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COVER NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Group on Information Exchange and Data Protection (DAPIX)
Subject:	Interpol project on interoperability - A practical development for enhanced police cooperation within EU Member States

Delegations will find attached a note from Interpol on its project concerning a practical development for enhanced police cooperation within EU Member States.

Delegations are invited to discuss the concept note at the DAPIX meeting on 2 June.

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Interoperability

A practical development for enhanced police cooperation

within EU Member States

Proposal for the DAPIX

Brief Concept Note

"A pure police project"

"A project with tangible and sustainable results"

"A dynamic consortium"

"A cutting edge approach"

Background

Based on a high-level discussion between the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs and the President of INTERPOL (February 2013), INTERPOL supported by the European Commission developed the concept of working on interoperability of police information systems from the practical end-user perspective instead of an institutional perspective. The concept was further developed and presented during two DAPIX sessions (May 2013 by BE and March 2014 by INTERPOL) and the 2013 INTERPOL European Regional Conference (Budapest, May 2013).

So far the discussion can be summarized into a potential project with 1 to 4 pilot countries. The objective is to establish and specify the concrete needs for end-users and on this basis to prove the concrete feasibility of full interoperability of relevant systems on national level towards international systems as found appropriate. In other words, a project should enable an authorized police operator/investigator to query several systems through one single search and receiving hit(s)/no hit(s) from the systems according the identified business requirements. This concept envisages to start small with few pilot countries in order to increase the chance of reaching concrete outputs and outcomes which could then be part of a modeling exercise in another phase of the project.

Systems in Europe	In Europe, the institutionalized operators of police data use the following 'systems'[1]:
- National System(s);   - Schengen Information System (SIS 2);   - Europol: Siena and EIS (Europol Information System);   - i-Link from INTERPOL and INTERPOL system (Notices, Stolen Lost Travel Document, Stolen Vehicles, Stolen/Lost Weapons, …);   - INTERPOL's integrated solutions for easy access to INTERPOL data from national systems directly to INTERPOL's databases (technical solutions called MIND/FIND).
Developments	Currently, several developments are underway to facilitate the integration of the different sources of data to ease the work of a police operator willing to input or search police data or information. The current development aims at striving towards one search or one input being valid for several systems and thus saving time for the police operator as well as increasing the police efficiency (also in order to carefully allocate human and financial resources). Those developments which need be taken into consideration for pilot projects and can serve as a starting point include the following:
UMF2 (driven by Europol where INTERPOL is involved)
Siena (developed by Europol) – Extension in EU countries;
IXP (information exchange platform) – concept developed by Europol;
i-link users worldwide by INTERPOL.

Those developments are also included in the discussion in DAPIX, for EPRIS, for ADEP or on the European Information Exchange Model (EIXM) developed by the EU COM. |
| **Major Issue** | **To improve the end-users' direct access to police data available internationally.**

Thus, in order to improve the quality and efficiency of the police work, the national and international use of police data repositories, the authorized end-users when deemed appropriate, should be able to transparently use all the authorized available channels and consult all relevant data systems for their specific purposes while avoiding relevant information to be lost for further police/analytical law enforcement work in the 28 EU MS.

By facilitating the work of the end-users, it will consequently increase the quantity of relevant information for future analysis, especially for Europol. At the same time it is crucial to design proper data protection rules which safeguard privacy rights. |

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[1] See EU Commission Communication related to European Information Exchange Management and EU IMS

Day to Day Issues	The current situation where the end-user has to use parallel different systems on different computers (or screens) makes <u>the basic police work too complex, slow and incomplete</u>. Indeed, the daily issues for police organizations in the EU Member States are:

- No integrated approaches between systems and regional/international police organizations;
- Time consuming processes to get a full answer (need to consult different applications);
- Risks to allow a criminal/terrorist entering the EU territory due to a lack of integration of all available data in one search at borders;
- Lack of consolidated police searches/answers;
- Several data entries for the same individual increasing the risk of mistakes;
- The rules for using the existing channels of communication are not always sufficiently clear for the police operator and is mainly part of a strategic national decision to be applied in the daily police work which complicates even more the basic police work

