



## CO-OPERATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

In the EU we have special instruments that make international co-operation easier between EU-countries. Ireland and Denmark do not apply these.

**EU countries:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

EIO and EAW goes straight from the prosecutor to the other countries authorities. The Ministry of Justice has no role in European instruments.



## EIO

- **EIO=European investigation order**
- This is based on an EU directive.
- This has to be done by the prosecutor or court, not the police.
- We use this if we need **evidence** from an other EU country. It can be hearing of a witness or more concrete evidence.
- The other country is obliged to give assistance. They can refuse only for certain reasons.
- There is a deadline of 90 days (but it can take longer, you just have to inform the other country of the delay).



## EAW

- **EAW= European arrest warrant** (there is also NAW=Nordic arrest warrant)
- This is based on an EU directive.
- This has to be done by the prosecutor or court, not the police.
- We use this, if we want some defendant to be **extradited** to Finland from other EU country.
- The other country is obliged to give assistance. They can refuse only for certain reasons.
- This works very well!



## JIT

- **JIT=Joint investigation team**
- Two or more countries investigate cases at the same time. The evidence can be shared freely without EIO or MLA. **Finland can make a JIT with any country.** It does not have to be an EU country!
- In Finland the police, the customs or the border control can make a JIT agreement, but the prosecution is also involved as a party to the agreement.
- The JIT agreement must be made. Normally there is a certain period (deadline) for investigation agreed. It can be extended, when needed.
- JIT works well in cases that involve two or more countries. (International organised crime, foreign bribery cases?)



## Organisations

- EUROJUST  
Every EU country has a prosecutor representative in EUROJUST. EUROJUST helps us to coordinate investigations with other countries and can also help to get answers to EIO or EAW more quickly.  
**EUROJUST has contact persons also outside EU.**
- INTERPOL  
Interpol helps police to coordinate investigations and analyse materials.



## EPPO

- **European Public Prosecutor's Office**
- It is an independent prosecutor's office. It has authority in certain cases: Corruption that damages, or is likely to damage, the **EU's financial interests**.
- The EPPO undertakes investigations, carries out acts of prosecution and exercises the functions of prosecutor in the competent courts of the participating EU country. (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.)



## CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

- **MLA=Mutual Legal Assistance**
- When we work with countries outside EU, we have to use MLA. Police can ask for MLA, but the ministry of justice sends the MLA request to the other country.
- It depends on the other country how long the process takes. Sometimes it takes a long time or we don't get an answer at all.



## CASE THAILAND

- This case was revealed while investigating a human trafficking case. The same berry picking case we talked about yesterday. In this case there were indications that Finnish companies had given bribes to public officers in Thailand.
- Police co-operated closely with authorities in Thailand.
- Thailand could not take part in a JIT because of their legislation, but they could do very similar co-operation. Finnish police went to Thailand and could take part in hearings and got also other kinds of evidence.
- Because there was no JIT, the police had to make MLA requests, so that they could officially get the evidence and so that it could be used as evidence in Finnish court.



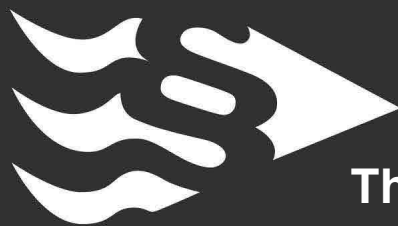
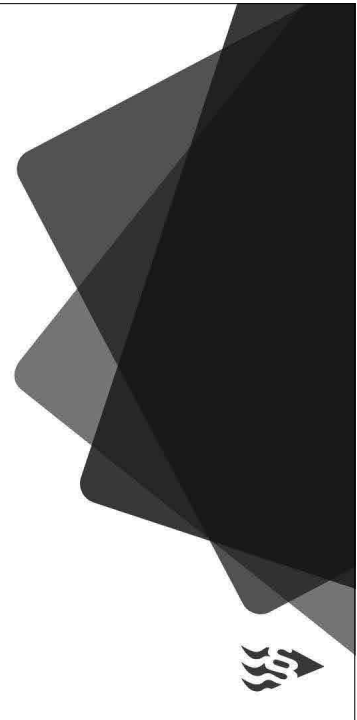
## CASE THAILAND

- Because the police had done close co-operation with authorities in Thailand, the MLA requests were just a formality and they got the information quickly.
- In these cases it is important to build mutual trust between the countries and different authorities. We have different legislation, but if there is a will there is a way...
- Finnish police is very pleased with the co-operation with Thailand in this case!



## Questions for discussion

- What kind of legal instruments do you have in your country for international co-operation?
- Have you used them or have they been used in your cases?
- How do they work?
- What are the main problems in international co-operation?
- How can we improve international co-operation?
- Good practices?



**Thank you!**

Katja Jokela  
Senior specialised prosecutor  
katja.jokela@oikeus.fi

More information: [www.korruptiontorjunta.fi](http://www.korruptiontorjunta.fi)