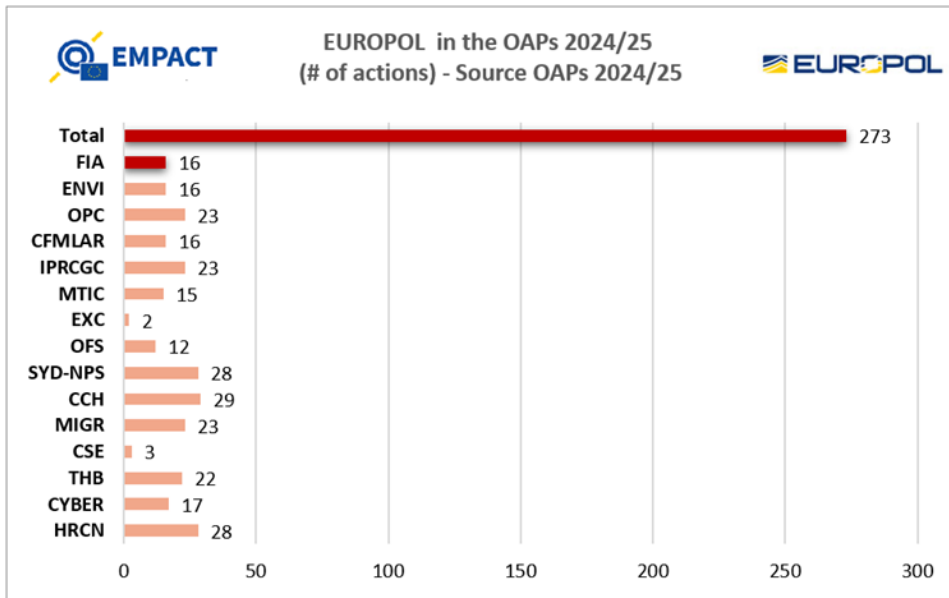
(6) Working and Administrative Arrangement implementing the international agreements concluded by the EU, which allow for exchange of personal data.

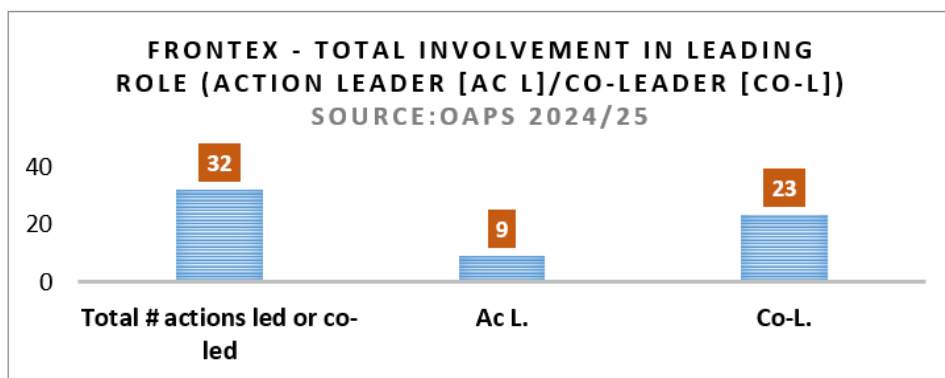
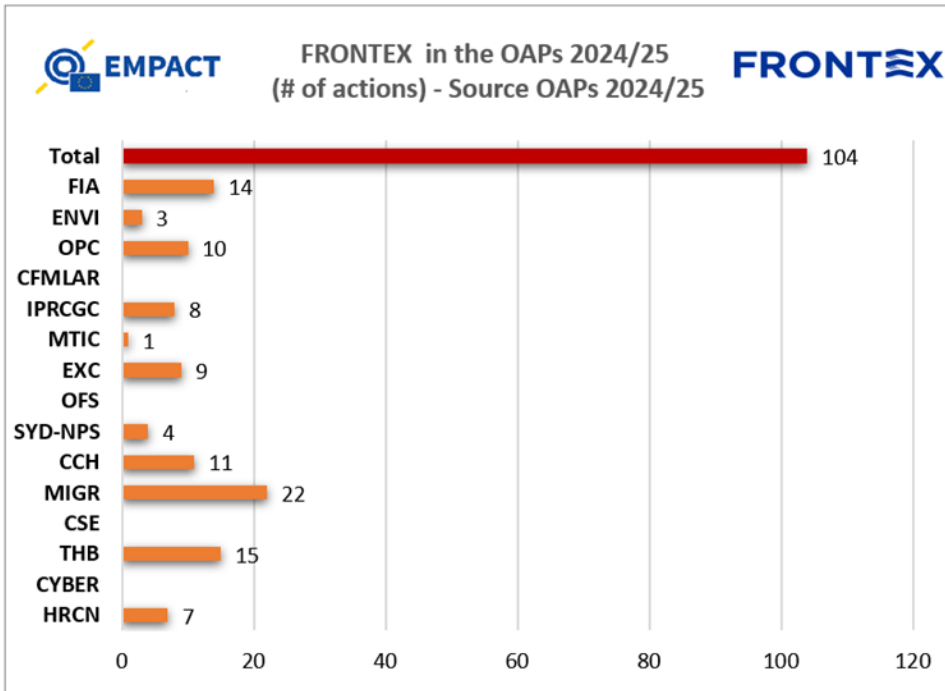
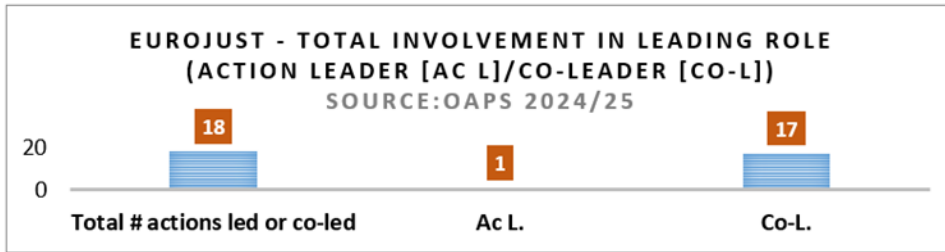
(7) EEA & Norway Grants - EEA Grants are funding mechanisms through which Norway, and also Iceland and Liechtenstein, reduce economic disparities in Europe and strengthen cooperation with lower-income EU countries.

