

2024 eu-LISA Presidency of the JHA Agencies Network

Work Programme

In 2024, eu-LISA is holding the presidency of the Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network (JHAAN). In line with the recommendations of the “Assessment of the Justice and Home Affairs Agencies’ Network Report 2021”,¹ eu-LISA shall, during its chairmanship, continue close cooperation in the Trio Presidency format. Together with CEPOL and EUAA, eu-LISA is part of the first Trio Presidency team for the period 2022-2024.

Thematic priorities of the eu-LISA Presidency of the JHAAN

eu-LISA intends to centre the activities of its presidency around overarching and inclusive topics that are relevant to the entire Network. Considering the global trends that mark the decade, and building upon the thematic priorities of the Trio Presidency agreed in 2022, eu-LISA will continue with the themes where JHAAN’s work is still in progress, namely: digitalisation, security, resilience and implementation of the EU Green Deal. Within these topics, eu-LISA will focus on the aspects that are unique to its tasks and prioritise the streams where it can act as a driver for positive and tangible change.

In order to leverage the unique position of the JHAAN, as well as use the momentum expected from the upcoming appointment of new Commissioners for Home Affairs and for Justice, eu-LISA proposes as a new priority to define jointly within the JHAAN the key areas where initiatives could be put forward, or where additional efforts would be needed during the incoming Commission mandate.

Furthermore, eu-LISA will drive progress on other joint initiatives, such as the joint paper on JHA Agencies’ Contribution to EU Solidarity with Ukraine; the annual exchange on the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights; and other activities agreed by the Network. The Agency aims to continue with the JHAAN Staff Exchange Programme successfully introduced by EUAA in 2023. In addition, we will continue the Network’s efforts to enhance communication with its stakeholders about its activities.

eu-LISA proposes that during its Presidency of JHAAN the Network focus on four (4) priority topics:

-  **1. Digitalisation and innovation in the Justice and Home Affairs area;**
-  **2. Security, resilience, data protection, and training**
-  **3. Social responsibility and Green Deal for JHA Agencies; and**
-  **4. Identifying key JHA priorities to support the work of incoming Commissioners.**

¹ <https://eulisa.europa.eu/our-publications/information-material?RID=36>

eu-LISA will however remain flexible and is ready to adjust the Presidency's priorities should there be a need to respond to crises affecting the EU and its Member States.

1. Digitalisation, AI, and innovation in the Justice and Home Affairs area

eu-LISA will take forward the theme of digitalisation that has been among the central priorities of the past JHAAN Presidencies. Considering the fast digital advancement in the JHA domain and the Agency's role as a developer and integrator of Europe-wide systems, eu-LISA seeks to organise a variety of events addressing the use of new technologies as well as digitalisation-related challenges common to all, in order to foster exchange and cooperation between the JHA Agencies.

In particular, the activities will focus on the potential for using cloud services and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the JHA domain, as well as on biometrics and standardisation. For instance, as a topic which is pertinent to all Agencies, the potential and challenges of the use of AI in the Human Resources field will be explored.

eu-LISA will also emphasise the opportunities and changes that the Commission's proposal on digitalisation of travel documents and travel facilitation will bring to EU citizens.

Finally, this priority will also tackle the innovation dimension of digitalisation. Together with the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security we will explore the possibilities to familiarise the Network with the latest relevant outcomes of Hub's projects, as well as the creation of a joint platform for central knowledge repository and exchange.

The following events and activities are planned in order to implement the digitalisation and innovation priority:

High-level events

- **eu-LISA Annual Conference and side-event** (tentative topic: *Digitalisation and the future of JHA*; JHA Agencies will be invited to contribute)
- **Two eu-LISA Industry Roundtables** ("*Going to the Cloud: Why it matters for the EU public sector and how to make it work*"; JHA Agencies will be invited to contribute)

Workshops

- **Online workshop on digitalisation activities and cloud practices in the JHA Agencies**
- **Online workshop/lunch talk on the opportunities and challenges of generative AI**
- **Workshop on e-learning and supporting technologies**
- **Online workshop on AI in HR** (*Potential and challenges of the AI use; example of Eletive platform in HR*)
- **Online workshop on digital travel** (potentially to be organised jointly with DG HOME and Frontex, introducing the changes that the new initiative will bring to EU citizens as users of digital documents, as well as to the work of the relevant JHA Agencies implementing the digital travel initiative)

Enhancing cooperation:

