DG Justice and Consumers

European Court Database

Open Access API

Subject	Open Access API
Version	1.00
Release Date	10/04/2017
Reference	CDB-API

Table of Contents

List of Tables

Reference and Applicable Documents

This section contains the lists of all reference an applicable documents. When referring to any of the documents below, the bracketed reference will be used in the text, such as [R01].

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS				
Ref.	Title	Reference	Version	Date
R01	RFC 2616: Hypertext Transfer Protocol -- HTTP/1.1 http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2616.txt	RFC 2616	N/A	June 1999
R02	RFC 2617: HTTP Authentication: Basic and Digest Access Authentication http://tools.ietf.org/pdf/rfc2617.pdf	RFC 2617	N/A	June 1999
R03	Drools Documentation http://docs.jboss.org/drools/release/6.1.0.Final/drools-docs/html/	N/A	6.1.0.Final	N/A

Table 1: Reference Documents

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	
Abbreviation	**Meaning**
API	Application Programming Interface
CDB	European Court Database
DG JUST	Directorate-General Justice and Consumers
EC	European Commission
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	HyperText Transfer Protocol Secure
JAXB	Java Architecture for XML Binding
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
XML	Extensible Mark-up Language
XSD	XML Schema Definition

Table 2: Abbreviations and Acronyms

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM

The European Court Database (CDB) system is publicly available since November 2015. It provides an easy way for users to determine the correct (i.e., competent) court for a number of European legal instruments, such as European Payment Orders, European Small Claims, and others. It replaces the European Judicial Atlas in Civil matters that is gradually being phased out.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

This document describes the Application Programming Interface (API) for submitting queries to CDB. It is provided as support material for users of the system, which may be external Client Applications. As such, this document describes:

- The API exposed by the application and details their specifications;

- The structure/format of exchanged data.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT

The scope of this document is limited to the European Court Database (CDB) application, and the different interfaces the system exposes. The reader might need a technical background to fully grasp all aspects exposed in this document. In particular, knowledge of the HTTP protocol, the XML format, the Java programming language and the Drools rue engine is required. Technical documentation of these technologies is out of the scope of this document.

1.4 INTENDED AUDIENCE

The present document is intended to be read by:

- Client Application project teams.

2 API

This chapter describes the APIs exposed by the application and details their specifications. Note that all interfaces return HTTP status codes as defined in the HTTP/1.1 protocol [R01]. See "**3 Appendix D – HTTP Status Codes**" for a list of common status codes.

2.1 EUROPEAN COURT DATABASE

The various operations composing the service are available from the following context, further referred as [ServiceContext]:

> https://[Server]/cdb

> here

>> [Server] is the external URL of the server running CDB. Currently CDB is hosted at: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu

2.1.1 STATUS INTERFACE

The status interface can be used for monitoring purposes, e.g. to probe the liveliness of the application.

STATUS INTERFACE	
Description	Allows checking the liveliness of the Front Office. Returns the application's build date. Is expected to return the HTTP status code 200.
HTTP Method	GET
Path	/status
Response Body Content Type	application/json

Table 3: Status Interface

2.1.2 SEARCH INTERFACES

The search interfaces can be used by end users for performing a search request in order to find competent courts depending on search criteria.

2.1.2.1 Search Interface

SEARCH INTERFACE	
Description	Allows performing a search and returns results. Courts are returned in alphabetical order based on the court's name.
HTTP Method	POST
Path	/search
Request Body Content Type	application/json
Request Body	The request body must be in JSON format. The following JSON schema describes

the expected JSON structure:

```json
{
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
  "title": "Search Request",
  "description": "JSON used to perform a search request",
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "instrument": {
      "description": "The unique code of an instrument",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "country": {
      "description": "The unique code of a country",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "competenceType": {
      "description": "The unique code of a competence type",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "id": {
      "description": "The unique ID of a competent body",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "courtType": {
      "description": "The court type code of a court",
      "type" : "string"
    },
    "courtName": {
      "description": "The unique name of a court",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "courtPostalCode": {
      "description": "The postal code of a court",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "courtMunicipality": {
      "description": "The municipality of a court",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "courtAddress": {
      "description": "The address of a court",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "postalCode": {
      "description": "The postal code of a municipality",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "municipality": {
      "description": "The name of a municipality",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "street": {
      "description": "The name of a street",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "streetNumber": {
      "description": "The number of a street address",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "geoNameId": {
      "description": "The GeoNames identifier of a
geographical unit",
      "type": "string"
```

