EUDA 2026 JHAAN PRESIDENCY

EU JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS AGENCIES' NETWORK

EU Justice and Home Affairs Agencies' Network contribution to EU solidarity with Ukraine

JOINT PAPER | 5th EDITION | MAY 2026

CEPOL | EIGE | EUAA | EUDA | EU-LISA | EUROJUST | EUROPOL | FRA | FRONTEX

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Introduction

Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine, which started at full scale on 24 February 2022, triggered a firm and comprehensive political response by the European Union. Actions in the EU Justice and Home Affairs domain are integral parts of a successful and efficient response. The nine agencies cooperating within the EU Justice and Home Affairs Agencies' Network (JHAAN) play a vital role in this process by: contributing to the implementation of political decisions made at the European level; assisting Member States and third countries; and providing support to people affected by the war, in particular persons displaced from Ukraine.

The JHAAN issued a Joint Statement on 7 March 2022, committing the nine agencies to providing assistance, in line with the measures agreed by the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 3-4 March 2022, and the outcomes of the extraordinary Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting on 27 February 2022. Later, policy developments — such as the European Commission's 10-Point Plan for stronger European coordination on welcoming people fleeing the war from Ukraine — have also been guiding the agencies' response. The 2023 European Council conclusions on the opening of accession negotiations with Ukraine will probably pave the way for new projects within the JHAAN. Under Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/1460 of 15 July 2025, temporary protection for people displaced from Ukraine has been extended until 4 March 2027.

JHA Agencies' contributions are determined by their respective mandates, and, in many cases, build on synergies established by prior inter-agency cooperation. Despite existing challenges in terms of resources, each of the nine agencies have engaged in a substantial number of actions that have translated into tangible solutions and support. This would not have been possible without the commitment of the agencies and their staff to do their utmost and to contribute to EU solidarity in this unprecedented crisis.

While the JHA Agencies' responses cover a broad spectrum of activities, ranging from presence on the ground to presence in cyberspace, the most prominent areas of action include:

- producing targeted analytical products and reports;
- identifying key fundamental rights and gender equality challenges and ways to overcome them;
- providing operational support to investigations of core international crimes allegedly committed in Ukraine;
- providing operational support to national authorities, with a particular emphasis on those Member States bordering Ukraine and Moldova;
- information provision-related activities and support, including developing guidance for practitioners and tools meant to support the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive, as described in detail under the specific contributions of the agencies;
- contributing to EU tools, such as the EU Migration Preparedness and Crisis Management Blueprint Network, the EU Integrated Political Crisis Response and the Solidarity Platform launched by the European Commission;

- contributing to the implementation of the Common Anti-Trafficking Plan addressing the risks of trafficking among people fleeing the military aggression against Ukraine;
- contributing to the enforcement of EU sanctions;
- EU accession-related support.

Previous overviews of this joint response were prepared by CEPOL in 2022, the EUAA in 2023, eu-LISA in 2024, FRA in 2025 (the agencies chairing the JHAAN in those years).

The present overview is prepared by the EUDA, chairing the network in 2026, and covers the reporting period from February 2025 to February 2026. The paper aims to provide the European institutions and the general public with a concise, yet comprehensive, record and reference document on the JHAAN activities in this area. As long as the current circumstances remain unchanged, it is considered a living document to be updated regularly.

Inter-agency cooperation in contributing to EU solidarity with Ukraine

As per the practice since 2022, the JHA Agencies have been continuously working together to ensure that the most adequate support is provided to the authorities of Ukraine, through joint efforts to ensure the delivery of effective tools and common expertise.

Training and operational partnership against organised crime

Implemented by **CEPOL**, in partnership with **Europol**, the Training and Operational Partnership against Organised Crime (TOPCOP II) project delivers capacity-building activities for law enforcement authorities in the Eastern Neighbourhood, including Ukraine. Also cooperating in the project are **Frontex**, the **EUDA** and **Eurojust**, as well as with the **European Commission** and the **European External Action Service (EEAS)**.

Support for the investigation and prosecution of core international crimes committed in Ukraine

The special efforts deployed by **Europol** and **Eurojust** to support judicial and law enforcement investigations and prosecutions on Core International Crimes (CIC) continue. Following the outbreak of the war of aggression against Ukraine, and the adoption of Eurojust's strengthened mandate in this area, the agencies have taken concrete initiatives to coordinate their actions. Two initiatives are particularly noteworthy: the involvement of Europol in the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) set up with **Eurojust's** support to investigate and prosecute CIC allegedly committed in Ukraine; and the creation of the Joint Operational Platform (JOP) on CIC. The JOP is a mechanism for secure information exchange in line with existing legal frameworks and data protection rules. It is designed to foster cooperation, ensure complementarity and optimise the use of each agency's resources and expertise, ultimately strengthening support to the competent national authorities. In December 2025, the European Data Protection Supervisor issued a positive opinion for the launch of the JOP between **Eurojust** and **Europol**. In 2026, this new operational platform will be tested with a pilot-project, with the aim of becoming fully operational.

