



European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial matters (EJN-civil)

Information provided by the EJN-Civil

July, 2014

A. General information

Name of network	European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial matters (EJN-Civil)
Date of constitution	2001
Legal Statute	Council Decision No 2001/470/EC of 28 May 2001 amended by Decision No 568/2009/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 June 2009
Legal Seat	European Commission DG Justice, Unit A.1 (Civil Justice Policy) Rue Montoyer 59, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Website	http://ec.europa.eu/civiljustice/index_en.htm

B. Goals of the network

The EJN-civil is a flexible, non-bureaucratic structure, which operates in an informal way and aims to simplify and strengthen judicial cooperation between Member States to the benefit of citizens and businesses in cross-border cases.

The Network aims to improve, simplify and expedite effective judicial cooperation between Member States in civil and commercial matters. The EJN-civil is a concrete and practical response to simplify cross-border access to justice and judicial cooperation.

It supports national central authorities established by specific Union law instruments and facilitates contacts between different courts through a network of national contact points.

The EJN-civil improves the practical application and implementation of EU civil justice instruments. The EJN-civil became the most important tool for judicial cooperation in the area of EU civil justice instruments.

The EJN's activities are based on:

- a. direct contacts and case handling between contact points;
- b. informing the public on cross-border access to justice via factsheets and publications available at the European e-Justice portal in all Union languages;
- c. evaluating and sharing experience on the operation of specific Union law instruments in matters of civil justice;
- d. regular meetings of the Contact Points (mainly in Brussels), including Central Authorities meetings under the Brussels IIa Regulation and Maintenance Obligations Regulation.

In order to promote access to justice, using the information supplied and updated by the contact points, the EJN has put in place a specific website containing legal information for the general public. The content of the website is available in all Union languages and is in the process of being revised in the framework of its current migration into the European e-Justice Portal.

C. Membership structure of the network – Overall number of current members (with a breakdown by nationalities)

Members:

The EJN-civil is composed of contact points and bodies from the EU Member States of the European Union. Denmark does not participate in the EJN-civil.

In July 2013, the 503 members of the EJN-civil fall under the five categories mentioned below.

The Network is composed of:

- 113 contact points designated by Member States;
- bodies and central authorities specified in Union law, 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.

The contact points play a key role in the EJN-civil Network. They are available to contact points of other Member States and to local judicial authorities in their Member State. They are also at the disposal of authorities provided for in Union or international instruments relating to judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters. The contact points assist these authorities.

D. Governance and bodies of the network

The European Commission operates the secretariat of the Network. The selection of items to be discussed and dealt with in the network is done informally and directly between the Commission and the EJN Contact Points.

E. Brief resume of the judicial training activities developed (if applicable) by the network

Concerning activities on judicial training, the EJM contact points are regularly informed on activities on EU-level relating to training. Also the EJM-civil's legal basis (Council Decision No 2001/470/EC as amended by Decision No 568/2009/EC) refers in Article 12a to relations with other networks and mentions in particular the EJTN. The cooperation with the EJTN is now deepened in the framework of the current Pilot project.

F. Highlight of the network's statutory provisions that make reference to judicial training / Concerns of the network referring to judicial training

The Network shall maintain relations and share experience and best practice with the other European networks that share its objectives, such as the European Judicial Network in criminal matters.

The Network shall also maintain relations with the European Judicial Training Network with a view to promoting, where appropriate and without prejudice to national practices, training sessions on judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters for the benefit of the local judicial authorities of the Member States.

G. Brief resume of the trends of cooperation and/or regular contacts established by the network with major judicial networks involved in the current project

Concerning activities on judicial training, the EJM contact points are regularly informed on activities on EU-level relating to training. Also the EJM-civil's legal basis (Council Decision No 2001/470/EC as amended by Decision No 568/2009/EC) refers in Article 12a to relations with other networks and mentions in particular the EJTN. The cooperation with the EJTN is now deepened in the framework of your project. The EJTN Secretary General, Mr. Pereira participated at the last EJM annual meeting in Brussels on 29 January 2014. To support that exercise, the EJM created a small task force composed of the Contact points from DE, FR and PT which is consulted on developments relating to the current EJTN project. Based on Art 12a of Decision No 2001/470/EC as amended by Decision No 568/2009/EC, the EJM-civil also maintains informal relations with other judicial/legal practitioner's networks such as IberRed, the European Notarial Network (ENN/CNUE), the European Chamber of Judicial Officers and Union International des Huissiers de Justice or the European Bar Council CCBE.

Source: Pilot Project - European Judicial Training; "*Lot 4 – Promotion of cooperation between judicial stakeholders concerned by European judicial training*", carried out by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)