| | ```
        },
        "entity": {
          "description": "The entity is a sub-division of a
country. It is required when requesting the interface for
UK.",
          "type": "string"
        },
        "amount": {
          "description": "The claimed amount",
          "type": "number"
        },
        "ecodex": {
          "description": "The ecodex  parameter is used to
indicate if the request wants to restrict the response to
ecodex enabled courts. If the parameter is not present the
default value will be false",
          "type": "boolean"
        }
      }
    }
``` |
| Response Body Content Type | application/json |
| Response Body | The response body is in JSON format. The following JSON schema describes the expected JSON structure:<br><br>```
{
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
  "title": "Search Response",
  "description": "Response received when performing a search
request",
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "state": {
      "description": "The state of the conversation. Values
may be: UNDEFINED – indicates a technical error preventing the
system to fulfill the request, ANSWERED – indicates that the
system successfully answered the request,
WAITING_FOR_PARAMETERS – indicates that some parameters are
required to perform the request",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "requiredParameters": {
      "description": "The list of required parameters needed
to perform the search request",
      "type": "array",
      "items": {
        "type": "string"
      }
    },
    "oneOfRequiredParameters": {
      "description": "One of the parameters specified in the
list is required to perform the search request",
      "type": "array",
      "items": {
        "type": "string"
      }
    },
    "municipalityLevel": {
      "description": "GeoNames Feature Class/Feature Code
defined for the queried Member State that will be used to
execute searches on GeoNames. The following values can be
provided: "P" for Cities, "ADM1", "ADM2", "ADM3", "ADM4" or
"ADMD" for Administrative divisions (level 1, 2, 3, 4 or
undefined). Multiple values can be provided as comma delimited
``` |

```
list (e.g. P,ADM1,ADM4,ADMD). In case GeoNames is not
supported for a given Member State, this field is kept empty.
This property is returned until the request does not have
state property set to ANSWERED.",
      "type": "string"
    },
  "competentBodies": {
    "description": "The list of competent bodies returned by
the search",
    "type": "array",
    "items": {
      "type": "object",
      "properties": {
        "id": {
          "type":"string",
          "description": "The unique identifier of the
competent body within the country"
        }
        "country": {
          "type":"string",
          "description": "The country to which the competent
body pertains"
        },
        "details": {
          "type":"array",
          "description": "The list of details of the
competent body according to the language, instrument and
competence type",
          "items": {
            "type":"object",
            "description": "Specifies the details of a
competent body"
            "properties":{
              "lang": {
                "type":"string",
                "description": "The language code for the
language in which the properties are returned"
              },
              "instrument": {
                "type":"string",
                "description": "The instrument for which the
properties apply"
              },
              "competence": {
                "type":"string",
                "description": "The competence for which the
properties apply"
              },
              "address": {
                "type":"string",
                "description": "the address of the competent
body"
              },
              "comments": {
                "type":"array",
                "description": "The list of comments
applying to the competent body",
                "items": {
                  "type":"string"
                }
              },
              "fax": {
                "type":"string",
                "description": "the fax of the competent
```

```
body"
                    },
                    "municipality": {
                      "type":"string",
                      "description": "the municipality of the
competent body"
                    },
                    "name": {
                      "type":"string",
                      "description": "The name of the competent
body"
                    },
                    "postalCode": {
                      "type":"string",
                      "description": "The postal code of the
competent body"
                    },
                    "tel": {
                      "type":"string",
                      "description": "The phone number of the
competent body"
                    },
                    "videoConference": {
                      "type":"boolean",
                      "description": "Indicates if the competent
body has videoconference capabilities"
                    },
                    "acceptedLanguages": {
                      "type":"array",
                      "description": "The list of accepted
languages",
                      "items": {
                              "type":"string"
                              "description":"the ISO2 language
code"
                          }
                    }
                  }
                },
            "ecliCode": {
              "type":"string",
              "description" : "The list of ECLI codes (comma
separated) identifying the court"
            },
            "courtTypes": {
              "type" : "array",
              "description" : "The court type applied to the
court",
              "items": {
                 "type":"string"
              }
            }
            "authorityTable": {
              "type": "object",
              "properties": {
                "dateStartUse": {
                  "type": "date",
                  "description": "Date of establishment of the
court"
                },
                "dateEndUse": {
                  "type": "date",
                  "description": "Date of closure of the court"
```

```
                },
                "predecessors": {
                    "type":"array",
                    "description": "Competent court before
establishment",
                        "items": {
                            "type":"string"
                            "description":"court id"
                        }
                },
                "successor": {
                    "type":"array",
                    "description": "Competent court after
closure",
                        "items": {
                            "type":"string"
                            "description":"court id"
                        }
                    }
                }
            },
            "ecodexParameters": {
                "type":"array",
                "description": "The list of eCodexParemeters of
the competent body according to the instrument",
                "items": {
                    "type":"object",
                    "description": "Specifies the details of a
competent body"
                    "properties":{
                        "instrument": {
                            "type":"string",
                            "description": "The instrument for which the
e-CODEX electronic address and list of languages in which the
court can accept submissions via e-CODEX are defined"
                        },
                        "ecodexElectronicAddress": {
                            "type":"string",
                            "description": "The electronic address of
the court to be used when sending messages to it via e-CODEX."
                        },
                        "acceptedLanguages": {
                            "type":"array",
                            "description": "The list of languages in
which the court can accept submissions via e-CODEX",
                                "items": {
                                    "type":"string"
                                    "description":"the ISO2
language code"
                                }
                        }
                    }
                }
            }
        }
    },
    "text": {
        "description": "Additional text returned by the search
engine",
        "type": "string"
    },
    "textID": {
```

```
        "description": "name of a resource to be displayed as
additional information",
        "type": "string"
    }

}
```