During the reporting period, **eu-LISA** and **Eurojust**, in cooperation with the **European Commission** and the **JITs Network Secretariat**, further supported the development of the Joint Investigation Teams Collaboration Platform (JITs CP), with **eu-LISA** responsible for its operational management.

The platform will support JITs in cross-border criminal investigations (including those dealing with core international crimes), while facilitating cooperation with international judicial authorities (including the International Criminal Court). It has the potential to support both extant JITs (including those established in relation to the war in Ukraine) and future JITs, reflecting the growing scale and complexity of such investigations. This potential is expected to contribute to the gradual uptake of the platform among JIT participants. **eu-LISA** and **Eurojust** continued to work jointly, in the framework of their Cooperation Plan for 2025–2027, to further develop the platform. In the reporting period, this work focused on establishing appropriate Working Arrangements, providing user support, integrating the platform with tools already being used in cross-border criminal investigations, training, and, finally, security and

business-continuity measures, with several activities aimed at ensuring effective and secure use of the platform.

The support of **Europol** and **Eurojust** to investigations carried out in the EU countries includes activities about the enforcement of EU sanctions, including through their participation in the 'Freeze and Seize' Task Force set up by the **European Commission**, as well as in the context of the Europol-led Operation OSCAR. The latter is an EU-wide operation launched by **Europol** jointly with EU Member States, **Eurojust** and **Frontex**, targeting criminal assets related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

International protection

The **EUAA** and **FRA** have been closely collaborating to support guardians of unaccompanied children seeking international protection as a result of the military aggression against Ukraine. Both agencies have joined forces in the development of a series of four practical tools for guardians of unaccompanied children with international protection needs. The practical tools focus on guardians' daily tasks and responsibilities during the asylum procedure, including the temporary protection and the procedure under Regulation (EU) No 604/2013. **FRA** and the **EUAA** continue promoting and disseminating the tools to practitioners in EU Member States.

Threat assessments and situational information

Frontex continuously monitors and analyses the cross-border crime-related repercussions of the war in Ukraine. This includes assessing, in its relevant analytical products, the main threats at the EU external borders with Ukraine, as well as contributing, upon request, to **Europol's** threat assessments on the implications of the war for serious and organised crime.

In addition, **Frontex** plays an integral role in several EU coordinating platforms, sharing vital situational information, and ensuring coherent EU support. To address the threat of the smuggling of weapons, **Frontex** hosts a quarterly joint meeting of experts from Ukraine, Moldova and the EU countries neighbouring the region.

Furthermore, the **EUAA**, **Europol** and **Frontex** have established a communication channel to exchange relevant information on developments resulting from the war in Ukraine, ensuring the sharing of up-to-date information and facilitating coordinated action where necessary. This continuous information exchange supports **Europol** both in monitoring the potential implications of the war on serious and organised crime and terrorism, and in issuing threat assessments with contributions from the abovementioned JHA agencies and **Eurojust**.

Alignment of border management, asylum and reception standards in the pre-accession context

Frontex and the **EUAA** have initiated a dialogue with the **European Commission** to secure financing for a new capacity-building project that would support the Ukrainian authorities competent in border management, asylum and reception. In the border-related component, the initiative would provide support to the Ukrainian partners to maximise their preparedness to renew operational cooperation with Frontex.

Frontex would provide advisory support to increase information exchange and risk analysis capacities of national actors, aiming to boost their competence to perform border control in full respect of fundamental rights and EU standards. The **EUAA**, in its role as the EU centre of expertise on asylum, would contribute to the project by supporting Ukraine in strengthening

asylum, reception and protection-sensitive migration management in line with the EU asylum *acquis* and European standards. In the context of Ukraine's EU perspective and the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, the **EUAA** would provide technical expertise to enhance the capacity of the relevant Ukrainian authorities to manage mixed migration flows, ensure access to asylum procedures, and apply fair, rights-based and efficient asylum processes at borders and within the territory.

European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL)

The activities of the TOPCOP II project, implemented by CEPOL, equip partner countries with the skills to effectively respond to organised crime and criminal threats. The war continues to prompt training activities to be tailored to the specific needs of Ukraine.

The project addressed hybrid threats stemming from Russian aggression through a workshop for Moldova and Ukraine, focusing on disinformation and manipulation, threats to the democratic process, mass destabilisation and provocation. This resulted in a set of recommendations to strengthen cooperation on countering hybrid threats. Further support to Ukraine in this domain is foreseen.

