

# iProcureNet

Innovation by developing a European Procurer Networking for security research services



## Executive Summary

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iProcureNet is a five-year project funded by the European Commission under the Horizon2020 programme for research and innovation and coordinated by the French Ministry of Interior. It aims to create an ecosystem of procurers, prescribers, legal advisors and other key stakeholders of security procurement, to share procurement trends and needs, and open pathways for innovation in procurement and joint procurement across EU member states.

The first six months of the project have been mainly dedicated to setting up the tools for these tasks (iProcureNet Online platform, visual identity and communication channels, set-up of collaborative workspace) and in structuring tasks within the team (nomination of IPNCs, nomination of GA members, training for use of tools). The first two missions for collecting data regarding current (joint) procurement practices have been prepared by WPs 2, 3 and 4 and will be carried out with the help of IPNCs: an EU-wide survey on joint public procurement, and the request for investment plans. Furthermore, the structure of the Knowledge Factory has been determined and contacts with related projects have been made in order to both disseminate iProcureNet findings, but also receive input on innovation needs and experiences from other security practitioners.

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## List of acronyms

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<b>COTS</b>	Commercial off-the-shelf
<b>DPO</b>	Data Protection Officer
<b>EBG</b>	Established Buyer Group
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GDPR</b>	General Data Protection Directive
<b>IPNC</b>	iProcureNet National Contacts
<b>iPOP</b>	iProcureNet Online Platform
<b>JP</b>	Joint Procurement
<b>M</b>	Month
<b>MS</b>	Member State (EU)
<b>SC</b>	Steering Committee
<b>WP</b>	Work package

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 The iProcureNet project

iProcureNet is a five-year project funded by the European Commission under the Horizon2020 programme for research and innovation and coordinated by the French Ministry of Interior. It aims to create an ecosystem of procurers, prescribers, legal advisors and other key stakeholders of security procurement, to share procurement trends and needs, and open pathways for innovation in procurement and joint procurement across EU member states.

Security procurement practitioners as well as experts from academy and industry contribute to the development of common and standardised joint procurement practices and innovative approaches, and thus prepare a larger uptake and a common European security market.

In an innovative three-cycle process, iProcureNet will map the European procurement environment, compare national investment strategies, identify innovation needs, and analyse security markets.

Our outputs will include:

<p><b>iProcureNet Toolbox</b></p> <p>A methodology, guidelines and a knowledge base of joint procurement practices in Europe</p>	<p><b>Trainings, Workshops &amp; Conferences</b></p> <p>Networking, dissemination, peer learning and capacity building</p>
<p><b>iProcureNet Network+Community</b></p> <p>Institutions and individuals involved in security procurement</p>	<p><b>Established Buyers Groups</b></p> <p>Countries which have found common ground and are ready to procure together</p>

Figure 1 - iProcureNet outputs

## 1.2 The iProcureNet Online Platform (iPOP)

The iProcureNet Online Platform (iPOP) has been set-up by the iProcureNet project to facilitate networking for the iProcureNet Community by supporting online discussions and sharing of knowledge resources. The iPOP enables professional social networking and mutual online assistance related to new solutions and best practice.

The iPOP is organised in different groups which may be public or private (always within the iPOP) based on the content of the information and needs of its members. Members are able to choose and control the type, amount and periodicity of information they receive from the iPOP. The iProcureNet Community Charter provides the terms of reference for accessing the iPOP to which all members must abide.

All new members have to be recommended and will be subject to a screening procedure before gaining access. Only individuals who receive an invitation from an iProcureNet National Contact (IPNC) and, if needed, after clearance by the iProcureNet Security and Ethics Officer, can register

to join the iProcureNet Community or one of its groups. For a list of IPNCs per participating country contact: [iprocorenet-arttic@eurtd.com](mailto:iprocorenet-arttic@eurtd.com).

