



The Network of National Experts on Joint Investigation Teams

JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS

Concept and supporting tools

General background

A joint investigation team (JIT) is an international cooperation tool based on an agreement between competent authorities - both judicial (judges, prosecutors, investigative judges) and law enforcement - of two or more States, established for a limited duration and for a specific purpose, to carry out criminal investigations in one or more of the involved States. JITs constitute an efficient and effective cooperation tool that facilitates the coordination of investigations and prosecutions conducted in parallel in several States or in cases with a cross-border dimension.

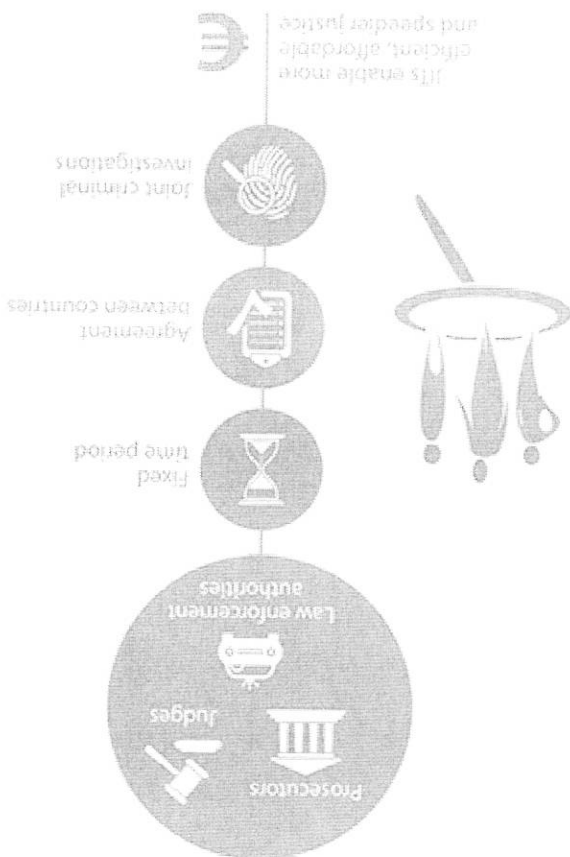
The possibility of setting up JITs between Member States is provided for in Article 13 of the 2000 MLA Convention. In view of the slow progress towards its ratification, on 13 June 2002 the Council adopted the Framework Decision 2002/465/JHA on joint investigation teams, which the Member States were to implement by 1 January 2003.

To promote the setting up of such teams, the Hague Programme (November 2004) called for the designation of national experts on JITs by each Member State with the goal of encouraging the use of

JITs and exchanging best practice. In July 2005, the Article 36 Committee (CATS) agreed that an informal JITs Experts Network should be established (see Council Document 11037/05 and dedicated webpage). To facilitate the setting-up of JITs, a model agreement* has been developed. Another supporting tool for practitioners is the JITs Practical Guide* developed by the JITs Network - in cooperation with Eurojust, Europol and OLAF - to provide information, guidance and advice to practitioners on the formation and operation of JITs.

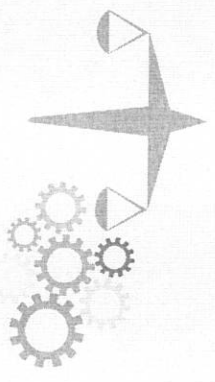
Since 2009, Eurojust has been supporting the operational activities of JITs by providing financial and logistical support. The objective of this funding programme is to promote the setting up of JITs by reducing the impact on national budgets of costs incurred due to the transnational dimension of these cases. For more details, please see our dedicated webpage.

For more information on JITs, please consult the dedicated sections accessible via the left-hand side navigation menu or click here.



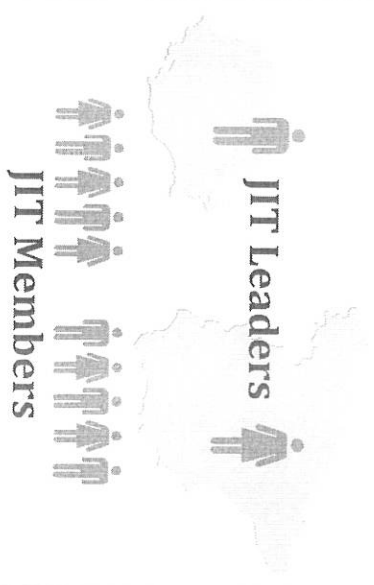
Parties vs Participants

Coordination support

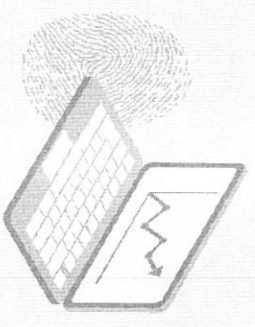


EUROJUST (Participant)

Signatories/Parties
(Prior Authorisation?)



