About the network

National information about the contact points and functioning of the EJN-civil

What is the EJN-civil?

The European Union's wide variety of national legal systems and this diversity, together with new Union legislation, has led to a need to provide support and information through a specific network to authorities dealing with cross-border cases. These cases may cover business, consumer or employment disputes, divorce, child custody or succession issues. The Network brings together national authorities responsible for assisting local courts and was set up to facilitate judicial and legal cooperation between Member States. The EJN-civil was established by Council Decision 2001/470/EC of 28 May 2001 and started operating on 1 December 2002. This legal basis was modified once in 2009 (the consolidated version is available here). All Member States except Denmark participate in the EJN-civil.

Have a look at the EJN's infographic!

The objectives of EJN-civil

Since its inception, the EJN-civil has been an important tool for providing support for the implementation of EU civil justice instruments in daily legal practice. The EJN-civil facilitates and supports relations between national judicial authorities through contact points in each Member State and thereby helps to facilitate cross-border cases. This cooperation between authorities aims to provide help for people involved in cross-border civil and commercial judicial cases.

Who are the EJN-civil members?

There are more than 500 members of the Network who fall under the five categories mentioned below. Each Member State has at least one contact point.

The Network is composed of

- contact points designated by Member States;
- bodies and central authorities specified in Union law or in international instruments whereby Member States are party, or in domestic law relating to judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters;
- liaison magistrates with responsibilities for cooperation in civil and commercial matters;
- other judicial or administrative authorities responsible for judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters whose membership is deemed to be useful by the Member State;
- professional associations representing legal practitioners directly involved in the application of Union law and international instruments in civil and commercial matters at national level in the Member States

Please select the relevant country's flag to obtain detailed national information.
Points of contact and Belgian members of the network

Three points of contact have been designated by Belgium. One of these is a judge in the Court of Cassation, who coordinates the relationship of the network with members from the judiciary; the other two are civil servants in the Federal Public Service for Justice, working in the department for international legal cooperation on civil matters.

In addition, the Belgian network currently comprises 17 judges, members under Article 2(1)(d) of Council Decision 2001/470/EC. Three or four judges are designated for each jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal; each of them is specialised in family law, commercial law or procedural law. These judges are from courts of different levels (Court of Appeal, courts of first instance, commercial courts and justices of the peace).

Four representatives of the legal professions have also been designated by Belgium as members of the network in accordance with Article 2(1)(e): a representative of notaries, a representative of court bailiffs, and two representatives of the bar associations (one representing the French-speaking and German-speaking associations and one representing the Flemish associations).

There is also coordination with the various central authorities designated under a number of different regulations (Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003, Regulation (EC) No 4/2009, Regulation (EC) No 1393/2001 etc.).

Contacts have been established with the Belgian section of the European Consumer Centre.

Method of operation of the network

Most communication takes place by electronic mail. Information from the European Commission and more particularly from the Secretariat is distributed to members mainly by one of the points of contact. Members take part in network meetings depending on the subject matter. In addition, a meeting of Belgian judges who are members of the network is organised once a year.

The members are regularly invited to communicate information on new legislation as widely as possible or to distribute questionnaires to their colleagues. Generally, documentation published by the European Commission and useful Internet links are widely distributed to the courts. In addition, some network members are involved in the publication of the newsletter on European legislation (Eur-alert!).

A collaboration has also been established with the Judicial Training Institute enabling points of contact and members to speak at the training courses that it organises on recent European legislation and in particular on the arrangements for European and international legal cooperation on civil and commercial matters.

In respect of the treatment of specific questions such as those related to the content of foreign law or developments in proceedings with cross-border effects, the contacts are in principle established by e-mail on the one hand between the Belgian point of contact and the Belgian judge who investigated the matter as part of proceedings in progress, and on the other among the points of contact of the Member States involved.

About the network - Czech Republic

The Czech Republic currently has six European Judicial Network contact points: five within the Ministry of Justice in the Czech Republic and one in Brussels (the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU).

The European Judicial Network contact points in the Czech Republic communicate with the contact points in other EU Member States, handling enquiries from courts and notaries seeking information regarding other countries' laws and reminders concerning the handling of requests, in particular pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1206/2001 on the taking of evidence and Regulation (EC) No 1393/2007 on the service of document and other matters.
Further to Council Decision 2001/470/EC of 28 May 2001 establishing a European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters, the Czech Republic established in 2004 the Internal Judicial Network (‘the Network’) for cooperation in civil and commercial matters, which is responsible for ensuring that the Czech Republic is effectively involved in the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters.

The Network's members include judges, representatives of the Czech Bar Association, representatives of the Czech Chamber of Notaries, representatives of the Czech Chamber of Executors, representatives of the Office for the International Legal Protection of Children, representatives of the European Consumer Centre, representatives of Charles University's Law Faculty and nominated Ministry of Justice staff.

Members of the Network participate in particular in the activities of the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters and in the performance of tasks stemming therefrom, and in the activities of EU Council and Commission working parties and committees on civil and commercial matters. Network members express their opinions on draft European Communities legislation and other proposals relating to judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters.

The Network has approximately 130 members at present. Meetings of all Network members are organised by the Ministry of Justice once a year. The meeting agenda includes current topics concerning in particular the European Judicial Network, the operation of the European e-Justice portal and EU Court of Justice case-law. At such meetings the Network members have a unique opportunity to meet in person and to share their practical experience of the application of EU instruments.

Compendia and other publications prepared within the European Judicial Network are distributed to the Network members.