TOPCOP continues to promote the participation of Ukraine alongside other EU candidate countries in EMPACT. Its trademark initiative, the EMPACT Support Network, organises thematic activities and is developing a manual for EMPACT actors in the Eastern Neighbourhood supporting the effective engagement within this EU security initiative.
To promote operational harmonisation, interoperability and effective participation in the EMPACT Joint Action Days (JADs), the project published the JAD Handbook specifically tailored for non-EU countries. It provides users, also from the Ukrainian law enforcement services, with a thorough understanding of coordinated actions. A training, co-organised with EMPACT for EU Member States and Eastern Neighbourhood countries, strengthened the capacities of financial analysts and asset recovery specialists on crypto assets.

Ukrainian law enforcement services continue to participate and pro-actively engage with the training and networking opportunities offered, demonstrating commitment to integrate training curricula into their national training system, thus aligning with EU-standards with TOPCOP II's support. On the topic of *crypto assess*, a training for Ukraine equipped participants from the country's law enforcement services with advanced investigative skills and analytical techniques to trace illicit crypto transactions. Ukrainian law enforcement participated in the project's training programmes on combatting migrant smuggling and the use of Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) techniques, enhancing operational and investigative capabilities and contributing to the further development of international collaboration channels.

Committed to supporting Ukrainian law enforcement training needs and responding to recurring enquiries about opportunities for engagement with CEPOL, TOPCOP II co-organised with the European Union Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine) the second roundtable seminar to raise awareness about the project's activities for the benefit of Ukraine. The event informed about online training modules translated into the Ukrainian language with the support of the mission.

Supported by EUAM, CEPOL hosted a webinar with the aim of strengthening Ukraine's capacity to prevent and combat illegal firearms trafficking in the context of the Russian aggression. On the topic of firearms, the project enabled the participation of a Ukrainian delegation in the EU Support Hub Moldova meeting on 'Countering trafficking of firearms' and 'Small and Light Weapons'. Ukraine's participation provided a first-hand operational and

threat-based perspective on the threat of firearms stemming from Russia's war of aggression, contributing to an informed EU response.

In addition to specialised external projects, CEPOL also supports Ukraine through its standard training programmes, which are designed for EU Member States but extended to Ukraine as an EU candidate country. Under this framework, Ukrainian law enforcement officers are invited to participate in training activities focused on serious organised crime, counter-terrorism, cross-border law enforcement cooperation and fundamental rights in policing.

In the reporting period, TOPCOP II trained 214 Ukrainian law enforcement officers, while a total of 118 Ukrainian additional officers benefitted from CEPOL's regular, non-project-based training activities, delivered both onsite and online. To facilitate participation, CEPOL provided financial assistance, including coverage of international travel costs.

European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

National authorities of Ukraine, civil society and international organisations working in the country regularly liaise with EIGE, use EIGE's tools and resources and participate in the agency's activities, particularly, in the areas of gender equality monitoring and gender mainstreaming.

In March 2025, Ukraine launched its first national Gender Equality Index in accordance with the methodology developed by EIGE. The initiative was financially supported by the European Union and implemented by the Ukrainian Women's Fund, in cooperation with EIGE, the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the Office of the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine and the Apparatus of the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy. According to the results, Ukraine would rank in 20th position among EU Member States with a score of 61.4 out of 100 points, where 100 represents full gender equality. The average EU score is 70.2 points. It has the best results in the domains of Health, Money and Time.

As the EIGE Gender Equality Index methodology was updated during 2025, the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, civil society and international partners were invited to an EIGE workshop in February 2026 to introduce them to the new methodology and facilitate further Gender Equality Index releases. Ukraine was included in the mapping of available data sources and indicators to assess the visibility of index production in accordance with the revised methodology. Following the mapping, EIGE assesses that Ukraine should be able to produce the next Gender Equality Index iteration in late 2026 or 2027.

EIGE has developed a Gender-Sensitive Parliament Toolkit which is relevant for both EU and pre-accession countries. In 2024, EIGE supported the Ukrainian Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) by introducing the tool and facilitating its use to monitor gender-sensitivity of the institution's organisation and working procedures. An assessment carried out with the use of the tool, and finalised in early 2025, revealed that the Ukrainian Parliament has a gender sensitivity score of 41.8 points where a score of 100 represents the highest-level of gender sensitivity. The score aligns well with the average of national parliaments across EU Member States.

In May 2025, EIGE published the policy brief 'Addressing gender-based violence in migration: How to strengthen national action plans on Women, Peace and Security across the EU', with direct relevance for Ukraine. The brief contains the results of an EIGE project regarding opportunities for strengthening the protection of women and girls who are migrants, asylum seekers or refugees from gender-based violence through national action plans (NAPs) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) under the UN SC Resolution 1325. The policy brief analyses the potential of the NAPs on WPS as instruments to prevent gender-based violence and empower and protect women and girls in migration settings.