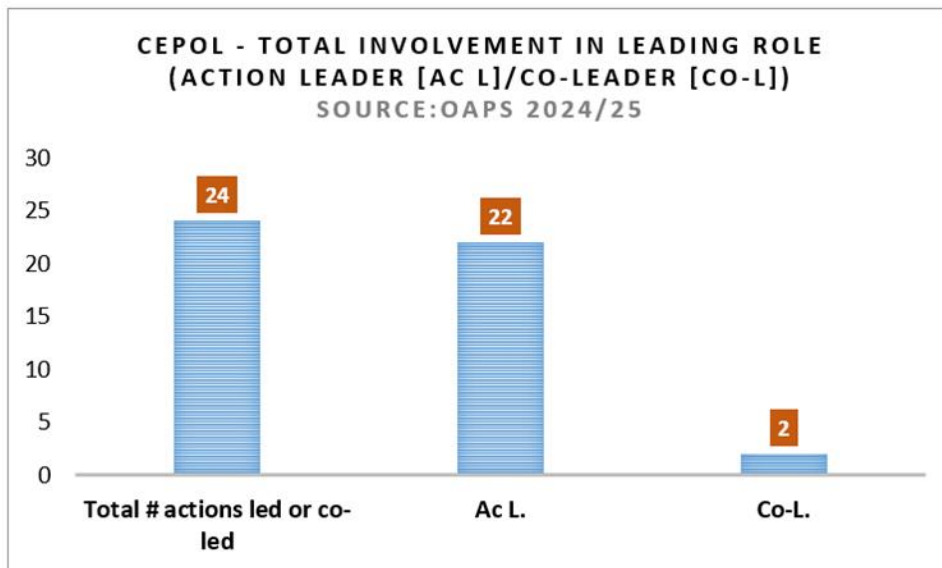
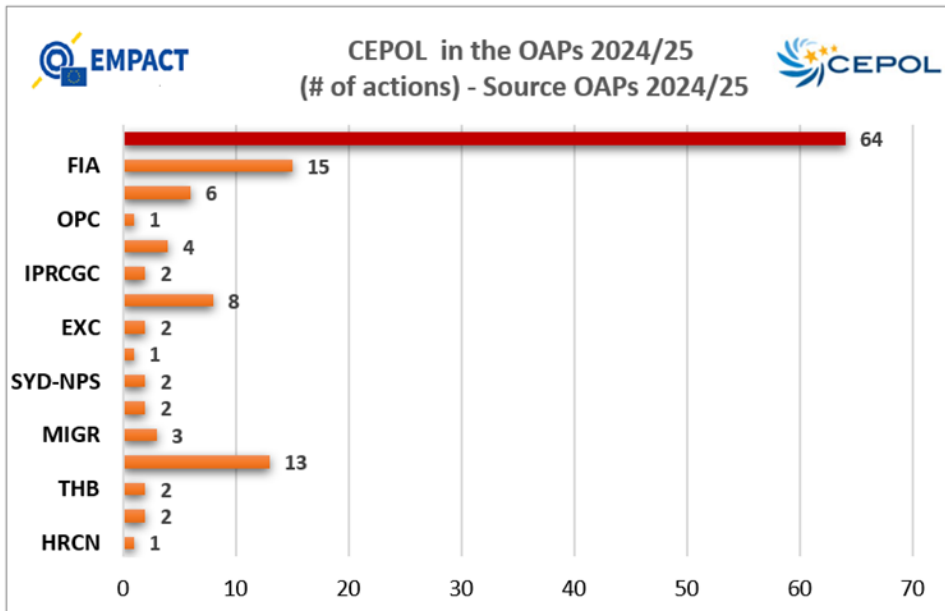
EMPACT Infographics

