



Brussels, 7 July 2022  
(OR. en)

11137/22

JAI 1017  
COSI 194  
CRIMORG 100

**NOTE**

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From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	11502/21; 10591/22
Subject:	Strategic Guidance for funding of EMPACT activities in 2023

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Pursuant to Europol's proposal for funding of EMPACT activities in 2023 and their request for strategic guidance as set out in document 10591/22 and based upon discussions and agreement on the Europol's proposal at the COSI SG meeting on 4 July 2022, delegations will find below strategic guidance for EMPACT funding for 2023.

The strategic guidance is issued in order to facilitate the drafting procedure of the 15 Operational Action Plans (OAPs) and to inform the Drivers about the allocated funding per each OAP.

## Strategic Guidance for funding of EMPACT activities in 2023

1. Enable Member States to access the entire amount of 4 million EUR assigned to the Europol budget for EMPACT in 2023, via grants.
2. To maintain the two current strands of EMPACT funding, namely (1) high-value grants (HVGs) which can be applied for following the validation of the 2023 OAPs by COSI/COSI SG and which will be presented as an annual call for proposals that will close at the end of 2022 and (2) low-value grants (LVGs) which may finance actions of an operational nature and can be applied for once the call is published in January 2023 until the closing of the call at the end of November 2023.
3. To transfer all unallocated and unspent funds from the HVGs and where possible also from LVGs to the budget of the LVGs. Europol should provide COSI SG with an additional update of unspent LVGs in September 2023 highlighting Europol's intended use of the unspent funds.
4. With regard to the division of the funds between the grants, delegations agreed to Europol's proposal that EUR 3 million will be allocated to HVGs and EUR 1 million to LVGs. It is important that the funds that will be recovered from unspent grants, thus including both HVGs and LVGs, will be transferred into the LVG pot in 2023.
5. With regard to the distribution of the HVG funding amongst the OAPs, the Presidency proposes, in line with Europol's suggestion, an equal distribution of HVG funds for 2023 which equates to EUR 200,000 per each of the 15 OAPs. Drivers are encouraged to take other funding possibilities into account.
6. In addition to the grant regime, EMPACT funding may be sought from the Europol budget for operational meetings that will take place in Europol as well as strategic meetings as outlined in the EMPACT terms of reference (including OAP fine-tuning workshops, kick-off meetings and two national EMPACT coordinator meetings). Such meetings are directly funded and logistically supported by Europol in accordance with the rules applicable to the Europol Budget.