In July 2025, EIGE launched the European Union-funded project 'Increased capacity of EU candidates and a potential candidate in the Western Balkans and Türkiye to monitor and mainstream gender equality (2025-2029)'. While Ukraine is not the primary beneficiary of the action, EIGE regularly invites the Ukraine national authorities and international actors working in Ukraine, particularly UN Women, to observe project events and activities to improve awareness about EIGE's work and facilitate alignment with the EU gender equality *acquis*.

European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA)

In 2025, the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) further strengthened its long-standing cooperation with Ukraine, demonstrating continued solidarity and support. EUDA activities focused on actions supporting Ukraine to move closer to participation in the agency's work. The State Centre for Public Health of the Ministry of Health (CPH) continued to coordinate work on the Ukrainian side, with contributions from the Security Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and civil society organisations. Updated information is available on the EUDA webpage 'Our partner in Ukraine'. Ukraine remained an active beneficiary of the regional EU4Monitoring Drugs II (EU4MD II) project, funded by the European Union.

Institutional coordination

The State Centre for Public Health of the Ministry of Health took part in the EUDA annual geostrategic discussion with the EUDA Management Board on June 2025, ensuring that Ukraine's perspective was reflected in this EUDA key stakeholder forum.

EU-accession related actions: key developments in 2025

- *Contributing to the EUDA Roadmap for Enlargement partners*: Ukraine was invited to participate in the preparation of this roadmap, which will outline progress made and identify future steps to strengthen cooperation. The EUDA facilitated the participation of CPH representatives in a dedicated meeting with Enlargement partners held in September 2025 in Brussels.
- *Participation in EUDA expert networks*: Ukrainian specialists joined four of the five annual EUDA expert meetings relating to its five drug-related key epidemiological indicators and took part in the Reference group on drug markets and crime, helping to build shared understanding of trends affecting both Ukraine and the EU.
- *Reporting drug-related data using EUDA methodologies*: For the second year, Ukraine submitted drug-related data using the EUDA's standardised protocols for key epidemiological indicators. This process supports more robust national and European drug market analyses and helps identify gaps in national data collection. The EUDA organised guidance and follow-up online workshops. Ukrainian participants highlighted the value of this support for completing the reporting process.
- *Developing a national Early Warning System (EWS):* Building an effective EWS on new psychoactive substances (NPS) remained a priority. Four Ukrainian experts took part in a study visit to Slovenia, organised in the framework of the EU4MD II project. Meanwhile throughout 2025, the EUDA provided ongoing technical support. Ukraine also receives timely drug-related alerts through a dedicated virtual platform for third countries and attended the early-warning system meetings for external partners.
- *Engagement under EMPACT*: Two Ukrainian officials joined an expert workshop on emerging issues related to synthetic cathinones, held under the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) synthetic drugs and NPS priority. This provided an opportunity to exchange operational insights between EU Member States and Eastern Partnership countries.

Additional technical cooperation

Ukrainian representatives attended the 5th Meeting of Legal and Policy Correspondents for third country partners. One CPH representative received a bursary for the 2025 European Drugs Summer School. A Ukrainian police officer and a Ukrainian customs officer received financial support to attend CEPOL-Europol and CEPOL-Belgium specialised trainings. Many Ukrainian law enforcement officers also took part in online courses and webinars.

The EUDA provided financial support to ensure Ukraine's continued participation in the European Syringe Collection and Analysis Enterprise (ESCAPE) project and the launch its first wastewater study of drug metabolites. These were important steps toward understanding changing drug markets.

Throughout the year, Ukrainian experts presented national studies and findings alongside their EU counterparts, showing strong engagement and contributing to a shared European approach to drug-related challenges.

Support to EU Member States

A new research project to assess the availability and quality of drug treatment and harm reduction services for migrants arriving in Poland was launched. Drawing on the lessons learned from the recent experience, it aims to increase preparedness for any future developments in this area.

European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)

The EUAA has continued to support EU Member States in the implementation of the Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382. A dedicated section on the agency's response to the situation in Ukraine, can be consulted on the EUAA website here (regularly updated). A brief overview of the EUAA support is set out below.

Operational support

During the reporting period, the EUAA provided operational support to 12 EU Member States. In five of these (CY, EL, ES, IT, RO), the agency supported with the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) and other measures adopted due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This support *inter alia* consists of registration, information provision, interpretation services, early identification of persons with special needs and support to flow management. EUAA personnel supported the implementation of the TPD with more than 35 000 registrations throughout 2025.

Training

Between February 2025 and February 2026, 31 individuals (representing 31 participations) successfully participated in nine training sessions from the dedicated training package. A newly developed training on the TPD was created in response to the situation in Ukraine.

