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## The EuroMed Justice Expert Group in Criminal Matters (CrimEx) met to discuss coordination at national level as a stepping stone towards cross-border cooperation

From the 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2017, **EuroMed Justice** organised the second **CrimEx** session, gathering justice practitioners in criminal matters from seven South Partner Countries (SPCs) – concretely, **Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia** - and European and international experts, including representatives from **EUROJUST, European Judicial Network** and the **UN's Counter Terrorism Directorate (UNCTED)**.

During the second session the CrimEx members discussed, among other matters, models of **national coordination among different authorities and agencies** as a stepping stone towards regional, south-south and north-south judicial cooperation in criminal matters. **Challenges** facing their national responses to transnational crime were identified and **best practices in this field** were shared.

The session debating **national platforms** developed a roadmap, which will guide the South Partner Countries specifically on creating platforms for coordination at national level that should be multi-layered, multi-jurisdictional and involve multiple agencies fighting cross-border crime. The main function of holistic national coordination is the provision of strategic guidance on national priorities, the harmonisation of governmental efforts to tackle cross-border crime, and to enable collaboration with international judicial and law enforcement authorities.

CrimEx members also continued work on the **Gaps and Legal analyses**, the elaboration of the **Handbook** on Judicial and Law Enforcement Cooperation in Criminal Matters, and the **updated EuroMed Fiches** (based on the European Judicial Network's *Fiches Belges*).

The CrimEx group will meet over a period of two years (2017 and 2018) and functions **as a regional forum devoted to Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on criminal justice**.

**EuroMed Justice** (2016-2018) is an **EU-funded project** which aims to contribute to the development of a Euro-Mediterranean area of cooperation in the field of justice and to the development of effective, efficient and democratic justice systems which protect and promote human rights.

For further information on the CrimEx session, please contact the Project Management Team: [info@euromed-justice](mailto:info@euromed-justice) or the Project Coordinator, Ms. Dania Samoul: [daniasamoul@euromed-justice.eu](mailto:daniasamoul@euromed-justice.eu).