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ICIN member organizations

Newsletter for the member organizations to the Internal Criminal Investigations Network (ICIN)

Dear ICIN member organizations,

Last week the ICIN acting Executive Committee (EC) held their first EC Meeting. The ICIN acting EC consists of Chairperson Mrs. Ebba Sverne Arvill (SWE), Mr. Žydrūnas Butkevičius (LT) and Mr. Willem Jan de Koning (NL).

Since it was the first EC Meeting the Agenda was full including general presentations of the respective member organizations and other relevant matters such as discussions of strategic goals for ICIN. Due to the heavy workload and that the meeting was digital the EC did not have the possibility to handle all questions on the table.

Mrs Ebba Sverne Arvill informed the EC that the Swedish Police Authority has nominated ICIN to the newly established competition Europol Excellence Award in Innovation 2021. Europol aims to put a spotlight on the most promising initiatives and programmes in diverse areas of innovation. The winners will be announced at the European Police Chiefs Convention the 29th of September 2021 in The Hague. Let us hope that ICIN will be successful in the competition so that ICIN will get attention and that it will lead to even better cooperation between us and raise the public confidence.

The EC paid a lot of attention to the need for a physical meeting with all the ICIN member organizations. The EC agreed that a physical meeting is a must by several reasons – building trust and to hold an effective meeting is much easier in person. The pandemic situation is still not over and our countries have different possibilities and restrictions regarding travelling abroad. Due to that the EC decided that the planned ICIN Annual General Meeting (AGM) which has been scheduled to the 23-24th of November 2021 will be postponed. The EC decided that the AGM will be held in February/March 2022 instead. Hopefully the travel restrictions will allow us all to travel again at that time. We will let you know when we have a new “Save the date” for the AGM.

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The EC decided not to establish any new Working groups at this stage and not to expand the planned Working group for secure communication with more group members. At this stage the EC is planning to hold a new ICIN acting EC meeting during November to continue the discussions and the strategic planning for ICIN and not the least plan for the coming AGM February/March 2022.

One of the discussions at the EC Meeting was concerning information activities to other organizations regarding ICIN and its purposes. Do you as ICIN member organizations feel a need of an *information sheet* from the EC that you could use when you talk about ICIN in your organization or with other relevant organizations in your country? The positive effect is that our communication would be stream lined with an *information sheet*. Please let us know what you think.

The EC was also discussing one of the purposes regarding *sharing of operational information between the ICIN member organizations*. Initially our intention from SU was that ICIN would facilitate the opportunity to share operational information regarding police employees, including criminal activities, alerts, thematic information directly between each other. This is one of the things that make ICIN unique from other established networks. ICIN has its mandate within Europol which make the exchange of operational information possible. Please let us know what your needs and thoughts are regarding this.

As you remember from our first digital meeting the 6th of May 2021 we had a session regarding the legal frame and that Europol has agreements with all the ICIN countries which give us the legal right to share operational information between us. The question is what we would like to share? The planned Working group for secure communication would deepen into that and propose a suitable solution that could work for the ICIN organizations.

Please do not hesitate to send us feedback and contributions so that we together can form ICIN to an effective network.

Kind regards,

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