Network members can communicate informally by e-mail. The Network has its own e-mail distribution list (e-mail address) to and through which Network members can send queries and share experience. Through this communication channel the Ministry of Justice can quickly inform Network members of news relating to judicial cooperation in the EU.

As a result of Germany’s federal structure, there are contact centres in each state in addition to the EJN (European Judicial Network) federal contact centre. The state contact centres are, depending on the organisational structure of the individual state, either located at the Higher Regional Court (Oberlandesgericht) (Bavaria, Bremen, Hamburg, Hessen, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia and Saxony) or the state Ministry of Justice (Landesjustizministerium). There are 17 EJN contact centres in Germany altogether. The federal contact centre is responsible for coordinating the national network and organising events, such as the European Day of Justice and meetings of German EJN members.

Tasks are allocated internally between the state contact centres and the federal contact centre. The federal contact centre answers all queries relating to German civil or commercial law, and the organisation of the courts. Enquiries relating to a specific case are, however, dealt with by the contact centre in the state in which the case is pending. Nevertheless, all German contact centres have equal status, which means that any of the 17 centres can be contacted for all types of enquiries and, in exceptional circumstances, the federal contact centre can also provide assistance relating to specific cases. This internal allocation of tasks ensures that the most suitable contact centre deals with the enquiry.

In addition to the contact centres, there are five liaison magistrates (Verbindungsrichter) in Germany working in the area covered by Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 (Brussels IIA Regulation). Their duties are also allocated internally among states. External enquiries can be made to any of the five liaison magistrates. If necessary, the person making the enquiry will then immediately be directed to the most suitable magistrate based on the internal allocation of tasks, as well as on language skills, specific competencies and expertise relating to the specific case.
The national network contact point is the Advisor in the International Judicial Co-operation Division at the Ministry of Justice, who also performs the functions of representative of the central body. The main functions of the contact point are the following:

- ensuring that the local judicial authorities receive general information concerning the Community and international instruments relating to judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters;
- supplying the other contact points and authorities as well as the local judicial authorities in their own Member State with all the information required for sound judicial cooperation between the Member States, in order to assist them in preparing operable requests for judicial cooperation and in establishing the most appropriate direct contacts;
- supplying any information to facilitate the application of the law of another Member State that is applicable under a Community or international instrument;
- seeking solutions to difficulties that may arise in connection with a request for judicial cooperation;
- facilitating coordination of the processing of requests for judicial cooperation in the relevant Member State, in particular where several requests from the judicial authorities in that Member State are due to be executed in another Member State;
- contributing to generally informing the public, through the network’s website, on judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters in the European Union, on relevant Community and international instruments and on the domestic law of the Member States, with particular reference to access to justice;
- collaborating in the organisation of, and participating in, the network’s meetings;
- assisting with the preparation and updating of information for the public;
- ensuring coordination between members of the network at national level;
- drawing up a biennial report on their activities, including, where appropriate, best practice in the network, submitting it at a meeting of the members of the network, and drawing specific attention to possible improvements in the network.

About the network - Estonia

Please note that the original language version of this page has been amended recently. The language version you are now viewing is currently being prepared by our translators.
The network liaison magistrate is a justice of Harju County Court who also represents Estonia in the network of judges established by the Hague Conference on Private International Law. The liaison magistrate’s task is to advise court officials on European Union civil and commercial law and share with the network his/her experience concerning the application of diverse legislation.

In 2011, with the entry into force of the second Decision on the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters (EJN-civil), which expanded the network's activities to professional associations, the following bodies became members of EJN-civil in Estonia:

- the Estonian Chamber of Bailiffs and Trustees in Bankruptcy representing bailiffs and trustees in bankruptcy;
- the Estonian Lawyers’ Association representing lawyers and notaries.

At the meetings, the Chamber of Bailiffs and Trustees in Bankruptcy is represented by different representatives of occupational and professional bodies, while the Estonian Lawyers’ Association is usually represented by its director. The professional associations are responsible for the following:

- exchange of experience and information as regards the effective and practical application of Community and international instruments;
- collaboration in the preparation and updating of information sheets;
- participation of the professional associations in relevant meetings.

Depending on the topic discussed, the contact point also invites other national experts to share their experiences at network meetings. For example, the meetings have been attended by several other judges alongside the liaison magistrate, the representatives of other ministries and the Chamber of Notaries, Supreme Court advisers, representatives of the Consumer Protection Board, faculty members of the University of Tartu, etc.

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Last update: 26/02/2018

About the network - Ireland

Contact Points

There are two contact points for Ireland. There is one contact point for the District and Circuit Courts and one contact point for the Superior Courts i.e. High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. The contact points co-operate closely and work together on matters relating to the Network. The contact points for Ireland are based in The Courts Service in Dublin. Even though each jurisdiction is separate there is an overlap in the work of these contact points who each have sole responsibility for the Network in their Directorates. Queries through the EJN should be directed to the relevant contact point for the jurisdiction concerned. The contact points work in separate offices but within the Directorates of the Courts Service of Ireland in Dublin. The work of the Network is combined with other tasks. However, the contact point can call on the help and assistance of other colleagues when dealing with Network business. The contact points maintain regular contact by e-mail, telephone and ‘face to face’ meetings with members of the EJN network in Ireland including the Central Authorities; the Director of Operations Supreme and High Court and the Director of Reform and Development in the Courts Service [Article 2(1)(d) members]; and officials in the Department of Justice and Law Reform [Article 2(1)(d) members]. The contact points are also in regular communication with a nominated member of the judiciary in relation to developments in the EJN.

