



2021 Annual report on public requests to access EMCDDA documents

1- Background

Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents defines the principles, conditions and limits on grounds of public or private interest governing the right of access to European Parliament, Council and Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the institutions") documents provided for in Article 255 of the EC Treaty in such a way as to ensure the widest possible access to documents, establishes rules ensuring the easiest possible exercise of this right, and promotes good administrative practice on access to documents. This Regulation is also applicable to other European Union Institutions and Agencies, including the EMCDDA. As such, the Management Board on 24 April, 2006, adopted Decision DEC/MB/06/05 on its implementing rules, and the Director appointed an internal Coordinator on 26 January, 2018 (DEC/DIR/2018/001).

2- Report of coordination activities

Article 17 of the Regulation states that each institution shall publish annually a report for the preceding year including the number of cases in which the institution refused to grant access to documents, the reasons for such refusals and the number of sensitive documents not recorded in the register. The previous year report was produced on 15 December, 2020, and it is published on the EMCDDA webpage.

In 2021, the EMCDDA received 5 public requests to access documents. None was refused. However, following a verification exercise from personal data protection perspective, a number of third parties data included in the requested documents were erased prior to proceed to the disclosure.

The first request was submitted by a citizen who asked the EMCDDA to provide all the documents relating with simultaneous interpretation services contracted by the Agency. All the documents were communicated to the requester.

The second request was submitted by another citizen who asked to receive all the cooperation agreements and memorandum of understanding signed by the EMCDDA with third countries. The Agency transmitted to the requester all the relevant documents.

The third request was also submitted by a citizen directly to the EMCDDA, asking for documents relating with purchases made to suppliers. Once again, the Agency transmitted the documentation to the requester.

The fourth request was submitted by a citizen to the Irish National Focal Point, who asked for access to a document produced by the EMCDDA. The EMCDDA informed this partner that there was no objection to release the requested document.

Finally, the fifth request was submitted by a citizen to the temporary Presidency of the Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network, asking to access a number of documents produced by the EMCDDA. The Agency informed this partner that there was no objection to release the requested documents.

3- Other activities

During 2021, the Coordinator attended a number of on-line training on public access to documents, organized by DG home of the European Commission, specially intended to Coordinators within Justice and Home Affairs Agencies. The Coordinator also kept different meetings with Coordinators of other Institutions and Agencies.

The Coordinator also maintained a number of contacts and interviews, both internally and with external partners, aiming to clarify a number of issues and possible procedures, and to better ensure a positive outcome of those activities.

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