- **Fostering cooperation with the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security** (familiarising JHAAN with the Compliance Check tool for AP4AI, with a view to the checks needed for the implementation of the upcoming EU AI Act; creating a joint JHAAN-Innovation Hub platform for central knowledge repository and exchange)

2. Security, resilience, data protection, and training

The overall increase of security risks, cyber threats and crises has strengthened the need for an enhanced security and resilience posture by the JHA Agencies. Under this priority, eu-LISA aims to foster cooperation between Agencies within the informal JHA Security Officers' Network set up in 2022. The collaboration shall be focussed on areas that are of importance to the JHA community. It would enable resource-sharing between Agencies and sharpen their crisis-response capabilities. It would not overlap with the security-related cooperation taking place in the framework of other EU groups.

Relevant themes include the implementation of the tasks deriving from the EU Information Security and Cybersecurity Regulations²; resilience in the JHA area (business continuity and disaster recovery); and joint risk assessments.

Finally, under the data protection theme, matters of common importance to the JHA Agencies will be discussed. The Data Protection Officers (DPOs) will tackle the topics of EDPS audits and their follow-up; data protection aspects of the use of AI, in particular in respect of processing biometric data; and the EU-US Data Privacy Framework. In addition to the two JHAAN DPO Working Group meetings, eu-LISA will take the lead in organising an annual meeting of the EDPS-EUI DPOs Network.

The planned activities and events under this priority include:

High-level events:

- **Joint Meeting of the Europol Security Committee and the eu-LISA Security Officers Network** (other JHA Agencies shall be invited to participate as observers)
- **EDPS-EUI DPOs Network meeting**

Joint exercises:

- **Crisis Management Exercise** (JHA Agencies will be invited to participate as observers or participants to the annual Business Continuity Exercise on one of the Large-Scale IT Systems)

Meetings:

- **(informal) JHA Security Officers Network meetings**
- **Security Officers Network meeting**
- **WG on ICT and Cybersecurity meeting**
- **WG on Data Protection meetings**

² REGULATION (EU, Euratom) 2023/2841 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 13 December 2023 laying down measures for a high common level of cybersecurity at the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Union

3. Social Responsibility and Green Deal for JHA Agencies

Building upon the JHAAN Statement on implementation of the EU Green Deal, and the activities carried out by the JHAAN Presidencies since 2021, eu-LISA will continue taking forward the Agencies' joint efforts aimed at sustainable and climate-neutral solutions.

The topic will be linked with social responsibility, bringing into focus actions that can benefit both our environment and our societies. Our activities will also promote inclusion, diversity, and gender balance in our organisations and within JHAAN. In line with the new HR Strategy of the Commission, we will organise a workshop targeted at enhancing cooperation among HR professionals in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Under the greening aspect of this priority, we will focus on the use of AI for optimising the energy efficiency of our office buildings; introducing practical solutions for the assessment of this efficiency; and launching work on a scientific paper on green data centres. All the listed activities form also part of the implementation of the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) that is in progress in several JHA Agencies, including eu-LISA. To create synergies in the EMAS registration process, a dedicated workshop will be organised to share expertise and best practices. Considering the growing importance of greening efforts, eu-LISA suggests establishing a list of Agencies' experts to facilitate the exchange of information and current trends. Close cooperation with the EUAN Greening Network is envisaged.

Activities foreseen under the social responsibility and greening priority:

Workshops and lunch talks:

- **Workshop on diversity, equity, and inclusion**
- **Online workshop on the EU Green Deal and the JHA Agencies**
- **Lunch talks: Current trends in energy-saving solutions** (eu-LISA's new projects on AI use in this field)
- **Lunch talk: Presenting a platform for real-time building performance audit** (presented by TalTech which is piloting the solution)

Meetings:

- **JHAAN Contact Points meetings**

Enhancing cooperation:

- Closer discussion among **JHAAN Contact Points** and cooperation with the EUAN Greening Network
- Launch of the work on a joint research paper on **green data centres**

4. Identifying key JHA priorities to support the work of incoming Commissioners

eu-LISA proposes to establish dialogue with the incoming Commission as early as feasible, offering the JHA Agencies' expertise for the shaping of its Work Programmes. To implement this initiative, eu-LISA suggests organising a series of **Executive Director-level workshops** aimed at identifying the key priorities and potential new initiatives in the JHA field that new Commissioners might also want to prioritise during their mandate. The main outcome of such workshops would be a joint position paper to be submitted to DG HOME and DG JUST.

Activity under this priority:

- **Series of ED-level workshops**