**Council of the
European Union**

Brussels, 14 January 2016
(OR. en)

5131/16

**DAPIX 3
ENFOPOL 6
CRIMORG 4
ENFOCUSTOM 5**

NOTE

From:	Belgian delegation
To:	Working Party on Information Exchange and Data Protection (DAPIX)
No. prev. doc.:	5709/1/12 REV 1
Subject:	Police and Customs Cooperation Centres (PCCC) - European Dimension (IMS V / action 7)

1.   Introduction

The Council Conclusions on a renewed Information Management Strategy for EU internal security (15701/1/14 JAI 897 DAPIX 175 CRIMORG 109 ENFOPOL 372) set out that steps should be taken to develop and, where necessary, update a detailed action list in order to fulfil the overall aims and objectives of the strategy.

Action 7 on the 5th action list concerns the support of the further development of Police and Customs Cooperation Centres (PCCCs). The current document presents a concise plan for the definition of a programme for the implementation of the project.

This programme is intended to serve as the reference document as regards the key aspects of the definition of the programme for the project, including the objectives, the scope, the main actors, the activities, the timelines and the deliverables.

2. Context

The role played by the PCCCs in cross-border police and customs cooperation is constantly increasing. The "Paris Declaration" of 29 August 2015[1] of the Ministers for the Interior and /or Justice and the Ministers of Transport from BE, DE, IT, LU, NL, ES, UK and CH underlined, in particular, to strengthen 'the collaboration already developed within the Police and Customs Centre for Cooperation, real kingpins of the cross-border fight against criminality'.

PCCC matters and the development of a PCCC model were specifically mentioned in the Stockholm programme. The renewed European Union Internal Security Strategy (ISS)[2] reiterated the need for the stepping up of information sharing and operational cooperation, and the ensuing ISS implementation paper [3] underlined the goal to further strengthen the European dimension of PCCCs in view of exchanging expertise.

PCCCs obtain tangible and immediate results and meet operational needs; they provide an efficient answer to the problems generated by the differences in structure and competencies between diverse respective police and customs organisations, as well as to the difficulties of communication caused by language barriers; requests addressed to the PCCCs are dealt with within extremely short deadlines and without unnecessary formalities; they are geographically close to the requesting services and know the distinctive features of their border area.

It is generally estimated that the PCCCs in Europe exchange on average one million pieces of information per year.

3. Achievements of Action 7

3.1 SIENA in PCCCs

SIENA has been developed by Europol to offer solutions for the changing legal, business and technical environment to improve the cooperation between law enforcement authorities of Member States, Europol and Europol's cooperation partners.

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[1] 11594/15 JAI 622 COSI 102 COPS 262 ENFOPOL 226 COTER 117 SIRIS 54 FRONT 168 TRANS 265
[2] 9798/15JAI 442COSI 67
[3] 10854/1/15 COSI 94 CATS 74 JAI 559 ENFOPOL 207 ENFOCUSTOM 73 DAPIX 125 SIRIS 48 GENVAL 25 CORDROGUE 58 DROIPEN 80 COPEN 198 FREMP 159

At the first PCCC seminar in Brussels on 27 October 2010, the representative of Europol suggested putting SIENA (Secured Information Exchange Network Application) at the PCCCs' disposal in agreement with the respective national authorities. It was noted that SIENA within PCCCs would not imply that the PCCCs exchange or provide data to Europol databases.

PCCC Heerlen (EPICC) has tested the use of SIENA within a PCCC and since 1 January 2014 is using the Europol application for all information exchanges between its three delegations (BE/DE/NL).

SIENA is not fully dedicated for the use by a PCCC, but presents a lot of advantages:

- it's economic:

    - the software is free of charge

    - the staff is working on only one system (economy of time and material)

    - SIENA is easy to integrate in the existing IT architecture

    - information can be shared with national/central authorities with one record

- it's a quality product

    - it's a steady and secure system

    - it's user friendly

    - it can be used as case management system

    - it has an efficient search tool and gives the possibility to cross-match information

    - further developments are possible

In 2014, EPICC exchanged 65.662 messages via SIENA.

Siena is actually tested and/or partially used by several other PCCCs (Tournai, Thörl-Maglern, Dolga-Vas, Basel, …).

3.2 PCCC platform

In order to "to learn from each other" by exchanging knowledge, best practices and experience, a Platform for PCCCs has been created on the Europol Platform for Experts (EPE).

The EPE is a secure environment for specialists in a variety of law enforcement areas, enabling them to share - within their respective communities - knowledge, best practices and non-personal data on crime. The aim of this platform is to interact and collaborate with each other.

The PCCC Platform currently has 337 members and is one of the most active on the EPE. Several workshops on the use of this platform were organized in the past two years.

3.3 Meetings

Each year, a conference was held for PCCC coordinators. Several workshops relating to the tasks of PCCCs (analysis, information flow, ...) were also organized

3.4 PCCC "Guidelines"

The PCCC guidelines were updated by adding a new annex describing the possible role of PCCCs in the framework of cross-border crime analysis.

4. Updated objectives of Action 7

Despite the achieved results in the framework of Action 7, several initiatives can contribute to improve the further development of PCCCs.

4.1 Strategic objectives

- improvement of the way of working and the quality of service provided by PCCCs

- improvement of information exchange between PCCCs, the respective national central authorities and Europol

- promotion of the added value of the PCCC instrument in the EU

4.2 *Actions*

Item	Action(s)

Implementation of annex 5 of the "PCCC guidelines" ("Specific analysis of cross-border crime within a PCCC")	• workshop:
	  o participants: Europol, national central services and PCCCs;
	  o objective: defining the potential of each of these levels, the need for complementarity between them and the possibilities to mutually enrich the analysis to gain a complete picture of cross-border crime
	• exchanges (conference, workshop, ...) between PCCCs which are analysing cross-border crime

Implementation of SIENA in interested PCCCs	• propose the support of PCCC Heerlen to PCCCs that intend to test or implement SIENA:
	  o visit in Heerlen
	  o presentations at concerned PCCCs
	• survey the experiences and best practices of PCCCs using SIENA and promote the exchange of this experiences
	• promote a comparable/similar use of SIENA by PCCCs
	• support/promote the setting up of system interfaces to link national case management systems to SIENA

Harmonisation of information exchange in PCCCs	• survey the standards used in PCCCs for information exchange • organise workshops to exchange best practices and to draft recommendations for a role model information exchange standard, based on SIENA requirements and taking into account UMF references as well as the requirements to include SPOCs and the possibilities of the potential use of Europol data bases
Exchanges of best practices between PCCCs	• organise the annual conference for PCCC coordinators • organise workshops and trainings on specific PCCC issues • stimulate PCCC staff exchanges
Strengthen customs' involvement in PCCCs	• conduct a survey of the situation in the PCCCs on the composition of their delegations and on the presence of the customs • exchange of best practices in this matter

4.3 *General timeline*

The duration of these actions covers the next three years.

4.4 *Deliverables*

Regular reports to DAPIX