### 1.3 iProcureNet project structure

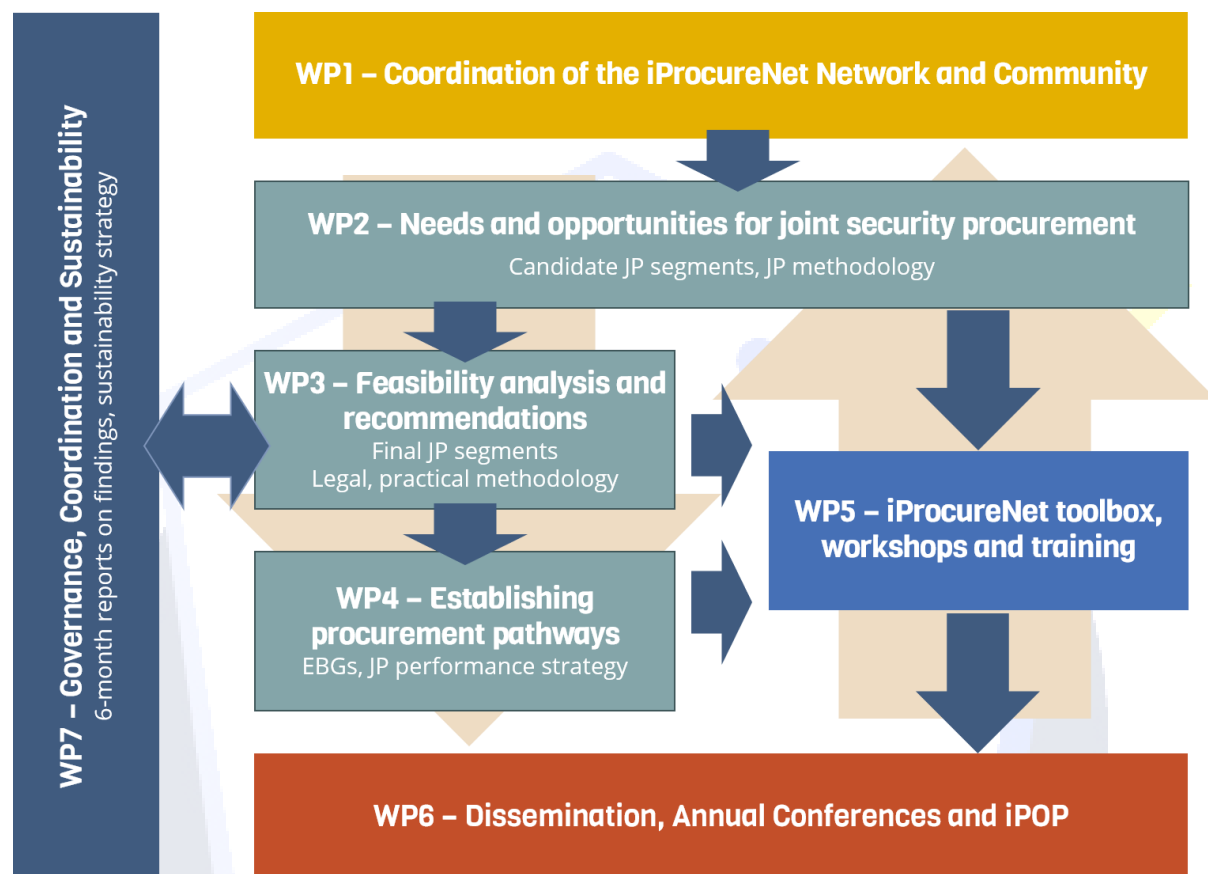


Figure 2 - iProcureNet workplan

## 2 WP1 Coordination of the iProcureNet Network+Community

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### 2.1 Activities in the past six months

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After the setting up of the iPOP by WP6, project partners, WP leaders and IPNCs are gradually joining in. The iProcureNet Charter determines the terms and conditions of joining the iPOP and needs to be accepted by all members joining the iPOP.

An IPNC for all consortium member countries has been nominated. A list of confirmed IPNCs can be found in Annex 2.

The content of the platform has been enriched with documents such as the Guidance on innovation procurement of the European Commission, Toolkit of the European assistance for innovation procurement (EAFIP) which provides support to policy makers in designing PCP and PPI strategies.

The first request sent to the IPNCs regards the collection of investment plans on behalf of WP2. Security procurement projects of the French investment plan for the three-year-period of 2019 to 2022 were singled out and translated into English by the French IPNC. This procurement plan was sent to WP2, in charge of collection of procurement plans and WP6 and WP7 for dissemination to all IPNCs and for review.