Table 4: Search Interface

2.1.3 REFERENCE DATA INTERFACES

Interfaces described hereafter allow a client application to retrieve information and content of reference data. These are useful when building up a search form to retrieve all possible values of a parameter. At the difference of indexation interfaces, the reference data interfaces are used independently of the country and return the complete list of values.

Please note that the information returned by the system is not internationalised. It's up to the client application to translate any concept in the desired language.

GET REFERENCE DATA INTERFACE	
Description	Returns the list of reference data maintained by the application. The names returned correspond to the names of parameters returned by the search interface (see "**2.1.2 Search Interface**").
HTTP Method	GET
Path	/referenceData
Response Body Content Type	application/json

Response Body	The response body is in JSON format. The following JSON schema describes the expected JSON structure:
	
	`{`
	`  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",`
	`  "title": "Indexes",`
	`  "description": "Response received when requesting the list of reference data",`
	`  "type": "array",`
	`  "items": {`
	`      "title": "Reference Data",`
	`      "type": "string"`
	`  }`
	`}`

Table 5: Get Reference Data Interface

GET REFERENCE DATA VALUES INTERFACE	
Description	Returns the list of possible values for a specific reference data. In the case of instrument, the associated competences for each instrument are returned as well.
HTTP Method	GET
Path	/referenceData/{referenceData} Where: • {referenceData} is the name of the reference data to return.
Response Body Content Type	application/json

