

CRE –NET Aims

The application for funding refers to the improvement of the existing programmes used for criminal records, so that the exchange and flow of information between Cyprus Police and the relevant Authorities of the other member states can be carried out directly, with the use of a modern automated system.

Exchange of information will mainly concern:

- 1) The automatic provision of information by Cyprus Police to the Central Authorities of other member states concerning any criminal convictions against their nationals.
- 2) The transmission and receipt of information regarding criminal records provided that this is requested, mainly for the purposes of criminal proceedings.

Installation and Cost of the project

The establishment and installation of the system lasted 36 months and included the following:

- The installation of a complete computerized system which included not only the logistic, but also the necessary electronic equipment.
- Staff training
- The evaluation of the effectiveness of the Programme and the implementation of corrective measures, if this was deemed necessary.

The cost of the project amounted to €530,385. The 70% of this cost was funded by the European Union and 30% by the Republic of Cyprus, which will undoubtedly benefit greatly through the implementation of the project in terms of dispensing justice. At the same time, the Republic of Cyprus will have the opportunity to contribute, in a practical way, to the efforts of the European Union to create a genuine common area of justice, freedom and security.

CRE – NET (Criminal Record Exchange Programme):

Cyprus' contribution to the European aim of creating a common area of freedom, security and justice





Criminal Record Exchange Network

One of the aims of the European Union envisaged in the Lisbon Treaty is the creation of a common area of freedom, security and justice. Among the areas in which member states are to become more transparent and promote availability, is through the exchange of information arising regarding criminal records

The Declaration of the Council of Europe of the 25th and 26th March, 2004, presents the need to improve the level and quality of the exchange of information regarding criminal convictions as a priority in the fight against organised crime and terrorism. This need for improvement is also asserted by the Hague Programme (November 2004), which also aims at a better and more effective exchange of information stemming from the national records of previous convictions. These aims are included in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Hague Programme which was approved by both the European Council and the European Committee on June 2 and 3, 2005.

“CRIMINAL JUSTICE” Funding Programme

On the basis of decision 2007/ 126/ JHA, the European Council decided to finance programmes for the 2007 – 13 period, setting as one of its main priorities, the improvement of the exchange and flow of information concerning, not only the criminal convictions of citizens of the European Union found in the criminal records of member states, but also the prohibition to exercise particular professions as a consequence of a previous criminal conviction. The ultimate aim of the funding programmes is to promote and reinforce police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, contributing to the creation of a genuine common European area of co-operation based on mutual confidence and recognition, as well as the fundamental principle of the protection of the rights of individuals, whether they are victims, suspects or accused.

It must be stressed that, within the framework of the exchange of information, the processing of personal data is protected, not only by the Fundamental Principles of the European Council Convention of January 1981 concerning the protection of the individual from the automated processing of personal data, but also by the National Legislations of the member states.

The establishment of the CRE – NET Programme by Cyprus Police

The funding application for the Criminal Record Exchange Network Programme (CRE –NET) – was submitted to the European Union by Cyprus Police in 2007. In 2008, upon receipt of the anticipated approval, the relevant Contract was signed by the Chief of Police and the representatives of the European Committee.