The second request will regard the JPP questionnaire on behalf of WPs 3 and 4, which the IPNCs will be asked to disseminate. Regular telephone conference meetings are organised with the IPNCs to discuss all ongoing requests and potential issues with these.

### 2.2 Strategy for the upcoming six months

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WP1 will develop a strategy to bring the iPOP alive through discussions and sharing of documents.

Bilateral contacts will be set up with each IPNC to take stock of the situation and discuss the next steps.

WP1 will also develop a procedure to extend the iProcureNet network & community beyond the scope of the consortium member institutions, and even consortium members countries (nomination procedure of new IPNCs, membership procedure for institutions etc.).

## 3 WP2 Needs & Opportunities for Joint Security Procurement

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### 3.1 Activities in the past six months

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The first activity of WP2 concerns the collection of the investment plans via the IPNCs. A template has been created, based on the French investment plan, and sent out to the IPNCs by the coordinator.

WP2 is also identifying and analysing open source and publicly available documents on investment plans and innovation needs, as well as existing EC regulations and programs.

Initial development of the methodology for analysis of the investment plan was started. All partners and corresponding organization will extract applicable information from investment plan and will be shared with WP2 for following analysis.

### 3.2 Strategy for the upcoming six months

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Once the investment plans (or at least the necessary information from them) are collected, WP2 will proceed to a thorough analysis. The aim is to identify any possible common segments for a group of countries (two or more) who could procure these segments jointly.

According to developed methodology (still under refinement) it is planned identification of first candidates for JP to be aggregated in several groups based on country, region, type of project, founding sources/program. After this stage second iteration with request for more detailed technical information for specific project will be started. Based on received detailed technical information additional analysis with aggregation of the project will be made and first version of list of the initial candidate for the first cycle will be issued by April 2020.

## 4 WP3 Feasibility analysis and recommendations

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### 4.1 Activities in the past six months

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The activities in the work package WP3 during the period May–October were focused on preparing the fulfilment of all aims of this work package.

In order to fulfil the first aim (conduct feasibility studies for the candidate segments for JP for law enforcement and border guard authorities, rescue services and first responders), work processes for tasks T3.1–T3.5 were set up, the WP3 team was completed and the integration of activities between PPA and University of Tartu in WP3 was discussed.

To be ready to fulfil the second aim of WP3 (produce knowledge about the situation on EU procurement environment for the involved agencies) two activities were performed:

- 1) Elaboration of a descriptive model for setting up the project's Knowledge Factory;
- 2) Participation in the composition of the questionnaire for gathering experiences and opinions from the organisations in the public safety and internal security domain.

In order to provide the members of iProcureNet Network and Community with the information about the current situation, the above-mentioned questionnaire was composed in the cooperation between the leader of work package WP4, the WP3 team and ARTTIC. The questionnaire is focused on finding out which countries and public safety or internal security authorities have the experience in JP, what are their reflections and how they feel to continue JP activities. If an authority has not participated in JP yet, then it is important to clarify the reasons and obstacles. The initial version of questionnaire was developed by WP4 leader in order to collect information on JP practical procedures, then edited by the WP3 team in September 2019 and final combined view was set up by ARTTIC in October 2019.

The WP3 team has also participated in revising the iPOP draft version. A representative of WP3 has also participated in Steering Committee meetings and teleconferences.

### 4.2 Strategy for the upcoming six months

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In the next six months, the WP3 team plans to prepare for conducting the feasibility analysis and respectively performing activities within the tasks T3.2–T3.5. The initial candidate list of priority topics for JP is planned to be received from the WP2 in April 2020.

There is also ongoing work for collecting the information for the Knowledge Factory and disseminating it to the iPOP in line with the technical possibilities. It is planned to collect and analyse the responses to the questionnaire and collect information also from other sources.

The WP3 team will also contribute to the preparation of the Annual conference and workshops, where relevant.