Response Body	The response body is in JSON format. The following JSON schema describes the expected JSON structure:

```
{
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
  "title": "Reference Data Values",
  "description": "Response received when requesting the list
of reference data values",
  "type": "array",
  "items": {
    "title": "Reference Data Value",
    "type": "object",
    "properties": {
      "identifier": {
        "description": "The identifier of the reference data",
          "type": "string"
      },
      "competences": {
        "description": "The list of competences associated to
the instrument. The property is only present if the reference
data returned is the list of instruments.",
        "type": "array",
        "items": {
          "title": "Competence",
          "type": "string"
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

Table 6: Get Reference Data Values Interface

3 APPENDIX D – HTTP STATUS CODES

The exposed Web Services may respond to the caller with any response code described in the RFC 2616 defining the Hypertext Transfer Protocol [R01].

Although not exhaustive, the following list describes the codes that are the most likely to be encountered:

HTTP RESPONSE CODES		
Code	Message	Description
200	OK	Signals that the request has been successfully treated.
400	Bad Request	Signals that the request is malformed, e.g. the request's body is missing or malformed.
401	Unauthorized	Similar to 403 Forbidden, but specifically used when authentication is required and has failed or has not yet been provided.
403	Forbidden	The request was a valid request, but the server is refusing to respond to it. Unlike a 401 Unauthorized response, authenticating will make no difference.
404	Not Found	Signals that the resource requested does not exist, e.g. an error in the URL format.
405	Method Not Allowed	A request was made to a resource using a request method not supported by that resource, e.g. using GET instead of POST.
406	Not Acceptable Media Type	The requested resource is only capable of generating content not acceptable according to the Accept headers sent in the request.
415	Unsupported Media Type	The media type of the request body is not supported.
500	Internal Server Error	An unexpected error occurred on the server.

Table 8: HTTP Response Codes

4   ANNEX – INSTRUMENTS AND COMPETENCES

This section lists instruments and competences supported by the system.

Instrument Name	Instrument Code	Competence Code	Competence Name	Explanation
Legal Aid	LA	TAS	Transmitting Authorities	Transmitting authorities are competent to send applications.
		RAS	Receiving Authorities	Receiving authorities are competent to receive applications.
Mediation	MD	CA	Competent Authority	The competent authorities according to article 6 (3) of the Directive are the authorities competent to receive requests asking that the content of a written agreement resulting from mediation is made enforceable.
Serving Documents	SD	CB	Central Body	The Central Body is responsible for supplying information to the transmitting agencies and seeking solutions to any difficulties which may arise during transmission of documents for service.
		TA	Transmitting Agencies	Transmitting Agencies are competent for the transmission of judicial or extrajudicial documents to be served in another Member State.
		RA	Receiving Agencies	Receiving Agencies are competent for the receipt of judicial or extrajudicial documents from another Member State.
European cross-border procedures - European payment order	EPO	CJ	Court with jurisdiction	courts that have jurisdiction to issue a European order for payment

Instrument Name	Instrument Code	Competence Code	Competence Name	Explanation
		CR	Court for review	the competent courts for the purposes of the application of Article 20
		CE	Competent authorities for enforcement	Article 21 and 28(b)
		CRE	Competent courts for refusal of enforcement	Article 22 and 28(b)
		CAS	Competent authorities for stay or limitation of enforcement	Article 23 and 28(b)
European cross-border procedures - Small Claims	SC	CJ	Court with jurisdiction	Courts or tribunals have jurisdiction to give a judgment in the European Small Claims Procedure;
		CAE	Courts for appeal	whether an appeal is available under their procedural law in accordance with Article 17 and with which court or tribunal this may be lodged
		CE	Competent authorities for enforcement	Authorities that have competence with respect to enforcement
		CAS	Competent authorities for stay or limitation of enforcement	Authorities that have competence for the purposes of the application of Article 23
Taking Evidence	TE	CB	Central Body	The Central Body is responsible for supplying information to the courts and seeking solutions to any difficulties which may arise in respect of a request.

Instrument Name	Instrument Code	Competence Code	Competence Name	Explanation
		RC	Requested Courts	The Requested Court is the competent court of another Member State for the performance of the taking of evidence. The list of the 'requested courts' drawn up pursuant to Article 2(2) indicates the territorial and, where appropriate, the special jurisdiction of those courts.
		CA	Competent Authority	competent authorities pursuant to Article 3, indicating their territorial jurisdiction
Recognising and Enforcing Judgments In Civil And Commercial Matters – Brussels I Regulation	JCC	CAP	Courts for application	The courts or competent authorities to which the application (for declaration of enforceability) referred to in Article 39 may be submitted
		CAE	Courts for appeal	The courts with which appeals referred to in Article 43(2) and further appeal referred to in Article 44 may be submitted.
Recognising and Enforcing Judgments In Civil And Commercial Matters – Brussels I Regulation (recast)	BRR	CAP	Courts for application	The courts to which the application for refusal of enforcement (Article 47(1)) and the application for (refusal of) recognition (Art. 36(2) and Art. 45(4)) is to be submitted
		CAE	Courts for appeal	The courts with which an appeal against the decision on the application for refusal of enforcement is to be lodged (Article 49(2))
