



UNIVERSITÄT
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Strengthening the Future of the European Public Prosecutor's Office

Villa Vigoni | 31 March – 02 April 2025

Outline

The implementation and impact of the EPPO Regulation, the effectiveness and efficiency of the EPPO and its working practices will be put into the spotlight in the course of the review which is to be completed by 2026. Article 119 EPPO Regulation also sets out that legislative proposals should be put forward if »it is necessary to have additional or more detailed rules on the setting up of the EPPO, its functions or the procedure applicable to its activities, including its cross-border investigations.«

A workshop at Villa Vigoni in spring 2025 will provide an inspiring setting to assess the potential for improvements of the legal framework, to discuss specific policy options, and to clarify the challenges EPPO faces today and which require legislative actions. This workshop intends to bring selected academics, high-ranking practitioners from the EPPO and experts from national governments and the European Commission together for learned, thought-provoking, and off-the-record discussions to prepare the ground for the upcoming political decision-making processes. These will be fuelled by 10-minute input statements which should include, where appropriate, concrete proposals – or options – on legislative amendments. The scenic setting of Villa Vigoni with its distinct German-Italian history provides an excellent forum for intensive, fruitful and open-minded discussions aiming to strengthen the future of the EPPO, and builds upon a highly successful first German-Italian EPPO-related workshop held there, with support by Saarland University and its CEUS, in September 2023.

Participants, Organisation and Financing

The workshop is convened by Dominik Brodowski (Saarland University) and Sebastian Trautmann (EPPO Germany); the participants – 21 persons maximum – will be selected from the EPPO, academia and experts from national governments as well as from the EU Commission. The conference costs will be covered by Saarland University. However, every participant is asked to bear their own accomodation and meal costs (440 € for the conference) as well as their travel costs.

Draft Program

Monday, 31 March 2025

–**18:00** Arrival of the participants (18:00 at the latest)

19:00 Welcome Reception & Dinner

Tuesday, 1 April 2025

08:00 Breakfast

09:00 Conference Opening

- Introduction & Overview [*Dominik Brodowski & Sebastian Trautmann*]
- Keynote [*Laura Codruta Kövesi*]

09:20 Acquisition and Use of Evidence [moderation: *Dominik Brodowski*]

- Cross-border acquisition of evidence – Art. 31 EPPO-Reg [*Hans-Holger Herrnfeld*]
- Free flow of evidence across borders? – Art. 37 EPPO-Reg [*Michele Caianello & Isadora Neroni Rezende*]
- *coffee break*
- Common standards on crossborder EPPO-investigations – Art. 41 EPPO-Reg [*Liane Wörner*]
- Challenging the acquisition and use of evidence? – Art. 42 EPPO-Reg [*Katalin Ligeti; Sebastian Trautmann*]

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Guided Tour of Villa Vigoni

15:30 Competences and the Exercise of Competence – Conflicts, Clarifications, and Extensions?
[moderation: *Sebastian Trautmann*]

- Clarification on PIF competences, including amendment of the PIF Directive – Art. 22, 23 EPPO-Reg [*Anneke Petzsche; Cécline Soriano*]
- Clarification on the Exercising of EPPO's competence – Art. 25, 27 EPPO-Reg [*Luca De Matteis*]
- *coffee break*
- Conflicts with national competences – Art. 25(4) and (6), 34 EPPO-Reg [*Luca Pressacco*]
- Extension of investigation and other measures – Art. 30 EPPO-Reg [*Georgia Theodorakakou*]

19:30 Dinner

Wednesday, 2 April 2025

08:00 Breakfast

09:00 Institutional Independence and Sustainability [moderation: *Sebastian Trautmann*]

- Institutional Independence – Art. 6, 91 to 96 EPPO-Reg [*Lorenzo Salazar*: »(In-)Dependency of EPPO on National Resources«]
- Institutional responsibility – Art. 6 (2), 7 EPPO-Reg [*Marius Bulancea*]
- *coffee break*
- Selection, Status and Number of EDPs and support staff – Art. 96 EPPO-Reg [*Garonne Bezjak*]
- Legal Review in view of EPPO's independence – Art. 42 EPPO-Reg [*Dominik Brodowski*]

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Departure of the participants

Practical Information

Address

Deutsch-Italienisches Zentrum für den Europäischen Dialog
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Registration

All participants of the conference are kindly asked to register on Villa Vigoni's platform by February 28th, using the following link: http://villavigoni.it/bookings/?ev_id=3654&lang_id=2

If it is your first stay at Villa Vigoni, you will first need to create an account. If you have already been a guest at Villa Vigoni, you probably have an account and can log in with your access data. Please fill out the form as completely as possible. You can indicate your arrival and departure times as well as food intolerances and allergies. Please note that it is not possible to provide accommodation for accompanying persons, and that you must bear the costs for transfer and accommodation yourself.

