



**EUROJUST**

European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation

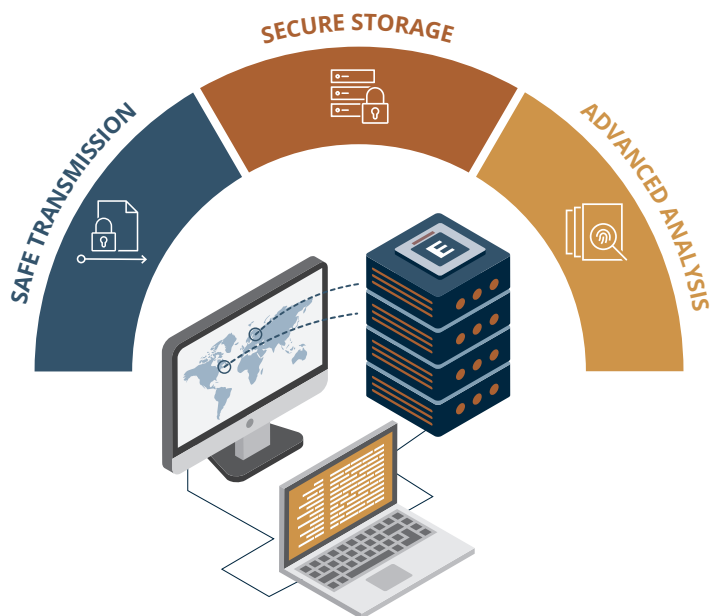
# Core International Crimes Evidence Database (CICED)

## What is CICED?

CICED is a unique, tailor-made judicial database set up by Eurojust to preserve, store and analyse evidence of core international crimes.

CICED's centralised approach supports national and international investigations by shedding light not only on individual offences but also on the systemic actions behind them.

CICED consists of three components:



In addition to the evidence itself, CICED also contains a register with information on who submitted the evidence, and the event and crime type it refers to.

## How CICED works



### Who can submit evidence?

- ▶ Competent national authorities from EU Member States and countries with Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust



### What types of evidence can be submitted?

- ▶ Photographs
- ▶ Video recordings
- ▶ Audio recordings
- ▶ Satellite and drone images
- ▶ Witness statements
- ▶ Victim testimonies
- ▶ Medical, forensic and military reports
- ▶ Battlefield evidence and other types of evidence



### How is evidence transmitted?

- ▶ Via secure file transfer



### How is evidence stored?

- ▶ Eurojust ensures secure storage and preservation of the evidence, in full compliance with applicable EU data protection rules



### What can Eurojust do based on CICED?

- ▶ Maintain a complete overview of all evidence collected
- ▶ Strengthen the coordination of national and international investigations
- ▶ Perform targeted searches for evidence related to a specific event or location
- ▶ Identify evidentiary gaps





## What can Eurojust do based on CISED?

- ▶ Identify parallel investigations
- ▶ Advise on prosecution strategies
- ▶ Facilitate evidence and information exchange on core international crimes
- ▶ Prepare thematic reports on specific aspects of core international crime investigations (e.g. on sexual and gender-based violence)



## What are the benefits?

- ▶ Centrally storing evidence from national judicial proceedings in one database allows for advanced analysis
- ▶ Based on this analysis, it is easier to determine a prosecution strategy with the greatest chance of success
- ▶ The early identification of parallel investigations leads to the more efficient use of resources and reduces the risk of legal errors
- ▶ Maintaining an overview of interviewed victims helps to avoid re-victimisation through repeated interviews
- ▶ Targeted searches for evidence result in faster and more effective national investigations
- ▶ The ability to securely store evidence away from the location of an armed conflict can prevent the loss of evidence

## CISED principles

1. Submitting evidence to CISED is voluntary.
2. Evidence or information about available evidence is not shared without the permission of the submitting authority.
3. CISED does not replace the existing rules for judicial cooperation: the actual exchange of evidence still requires the use of a *European Investigation Order*, for example.
4. Individuals, non-governmental or civil society organisations cannot directly submit evidence; this must be done through national judicial authorities.
5. Eurojust does not collect evidence or carry out forensic examinations itself.
6. CISED meets the highest ICT security standards and complies with Eurojust's robust data protection framework, overseen by the European Data Protection Supervisor.

7. CISED is a unique database and does not replicate existing initiatives: the scope is limited to digital judicial evidence and therefore excludes intelligence and big data.
8. CISED is not limited to the conflict in Ukraine, and can serve as a repository for evidence for any armed conflict investigated by Eurojust's partners.

## The urgent need for CISED

The war in Ukraine has triggered an unprecedented response from the international legal community. It is the most documented armed conflict in the history of humankind, and there are now Ukraine-related investigations ongoing in over 20 countries. With so many different stakeholders involved, the need for a central, secure repository of evidence soon became clear.

Consequently, the EU institutions agreed to extend Eurojust's mandate, and on 1 June 2022, Regulation 2022/838 entered into force, allowing Eurojust to set up the [Core International Crimes Evidence Database](#).

## The scale of the problem

Investigations face a fragmented and complex landscape. Thousands of events, countless pieces of evidence and multiple jurisdictions are involved. Evidence of core international crimes is located in many different countries and comes in various languages. Refugees who can provide victim or witness statements are scattered around the world. There are also different stakeholders involved in gathering and storing evidence: national police and judicial authorities, the International Criminal Court and non-governmental organisations. As a result of CISED, Eurojust is able to make crucial links between the evidence and ensure that the efforts of different authorities are not duplicated.

## Eurojust and the war in Ukraine

Eurojust has been supporting a [joint investigation team](#) (JIT) focusing on alleged core international crimes in Ukraine, as well as other national investigations, since March 2022. Eurojust hosts the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression, which operates within the JIT. The Agency also hosts the [Genocide Network Secretariat](#), with unique expertise concerning the prosecution of core international crimes, and contributes to the European Commission's [Freeze and Seize Task Force](#).