The functioning of the EJN in Ireland

There is no formal national network within Ireland. There is a network of people who are experts in particular policy areas to whom the contact point can turn for answers to queries that are raised.

The contact point would liaise closely with others who are the extended members of the Network for Ireland, including a number of judges with specialist skills in specific areas of law or with responsibility for international liaison work. The Contact Points can be contacted by e-mail. The contact point ensures that relevant policy, administrative or judicial experts are consulted before relevant meetings of the Network and the notes of meetings and relevant action points are disseminated as appropriate.
Network structure

Number of contact points: Twenty-two contact points have been designated. Nineteen of these are judges who are part of the national network while exercising their judicial duties in parallel. Three are officials in the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, and more specifically the Department of International Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Criminal Matters, which operates as the central authority for purposes of Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgements in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility (Brussels IIa) (complementing the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction), Council Regulation (EC) No 4/2009 (maintenance obligations) and Directive 2002/8/EC (legal aid), and also as the central body for purposes of Council Regulations (EC) No 1206/2001 (taking of evidence) and (EC) No 1393/2007 (service of judicial and extrajudicial documents).

National network: An informal national network with a centralised structure has been established, the main components in which are the central authority, judges from Athens, and three representatives of the legal professions (associations of lawyers, bailiffs and notaries). The Department of International Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Criminal Matters is responsible for monitoring the work of the European Judicial Network and coordinating the work of the contact points at a national level with regard to Greece’s obligations within the scope of the EJN and the content posted on the EU e-Justice Portal. The network’s national contact points contribute to the completion of factsheets, the updating of Greece’s formal notifications on EU legislation regarding judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters, the completion of questionnaires originating from the EJN or other EU bodies, and the process of answering questions from other contact points or EU authorities relating mainly to the implementation of the EU legislation in Greece.

Regular meetings are held which are coordinated by the Department of International Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Criminal Matters, usually two to four times annually. The purpose of the meetings is the exchange of views, experience and information. The agenda focuses mostly on subjects discussed at EJN meetings at European level, issues that may arise from the implementation of EU legislation (regulations and directives) at a national level, and Greece’s obligations within the scope of the EJN and the e-Justice Portal, as mentioned above.

Dissemination of information to the public

The website of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights makes special reference to the EJN. Work is under way with a view to updating the website in order to provide a full and clear description of the EJN’s role and utility in connection with EU legislation on judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters.

At a national level, information regarding EU legislation on civil and commercial matters is disseminated by distributing EJN printed material and by organising seminars and one-day events, in Athens and other cities in Greece, concerning European legislative developments in the field of judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters and the impact thereof at domestic level (members of the national network sometimes take part as keynote speakers). These events take place under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice and also of bar associations throughout the country, the National School of Judges, the State Legal Council, civil law and commercial law associations, etc.
In the Republic of Croatia, two contact points operate under the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters.

The contact points are employed in the Directorate for European Affairs, International and Judicial Cooperation and the Department for International Legal Assistance and Judicial Cooperation in Civil Matters of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia.

In the above Department, the contact points have several officers who help them so that the work under the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters (EJN) is actually carried out through team work of officers in the Department for
International Legal Assistance and Judicial Cooperation in Civil Matters, which they carry out alongside other work in the scope of activities of the Department.

Although there is no formal national network in the Republic of Croatia, the contact points cooperate with judges and other experts under the Ministry of Justice and other competent authorities, professors of law, notaries and other experts and practitioners in different legal areas. The Ministry of Social Policy and Youth is also involved in the operation of the network and as a central authority for some regulations it actively participates in the meetings of the network organized by the European Commission. The network is open to all legal professionals who wish to and are interested in participating in the application of European legal instruments in the Republic of Croatia.

Communication in the Republic of Croatia is conducted by e-mail and telephone, and meetings are held as appropriate.

Communication with contact points in other Member States is carried out by e-mail, and the contact points and other members of the network regularly participate in the meetings of EJN which are organized by the European Commission.

Since the Ministry of Justice is the central authority for individual regulations, the contact points carry out operations of the central authority, make enquiries and answer the enquiries of contact points from other Member States (in cooperation with judges and other practitioners and experts as appropriate), deliver the requested data to the Commission and undertake operations necessary to publish information on relevant portals of the European Commission. The contact points distribute the publications of the European Commission to courts, citizens and other target groups and work to increase the visibility of the network.

Contacts: EJNcontact@pravosudje.hr

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**About the network - Italy**

The Italian branch of the European Judicial Network (EJN) is based at the Italian Ministry of Justice, in the Office for International Relations and Judicial Cooperation in Civil Matters.

There are five contact points, four at the Ministry of Justice and one at the Public Prosecutor’s office at the Court of Cassation (Corte di Cassazione). The coordinating contact point is a qualified judge. The contact points are in constant contact with other members of the Network, with whom they collaborate in processing requests for cooperation or in preparing practical information sheets to publish on the e-Justice Portal. The other members of the Italian network are:

- the Department of Juvenile and Community Justice (Dipartimento per la giustizia minorile e di comunità)
- the Directorate-General for Automated Information Systems (Direzione generale per i sistemi informativi automatizzati, contact point for the eJustice Portal)
- the central authority for the service of judicial documents
- the National Bar Council (Consiglio Nazionale Forense)
- the Italian Council of Notaries (Consiglio Italiano del Notariato).

