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About the network

Portugal

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-----Engels

Contact Point

Portugal has designated a contact point for the EJN (European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters). The contact point is a judge appointed by the Supreme Council of the Judiciary (*Conselho Superior da Magistratura*) by means of a competitive selection procedure (*concurso*).

National Network

The following are part of the national network: central authorities as specified in EU legal instruments, other international legal instruments to which Portugal is a party or national legal provisions in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters; administrative authorities with responsibilities in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters; and professional associations that represent legal practitioners directly involved in the application of international and EU instruments relating to judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters.

The national network does not have any liaison judges or experts among its members.

National Members of the Network

In addition to the contact point, the national structure of the network has thirteen members:

Directorate-General for Justice Policy (*Direcção-Geral da Política de Justiça*)
Directorate-General for Justice Administration (*Direcção-Geral da Administração da Justiça*)
Directorate-General for Rehabilitation and Prison Services (*Direcção-Geral de Reinserção e Serviços Prisionais*)
Institute of Registry Offices and Notaries (*Instituto dos Registos e do Notariado, I.P.*)
Institute for Financial Management and Infrastructure in the Justice System (*Instituto de Gestão Financeira e Equipamentos da Justiça, I.P.*)
Council of Justices of the Peace (*Conselho dos Julgados de Paz*)
Social Security Institute (*Instituto de Segurança Social, I.P.*)
Committee for the Protection of Victims of Crime (*Comissão de Protecção às Vítimas de Crimes*)
A judge from the International Hague Network of Judges
Bar Association (*Ordem dos Advogados*)
Association of Solicitors and Enforcement Agents (*Ordem dos Solicitadores e dos Agentes de Execução*)
Notary Association (*Ordem dos Notários*)
Attorney-General's Office (*Procuradoria-Geral da República*)

Central Authorities

Of the above-mentioned members, the following are central authorities or entities competent to perform certain tasks provided for in EU law:

Directorate-General for Justice Administration – Ministry of Justice
Regulation (EC) No 4/2009 of 18 December 2008
Regulation (EU) 2020/1784 of 25 November 2020
Regulation (EU) 2020/1783 of 25 November 2020
Hague Convention of 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters
Hague Convention of 1970 on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters
Hague Convention of 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance
New York Convention of 1956 on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance
Directorate-General for Rehabilitation and Prison Services – Ministry of Justice
Regulation (EU) 2019/1111 of 25 June 2019
Hague Convention of 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
Hague Convention of 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children
Institute of Registry Offices and Notaries – Ministry of Justice
Regulation (EU) No 650/2012 of 4 July 2012
Social Security Institute – Ministry of Solidarity and Social Security (*Ministério da Solidariedade e da Segurança Social*)
Directive 2003/8/EC of 27 January 2003
Committee for the Protection of Victims of Crime – Ministry of Justice
Directive 2004/80/EC of 29 April 2004
Prosecutor-General's Office
Hague Convention of 2000 on the International Protection of Adults

Coordination of the National Network in a non-hierarchical system

In Portugal, the national network is not hierarchical. Coordination, which is the responsibility of the contact point, is based on voluntary cooperation between national members, who regularly participate in quarterly meetings organised by the contact point. Whenever the application of EU law requires changes to be made to the national system, meetings are held that are restricted to the national members concerned.
The network does not have expert members. If an issue requires the opinion of an expert, the contact point requests the cooperation of the most appropriate national authority on a voluntary and informal basis. All national members are regularly encouraged by the contact point to cooperate in the specific areas under their remit and responsibility in relation to judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters.
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