



The Hague, 23/05/2017

Releasable to public

EDOC#898586v1

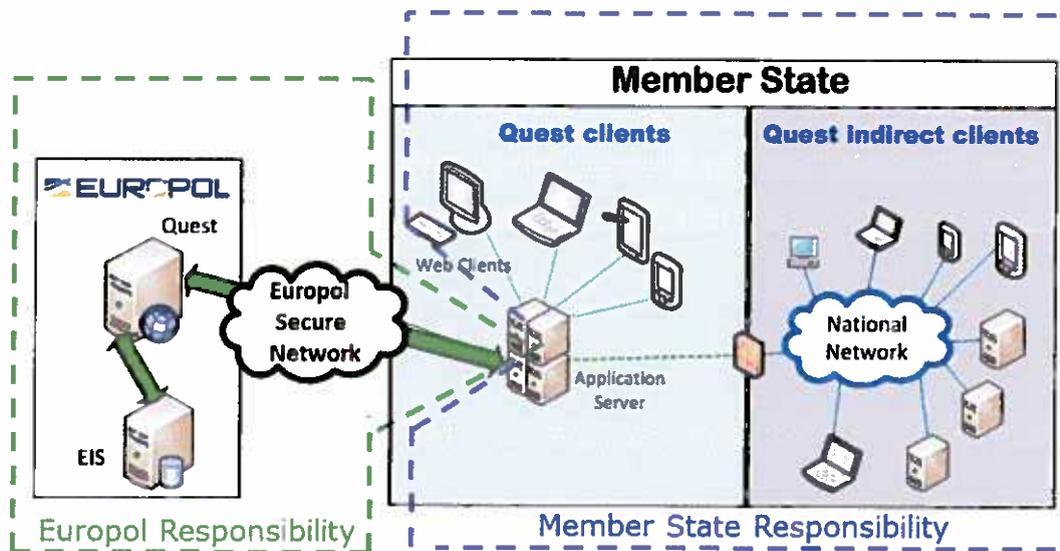
## **QUEST (QUerying Europol sYstems)**

The ultimate goal of QUEST is to allow thousands of Member States frontline investigators, criminal intelligence officers and analysts to search and access Europol's information from their own working environments, using their own language and with no prior knowledge of Europol. QUEST will support MS in preventing and combating serious crime and terrorism, including priority areas like 'foreign terrorist fighters', people smuggling and firearms, by identifying information connections between MS and across multiple criminal domains.

QUEST is a system interface (Search Web Service) enabling MS frontline law enforcement officers, working on a single computer, to automatically consult Europol databases together with their own national system/s. This solution will enable the end users of the national systems (QUEST clients) to run a query on Europol's information, in a single operation with other queries, e.g. national police record system, SISII and/or Interpol/ASF.

QUEST is based on the Universal Message Format (UMF) standard when replying to searching requests. In order to make QUEST available for the frontline law enforcement officers it is mandatory for national MS systems to be connected to the EUROPOL Secure Network. In addition, their user search interfaces require updating to include QUEST web service as a search resource where answers can be made available to end users simultaneously with ones from their national system, SISII and INTERPOL/ASF.

Europol is supporting the UMF3 project, co-financed by the European Commission from Internal Security Fund programme, to enhance and extend the implementation of a structured data format for exchanging cross-border law enforcement information that was established under the previous UMF projects. The UMF3 project has 3 Work Streams and its third Work Stream consists of a series of pilot projects on the pilot implementation of QUEST including MSs (Estonia, Spain, Finland, Greece and Poland with the overall coordination of Germany and Europol) enabling the searching of persons and firearms in the Europol Information System (EIS) as shown in the image below. The target situation under the new legal framework (Europol regulation) is that all relevant operational data held at Europol would be searchable via QUEST.



QUEST supports the wider concept of "Single Search Interface" (SSI) as introduced by the European Commission and the "Integrated Data Management Concept" as introduced by the new Europol Regulation and will ultimately increase interoperability and police cooperation within a secure data exchange environment.