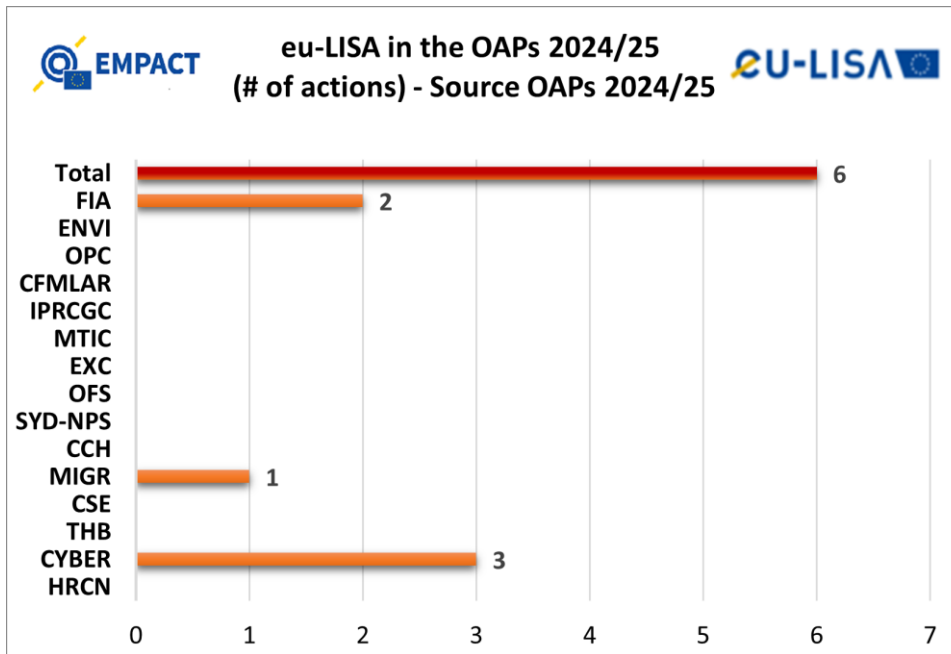
Priorities in EMPACT 2022-2025

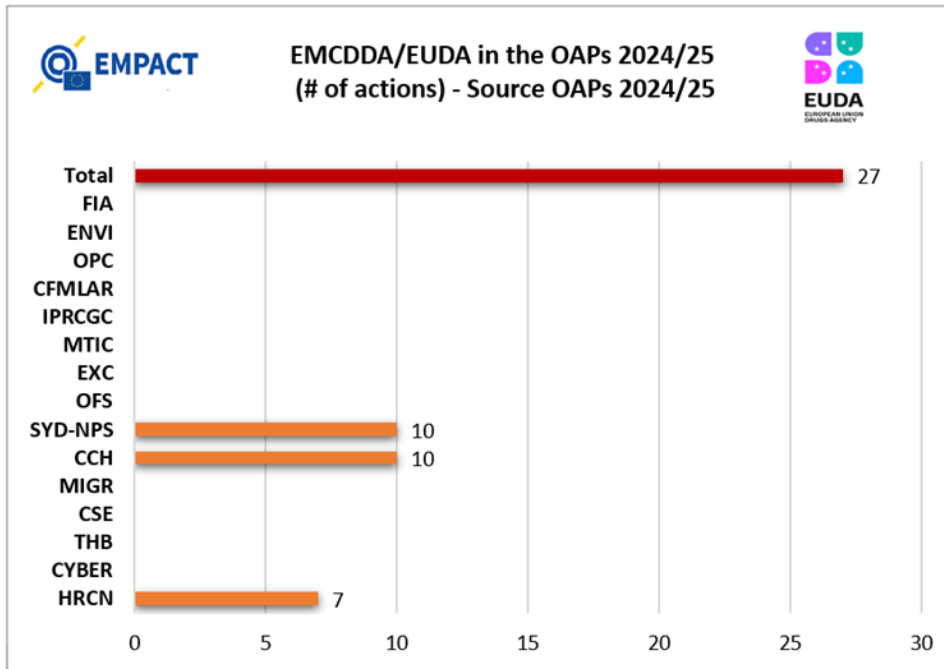
No.	Name	Abbreviation	OAP No.
1	High risk criminal networks	HRCN	1
2	Cyber attacks	CYBER	2
3	Trafficking in human beings	THB	3
4	Child sexual exploitation	CSE	4
5	Migrant smuggling	MIGR	5
6	Cannabis, Cocaine and Heroin	CCH	6.1
7	New Psychoactive Substances and Synthetic drugs	SYD-NPS	6.2
8	Online fraud schemes	OFS	7.1
9	Excise fraud	EXC	7.2
10	MTIC fraud	MTIC	7.3
11	Intellectual Property Crime, Counterfeit Goods and Currencies	IPRCGC	7.4
12	Criminal Finances, Money Laundering and Asset Recovery	CFMLAR	7.5
13	Organised Property Crime	OPC	8
14	Environmental crime	Envi	9
15	Firearms	FIA	10











Joint opinion of the JHA agency DPOs on AI contact points (7 May 2024)

On 8 April 2024, the JHAA DPOs were informed by the EDPS about a letter from the Secretary General of the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) to all institutions, outlining the EDPS's upcoming role in overseeing EU Institutions, agencies, and bodies in the context of enforcing the EU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act. The letter of the EDPS was sent to all institutions on 14 March 2024.

The letter encouraged the Heads of Administration of the EU agencies to start thinking about the appointment of an AI contact point to attend a kick off meeting to be organised later in the year. The content of the letter was discussed on 18-19 April in the meeting of the JHAAN Working Group on Data Protection in Tallinn.

The EDPS has been emphasizing the importance of the AI Act through conferences, meetings, and dedicated public sessions. Guidelines on AI and data protection have been submitted for consultation to all DPOs.

The JHA agency DPOs:

Recognise the strong link between AI and the rights and freedoms of data subjects. Because of the horizontal nature of AI matters and the need to ensure compliance with data protection rules, the JHAA DPOs stress that the DPO as internal assurance provider is in the best position to serve as the contact point to the EDPS also for matters which fall in the scope of the AI Act. Moreover, the assignment of the DPOs as contact point to the EDPS aligns with the responsibilities of the DPO as outlined in Articles 43 and following of Regulation 2018/1725.

The JHAA DPOs are content that the EDPS informed the DPOs from all EU Agencies on 8 April that the EDPS supports that DPOs take this additional role. The EDPS also mentioned that “the decision as to how best structure this matter remains with the management of each EUI”.

In order to support the related management decision and in view of the upcoming working lunch with the Secretaries General on 14 May 2024, the JHAA DPOs would like to highlight the following points:

Firstly, the DPOs possess extensive knowledge and expertise in data protection laws and regulations, which is crucial for interpreting and implementing the AI Act effectively. JHAA DPOs already actively participated in conferences and meetings organized by the EDPS, gaining insights into the nuances of AI and data protection.

Secondly, the JHAA DPOs already serve as the regular contact to the EDPS on all data protection matters, ensuring a seamless and efficient communication channel. Lastly, the JHAA DPOs role is integral to ensuring compliance with data protection requirements and privacy in AI-related activities, aligning with the EDPS' supervisory role over AI matters for EU Institutions and Bodies.

Finally, the appointment of the JHAA DPOs as AI contact point would not only facilitate compliance with the AI Act's provisions but also foster a proactive approach towards addressing evolving challenges at the intersection of AI and data protection.

With that view in mind, we look forward to continuing working together with data controllers, data processors, senior management and the EDPS.

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