



**IT, SECURITY  
AND  
CORPORATE SERVICES**



# IT, Security and Corporate Services

The EPPO's IT, Security and Corporate Services unit continued, in 2023, the implementation of its two already ongoing major programmes: the **IT Autonomy Programme**, to offer a complete catalogue of administrative IT services fully managed internally, and the **Case Management System (CMS) Programme**, to further develop the digitalisation of the organisation in its core business area.

## IT AUTONOMY PROGRAMME

In 2023 the EPPO continued to prepare to gradually transition from a digital workplace provided by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Digital Services (DIGIT) to an EPPO-owned and operated solution. The resources needed to implement this important and necessary change were included in the EPPO's budget request for 2024.



## CMS PROGRAMME

The **CMS Programme's objective** during the 2023 year was to further **develop the EPPO's digital tools** to effectively and efficiently support prosecution operations, with a particular focus on enhancing and maturing the resilience, availability and adaptability of its components to the changing business needs of the organisation.

In the first quarter, the College prioritised the urgent need for additional analytical tools to allow efficient investigation work on major EPPO cases. New capabilities have been deployed and embedded in the analytical processes, to support ongoing cases. While the first set of tools remains limited, it allowed for the improvement of internal knowledge, and the development of a roadmap of business needs for long-term digital forensics and analytical systems.

The various projects related to interoperability with EU Member States and EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, initially targeted to deliver pilot implementations, could not be deployed as expected, due to a lack of budget and resources.

More efficient support for prosecution operations was developed via a pilot project, to be extended in 2024, to connect the National European Delegated Prosecutors' Assistants (NEDPAs) to the EPPO CMS. This is with a view to unburdening the European Delegated Prosecutors of administrative tasks, and creating the basis for more accuracy of case data between national case management systems and the EPPO CMS.

Other support tools for collaboration on case files and casework data have been introduced, or new features developed, and integrated with automatic machine translation, or digital signature components.

**From a technological perspective, the core underlying platform of the CMS had a major software upgrade,** and additional security controls are implemented on a continuous basis to maintain a high level of security of systems and data.

## SECURITY

In 2023, the EPPO focused on enhancing its security governance. With regard to the **security of the digital systems** used for the handling of operational and administrative data, the EPPO prepared a framework including new processes, roles and responsibilities and policies documenting the required security controls.

In addition, several risk assessments were carried out to assess the security framework of the digital systems used by the EPPO for the handling of administrative data. They supported the implementation of additional technical and governance measures to enhance the EPPO's security environment.

From a **cybersecurity** perspective, a 'red team exercise' was carried out with the support of CERT-EU – the Computer Security Incident Response Team of all EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies – aimed at testing the security incident response processes. This exercise allowed the EPPO to identify improvement areas, update existing processes and maintain user awareness.

Equally, from a **security awareness** perspective, in 2023 multiple information and cyber security sessions were carried out for EPPO personnel to ensure alertness to the latest threats that might impact EPPO information or systems.



Regarding **security coordination** and outreach, the EPPO completed, in 2023, the set-up of security contact points in all participating Member States. This is aimed at facilitating enhanced cooperation on security matters, in relation to staff and EPPO offices located in those Member States.

The EPPO also continued to participate in the **Cybersecurity subgroup** of the Interinstitutional Committee for Digital Transformation (ICDT), and prepare its readiness for the EU's new Cybersecurity Regulation 2023/2841, which was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU at the end of the reporting period.

In the context of **physical and personnel security**, the EPPO, in cooperation with the Central Office's host state, Luxembourg, carried out several updates to improve the security and safety of its premises, with similar ones expected in 2024. This was complemented by specialised training for EPPO staff, to increase preparedness for responding to urgent situations.

# CORPORATE SERVICES

In order to ensure the delivery of the EPPO's mission, several activities were carried out in terms of Corporate Services in 2023:

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A new building management company was onboarded, in cooperation with the host state, supporting the delivery of the EPPO's activities in the Central Office;

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Following refurbishment works carried out by the host state, the EPPO started to occupy two additional floors in its current premises, which were equipped with new furniture, IT equipment and other facilities;



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In order to address further business and security needs for its premises, the EPPO and the host state initiated, in 2023, a project called 'Phase IV', which includes the refurbishment of the remaining floors, as well as the improvement of security measures at the EPPO's Central Office;

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The EPPO signed a new Service Level Agreement with the European Parliament for shuttle bus services between Luxembourg and Brussels;

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Continuous delivery of day-to-day services related to building management, office management, mail management, cleaning and catering services also continued throughout the year, allowing the EPPO to carry out its operational activities and fulfil its mandate.