Information material and communication campaigns for Ukrainian nationals

The agency continued making information provision material available on its website, including leaflets, leaflets for children, booklets, a poster and a brochure in different languages, including Ukrainian, to allow new arrivals to access the information.

Analysis, reports and tools

Considerable efforts and support have been provided to Member States through the development and production of a number of practical tools, guides and recommendations and through the organisation of a series of meetings with technical experts on various topics. These topics include: reception, vulnerable groups, Country of Origin Information, country guidance or exclusion to exchange information on national practices and share lessons learnt.

The newly launched Database on International Protection in Europe (DIP) features a dedicated thematic area on temporary protection integrating all information about the national legal and institutional framework in 30 EU+ countries, procedural aspects and rights of beneficiaries.

The agency has also been producing different regular analyses and reports on temporary protection in the EU+ to ensure constant situational monitoring. The latest example is the ad hoc report on the Situation in Ukraine and Displacement to the EU+: Trends, Drivers and

Future Prospects released in September 2025. This draws on the EUAA's Early warning and Preparedness System data on the asylum situation, Eurostat data on temporary protection, EUAA Surveys of Arriving Migrants from Ukraine (SAM-UKR), a Gradus Research Company survey with Ukrainians in Ukraine, an interview with an expert and open-source information. Data collection within SAM-UKR is still ongoing and regular cooperation with Gradus has been established, allowing the EUAA to obtain insights into migration intentions and other matters of concern from Ukrainians living in Ukraine.

Furthermore, the special chapters on temporary protection under the Asylum Report 2023, 2024 and 2025 as well as the upcoming Asylum Report 2026, provide comprehensive insights into major developments in policies and practices, implemented by EU+ countries in response to persons fleeing the war in Ukraine.

The EUAA has also collaborated with the European Commission to support Member States in registering beneficiaries of temporary protection to the EU Temporary Protection Platform (TPP). Joint guidance was released to provide recommendations on how to record data on beneficiaries in the platform. It aims to increase the compatibility of registration data gathered across the EU and the efficient use of the platform by introducing a common approach. This guidance is a living document that is updated according to needs.

European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA)

Security and cybersecurity

eu-LISA has maintained regular contacts with other EU agencies in countries bordering either Ukraine or Russia (BEREC Office, EIGE, Frontex, CEPOL, ECHA), in order to analyse threat levels related to cybersecurity and to business continuity.

Furthermore, eu-LISA has stepped up the monitoring of possible risks and threats to its large-scale IT systems, as well as to the corporate infrastructure under its remit, communicating any relevant information to the appropriate parties.

Operational level

From the onset of the full-scale invasion, the agency has been actively supporting Member States, ensuring the uninterrupted availability of EU border-management systems. In the same vein, and in line with its mandate, eu-LISA attends and contributes on a regular basis to the meetings of the EU Migration Preparedness and Crisis Management Network.

Institutional cooperation

eu-LISA has been following closely developments in EU support to Ukraine, most notably relevant parliamentary debates.

Raising awareness

From a communication perspective, eu-LISA promoted the previous edition of the present paper through external and internal online communication channels: corporate website, social media, and its internal newsletter. The agency also encouraged staff engagement through small-scale charity initiatives supporting people in need in Estonia, which include Ukrainian refugees.

European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust)

Since the start of the Russian invasion, Eurojust has been at the forefront of supporting accountability for core international crimes committed in Ukraine.

Support to investigations

Eurojust provides operational, analytical, legal, logistical, and financial support to the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) set up between Ukraine and six EU Member States to enhance coordination in the investigation and prosecution of core international crimes allegedly committed in Ukraine. Given the scale and complexity of the crimes, the JIT has mainly focused its work on crimes committed at detention sites. Following a years-long investigation and close cooperation between the JIT parties, in 2025 the first charges and notifications of suspicions were presented in several states and trial proceedings have started in Ukraine. In early 2026, the JIT's mandate was extended by two years: the national judicial authorities, together with partners Eurojust, Europol and the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC-OTP), will now place additional focus on the illegal transfer of Ukrainian children and their deportation to Russia and Belarus. At the same time, Eurojust is ensuring that the work of the JIT remains aligned with over 30 cases opened at Eurojust by national authorities related to the war in Ukraine.

The JIT's work is supported by the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine (ICPA) and the Core International Crimes Evidence Database (CICED), both of which are hosted and managed by Eurojust.