The contact points for the EJN also have links with

- the Judicial College (Scuola Superiore della Magistratura)
- the Italian branch of the European Consumer Centres Network (ECC Net)
- the Internal Market Information System structure in Italy
- Pietro Franzina, professor of private international law professor at the University of Ferrara, expert advising the contact points.
As a rule, the Italian members of the EJN meet once a year. The contact points provide assistance to courts and law officers dealing with cross-border issues. All publications sent by the Commission (brochures, information summaries, etc.) are distributed to the courts, law officers and parties concerned. On occasion, the contact points receive delegations from other Member States visiting Italy as part of their judicial training. The Network is mentioned on the Ministry of Justice website, although the names and details of contact points are not provided: [https://www.giustizia.it/giustizia/it/mg_2_1_2_1.wp?previsiousPage=mg_14_7](https://www.giustizia.it/giustizia/it/mg_2_1_2_1.wp?previsiousPage=mg_14_7)

List of authorities dealing with the regulations most relevant to judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters:

- Directive 8/2003 on legal aid

In both cases, the central authority in Italy is:

Ministry of Justice (Ministero della Giustizia)

Department of Judicial Affairs (Dipartimento Affari di Giustizia)

Directorate-General for Civil Justice – Office I, International Civil Affairs (Direzione Generale della Giustizia Civile – Ufficio I affari civili internazionali)

Via Arenula 70
00186 Roma

Telephone: +39 06 68852480; +39 06 68852517
Fax: +39 06 68897529

e-mail: ufficio2.dgcivile.dag@giustizia.it


The central authority in Italy is:

Single Office of Bailiffs at the Court of Appeal of Rome (Ufficio Unico degli Ufficiali Giudiziari presso la Corte d’Appello di Roma)

Viale Giulio Cesare 52
00192 Roma

Telephone: +39 06 328361
Fax: +39 06 32836793


The central authority in Italy is:

Ministry of Justice (Ministero della Giustizia)

Department of Juvenile and Community Justice (Dipartimento per la giustizia minorile e di comunità)

Via Damiano Chiesa, 24
00136 Rome

Telephone: +39 06.68188 535/331/326
Fax: +39 06 68808085

e-mail: autoritacentrali.dgmc@giustizia.it

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There are three (3) EJN contact points in Malta at present. Coordination amongst these contact points is ensured by the fact that the said contact points work in the same office and liaise constantly with each other regarding all matters arising from the operation of the network in Malta. These contact points have set up systems of cooperation between them, which in turn bring about more efficiency in the operation of the network, especially when it comes to providing information to private practitioners who require information.
About the national network

- Legal Aid

The Transmitting and Receiving Authority in the area of Legal Aid is the Advocate for Legal Aid, who operates from the registry of the Civil Courts, the Law Courts, Republic Street, Valletta, Malta.

- Serving Documents

The Office of the Attorney General, situated at The Palace, St. George's Square, Valletta acts as the Central Authority both as a Transmitting Agency as well as the Receiving Agency in the area of serving documents. It takes care of sending request forms and of receiving documents for service from foreign transmitting agencies, which documents are then passed on to an appointee at the Law Courts for service according to the procedural laws of Malta applicable to service of documents.

As part of its activities in serving documents, the Office of the Attorney General in its capacity as Transmitting and/or Receiving Agency, also liaises with applicants and/or their legal representative pending service.

- Small Claims

The competent forum in this section is the Small Claims Tribunal, which operates from the Law Courts in Valletta. Appeals from decisions of this Tribunal are then heard by the Court of Appeal in its Inferior Jurisdiction, also operating from the Law Courts in Valletta.

The competent authority in each case depends on the residence of the person against whom enforcement is sought. The Court of Magistrates (Malta) and the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) have competence in respect of enforcement issues and also for the purposes of Article 23, pursuant to Article 10 (4) of the Small Claims Tribunal Act (Chapter 380 of the Laws of Malta).

- Taking of Evidence

The Central Body is the Office of the Attorney General in Valletta.

The Requested Courts are:

1. The Civil Courts, First Hall
2. The Civil Court (Family Section)
3. The Court of Magistrates (Malta)
4. The Court of Magistrates (Gozo) (Superior Jurisdiction ) or (Inferior Jurisdiction)

The Courts have the jurisdiction to execute letters of request made in terms of Council Regulation (EC) No 1206/2001 on cooperation between the courts of the Member States in the taking of evidence in civil or commercial matters.

About the network - Netherlands

Contact points and Network members in the Netherlands

In the Netherlands, a central contact point has been designated at the Ministry of Security and Justice. A contact point has also been appointed for matters of jurisdiction.

Alongside the contact points, the professional associations for the liberal legal professions (lawyers, notary services and bailiffs) are also members of the Network.

Austria has set up in Department I 9 of the Federal Ministry of Justice (Bundesministerium für Justiz) a central contact point which deals with legal queries from foreign contact points made via the network, performs various coordination- and organisation-related tasks and organises and edits the Austrian entries for the network factsheets that are published on the European Justice Portal.

In addition, two judges have been nominated as contact points for each of the four Higher Regional Court (Oberlandesgericht) jurisdictions (three for the Vienna jurisdiction). They provide assistance and support to foreign contact points and the Austrian courts in individual cases involving cross-border judicial cooperation (such as when there are difficulties in the cross-border taking of evidence or service of documents). In such instances, foreign contact points should therefore contact the relevant local judicial contact point and not the central contact point at the Federal Ministry of Justice. The jurisdiction of the Vienna Higher Regional Court includes the provinces of Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland, that of the Linz Higher Regional Court includes the provinces of Upper Austria and Salzburg, that of the Innsbruck Higher Regional Court includes the provinces of Tyrol and Vorarlberg and the Graz Higher Regional Court is responsible for the provinces of Styria and Carinthia.

