

Dear EURIEC partner,

Recently, many of you participated in the EURIEC communication survey, for which we'd like to thank you. One of the aims of this survey was to identify topics of interest to you. Because this newsletter is not only about the EURIEC, but also about spreading knowledge about the cross-border administrative approach: the latest developments, practical tools, institutions involved, etc.

The results of the survey are currently being processed, but in this edition we would like to address the request for information on the organisation of the administrative approach in the participating countries. Therefore, in this edition we provide more information on the administrative approach in Belgium and the 5-year anniversary of the ARIECs, with thanks to Annemie De Boye (ARIEC Limburg). We'll also illustrate practical results with two press releases and inform you, among other things, about the latest state of affairs regarding access to the UBO register.

Kind regards,

Rob Hutschemaekers
Head of the EURIEC



ACTIVITIES SINCE THE START OF THE SECOND PROJECT FASE



207 meetings



89 new case requests



16 new information products

UNDERMINING DAY RIEC ROTTERDAM

On 14 December, EURIEC representatives participated in the RIEC Rotterdam's Undermining Day. During this day, the recent achievements of the RIEC Rotterdam were highlighted and a look into the future was also taken. As a result of these consultations, EURIEC will visit RIEC Rotterdam in the near future to further strengthen ties.

THE INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE APPROACH IN PRACTICE

Fourth cross-border control action against exploitative working and living conditions

During a new cross-border control action in the city of Nettetal and the municipality of Brüggen in the district of Viersen on 12 December 2022, the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia, together with the authorities of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Netherlands, Poland and other EU authorities, inspected several flats and buildings occupied by temporary workers.

The EURIEC supported the MHKBD NRW (Ministry of the Interior, Municipalities, Construction and Digitalisation of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia) in preparing and planning the cross-border control actions. The aim: to protect against exploitative working and living conditions, and to further expose structures.

More information available [here](#).

"Municipalities from different provinces and countries are joining hands. And it works."

The Eindhovens Dagblad published an article depicting how effective municipalities can act when they cooperate (internationally) on administrative enforcement.

Read the article [here](#).



Picture: Stadt Nettetal



COLLABORATION BELGIUM

The EURIEC continuously cooperates within the existing structures in Belgium, the Netherlands and North Rhine-Westphalia. To maintain its network, the EURIEC recently participated, among other things, in a meeting on developments within administrative enforcement in Belgium in 2022. The EURIEC also welcomed several staff from Belgian agencies working around administrative enforcement to see how cooperation with the EURIEC could be further strengthened.



COLLABORATION



Picture: Ronin Cox

EU COURT OF JUSTICE RULING ON UBO REGISTER

On 22 November 2022, the EU Court of Justice ruled on the compatibility of the disclosure of the Ultimate Beneficial Owner register with principles of the right to privacy and the protection of personal data. It stipulated that the UBO register would only be freely accessible to the general public only with a legitimate interest.

For now, it is unclear whether this ruling will have an impact for consulting the UBO register as a foreign municipality. The EURIEC is currently in contact with the relevant authorities to clarify this.



The administrative approach in Belgium: 5 years of ARIECs

The Belgian ARIECs, in particular those in Limburg and Antwerp, were officially established at the end of 2017, marking their fifth anniversary. In this context, ARIEC stands for 'Arrondissementeel Informatie- en Expertisecentrum' (Regional Information and Expertise Centre).

At the end of 2018, a similar project started in Wallonia. That project was initially named PAALCO, ('Pour une Approche Administrative de la Lutte contre la Criminalité Organisée'), but was renamed CIEAR (Centre d'Information et Expertise Arrondissemental) in 2022.

The main missions of the ARIECs are to support local administrations and their police zones in the development of an administrative enforcement of organised crime, to set up an information and expertise centre, and to further develop and map the information exchange between the different partners and levels.

These three ARIECs thus acted as an engine for the administrative approach in Belgium. Whereas initially (2018-2021) they were funded by Europe, since 2022 the

original ARIECs have been officially embedded in their respective CSDs or Coordination and Support Directorate of the Federal Police. They are also funded with Federal Police resources.

Besides these official ARIECs, other partnerships with the same objective emerged, especially in Flanders. Thus, other CSDs and/or governors also took the initiative to set up and coordinate initiatives or good practices around the administrative approach. Moreover, the Commissioner General of the Federal Police has decided to invest in a contact point for the administrative approach in each district despite the difficult budgetary situation. This has already set the stage for a further roll-out.

After five years of ARIEC operation, we can conclude that the administrative approach in Belgium is gradually taking shape. Curious to see what the future holds in terms of further developments...!

Text by Annemie De Boye, Head of ARIEC Limburg

