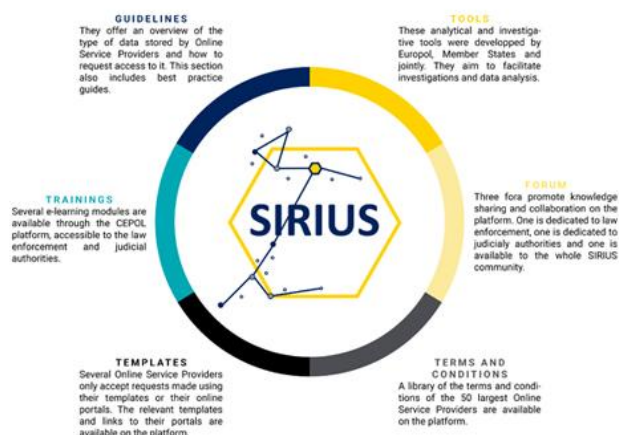


# SIRIUS: EUROPEAN UNION DIGITAL EVIDENCE SITUATION REPORT 2019

20 Dec 2019

[Press Release](#)



A [new Europol report](#) aims to draw a picture of the status of access of European Union (EU) Member States to electronic evidence held by foreign-based online service providers in 2018. The report presents data in relation to the volume of requests from EU Member States to online service providers; the main reasons for refusal or delay of EU requests; and the main challenges in the process from the perspective of the different stakeholders.

Manuel Navarrete, Head of the [European Counter Terrorism Centre](#) at Europol: "This is the first time such an exercise is carried out in a systematic way and including survey with judicial authorities, law enforcement from all EU Member States and input from over 12 online service providers. The information gathered gives indications of short-term actions, which could be taken to improve the swiftness of this process."

The report comprises a set of recommendations that are directed to online service providers and law enforcement agencies and may be applicable regardless of potential future developments in policy and regulations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONLINE SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Provide clear guidelines for law enforcement authorities, including information about which data sets can be requested and to which legal entity the data requests should be addressed.

- Prepare periodic transparency reports regarding requests from EU authorities, including standardised data categories across online service providers and files in CSV format.
- If direct requests or emergency disclosure requests are rejected, inform the requesting authority of the reason for rejection without delay.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EU LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

- Provide periodic training courses to officers dealing with cross-border requests to online service providers.
- In EU Member States where there is no central unit to submit requests, establish single points of contact within the law enforcement agency to deal with the most relevant online service providers.
- Collect statistics regarding cross-border requests to online service providers.

The [SIRIUS project](#) is a response to the increasing need of European Union authorities to access electronic evidence from foreign-based online service providers, in the context of criminal investigations. Spearheaded by Europol's European Counter Terrorism Centre and the [European Cybercrime Centre](#) at Europol, in close partnership with Eurojust and the European Judicial Network, SIRIUS aims to help investigators and judicial authorities to cope with the complexity and volume of information in a rapidly changing online environment. The SIRIUS project was created by Europol in October 2017.

[Download the full report European Union Digital Evidence Situation Report 2019.](#)

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