

## **Eurojust Adopts DOJ's Global JXDM**

In Europe, the large number of countries that lie in close proximity to each other elevates the difficulty that criminal justice officials have in apprehending and prosecuting criminals due to the complexities inherent with cross-border crime. In order to alleviate some of these difficulties, a new body (Eurojust) was established by the European Union in 2002 to enhance the effectiveness of the authorities within the member states (those countries holding membership in the European Union) when they are dealing with the investigation and prosecution of serious cross-border and organized crime. Eurojust aims to improve cooperation between the competent authorities of the member states; in particular, by facilitating the execution of international mutual legal assistance and the implementation of extradition requests.

Eurojust is the first permanent network of judicial authorities to be established anywhere in the world. Eurojust hosts meetings with translation facilities between investigators and prosecutors from different states dealing with individual cases at a strategic level and with specific types of crime. Eurojust fulfills a unique role as a new permanent body in the European legal arena. Its mission is to enhance the development of Europewide cooperation on criminal justice cases.

The necessity for Eurojust's ability to share information is clear. However, the complexities involved in accomplishing this information-sharing mission among 27 separate legal systems and 22 official languages are significant, to say the least. To meet this challenge and develop and build the initial information exchange system to serve all member states, Eurojust adopted the U.S. Department of Justice's ([DOJ](#)) Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) Justice Extensible Markup Language (XML) Data Model ([Global JXDM](#)).

"Eurojust is a relatively new organization and we are working to build up our case management system," said Jon Broughton, Head of Information Management at Eurojust. "When we needed a way to exchange information with our partners, our developer used Global JXDM and its accompanying toolset as a starting point."

The adoption of Global JXDM as a tool to improve information sharing and reduce development costs has already produced positive results for Eurojust. Software engineers at Eurojust report that the development time to build the initial exchanges to implement a European Union official arrest warrant was cut by 50 percent thanks to their adoption of Global JXDM in the development process.

With the success of Global JXDM extending to criminal justice agencies overseas, the word Global in Global Justice XML Data Model truly reaches its full potential.

Background information on Eurojust was retrieved from the Eurojust Web site at <http://eurojust.europa.eu/>