## 5 WP4 Establishing procurement pathways

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### 5.1 Activities in the past six months

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Most of the activities in WP4 focused on creating a questionnaire that will allow us to collect experience or opinions on cross-border joint public procurement. The results of this survey will feed into our feasibility studies, helping to establish joint procurement pathways and policy recommendations. The results will be used for T4.2: Identification of benchmark cases and best practices. This activity was coordinated with WP1 and WP3 leaders. The questionnaire has been finalised and includes questions from both WP3 and WP4. Next steps will be:

- Launch of survey via social media and IPNCs on 4th November
- Dissemination at major events (SRE2019, eBF, MILIPOL...) during November
- Several relaunches via social media and IPNCs during November
- Close of survey end of November; option to extend until 15<sup>th</sup> December

The WP4 leader also participated on the discussion about a common understanding of the term innovation for the purpose of the project. There were 3 possible understandings:

- 1) Any joint procurement of products already on the market, but that are new to the parties involved (classic joint procurement)
- 2) Public procurement of innovative solutions meaning where contracting authorities act as a launch customer of innovative goods or services which are not yet available on a large-scale and may include conformance testing (Public procurement of innovative solutions PPI, or
- 3) Pre – commercial procurement (PCP) to foster market innovation.

The EU definition exists but its application to the project is crucial and needs to be further discussed.

### 5.2 Strategy for the upcoming six months

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Mol will attend the eBF 2019 conference that will take place in the Czech Republic in November 2019. eBF is a meeting focused on the *DIGITALISATION* of procurement in both the public and private sectors. Mol will represent the iProcureNet project at this conference and will promote the questionnaire about cross-border joint public procurement (JPP) there. We hope to attract contracting authorities in order to achieve wider participation in the questionnaire and thus collect as much information about cross-border JPP as possible. This is crucial for achieving goal of T4.2. By this it will be possible to further identify gaps as well as best practices and success drivers.

In the upcoming six months Mol will start to develop the general methodology for the joint procurement strategy. This general methodology will be used in later phases of the project to formulate a specific joint procurement strategy for the EBGs that would be ready to procure. (T4.3.) The general methodology will of course be also used for T4.4. The idea is that the general methodology will include all theoretical and academic information on how to prepare a successful tender.

## 6 WP5 iProcureNet Repository, Workshops & Training

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### 6.1 Activities in the past six months

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WP5 is charged with elaborating the iProcureNet toolbox specifications. A benchmarking of existing toolboxes/toolkits in the EU innovation environment has been conducted for this purpose.

### 6.2 Strategy for the upcoming six months

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In the upcoming six months, WP5 will further specify the iProcureNet toolbox and prepare the R0 release.

WP5 will also organise a workshop at the iProcureNet Annual conference 2020 in Lisbon.

## 7 WP6 Dissemination, Annual Conferences & IPOP

### 7.1 Activities in the past six months

The first activity of WP6 has been to set up a dissemination strategy (D6.1). Main stakeholders, dissemination channels and means have been identified. This dissemination strategy will be regularly updated throughout the project.

In parallel, the main communication and dissemination channels and means of the project were set up:

- The visual identity of the project has been elaborated and approved by the consortium in June 2019.
- The Twitter and LinkedIn channels are set up and working since June 2019.
- The generic project flyer has been elaborated, approved by the SC and printed.
- The public website [www.iprocurenet.eu](http://www.iprocurenet.eu) has been set up, approved by the consortium and is online since 19<sup>th</sup> September.
- A generic project presentation has been elaborated, approved by the SC and made available to the partners.
- Specific dissemination material to support the WP leaders, such as a request for investment plans (WP2) and a postcard to disseminate the launch of the first iProcureNet survey on joint public procurement in November 2019.

