



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Our Ref: 19.04.2023 No 7-2/2844

Object: Letter of support to the project CROCUS – (Confiscation fReezing Order aCcess jUStice) – as a Project proposal for the Action Grant (JUST-2023-JCOO)

We hereby confirm that the **Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Estonia** supports the project proposal "**Confiscation fReezing Order aCcess jUStice**" (CROCUS).

The "Confiscation fReezing Order aCcess jUStice" (CROCUS) Project proposal aims at creating better judicial cooperation instruments in criminal matters and proposes to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law among the EU Member States (with the exception of Ireland and Denmark) in the field of asset recovery, through the simplification and digitalization of the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/1805 on the mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders.

The existing lack of harmonization of the mentioned procedure among the involved EU Member States signifies a major weakness, making it difficult for justice professionals to be aware of the practical functioning of the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/1805 on the mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders procedure.

Our organization shares this vision and believes that CROCUS is highly consistent with our priorities.

In line with our organization's needs and interests, the Project will result in one or more of the following objectives, with outputs freely available:

- pursuing clarity in analyzing the existing rules by creating a comprehensive analytical Digital Guide;
- establishing an IT platform providing justice professionals effective guidance on the EU procedures in this field;
- developing a blockchain system for promoting the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/1805 on the mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders procedure.

Based on these shared strategic objectives and alignment of priorities, the **Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Estonia** is willing to support CROCUS' scientific goals, specifically through collaborating to run the pilot project of a digitalised procedure, giving feedback, as envisaged in the project proposal.

We, therefore, encourage the European Commission to consider this project proposal favourably and wish every success to the project Consortium and the accomplishment of the proposed work.

Yours sincerely,

Tõnis Saar
Secretary General