

Procedural Aspects and Practice of Joint Investigation Teams

Maja Veber Šajn, M.Sc., Judicial Councillor at the Supreme State Prosecution Office of the Republic of Slovenia

The investigation of international cross-border crime is much more effective if there is a direct cooperation between the authorities of the states in which the criminal act is being investigated. The joint investigation team (JIT) is an operational investigation team, set up with the aim of investigating a complex case with an international element, and composed of the authorities from all involved states. The main point of joint investigation teams is cooperation of investigation teams (police officers and prosecutors) of two or more states, working together on the same case for a limited period of time under the conditions specified in a written contract. The primary advantage of investigating with joint investigation teams is the direct exchange of information between JIT members without the need for formal requests.

The joint investigation team should be set up in cases where a criminal act is connected with at least two states, when the investigation is demanding and when there is a need for coordinated action between the competent authorities of different states. Joint investigation teams are an effective tool for investigating international cross-border crime, although the provisions of the agreement cannot override domestic law and obligations. Taking part in joint investigation teams improves the results of international investigations, enables the exchange of good practices and builds the mutual trust between the competent authorities of different states.

Keywords: joint investigation teams, international cross-border crime, agreement, operational plans, direct exchange of information, investigation

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