Analytical &
operational support

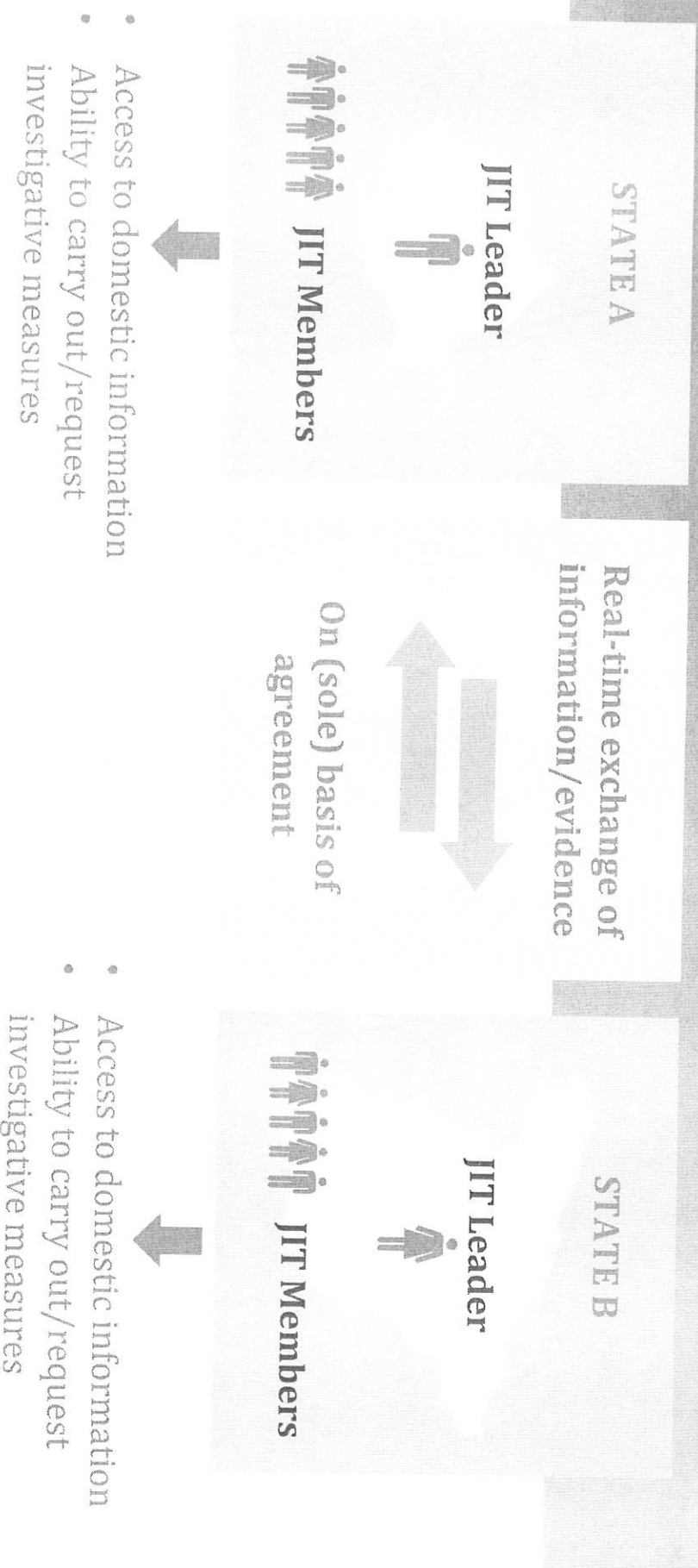


EUROPOL (Participant)