The ICPA is a unique judicial hub that supports national investigations into the crime of aggression related to the war in Ukraine. Nearly all countries participating in the JIT have appointed their prosecutors and investigators to the ICPA. The prosecutors and investigators appointed to the ICPA regularly collaborate at Eurojust, where they benefit from tailor-made support. In December 2025, the ICPA was extended with a EUR 5 million contribution from the European Commission, ensuring the continuation of national investigations and laying the groundwork for the upcoming Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

Since becoming operational in 2023, over 10 000 evidence files from 17 countries were submitted to CICED. Additionally, CICED is used to actively support the work of the JIT, mainly by responding to requests for information. Eurojust stores, preserves and analyses the evidence relating to genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and related criminal offences. Eurojust then uses this evidence to identify potential overlapping investigations. Based on this structured analysis of the evidence, Eurojust provides tailored advice on various investigative and prosecutorial aspects of core international crime cases. This supports the competent national authorities in pursuing their own judicial proceedings.

Practical exchanges for judicial practitioners and other strategic initiatives

Prosecutors General and Directors of Public Prosecutions of EU Member States discussed challenges relating to violations and circumvention of EU sanctions towards Russia during the Consultative Forum meeting held at Eurojust in October 2025. Prior to the Consultative Forum meeting, the Prosecutors General of countries participating in the ICPA met with the Council of Europe in relation to the preparations for a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

Together with the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office, Eurojust co-chairs a workstream on national investigations as part of the Ukraine Accountability Dialogue Group. In 2025, the workstream focused on the use of open-source evidence in the investigation and prosecution of international crimes in Ukraine, as well as on legislative approaches to international crimes, practical application and legislative changes.

Eurojust hosts the secretariat of the European Network for investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (the Genocide Prosecution Network). This unique platform enables close cooperation between national authorities when investigating and prosecuting core international crimes by facilitating the exchange of operational information, experience and best practice. With observer status within the Genocide Prosecution Network since 2024, Ukraine was represented at the biannual meetings in 2025, where key developments in combating impunity were examined, including advances in prosecuting the crime of genocide and the impact of new technologies on investigations and prosecutions of core international crimes.

Support to the EU Freeze and Seize Task Force and sanction evasions

Eurojust continued to play a coordinating role in the EU Freeze and Seize Task Force, ensuring the efficient and coherent implementation of EU sanctions against listed Russian and Belarusian oligarchs.

Eurojust provides:

- support to operational sanction evasion cases;
- regular cross-checking of data;
- collection of relevant information from national authorities on ongoing or concluded judicial proceedings against the listed entities;
- mapping of legal and practical obstacles, as well as best practice;
- a coordinating role in the EU Freeze and Seize Task Force and participation in a subgroup on the exchange of best practices on investigations and confiscation, as well as in the Europol-led Operation OSCAR;
- advanced use of CICED regarding evidence of criminal offences related to core international crimes, including violation of sanctions/EU restrictive measures or any other crime.

European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)

Europol maintains strong operational support to Ukraine and continued close cooperation with the Ukrainian authorities in fighting serious and organised crime, cybercrime and terrorism. Cooperation is facilitated via the Ukrainian Liaison Bureau at Europol.

Europol's support to, and joint action with, Ukraine centres on:

- facilitating and enhancing the exchange of information among Ukraine, Member States and Third Parties and between Ukraine and Europol;
- providing operational and investigative support through its operational centres;
- deploying an average of 15-18 Guest Officers to the frontline EU countries neighbouring Ukraine and Belarus, as well as to Moldova (these officers provide crucial support for investigations and secondary security checks);
- delivering strategic support via threat assessments and analyses;
- providing capacity building to Ukrainian authorities through training opportunities.

Europol's operational and investigative support takes place along several lines of action, ranging from cybercrime, weapons and explosives, migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings (THB), drug trafficking (especially synthetic drugs), financial crime and the freezing of assets, as well as core international crimes (war crimes). Selected developments are mentioned below (not an exhaustive list).

Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) continues to work closely with Ukraine in the area of countering cyber-threats including in providing capacity building for example in the field of cryptocurrencies, the monitoring of the cyber threats and operational support such as Operation Eastwood of July 2025.

Europol has been supporting capacity-building activities in the field of weapons and explosives, and regularly receives records of lost, stolen, and seized weapons from Ukraine's competent authorities for cross-checking in its databases. Europol also supports the dedicated Operational Action within 'EMPACT Firearms' that focuses on strengthening cooperation with Ukraine to prevent weapons trafficking from the country to the EU.

Moreover, Europol continues supporting EU Member States in enforcing EU sanctions linked to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine through a 'Target Group Sanctions' (TGS) established in May 2024, within its European Financial and Economic Crime Centre (EFECC). The TGS is dedicated to identifying and disrupting criminal networks involved in sanctions evasion. Building on the work of Operation OSCAR, supported by Eurojust and Frontex, the TGS uses Europol's intelligence, analytical and financial-tracing capabilities to help investigators uncover illicit trade routes, track financial flows and detect related criminal activities, such as money laundering, customs fraud and document forgery. The TGS has already provided support to several initiatives at both strategic and operational level.
For example, in November 2025, Europol and OLAF established 'Project Transporter'.
Its aim is to jointly support Member States currently investigating potential breaches of EU

sanctions and to bring together expert investigators to enforce EU sanctions in relation to vehicle exports to Russia and Belarus.

