

TREIO Training Toolkit for Enhanced European Judicial Cooperation

Policy Brief #5

Introduction

The 'TRaining on the European Investigation Order' (TREIO) Project¹, stemming from collaborative efforts between EXEC, EVIDENCE2e-CODEX, and e-Evidence Projects, aims to facilitate enhanced European judicial cooperation through comprehensive training initiatives. With a focus on the European Investigation Order (EIO) and its electronic exchange via the e-Evidence Digital Exchange System (eEDES)², TREIO seeks to standardize training across European Member States while addressing specific cross-border challenges.

Building up of the TREIO Training

TREIO's training strategy addresses the convergence of legal frameworks and digital tools, recognizing the need for a mindset shift and increased knowledge among judicial stakeholders. Through thorough needs assessment and consultation with key stakeholders and expert practitioners, TREIO identified key challenges, including the lack of standardized training, varied legal and operational practices across Member States, and underutilization of digital tools like eEDES.

TREIO Toolkit

The TREIO Toolkit serves as a comprehensive resource, providing modular and adaptable training materials suitable for diverse judicial stakeholders. It encompasses

¹ <https://treio.eu/>

² A system designed for exchanges of forms, documents and evidences under the EIO workflow, among other judicial cooperation instruments, under a project run by Directorate-General Justice and Consumers, Unit JUST.B.3, to the European Commission, also known as reference implementation software under Regulation (EU) 2023/2844 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2023 on the digitalisation of judicial cooperation and access to justice in cross-border civil, commercial and criminal matters, and amending certain acts in the field of judicial cooperation.





traditional training modules, e-learning resources, and the innovative eEDES Simulator, facilitating hands-on learning experiences. The Toolkit fosters legal understanding and technical proficiency by targeting judges, prosecutors, and administrative staff involved in EIO procedures.

Training Courses and Lessons Learnt

Throughout the project, TREIO conducted training courses across Member States, gathering valuable insights and experiences. Lessons learned from these sessions inform ongoing improvements and help avoid common pitfalls in future training endeavors. A dedicated space for sharing experiences and recordings of training sessions ensures continuous learning and dissemination of best practices.

Addressing Potential Issues and Questions

About potential issues and questions arising from the issuing and execution of EIOs, the training approach and content developed within TREIO act as a tool to bridge the gaps existing between practitioners concerning knowledge and mutual trust, facilitating communication and mutual understanding between judicial authorities. Issues addressed include questions regarding the scope and suitability of the EIO, the non-recognition or refusal of the EIO by the executing State, the need for timely involvement and intervention in urgent cases, and the application of specific investigative measures, including interception of telecommunications and gathering financial information from banks. Training initiatives within TREIO aim to equip judicial authorities with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate these complexities effectively, ensuring smoother execution of EIOs and fostering greater cross-border cooperation.

Transferability and Re-usability

The TREIO Toolkit is designed for widespread adoption and long-term sustainability. With freely accessible materials, stakeholders can tailor training initiatives to their national contexts, combining various tools to suit specific needs. The Toolkit's modular nature enables reusability across Member States, facilitating ongoing training efforts even beyond the project's duration.





Conclusion

The TREIO Training Toolkit represents a pivotal step towards harmonizing European judicial cooperation and optimizing the use of legal and technological tools like the EIO and eEDES. By promoting knowledge exchange, standardization, and digital proficiency among judicial authorities, TREIO contributes to a more efficient and effective cross-border investigative process. Moving forward, the Toolkit's transferable and re-usable nature ensures continued advancements in European legal cooperation.

Key Recommendations:

- Encourage Member States to adopt and customize TREIO Toolkit materials to their specific contexts.
- Emphasize the importance of ongoing training initiatives and knowledge sharing among judicial authorities.
- Foster collaboration between central and local authorities to coordinate and implement national training strategies.
- Promote awareness and utilization of digital tools like eEDES, alongside traditional training methods.
- Ensure continuous evaluation and refinement of training materials based on lessons learnt and evolving legal frameworks.