The names and contact details of the Austrian EJN contact points in the respective Higher Regional Court jurisdictions can be accessed via the following link: https://e-justice.europa.eu/contactPoint.do

Private individuals/parties to proceedings or their legal representatives may not contact the network contact points directly. However, they can ask the judge leading the proceedings to refer them to a contact point.

The Austrian Bar Association (Österreichischer Rechtsanwaltskammertag) and the Austrian Chamber of Notaries (Österreichische Notariatskammer) have been part of the EJN since 1 January 2011, however under the EJN Decision of 28 May 2001 (2001/470 /EC), as amended by Decision 568/2009/EC of 18 June 2009, they do not have the competence to deal with individual cases.

Österreichischer Rechtsanwaltskammertag
1010 Wien, Tuchlauben 12
Tel.: +43/1/535-1275, Fax: +43/1/535-1275-13
E-Mail: rechtsanwaelte@oerak.at
Languages: German and English

Österreichische Notariatskammer
1010 Wien, Landesgerichtsstraße 20
Tel.: +43/1/4024-5090, Fax: +43/1/406-3475
E-Mail: kammer@notar.or.at
Languages: German, French and English
The contact point

Portugal has designated a contact point for the EJN-civil (European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters). The contact point is a judge appointed by the Supreme Council of the Judiciary (Conselho Superior da Magistratura) by means of a competition.

The national network

The national network is made up of: central authorities in accordance with the EU legal instruments, other international legal instruments to which Portugal is a party or in national legal provisions in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters; administrative authorities with responsibilities in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters; and professional associations that represent legal professionals directly involved in the enforcement of international and EU instruments relating to judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters.

The national network does not comprise liaison judges or experts.

National members of the network

In addition to the contact point, the national structure of the network comprises eleven members:

- Directorate-General for Justice Policy (Direcção-Geral da Política da Justiça)
- Directorate-General for the Administration of Justice (Direcção-Geral da Administração da Justiça)
- Directorate-General for Prison Services and Reintegration (Direcção-Geral de Reinserção e Serviços Prisionais)
- Institute of Registration and Notary Affairs (Instituto dos Registos e do Notariado, I.P.)
- Institute of Financial Management and Infrastructure of Justice (Instituto de Gestão Financeira e Equipamentos da Justiça, I. P.)
- Council of Justices of the Peace (Conselho dos Julgados de Paz)
- Social Security Institute (Instituto de Segurança Social, I.P.)
- Victim Protection Commission (Comissão de Protecção às Vítimas de Crimes)
- Bar Association (Ordem dos Advogados)
- Solicitors and Enforcement Agents Association (Ordem dos Solicitadores e dos Agentes de Execução)
- Notary Association (Ordem dos Notários)

The central authorities
Of the above mentioned members, the following are central authorities:

**Directorate-General for the Administration of Justice - Ministry of Justice (Ministério da Justiça)**
- Hague Convention of 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters
- Hague Convention of 1970 on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters
- The New York Convention of 1956 on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance

**Directorate-General for Prison Services and Reintegration - Ministry of Justice**
- Hague Convention of 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

**Institute of Registration and Notary Affairs – Ministry of Justice**
- Regulation (EU) No 650/2012 of 4/7/ 2012

**Social Security Institute – Ministry for Solidarity and Social Security (Ministério da Solidariedade e da Segurança Social)**

**Victim Protection Commission - Ministry of Justice**

**Coordination of the national network in a decentralised structure**
In Portugal, the national network has a decentralised structure. Coordination, which is ensured by the contact point, is based on voluntary cooperation between national members. National members regularly participate in quarterly meetings organised by the contact point. Whenever there is the need to clarify or solve a specific issue, meetings are organised with the national members concerned.

The network does not comprise experts. If an issue requires the opinion of an expert, the contact point requests the cooperation of the most appropriate national authority on a voluntary and informal basis. All national members are regularly encouraged by the contact point to cooperate in the specific areas of their competence and responsibility in judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters.

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Last update: 16/01/2017

**About the network - Romania**

The Network of Local Correspondents for International Judicial Assistance (Rețeaua de corespondenți locali în domeniul asistenței judiciare internaționale) was set up in 2001 pursuant to an Order of the Minister for Justice, based on the model of the European Judicial Network. In March 2004, following two orders of the Minister for Justice, the Network was reorganised into two specialised networks: the Romanian Judicial Network in criminal matters (Rețeaua Judiciară Română în materie penală) - corresponding to the European Judicial Network, and the Romanian Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters (Rețeaua
Judiciară Română în materie civilă şi comercială - corresponding to the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters. Subsequently, the two networks were reorganised successively in 2005, 2007, 2010 and 2014, following amendments to the relevant EU law and changes in the staff working in the national judicial system.


The Romanian Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters corresponds to the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters at national level.

Romania has designated two national contact points for the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters. The contact points for the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters are within the Ministry of Justice. This ensures that the duties of the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters are fulfilled.