Optional

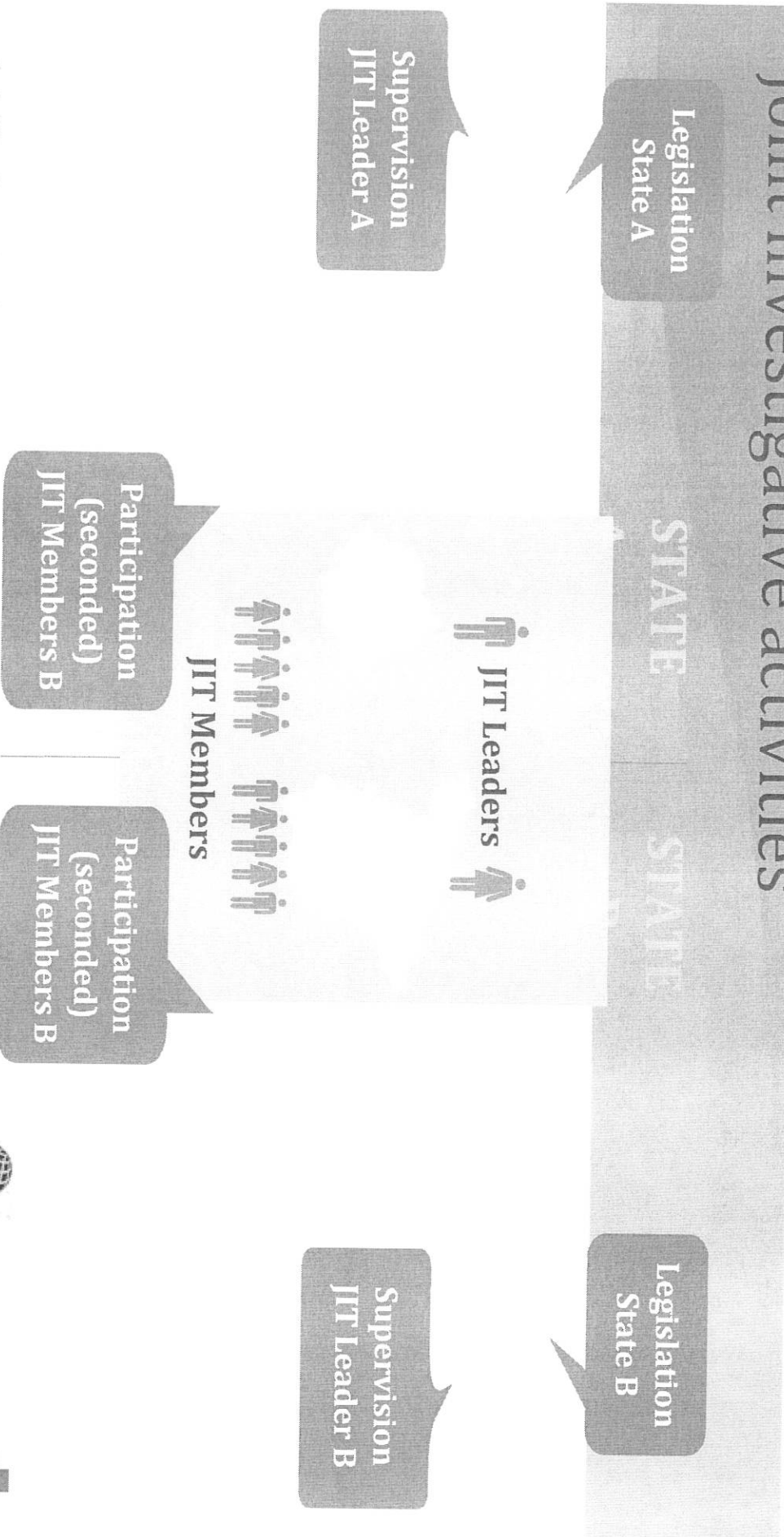
Optional

Exchange of information and evidence within a JIT



The JIT concept

Joint investigative activities



Comparing MLA and JTs (1)

Mutual Legal Assistance		Joint Investigation Teams	
<i>Request <u>or</u> Reply to request</i>		<i>Joint initiative with common purpose</i>	
• Cooperation limited to specific request • Additional measures → new request(s)		• Partners on equal footing; no lead role • Single written agreement	
Information/evidence transmitted after execution of MLA		Unlimited, real-time exchange of information/evidence	
Limited participation of requesting authority		Active participation of seconded members	

Funding joint investigation teams

Providing technical and financial support to JITs is part of Eurojust's mission to stimulate and improve the coordination of investigations and prosecutions in cross-border criminal cases. This funding programme ensures that financial and other organisational constraints linked to the cross-border nature of a case do not hinder the establishment and operational needs of a JIT.



Who can apply?

- Judicial and/or law enforcement authorities
- JITs between EU States and
- JITs between EU/non-EU States
- Eurojust's National Members invited to participate in the JIT

THE JIT

1 WHAT SUPPORT IS PROVIDED?

FUNDING PROCESS



3

FILL IN THE FORM

How to submit

- Access the Joint Investigation Teams portal and fill in the web form
- Include needs of all JIT partners
- Attach JIT agreement applicable, financial extensions and, where applicable, financial identification form (FIF)
- Submit within set fifteen-day period

Evaluation and award

- Evaluation by Eurojust staff and practitioners
- Decision within 15 days

Action

- Planned actions to be performed within three-month period
- Send form and supporting documents to jrs@eurojust.europa.eu
- Within one month after end of action period
- Individual claims by each institution/agency (no natural persons)

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Claim



REIMBURSEMENT

- ✓ Logistical support
- ✓ Loan of smartphones, laptops, mobile scanners & printers
- ✓ Communication costs

- ✓ Transport of evidence/seized items
- ✓ Interpretation and translation
- ✓ Travel and accommodation
- ✓ Costs of cross-border operations

What is covered?

- ✗ Pre-financing of costs
- ✗ Purchase of equipment
- ✗ Domestic costs
- ✗ Costs prior to the JIT

What is not covered?