As part of the support provided to investigations into war crimes committed in Ukraine, the European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) continues to analyse material linked to potential war crimes such as photos, pieces of video footage and witness statements. In addition, Europol continues to support the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) on alleged Core International Crimes committed in Ukraine with its full range of support services, including analytical, Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) and forensic support. Specifically on Open Sources, the OSINT Operational Taskforce Ukraine has already supported various prioritised OSINT requests in the framework of several investigations led by Ukraine, other countries, and the International Criminal Court (ICC). For example, in February and October 2025, Europol supported an operation led by the Moldavan and Ukrainian national authorities, targeting individuals suspected of having taken part in the war of aggression against Ukraine as mercenaries for the Wagner Group. The operation resulted in multiple arrests in Moldova and the seizure of documents, electronic devices, video material and photographic evidence.

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

On 10 April 2025, judges from the Constitutional Court of Ukraine (CCU) visited FRA, in a visit organised by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Secretariat Extra-budgetary Support Programme to Ukraine (SPU). FRA briefed them on the application and enforcement of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (EU Charter), including its interplay with the European Convention on Human Rights and FRA's Charter tools. Discussions also covered FRA's work on access to justice, with respect to criminal justice, including findings from FRA's report on the European Arrest Warrant proceedings and the Handbook on access to justice.

On 15 May 2025, FRA took part in the conference 'Deported Ukrainian children: European action' in Helsinki, organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Parliament of Finland. FRA contributed to a panel on the illegality of deporting Ukrainian children, accountability and restoration of justice, highlighting findings from its Ukraine-related and child rights work. The conference brought together European parliamentary assemblies, international organisations, research and civil society to coordinate joint efforts in support of deported children.

On 30 July 2025, FRA gave an online presentation on the judiciary and the EU Charter during the annual Summer School of the National School of Judges of Ukraine. The summer school is part of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH project 'Strengthening Ukraine's EU Alignment in the Rule of Law', which assists Ukraine in aligning its legislation with EU law in the areas of the judiciary, fundamental rights, justice, freedom and security.

In August 2025, FRA presented the agency and its work at the 2025 Summer course in European Law and European Integration, organised by the Kyiv Institute for European Integration in cooperation with the Ukrainian-American Concordia University. The programme, for Ukrainian government lawyers, policymakers, practising lawyers and law students, aimed to increase knowledge of the EU law's scope and requirements.

On 12 September 2025, FRA met the Ukrainian Parliament's Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets, to strengthen cooperation in the context of Ukraine's application to participate in the work of FRA as an observer. The Commissioner also addressed FRA staff on Russia's war of aggression and the human rights work of his Office.

On 25 September 2025, a delegation of 22 administrative judges and six commercial court judges, members of the Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ), visited FRA in an event organised by the Austrian Association of Administrative Judges (VRV). FRA shared its expertise on access to justice and the EU Charter.

In October 2025, a delegation of judges of the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court of Ukraine visited the agency organised by GIZ GmbH, as a follow-up of the visit by the Constitutional Court on 10 April 2025. The agency advised the delegation on the application of the EU Charter and on how the EU Charter is relevant to constitutional jurisprudence, as well as on the digitalisation of justice and migration. With the support of GIZ GmbH, the 2018 FRA report 'Applying the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in law and policymaking at national level - Guidance' was translated into Ukrainian.

FRA continued providing input, based on its regular data collection, to the EU Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint focus on Ukraine, led by the Commission, updating on temporary protection beneficiaries' residence status options across the EU Member States and challenges in accessing rights to education, housing, the labour market and healthcare.

In February 2026, FRA published its report 'Seeking Safety from War – Violence and rights abuses against women from Ukraine' based on a detailed, quantitative survey of women who arrived from Ukraine in Czechia, Germany and Poland due to Russia's war of aggression (the three EU Member States with the highest number of arrivals since 24 February 2022). The survey interviewed 1 223 displaced women from Ukraine, complemented by a number of in-depth interviews with victims of violence in each country. Results reveal very high rates of physical/sexual violence (25%); sexual harassment (51%) and potentially exploitative offers of transport, housing or employment (24%). Women also face barriers to health care, including mental and reproductive healthcare, while only 12% of violence victims report to the police. FRA 'opinions' (recommendations) in the report call on EU Member States to ensure gender-sensitive protection as well as access to justice and support beyond the expected end of temporary protection on 4 March 2027, including safeguards against forced return of violence survivors. EIGE and Eurojust participated in the Steering Committee that was attached to this work.