In accordance with Article 6, the Romanian Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters comprises one judge from Section I - Civil Matters and one judge from Section II – Civil Matters (formerly Commercial Matters) within the High Court of Cassation and Justice (Inalta Curte de Casaţie şi Justiţie), one judge from each Section I - Civil Matters and Section II - Civil Matters (formerly Commercial Matters) within the courts of appeal, one judge from each specialised court/section for minors and family matters who specialises in civil matters related to international child abduction and the award of indemnities for victims of crime, officials from the Directorate for International Law and Judicial Cooperation who also fulfil the duties of the Ministry of Justice as the central authority in the area of international judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters, and one designated representative from each of the professional associations of notaries, bailiffs and lawyers in Romania. The national contact points for the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters are full members of the Romanian Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters.

The judges who are members of the Romanian Judicial Network were designated by decision of the Superior Council of Magistracy (Consiliul Superior al Magistraturii).

Since 2001, the Directorate for International Law and Judicial Cooperation within the Ministry of Justice has organised a large number of seminars and work meetings for the members of the Networks using own resources (the budget of the Ministry of Justice). Since 2007, in particular, such events have been organised under more than 15 European programmes funded by the European Commission. Furthermore, representatives of the Romanian Judicial Network attend the meetings of the European Judicial Networks on a regular basis.

The members of the Romanian Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters are listed in Annex to Order No 1929/C of 29 May 2014. The Annex is an integral part of the Order.

Members of the Romanian Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters - Judges

High Court of Cassation and Justice
Iuliu Cristina TARCEA, Vice-President
Romania VRÂNCEANU, Section I - Civil Matters
Roxana POPA, Delegated President, Section II - Civil Matters

Alba Iulia Court of Appeal
Cristina Gheorghina NICOARĂ, Section I - Civil Matters (Vice-President of the Court of Appeal)
Olimpia Maria STÂNGĂ, Section II - Civil Matters

Bacău Court of Appeal
Liliana CIOBANU, Section I - Civil Matters
Loredana ALBESCU, Section II - Civil Matters

Brasov Court of Appeal
Cristina ŞTEFÂNIŢĂ, Civil Matters Section
Anca PÎRVULESCU, Civil Matters Section
Gabriel ŞTEFĂNIŢĂ, Civil Matters Section

Braşov Tribunal for Minors and Family Matters (Tribunalul pentru Minori şi Familie)
Andrei IACUBA

Bucharest Court of Appeal
Antonela BRĂTUIANU, Section IV - Civil Matters
Ştefan CMECIU, Section V - Civil Matters
Dumitru VĂDUVA, Section VI - Civil Matters
Maria CEAUŞESCU, Section VII - Matters involving Workplace and Social Security Disputes
Bogdan CRISTEA, Section VIII - Administrative and Fiscal Litigation

Bucharest Tribunal
Andreea Florina MATEESCU, Section V - Civil Matters (liaison judge in the International Hague Network for the Hague Convention of 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction)
Anca Magda VOICULESCU, Section IV - Civil Matters (liaison judge in the International Hague Network for the Hague Convention of 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction)
Constantin-Marino MARIN, President, Section I - Criminal Matters, Commission for the Award of Indemnities to Victims of Crime – Bucharest Tribunal

Cluj Court of Appeal
Denisa-Livia BĂLDEAN, Vice-President
Liviu UNGUR, Vice-President, Section II - Civil Matters

Constanţa Court of Appeal
Daniela PETROVICI, Section I - Civil Matters
Iuliana Mihaela ŞERBAN, Section II - Civil Matters

Craiova Court of Appeal
Mihaela COTORA, President
Lotus Gherghină, Section II - Civil Matters

Galaţi Court of Appeal
Simona Claudia BACŞIN, Section I - Civil Matters
Valentina VRABIE, Section II - Civil Matters

Iaşi Court of Appeal
Claudia Antoanela SUSANU, Section I - Civil Matters

Oradea Court of Appeal
Marcela FILIMON, Section II - Civil Matters

Piteşti Court of Appeal
Corina PINCU IFRIM, Section I - Civil Matters
Raluca TRANDAFIR, Section I - Civil Matters
Corina Georgeta NUŢĂ, Section II - Civil Matters involving Administrative and Fiscal Litigation

Argeş Tribunal
Andreea Monica PRUNARU, Civil Matters Section, Vice-President

Vâlcea Tribunal
Petre DINESCU, Section I - Civil Matters

Ploieşti Court of Appeal
Adriana Maria RADU, Section I - Civil Matters
Elisabeta GHERASIM, President of Section II - Civil Matters
Florentina DINU, Section II - Civil Matters
Valentina GHEORGHE, Section II - Civil Matters

Suceava Court of Appeal
Ștefania Fulga ANTON, Section I - Civil Matters
Daniela MITREA MUNTEA, Section II - Civil Matters

Târgu Mureș Court of Appeal
Andreea CIUCĂ, Section II - Civil Matters

Timișoara Court of Appeal
Cristian PUP, Section I - Civil Matters
Florin MOŢIU, Section II - Civil Matters

Members of the Romanian Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters – National contact points for the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters

Ministry of Justice
Viviana ONACA, Director, Directorate for International Law and Judicial Cooperation
Ioana BURDUF, Directorate for International Law and Judicial Cooperation

Members of the Romanian Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters from the Directorate for International Law and Judicial Cooperation of the Ministry of Justice - central authority in the area of international judicial cooperation
Dorina DOMINTEANU, Head of Unit
Camelia TOBĂ
Flavius George PÂNCESCU

Members of the Romanian Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters - one representative designated by each of the Presidents of the National Unions of Notaries, Bailiffs and Bar Associations in Romania
Octavian ROGOJANU, Notary Public, Secretary of the Council of the Romanian National Union of Notaries
Bogdan DUMITRACHE, Bailiff
Costea-Corin C. DĂNESCU, Lawyer

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Last update: 13/10/2016
The European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters (EJN) operates in Slovenia through 3 contact points and 16 network members.