Arrival

Please make sure that you arrive not later than 6 pm. Latest possible check-in at Villa Vigoni is at 6 pm. Please note that a later check-in is only possible in exceptional cases and only by prior arrangement with the Villa Vigoni conference secretariat.

Arrival by train

If you arrive by train, it is best to go either to Lugano or to Como and from there by bus to Menaggio (station Piazza Roma). From Lugano take line C12, from Como line C10. You can find information about the departure times at <https://www.asfautolinee.it/find-lines-and-timetables/?lang=en>

Arrival by plane

If you arrive by plane, fly to Milano Malpensa or Milano Linate. Arriving at Malpensa, continue by train to Como and take bus C10 to Menaggio (station Piazza Roma). From Linate take the train to Varenna-Esino and from there take the ferry to Menaggio. For further information on travel directions, please visit the website of Villa Vigoni: <https://www.villavigoni.eu/contatti/?lang=de>

Departure

On April 2, 2025, departure is after lunch. Check-out is no later than 9 am.

Follow-up Publication

All participants – in particular those who provide input statements – are invited to submit manuscripts for publishing in an edited volume (publisher: Nomos). Manuscripts should ideally be between 25.000 and 50.000 characters (including footnotes) in length. If you need more (or less) space, please let me know in advance.

Timeline

Manuscripts should be submitted by **15 May 2025**, as the publication should occur sooner rather than later in light of the new legislative cycle. Therefore, later submissions might not be accepted for publication in the edited volume.

Layout/Formatting

- Use only *italics* for emphasis.
- Figures/images may be included, but need to be black-and-white or grayscale (no colours), and require a resolution of 300 dpi or more.
- Quotations of more than three lines in length are put in a separate paragraph.
- References are to be put in footnotes. At first use, the reference is to be given in full (see below);¹ for subsequent references a shortened reference (author: short title, pinpoint page) suffices.² Footnotes always end with punctuation.

References

Please note the examples in the footnotes. If in doubt, do not worry, and we'll resolve any questions in the editorial process.

¹Pressacco, Luca: I "conflitti di competenza" tra il pubblico ministero europeo e gli organi requirenti nazionali, in: Di Paolo, Gabriella/Pressacco, Luca/Belfiore, Rosanna/Rafaraci, Tommaso (eds.): *L'attuazione della Procura europea: i nuovi assetti dello spazio europeo di libertà, sicurezza e giustizia*, Trento 2022, 161–188 at 174; Slimani, Maria: The influence of the European Public Prosecutor's Office on French criminal law, in: *New Journal of European Criminal Law* 14 (2023), 294–302 at 299, <https://doi.org/10.1177/20322844231179866> [20.10.2023]; Herrnfeld, Hans-Holger: Article 31, in: Herrnfeld, Hans-Holger/Brodowski, Dominik/Burchard, Christoph (eds.): *European Public Prosecutor's Office: EPPO Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office. Article-by-Article Commentary*, München 2021, mn. 31.

²Pressacco: *conflitti di competenza*, at 162; Slimani: *Influence of EPPO on French criminal law*, at 302; Herrnfeld: *Article 31*, mn. 39.

- **Monographs:** family name, first name: title. subtitle, location year^{edition}, exact page.³
- **Articles in edited volumes:** author family name, author first name: title of contribution, in: family name, first name (ed.): title of volume, location year^{edition}, page range at pinpoint page, URL (if possible) [date of access].⁴
- **Article in journal:** family name, first name: article title, in: name of journal volume (year), page range at pinpoint page, [add URL if possible].⁵
- **Internet source:** author, title, date, URL [date of access].⁶
- **Commentary:** author family name, author first name: title of contribution, in: family name, first name (ed.): title of volume, location year^{edition}, mn. margin number.⁷

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³Yolaçan, Merve: Verteidigung in grenzüberschreitenden Ermittlungen der Europäischen Staatsanwaltschaft, Berlin 2023, 10.

⁴Pressacco, Luca: I “conflitti di competenza” tra il pubblico ministero europeo e gli organi requirenti nazionali, in: Di Paolo, Gabriella/Pressacco, Luca/Belfiore, Rosanna/Rafaraci, Tommaso (eds.): L’attuazione della Procura europea: i nuovi assetti dello spazio europeo di libertà, sicurezza e giustizia, Trento 2022, 161–188 at 174.

⁵Slimani, Maria: The influence of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office on French criminal law, in: New Journal of European Criminal Law 14 (2023), 294–302 at 299, <https://doi.org/10.1177/20322844231179866> [20.10.2023].

⁶EPPO-LEX: EPPO Atlas, <https://eppo-lex.eu/eppo-atlas/> [20.10.2023].

⁷Herrnfeld, Hans-Holger: Article 31, in: Herrnfeld, Hans-Holger/Brodowski, Dominik/Burchard, Christoph (eds.): European Public Prosecutor’s Office: EPPO Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office. Article-by-Article Commentary, München 2021, mn. 31.