

## **EUROMED JUSTICE ESTABLISHES THE EXPERT'S GROUP ON CRIMINAL COOPERATION IN MADRID**

The 1<sup>st</sup> CrimEx session, which represents the constitutive and introductory working session, took place in Madrid (ES) on 14-16 March 2017, and was attended by members from 6 South Partner Countries, i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and Tunisia - Lebanon and Jordan being still in the selection process - with the presence and active collaboration of experts and EU prosecutors from Eurojust, the European Judicial Network in criminal matters (EJN) and the UN-CTED (United Nation's Counter Terrorism Directorate), as well as EuroMed Police, which are main stakeholders of this EuroMed Justice phase.

In order to promote a holistic and coordinated national response to transnational crime and terrorism, the Project Management Team envisages to create, in cooperation with/or centred around the CrimEx Contact Points or CrimEx Members, national platforms/mechanisms to facilitate strategic and operational development, information sharing and other coordination among the range of national actors involved in activities that contribute to fighting crime.

Thus CrimEx will initiate the debates on the international and national frameworks on judicial and law enforcement cooperation in criminal matters, focussing on the practical matters and its various forms: extradition, MLA, the transfer of proceedings, the gathering of evidence, the recognition and the execution of foreign decisions.

The final output will be the elaboration of a Handbook on Gaps and Legal Analysis in the South Partner Countries, as regards investigation and prosecution of complex judicial cases, and updating the existing EuroMed Fiches.

Over two years (2017-2018) and during eight sessions, CrimEx will function as a real think-tank and a regional forum of cooperation, being key in setting up a mechanism of judicial and law enforcement cooperation among the EU and its South Partner Countries.

Further information on the CrimEx can be obtained from the Project Management Team: [info@euromed-justice.eu](mailto:info@euromed-justice.eu) and the Project Coordinator, Ms. Dania Samoul: [daniasamoul@euromed-justice.eu](mailto:daniasamoul@euromed-justice.eu)