The contact points are employees at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia. This way, the work of the contact points can be harmonised and coordinated daily.

District courts, of which there are 11 in the Republic of Slovenia, are authorised to provide international legal help in civil and commercial matters. In light of this, Slovenia, in accordance with Article 2(1)(d) of the Council Decision of 28 May 2001 establishing a European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters, appointed one representative from every district court as a member of the EJN. Additionally, Slovenia appointed two specialised network members (judges) who are competent for matters of judicial cooperation in family matters, with one judge being employed at the district court and the other at the Ministry of Justice.

The amendment of the Council Decision on establishing the EJN in 2009 made cooperation with other judicial professions possible within the EJN. Since 2011 the Chamber of Notaries of Slovenia (Notarska zbornica Republike Slovenije), the Bar Association of Slovenia (Odvetniška zbornica Republike Slovenije) and the Chamber of Execution Officers of Slovenia (Zbornica izvršiteljev Slovenije) have also been members of the network.

The involvement of judges and other legal professions in the EJN is important for attaining the EJN's objectives, as it ensures direct cooperation between judges and other legal professions, which is important for smoother resolution of specific cases before the courts.

The contact points and the EJN members communicate with each other frequently and when the need arises, including through email, by phone and in person, and meet at annual meetings at national level.

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Last update: 15/09/2016

About the network - Slovakia

The network comprises:

1. The main contact points, being two representatives of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (Ministerstvo spravodlivosti Slovenskej republiky) from the Private International Law Department (Odbor medzinárodného práva súkromného) of the International Law Section (Sekcia medzinárodného práva). All EJN requests are sent via the main contact points.

2. Court contact points: one judge or senior judicial officer for each district court (okresný súd) and regional court (krajský súd) and for the Supreme Court (Najvyšší súd).

3. Contact points from professional organisations.

4. Two contact points from the Centre for International Legal Protection of Children and Youth (Centrum pre medzinárodnoprávnu ochranu detí a mládeže).

5. A family law liaison magistrate.

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Last update: 02/05/2017

About the network - Finland
Members of the EJN in Finland

The contact point for Finland is a designated official who works in the Unit for International Judicial Administration at the Ministry of Justice. The contact point belongs to a unit that acts as the central authority for several EU regulations and international agreements in the field of civil and criminal law. In addition to the work of the Network, the duties of the contact point include disseminating information on the legal provisions regarding EU civil and commercial law and their practical application, as well as providing advice and training in related issues. The contact point also helps national judicial authorities in problems related to cross-border requests for assistance and is actively involved in relevant networks and working groups.

The contact point has a separate email address for courts and other legal and administrative authorities involved in judicial cooperation in civil and commercial law matters that need practical assistance in problems related to cross-border cases.

Providing information on the EJN

All courts, legal aid offices, prosecutors, enforcement authorities and Ministry of Justice officials have access to an intranet with comprehensive information on international assistance in civil and criminal matters. The site also contains information on the EJN and its members in Finland and has links to the EJN pages of the European e-Justice Portal. Information on the EJN and materials it publishes are also provided to national judicial authorities and other legal practitioners by email and by post.

The Ministry of Justice’s public website contains a section with information on the various forms of international legal assistance, related legislation and agreements, contact details and instructions. The site also contains information on judicial networks and a link to the EJN pages of the European e-Justice Portal.

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Last update: 13/02/2017

About the network - Sweden

Sweden has appointed a person who works in the Division for Procedural Law and Court Issues at the Ministry of Justice as the contact point for the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters, and a person who works in the Division for Crime Policy at the Ministry of Justice as the contact point for the e-Justice portal.

The Swedish members of the network are the Swedish National Courts Administration, the Swedish Bar Association, the Swedish Enforcement Authority, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, the Family Law and Parental Support Authority and the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority, as well as two central authorities (the Division for Criminal Cases and International Judicial Cooperation at the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Consular Affairs and Civil Law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

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Last update: 03/03/2017

About the network - England and Wales
Contact Points

There is one contact point for each of the United Kingdom’s four legal jurisdictions. As each jurisdiction is separate there is no overlap in the work of these contact points who each have sole responsibility for the Network in their jurisdiction. Queries through the EJN should be directed to the relevant contact point for the jurisdiction concerned.

The contact point for England and Wales works within the Ministry of Justice in London. He has the assistance of one member of staff and can call on a number of other colleagues when dealing with Network business. The work of the Network is combined with other tasks.

The functioning of the EJN in England and Wales

There is no formal national network within England and Wales. Within the Ministry of Justice, however, a network of people who are experts in particular policy areas has been developed to whom the contact point can turn for answers to queries that are raised.

Contacts have also been developed in other relevant Ministries to whom the contact point can turn for advice or answers to queries which fall within that Ministry’s responsibilities. The contact point also works closely with others who are the extended members of the Network for England and Wales, including a number of judges with specialist skills in specific areas of law or with responsibility for international liaison work – in particular the judicial Head of International Family Law and the Senior Master who is the judge with responsibility for the Service and Taking of Evidence Regulations.

All extended members of the Network and the inter-Ministry informal network can be contacted by e-mail. Those within the Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunals Service have access to an intranet which can be used to disseminate Network information and judges can be contacted by e-mail too. Information about the Network has also been provided on the Judicial Intranet for England and Wales.