The Concept

Summary of Issues	The situation today for the police services working in EU MS can be summarized by the fact that
	"The end-user cannot key once an information on a unique interface and receives answers from all the existing systems in Europe"
	It makes the work complicated, time consuming, not efficient and not enabling regional or international police organizations to play their role efficiently. On top of that, the police operator is supposed to know, which channel to use when (Europol, Frontex, INTERPOL, Liaison Officer,…), how and to integrate the changing rules depending on the type of crime.
Needs	The need is to implement the "***One Stop Shopping Strategy***"
	This means, to develop <u>the possibility of interoperability</u> between systems to enable a police operator to **input or search for police data or information by keying once the name of a person, the identifier of a vehicle,** where it is necessary and proportionate for his task … while integrating the use and choice of channels for communication as one tool into the user screen (artificial intelligence guided by the national rules). In other words, enabling to query all existing authorized police data repositories in a single search and making the police data available in a single entry.
Concept Idea	Through a consortium composed firstly by one to four EU MS, INTERPOL, and EUROPOL (on a voluntary base), to develop the whole concept of interoperability between national, regional and international police systems according an identified business need for one country to facilitate the basic police work and enhance the police efficiency in police data management and thus proving the usefulness of such a concept.
	Starting with one country (or maximum 4) will assure results in an acceptable timeframe. This could be part of a first phase.

Then, with lessons learned, a second phase with additional countries can be developed.

Finally, by modeling the solutions through two iterations (phase 1 and phase 2), it would be possible to present the concept for all EU MS to be adapted and tailored to the respective ICT environment of each country in accordance with the national legislations and rules.

Main Objectives

The project 'Interoperability' will embody as main objectives:

➢ To develop the concept of a unique key entry ('single sign-on') for a search in any relevant system (national, regional, international) while receiving a consolidated answer for at least one and maximum four EUMS;

➢ To integrate the police messaging into the concept in case of hits while respecting the rules and competencies of the regional/international police organizations (EUROPOL/INTERPOL), taking into account the respective national regulations and the concept of integrated coordination units / single points of contact (SPOCs);

➢ To develop the concept of a unique input of a police information/data from the police operator and make the information/data available to all authorized levels and police officers ideally through a unique search;

➢ To implement the concept in at least one EU MS (Mock-up);

➢ To adapt the solution based on lessons learned and implement it in 1 to 3 other EU MS (Phase 2);

➢ To model in order develop the framework to industrialize the solution (Phase 3).

Results – Methodology

Expected Results

The whole project will last at least for 30 months and will produce the following deliverables:

1. A concept of interoperable and integrated inflow and outflow of police data/information between end-users and between end-users and system(s) described in operational and technical terms, tested in one EU MS and then reusable in other EU MS (learning by experience) thanks to a developed and then available guide (operational and technical) (Phase 1);

2. A comprehensive package for interoperability directly applicable for EU MS and based on voluntary participation which avoid the creation of new legal instruments and can be implemented in additional 1 to 3 other EU MS (Phase 2).

3. A functional and technical vade mecum of interoperability of systems for the in- and outflow of police data from a user perspective with several national, regional and international systems (Phase 3).

Methodology	• Consolidation of the Consortium with the major stakeholders (INTERPOL, EUROPOL, EUMS 1, EUMS2, EUMS3, EUMS4, a European University, …) which will be part of the governing body for the initiative led by the EU MS agreeing to the test implementation; • The first year will be dedicated to the recruitment, planning and study; • The second year will be focused on developments; • The third year will test the concept in real situation 'Mock-up'(with one EU MS) • A follow-up project could enable adjustment, from mock-up to industrialization and knowledge transfer (including showcase) to prepare the Phase 2 for one to three EU MS. This methodology will include the following methods to reach the objectives: • 4 meetings/year of the consortium; • Modern frequent reporting with a board committee, reporting tools (project dashboard with deliverables, progress, expenditures, success factors, risk analysis,…); • Modern technics for ideas convergence; • Flexible coordination structure (minimizing human resources implications).
Requested to DAPIX	It is requested to the DAPIX : • To support the concept; • To identify the EU MS willing to participate in the consortium; • To follow-up the initiative through regular briefing at the DAPIX