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**Borders:**  
 an enormous  
 obstacle for  
 governments,  
 quite the  
 opposite for  
 criminals



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# Boosting collaboration

National borders are a major obstacle in the administrative approach against organised crime. Every country has its own rules, legislation, and languages, and there are great differences in administrative powers and responsibilities. Another important factor is the awareness of organised crime and, more specifically, the administration's role in the fight against it. Criminals intentionally use this to explore the boundaries.

The EURIEC aims to boost the cross-border administrative collaboration against organised crime between Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands. We achieve this by building networks and discussion platforms, raising awareness about the administrative approach against cross-border organised crime, and offering support in case studies.

In doing so, we closely collaborate with the Belgian ARIECs, our German Partners, and the Dutch RIECs. This enables experts from participating countries to connect faster and leads to improved general awareness about the administrative approach against organised crime.



## Awareness and case studies

During the first phase of the EURIEC, the period of 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2021, we identified the opportunities and obstacles to cross-border information exchange.

### Case studies

Based on over 130 case studies, we gained insight into the opportunities and obstacles regarding the cross-border exchange of information for administrative purposes. We published these insights in reports and practical guides that are available at [www.euriec.eu](http://www.euriec.eu).

### Awareness

We employed various awareness activities due to the differences in awareness about the administrative approach between Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands -- varying from establishing networks and organising gatherings, presentations, and colleges, to publishing (scientific) articles, sample letters and an overview of professional terminology.

## Legislation and organisation

Although EURIEC has given cross-border administrative collaboration an impetus since 2019, the need for international cooperation and information exchange for administrative purposes remains.

During the second phase of the EURIEC, the period of 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2023, we will - in collaboration with our Belgian, Dutch and German partners - focus our efforts on three areas, in addition to offering support in case studies and increasing awareness:

- Initiating changes to current and new legislation and regulations at the national and European level.
- Continuing the development of structural consultation platforms.
- Increasing awareness about the need for information exchange for administrative purposes at the international level.

### A brief note on the administrative approach

The fight against organised crime is usually seen in the context of the criminal justice approach. An important addition to this is the administrative approach: an integral approach, whereby local administrations (usually municipalities) employ repressive, proactive, and preventive tools to impede and frustrate organised crime. This is often done in collaboration with partners like the police and the public prosecutor.