The contact point ensures that relevant policy, administrative or judicial experts are consulted before relevant meetings of the Network and the notes of meetings and relevant action points are disseminated as appropriate.

The contact point attends the International Family Law Committee which is composed of senior family judges, lawyers, academics and the relevant central authorities for England and Wales. This meets quarterly and, amongst other matters, shares information on recent EU legislation and the activities of the Network. He has also attended some meetings of the Lord Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Private International Law. This Committee is composed of senior judges and academics and advises the Ministry of Justice on EU proposals in the area of civil judicial cooperation.

The contact point also has regular contact with both the Bar Council and Law Society of England and Wales, the bodies representing respectively barristers and solicitors, as well as the UK representative of the ECC-Net who is responsible for all UK jurisdictions. Previous meetings have also been held with the UK SOLVIT contacts.

Providing information

There is no national website for the EJN in England and Wales. Information is provided through other existing sites including, as mentioned above, the Judicial Intranet. The contact point has worked with others, however, when providing different sources of information, including on the website of Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunals Service guidance to citizens about how to initiate or respond to cross-border claims – in particular relating to the European Enforcement Order, European Order for Payment and European Small Claims Regulations. He has also worked with the ECC-Net in the UK which has produced a guide to the European Small Claims Regulation. Opportunities are taken to raise awareness of the EJN and the pages on the e-justice portal at appropriate meetings and conferences and in relevant publications.

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Last update: 30/05/2018

About the network - Northern Ireland

Contact Points
There is one contact point for each of the United Kingdom's four legal jurisdictions. As each jurisdiction is separate there is no overlap in the work of these contact points who each have sole responsibility for the Network in their jurisdiction. Queries through the EJN should be directed to the relevant contact point for the jurisdiction concerned.

The contact point works within the Northern Ireland Department for Justice. The contact point does not work full time on Network matters, but can call on the assistance of a number of operational and policy colleagues when dealing with Network business. The work of the network is combined with a number of other tasks.

**The functioning of the EJN in Northern Ireland**

There is no formal national network within Northern Ireland. Within the Department for Justice, however, a network of people who are experts in particular policy areas has been developed. The contact point also has a number of established contacts in other relevant Departments to whom queries, which fall outside the remit of the contact point's Department, can be addressed. As Northern Ireland is a small jurisdiction, the contact point has a well-established network of internal contacts that can assist with most queries and information requests received.

The most effective means of conveying requests and information is via e-mail. This enables messages to be forwarded, in particular to outside contacts, quickly and in full, thus ensuring that relevant personnel have the necessary information to assist them in answering queries.

The contact point ensures that relevant policy, administrative or judicial experts are consulted when queries are received and before relevant meetings of the Network. Notes of meetings and relevant action points are disseminated as appropriate.

**Providing information**

There is no national website for the EJN in Northern Ireland. Information is provided through other existing sites. Reference is increasingly made to the e-Justice portal. The contact point has worked with others, who provide sources of information, including the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/topics/courts-and-tribunals), as its public website includes information relating to the work of the Network for example, information on enforcement of foreign judgements, European Small Claims and Order for Payment procedures, etc. The Northern Ireland Government website (http://www.nidirect.gov.uk) also contains information on the European Small Claims Procedure.

Opportunities are taken to raise awareness of the EJN and the pages of the e-Justice portal at appropriate meetings and conferences and in relevant publications.

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Last update: 28/08/2018

About the network - Scotland

**Contact Points**

There is one contact point for each of the United Kingdom's four legal jurisdictions. As each jurisdiction is separate there is no overlap in the work of these contact points who each have sole responsibility for the Network in their jurisdiction. Queries through the EJN should be directed to the relevant contact point for the jurisdiction concerned.

The contact point for Scotland works within the Civil Law and Legal System Division of the Justice Directorate in Edinburgh. She can call on a number of colleagues when dealing with Network business. The work of the Network is combined with other tasks.

**The functioning of the EJN in Scotland**

There is no formal national network within Scotland. Within the Justice Directorate, however, a network of people who are experts in particular policy areas has been developed. The contact point can turn to these colleagues for answers to specific queries.

Contacts have also been developed elsewhere in the Scottish Government. The contact point turns to these individuals for advice or answers to queries relating to their work. The contact point also works with others outside of government, where relevant.
Examples include the Law Society of Scotland and the Faculty of Advocates, the professional bodies representing respectively solicitors and advocates. The contact point has also established links with the representative body for enforcement officers, the Society of Messengers at Arms and Sheriff Officers (SMASO).

The most common way in which information is accessed and exchanged is by email. The contact point has also attended meetings in person.

The contact point ensures that relevant policy, administrative or other experts are consulted before relevant meetings of the Network. Notes of meetings and relevant action points are disseminated as appropriate.

The contact point dials into some meetings of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Private International Law, whose remit is UK-wide. This Committee is composed of senior judges and academics and provides advice on EU proposals in the area of civil judicial cooperation.

Providing Information

There is no national website for the EJN in Scotland. Information is provided through other existing sites. Reference is increasingly made to the e-Justice portal. The contact point has worked with others who provide sources of information, including the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS). The SCTS website provides guidance to citizens about cross-border claims - in particular relating to the European Enforcement Order, European Order for Payment and European Small Claims Regulations. Opportunities are taken to raise awareness of the EJN and the pages of the e-Justice portla at appropriate meetings and conferences and in relevant publications.

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