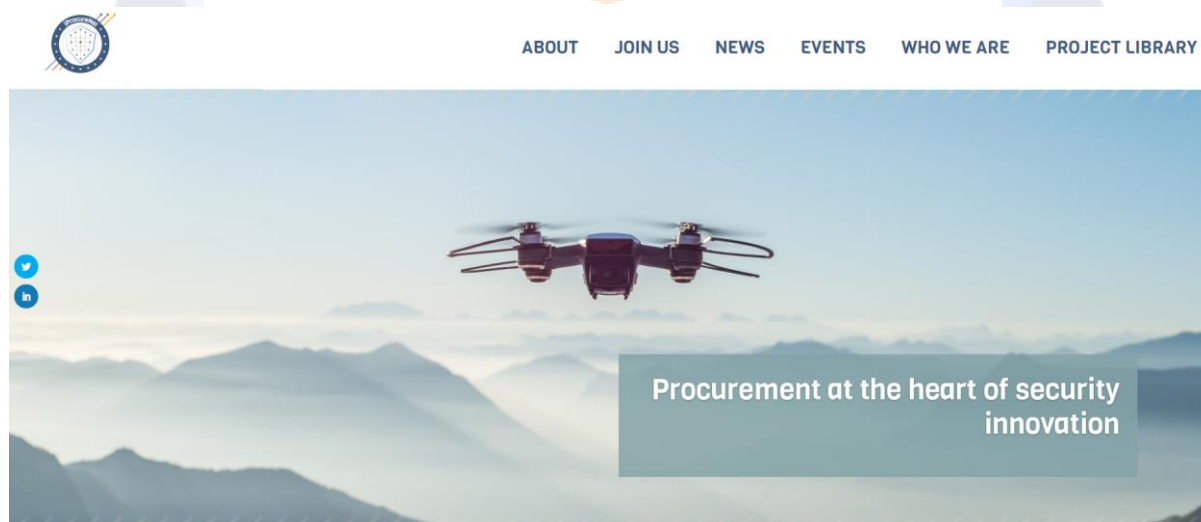


Figure 3 - The iProcureNet public website (iprocurenet.eu)

The purpose of these first communication activities through these channels has been to make the project known and visible, and to establish an audience for the newsletter and the invitation to upcoming public events. Content-wise, the focus has been set on the benefits of the project to the European procurement community, as well as on the different possibilities to engage with the project and to join the community.

Furthermore, WP6 has made its contribution to the construction and engagement of the iProcureNet Community: The iProcureNet Online Platform has been set up and made available to

be animated by WP1 and the IPNCs. A webinar for the group leaders has been organized to show how to optimise its usage. First contacts with related projects have been established, mainly through the social media channels. Direct contact has been made with Shuttle and ILEAnet and PEN-CP by MININT and ARTTIC. The date for the first Annual Conference has been fixed: it will be held from 31<sup>st</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April in Lisbon, in the premises of the Portuguese Criminal Police.

## 7.2 Strategy for the upcoming six months

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The first newsletter is scheduled to be sent in November. It will provide information on the launch of the iProcureNet survey, a Save-the-date for the first Annual Conference and informing about participation in third-party events.

The second focal point in the upcoming six months will be on the organization of the first Annual Conference, which is also the next milestone for this WP. The agenda-setting will be conducted in close collaboration between WP6, the project coordinator, the SC and WP5 for the hands-on workshop. The coordinator aims to identify a successful EU-funded joint procurement project and invite it to present and share good practices with iProcureNet.

## 8 WP7 Governance, Coordination & Sustainability

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### 8.1 Activities in the past six months

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The kick-off meeting of the project has been organized in Paris, on 21-22 May 2019. It gathered representatives from almost all consortium partners, as well as the Project Officer; a total of 30 people. The kick-off meeting allowed to discuss all WPs in detail, and to receive input from the Project Officer, the external Ethics & Security Officer, and a related security project, ILEAnet.

In order to ensure a regular follow-up and the opportunity to discuss all ongoing issues, a monthly Steering Committee teleconference has been set up. Bilateral meetings to discuss certain issues more profoundly or working sessions have been set up ad hoc (see Annex 2: Overview of team meetings M1-M6).

In order to allow for collaborative editing and availability of all project documents, a private collaborative project workspace (consortium only) has been set up on SharePoint (D7.1).

The project's external Advisory Board has been gathered.

Generally speaking, the uptake of project activities has been somewhat slow due to internal partner organisation and the summer period. This risk has been partly mitigated by intense e-mail communication, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and a constant follow-up of activities by the network secretariat. It is expected that collaboration will be boosted in the upcoming project period through physical SC meetings and the Annual Conference.

### 8.2 Strategy for the upcoming six months

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The focus of the coordination team in the upcoming months will be on further strengthening the consortium's cohesion and continuing to closely monitor progress, delays and risks.



**Figure 4 - The iProcureNet consortium at the kick-off meeting, 21st May 2019**

## 9 WP8 Ethics requirements

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### 9.1 Activities in the past six months

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The project's compliance with Ethics & Security requirements has been closely tracked by the network secretariat in close cooperation with the project's external Ethics and Security Officer.

In particular, the Ethics & Security Officer has checked the iProcureNet Charter on compliance with Ethics & Security requirements for the recruitment of members on the iPOP and general activities on the iPOP.