European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)

Within the EU JHA architecture, Frontex plays a key operational role in supporting Member States (MS) in managing the EU's external borders in crisis situations. In the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, Frontex activities are framed by the European Integrated Border Management (EIBM) concept, addressing both migration and security challenges and contributing to the EU's external dimension and overall crisis response.

Situational awareness and monitoring

Frontex's weekly reports are generated on key developments in Ukraine and the situation along the EU-Russian and EU-Belarussian borders. Cooperation in the field of risk analysis is maintained in the framework of the Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network (EaP-RAN). Furthermore, in 2025 and 2026, support has been extended under the 'Joint Operation Moldova', within the EUROSUR framework, through the establishment of a dedicated Specific Situational Picture. This aims to enhance situational awareness and facilitate data sharing for unauthorised border crossings and crime. In this context, advanced-level sessions on EUROSUR-derived services and products have been provided to the Moldovan authorities. Frontex continues EUROSUR-related capacity-building activities to support Ukraine in achieving the necessary level of preparedness for setting up and operationalising its own interagency coordination centre for national purposes. In the future, this centre could become part of the EUROSUR framework. To enhance understanding related to the cross-border criminal activities at the external borders with Ukraine, preparations have been launched to establish a Cross-Border Crime Cell (CBC Cell Ukraine). It will foster analytical work among competent experts from EU MS, Ukraine and other relevant stakeholders.

Operational support

Frontex has expanded operational assistance across the region to address challenges related to border security, migration flows and cross-border crime. This includes deployments via Joint Operations at EU external borders, particularly in Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Moldova. The deployed Standing Corps officers provide support to national authorities in areas such as border surveillance, registration and the screening of migrants, as well as vulnerability assessments. To the extent possible, the agency arranges deployments of the Ukrainian officers as Third Country Observers within Joint Operations hosted by MS. In this regard, the Frontex Fundamental Rights Office has also expanded its monitoring across the region, reflecting the expansion of the agency's operational assistance and its commitment to fundamental rights as part of EIBM.

Frontex assists the Member States in combatting a range of cross-border crimes, focusing on human trafficking and firearms smuggling. Collaborative efforts with agencies like Europol and Interpol bolster local authorities' capabilities. These coordinated actions contribute directly to improving the operational effectiveness of Member States and demonstrate the tangible impact of EU-level cooperation in addressing security threats linked to the war in Ukraine.

Frontex continues its dialogue with different Ukrainian authorities, including Ukraine's Border Guard and Police. It does so through visits and meetings aimed at identifying potential areas of support, in the current or future context, and by discussing cross-border crime threats affecting the EU and Ukraine. Frontex has also been supporting Ukrainian agencies in their active participation in relevant EMPACT activities. In the scope of document fraud activities, Ukrainian experts have been collaborating and contributing to the Frontex-INTERPOL Electronic Library Document System (FIELDS) content within Frontex organised workshops.

Capacity building

After implementing capacity-building activities financed by a EUR 12 million grant agreement for the benefit of the Ukrainian State Border Guards, Frontex continues offering different support streams to the national counterparts. These efforts contribute to the progressive alignment of Ukraine's border management practices with the EU *acquis* and Schengen standards, supporting Ukraine's broader EU integration path, including in the context of the EU enlargement policy.

As Frontex's mission is to promote inter-agency IBM cooperation and strategic planning, the agency is an active member of two high-level Interagency Working Groups in Ukraine: on the IBM Strategy and on Schengen governance. The agency also provided its tailored assistance for drafting the new IBM multiannual framework in the country. Frontex representatives periodically visit Kyiv to maintain a forward-looking dialogue and tailored training sessions are offered to the Ukrainian partners. The Ukrainian side also aspires to adhere to EIBM quality control standards. National experts have benefitted from insights and best practices shared by Frontex, the European Commission and EU Member States experts in relation to the Schengen Evaluation and Vulnerability Assessment principles.

Ukraine takes part in two networks in the area of training coordinated by Frontex: the National Training Coordinators Network and the Partnership Academies Network. Ukraine played an active part in updating and implementing the Frontex Common Core Curriculum for Border and Coast Guard Basic Training in the EU (CCC Basic). Furthermore, Ukraine is taking part in the CCC Basic Interoperability Assessment Programme. As one of its flagship initiatives, Frontex continuously supports the Ukrainian authorities in raising the skills and competencies of border guard officers serving at the country's Western borders with the EU. The agency continues to promote the 'Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs' within its outreach with Ukrainian counterparts. The Ukrainian beneficiaries have started to multiply their knowledge and skills among other national officers and Frontex mentors in that process.