		CAF	Courts for a further appeal	The courts with which any further appeal is to be lodged (Article 50)

Instrument Name	Instrument Code	Competence Code	Competence Name	Explanation
Recognising and Enforcing Judgments In Civil And Commercial Matters – European Enforcement Order	EEO	CAA	Competent authorities for certification of the authentic instruments	Article 30.1(c) EEO
		CE	Competent authorities for enforcement	Article 20 and 29(b) EEO
		CRE	Competent courts for refusal of enforcement	Article 21 and 28(b) EEO
		CAS	Competent authorities for stay or limitation of enforcement	Article 23 and 29(b) EEO
Family Law - Matrimonial matters and matters of parental responsibility	MPR	CAU	Central Authority	The names, addresses and means of communication for the central authorities designated pursuant to Article 53;
		CRA	Court for recognition/enforceability application	The courts competent to rule [at first instance] on an application for the recognition or the non-recognition of a judgment from another MS (Art 21) or to rule [at first instance] on an application for a declaration of enforceability of a judgment issued in another MS (Art 29)
		CAR	Court for appeal against a decision on recognition/enforceability	The courts competent to rule [at second instance] on a decision on the application for the recognition of a judgment from another MS (Art 21 and Art 33) or to rule [at second instance] on an application for a declaration of enforceability of a judgment issued in another MS (Art 33)

Instrument Name	Instrument Code	Competence Code	Competence Name	Explanation
Family Law - Maintenance Obligations	MO	CAU	Central Authority	The names and contact details of their Central Authorities and, where appropriate, the extent of their functions, in accordance with Article 49(3);
				The names and contact details of the public bodies or other bodies which perform the functions of the Central Authority under Article 51 and, where appropriate, the extent of their functions, in accordance with Article 51(3).
		CR	Court for Review	The review procedure for the purposes of Article 19 and the names and contact details of the courts having jurisdiction to review the decision issued in their Member State which is bound by the 2007 Hague Protocol;
		CE	Competent Authorities for enforcement	The names and contact details of the authorities with competence in matters of enforcement of a decision issued in another Member State which is bound by the 2007 Hague Protocol (Article 21);
		CEA	Courts for Enforceability Application	The names and contact details of the courts or authorities competent to rule [at first instance] on an application for a declaration of enforceability of a decision issued in another Member State which is not bound by the 2007 Hague Protocol (Art 27(1));

Instrument Name	Instrument Code	Competence Code	Competence Name	Explanation
		CAD	Courts for appeal against a decision on enforceability	The names and contact details of the courts with competence to deal appeals against decisions on applications for a declaration of enforceability of a maintenance decision given in another Member State which is not bound by the 2007 Hague Protocol (Article 32(2));
Compensation to Crime victims	CV	CCP	Central contact point	Central contact points designated in accordance with Article 16
		AAS	Assisting Authorities	The list of authorities established or designated in accordance with Articles 3(1) to which the applications for compensation should be submitted
		DAS	Deciding Authorities	The list of authorities established or designated in accordance with Articles 3(2), responsible for deciding upon applications for compensation
Family Law – Succession matters	SU	CAP	Courts for application	- the names and contact details of the courts or authorities with competence to deal with applications for a declaration of enforceability in accordance with Article 45(1) and with appeals against decisions on such applications in accordance with Article 50(2);

Instrument Name	Instrument Code	Competence Code	Competence Name	Explanation
		CAE	Courts for appeal	- the names and contact details of the courts or authorities with appeals against decisions on applications for a declaration of enforceability in accordance with Article 50(2);
		CA	Competent Authority	- the relevant information regarding the authorities competent to issue the European Certificate of Succession pursuant to Article 64;
European cross-border procedures - European Protection Measures in civil matters	EPM CIVIL	CAJ	Competent authorities with jurisdiction	Authorities competent to order *(national) protection measures* in civil matters
		CIS	Competent authorities for issuing	Authorities competent to issue a *certificate* in accordance with Article 5 of the Regulation
		CE	Competent authorities for enforcement	Authorities before which the certificate is to be invoked and/or which are competent *to enforce* such a measure according to Article 4(1) of the Regulation
		ADJ	Competent authorities for adjustment	Authorities competent to effect the *adjustment* of protection measures in accordance with Article 11(1) of the Regulation
		CRE	Competent courts for refusal of enforcement	Courts that have competence with respect to *refusal* of recognition or, where applicable, for refusal of enforcement in accordance with Article 13 of the Regulation
European Account Preservation Order	EAPO	CJA	Courts with jurisdiction in case of authentic instrument	The courts which have jurisdiction to issue EAPO for the claim specified in the authentic instrument obtained by the creditor (Article 6(4))

Instrument Name	Instrument Code	Competence Code	Competence Name	Explanation
		AAR	Courts for appeal against refusal to issue the EAPO	The courts with which an appeal against a refusal to issue the EAPO is to be lodged (Article 21)
		CER	Courts or enforcement authority for granting a remedy	The courts or, where applicable, the enforcement authority competent to grant a remedy (Article 33(1), 34(1) or (2))
		AAD	Courts for appeal against a decision on the remedy	The courts with which an appeal against a decision on the remedy is to be lodged (Article 37)

End of Document