### 9.2 Strategy for the upcoming six months

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The Ethics & Security Officer will continue to closely follow all project activities and all WP leaders can consult him on any issues. There are no deliverables due for WP8 in the upcoming period, but the Ethics & Security will supervise the elaboration of other deliverables such as the Toolbox specifications.

## 10 Conclusion

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iProcureNet is well on track, even though there have been slight delays in part of the activities planned. The iPOP is up and running and the first groups have been created. The European security procurement community can now engage with iProcureNet by joining the iPOP, through our website, newsletter subscription and social media. First analyses regarding European joint procurement practices have been launched by WPs 2-5 through a request for investment plans, the launch for EU-wide survey, documentation analysis and use case benchmarking.

iProcureNet is therefore on its way to become the go-to network for EU security procurement and establish a substantial knowledge base on joint public procurement practices which will be made available to the EU security procurement community.



## Annex 1: List of confirmed IPNCs

<b>France</b>	Mona Guerlais	French Ministry of Interior [MININT]	<a href="mailto:ipnc-france@eurtd.com">ipnc-france@eurtd.com</a>
<b>Slovakia</b>	Jozef Kubinec	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak republic [MoI]	<a href="mailto:ipnc-slovakia@eurtd.com">ipnc-slovakia@eurtd.com</a>
<b>Lithuania</b>	Sigute Stankeviciute	Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology [MITA]	<a href="mailto:ipnc-lithuania@eurtd.com">ipnc-lithuania@eurtd.com</a>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Nikolai Stoianov	Bulgarian Defence Institute [BDI]	<a href="mailto:ipnc-bulgaria@eurtd.com">ipnc-bulgaria@eurtd.com</a>
<b>Estonia</b>	Helen Nook	Estonian Police and Border Guard Board [PPA]	<a href="mailto:ipnc-estonia@eurtd.com">ipnc-estonia@eurtd.com</a>
<b>Cyprus</b>	Elena Avraamidou	Cyprus Civil Defence [CCD]	<a href="mailto:ipnc-cyprus@eurtd.com">ipnc-cyprus@eurtd.com</a>
<b>Portugal</b>	Cristina Farinha	Portuguese Criminal Police [PJ]	<a href="mailto:ipnc-portugal@eurtd.com">ipnc-portugal@eurtd.com</a>
<b>Spain</b>	Bernardino Iglesias Bouzas	Spanish Ministry of Interior – Policía Nacional [MIR-PN]	<a href="mailto:ipnc-spain@eurtd.com">ipnc-spain@eurtd.com</a>
<b>Romania</b>	Gabriel Iancu	Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs – Directorate General Logistics [RMIA]	<a href="mailto:ipnc-romania@eurtd.com">ipnc-romania@eurtd.com</a>



## Annex 2: Overview of team meetings M1-M6

	Type	Partners represented	Date
<b>SC meeting to prepare KOM</b>	Teleconference	MININT, ARTTIC, PPA, PJ, BDI, Mol	15 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Kick-off meeting</b>	Physical meeting	All	21 <sup>st</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
<b>Coordination team meeting</b>	Physical meeting	MININT, ARTTIC	12 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>SC meeting June</b>	Teleconference	MININT, ARTTIC, PPA, PJ, BDI, Mol	26 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>1 preparatory IPNC meeting</b>	Teleconference	MININT, ARTTIC	8 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>IPNC meeting July</b>	Teleconference	MININT, ARTTIC, IPNCs	17 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>SC meeting July</b>	Teleconference	MININT, ARTTIC, PPA, PJ, BDI, Mol	31 <sup>st</sup> July
<b>SC meeting September</b>	Teleconference	MININT, ARTTIC, PPA, PJ, BDI, Mol	25 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>IPNC meeting September</b>	Teleconference	MININT, ARTTIC, IPNCs	27 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Questionnaire working session</b>	Teleconference	ARTTIC, PPA, Mol	1 <sup>st</sup> October
<b>Questionnaire working session</b>	Teleconference	ARTTIC, PPA, Mol	15 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Coordination team meeting</b>	Physical meeting	MININT, ARTTIC	16 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>SC meeting October</b>	Teleconference	MININT, ARTTIC, PPA, PJ, BDI, Mol	30 <sup>th</sup> October