

## EJTN-CEPOL Joint Exchange Programme

### Overview

#### 1. General

Founded in 2000, the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) is the principal platform and promoter for the training and exchange of knowledge of the European judiciary. EJTN develops training standards and curricula, coordinates judicial training exchanges and programmes, disseminates training expertise and promotes cooperation between judicial training institutions of the European Union (EU). The vision of EJTN is to help to foster a common legal and judicial European culture.

Since 2005, EJTN implements an Exchange Programme for judicial authorities with the aim to enhance the European judiciary's practical knowledge of other judicial systems as well as European and human rights law through direct contacts, exchange of views and experiences between judges, prosecutors and trainers from different EU Member States (EU MS).

CEPOL, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training, is tasked with organising training for law enforcement officers in the EU MS. The aim of CEPOL is to support, develop, implement and coordinate training for law enforcement officials in particular in the areas of prevention of and fight against serious and organised crime, terrorism, public order including law enforcement leadership and language skills.

CEPOL has been running an Exchange Programme for law enforcement officials since 2007, with the aim to provide law enforcement officials the opportunity to create a network of colleagues and familiarise themselves with the working methods of other countries by exchanging experiences and sharing expertise. On a longer term it contributes to build trust and to establish a more efficient cooperation amongst not only the EU Member States, but all other involved countries, that fits well with the aspirations of the European Agenda on Security.

With the aim to foster a greater cooperation and information-exchange between the judiciary and law enforcement officers at the EU level, EJTN and CEPOL organise joint training activities bringing together members of the judiciary and law enforcement officials.

Those include seminars on topics such as Joint Investigation Teams, counter-terrorism, combating facilitation of illegal immigration, financial investigations and asset recovery for trafficking in human beings crimes, cross-border exchange of evidence, investigating and preventing corruption.

In 2020, EJTN and CEPOL launched a pilot Exchange Programme between members of the judiciary and law enforcement officials. Building on the success of the pilot programme, EJTN-CEPOL joint exchanges became a full component of the EJTN Exchange Programme in 2022.

## 2. Target group

The EJTN-CEPOL joint Exchange Programme is addressed to prosecutors, investigative judges and law enforcement officials involved in cross-border cases.

Judiciary participants (non-law enforcement) are funded and administered by EJTN while law enforcement participants are by CEPOL.

## 3. Length and period

Exchanges to be implemented under the EJTN-CEPOL joint Exchange Programme must have a duration of 5 working days.

The exchange must take place by Friday 13 November 2026. The dates are subject to agreement between the exchange partners. Once agreed upon, judiciary participants must inform their national contact point as well as the EJTN secretariat.

## 4. Working language

The working language can be the language of the host country or a language commonly spoken by the exchange partners (e.g. English). It is subject to agreement between the exchange partners, who both must have an adequate level of their chosen language for an effective exchange to take place.

## 5. Reciprocity

The principle of the EJTN-CEPOL joint Exchange Programme is that the exchange should be done on a reciprocal basis. Each sending country also functions as a hosting country, i.e. each participant goes to one country and is also expected to host the counterpart from the country s/he visited. Each exchange is organised around one specific topic.

Moreover, it can happen that some hosts may receive more than one participant. Please note that the application form contains the possibility to indicate how many participants you can host, be it one at a time or as a group.

## 6. Thematic areas

The exchanges to be developed under the 2026 EJTN-CEPOL joint Exchange Programme shall cover the following thematic areas:

- Economic / Financial Crime
- Cybercrime
- Drug trafficking
- Trafficking in Human Beings
- Environmental Crime
- Corruption
- Joint Investigation Teams
- Violence Against Women
- Cryptocurrency

Other topics proposed by the applicants may be awarded provided judiciary and law enforcement applicants can be matched for an exchange on the same topic.

## **7. Application procedure**

Judges and prosecutors interested to take part in the EJTN-CEPOL joint Exchange Programme must apply through EJTN using the EJTN [Exchange Programme application portal](#) until 20 February 2026, 18:00 Brussels time. To complete their application, they must upload the “additional details” form duly filled. Without the additional details form, the application will be considered as incomplete and not processed. Applications must be submitted in English.

Unlike other EJTN exchanges, there is no set number of places to apply for in a given country.

Applicants have the possibility to designate a law enforcement counterpart in the host country for their exchange (pre-match). In such a case, they must indicate so in their application and their law enforcement counterpart must also submit an application through CEPOL.

In the absence of self-designated counterpart, applicants may indicate up to four (4) preferred partner countries in their application. EJTN and CEPOL will then match the judiciary and law enforcement applicants (see below).

## **8. Pre-selection and matching**

The preselection of EJTN applicants is the prerogative of national member institutions. Once the preselection has been received, EJTN and CEPOL will proceed to a matching between the judiciary and the law enforcement applicants according to their profiles (specialisation, spoken languages) and country choices. Please note however there is no guarantee as to whether it will be possible to allocate the applicants in the countries of their choice.

After the matching process, preselected applicants will be informed about the country and counterpart they have been matched to/with. They will receive their counterpart’s contact details so that they can start discussing the implementation details of their exchange programme.

## **9. Pre- and post-exchange requirements**

Once they have been informed about the outcome of the matching process, the selected participants are to contact their counterpart to discuss the details of their exchange programme, plan the exchange dates and agree on their activity plans. The activity plan contains the detailed agenda of activities during the exchange and must be prepared in close cooperation with the counterpart for each segment of the exchange (as visitor and host). EJTN participants must send the exchange dates and activity plan to the EJTN secretariat prior to the exchange.

After the exchange, participants must complete reporting and feedback on the exchange on the EJTN Exchange Programme platform.