



## EVALUATION OF THE ENFSI BOARD ACTION PLAN 2008 – 2009

### Vision

*ENFSI is recognized as a pre-eminent voice in forensic science worldwide by ensuring the quality of development and delivery of forensic science throughout Europe.*

### 1. Communication:

Internal: ENFSI will be a transparent organisation at all levels, open internal communication will be encouraged throughout.

### Actions

- a) Improve the transparency of the decision making process and involve all members of ENFSI through:
- Distribution of information to all members e.g. Board meeting minutes, WG chairman summaries, EAFS and QCC proceedings.
    - *All minutes of the Board meetings, the Joint Meeting as well as the WG chairman summaries to the Board have been distributed to the membership by e-mail and/or published on the website.*
    - *All minutes and relevant documents with information on e.g. EU funding programmes are available on the EAFS pages on the ENFSI website*
    - *QCC- minutes are to be published on the website.*
  - Frequent use of decision making processes, in particular e-voting to involve all members in the progress and development of ENFSI.
    - *The tool of e-voting has been used successfully three times in the past ENFSI year. It regards: Strategic Plan 2008-2011, FWK for Awarding and Terms of Reference for Project Groups. All proposals were approved by the membership.*
  - Encourage debate at meetings and the regular use of One day One issue Seminar (OOS) workshops to explore major issues.
    - *One OOS has been organised. Title: Development And Implementation of a Research Strategy for ENFSI (January 2009 – Birmingham). This meeting served as input for the ENFSI R&D-Strategy document*
    - *QCC has together with Scene of Crime EWG and European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA) arranged a Two days One topic Seminar (TOS) with the title: Quality Assurance for the Investigation at the Scene of Crime (November 2008 - Copenhagen).*
    - *QCC has organised together with EA a TOS with the title: Quality Issues in the Forensic Process - for the European Accreditation Bodies. The aim of the TOS was to raise awareness within Accreditation Bodies about specific forensic quality issues (January 2009 – Voorburg, The Netherland).*

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- Invite individual members to take the lead in addressing particular issues as they arise.
    - *The member-representative Peter Pfefferli has been asked to take forward the E&T-topic.*
- b) Continue to promote contacts between Working Groups/Committees and the members facilitated by the Board through:
- Annual Joint Meeting with all Working Group chairs and committee chairs.
    - *This meeting took place in November 2008 in Larnaca – Cyprus. The full Board, all WG’s chairs (or substitutes) and the chairs of the QCC and EAFS were present.*
  - One to one briefing with Working Group and committee chairs.
    - *For the second consecutive year the Board has invited the WG chairs to meet the Board in conjunction with a regular Board meeting. Usually 3 -5 chairs were present simultaneously. The discussions on daily as well as strategic topics were open and there was opportunity to exchange new ideas. The logistics of this way of organising meetings in terms of efficiency and effectiveness has been questioned. For that reason an evaluation will be executed in the near future.*
  - Reports back to the members.
    - *See 1a*
    - *A new standard form for the planning and the reporting cycle for the WG’s has been developed and applied for the first year*
- c) Continue to develop the ENFSI website as a source of communication between members/Working Groups/Committees through:
- Making available all of the website to all members.
    - *The restricted pages were made available to all members by submitting a personal password. Almost all members have been registered in the course of the year.*
  - Setting a standard page for each ENFSI member institute to fill in.
    - *A process has been started to have an individual page for all ENFSI members with specific information about their institute.*
  - Setting up discussion forums on ‘live’ issues.
    - *This feature has been developed recently. It is too soon to judge the relevance.*
  - Provide key dates of up coming forensic meetings.
    - *Due to the huge amount of forensic meetings a selection for publishing on the website had to be made. Further, the process has started to have all meetings of the Board, the Standing Committees and the WG’s in one calendar.*

External: The profile of ENFSI will be raised by more pro-active robust communication.

### **Actions**

- d) Define a strategy to better inform the forensic world of the work of ENFSI through:
- Renew and re-issue the ENFSI brochure.
    - *An renewed and updated version of the ENFSI brochures was issued.*

- Provide a year's report on the activities of ENFSI and its Working Groups and Committees.
  - *Traditionally these ENFSI entities present each year their annual reports to the membership at the Annual Meeting. Re-edited versions of these documents could be distributed externally to raise the ENFSI profile [start as of the Ankara AM2009].*
- Ensure that the website is as accessible to non-members as possible.
  - *More information regarding the individual ENFSI-members on the public pages of the website were published. See also 1c.*
- Continue to liaise with other prominent forensic groups world-wide: ASCLD, SMANZFL, AICEF etc.
  - *The cooperation with ASCLD, SMANZFL and AICEF has been continued under the auspices of the International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA). ENFSI has run the IFSA-secretariat in the period October 2007 – October 2008. Further, a number of teleconferences and a face-to-face meeting (October 2008 – Melbourne) were organised. The practical outcome of this cooperation is not impressive so far.*
  - *QCC has initiated co-operation with ASCLD, SMANZFL and AICEF to represent the forensic community during the revision of ILAC G19:2002 together with ILAC. ENFSI and ASCLD were represented at the first meeting in Stockholm December 2008.*

e) Continue to liaise with the EU to:

- Achieve recognition with the EU for ENFSI as the voice of forensic science at the European level.
  - *A major milestone has been achieved at the end of 2008 when ENFSI was recognised by the EU as the monopolist representing the forensic science community in Europe. This status gives access to funding [reservations of 500,000 Euro in 2009 and 550,000 Euro in 2010] for relevant projects without competitions by other funding applicants.*
  - *ENFSI has played a major role in getting 'Forensics' on the agenda in Brussels resulting in i) Forensic Project Call in the 2<sup>nd</sup> call of the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme ii) discussions in Brussels in one of the workgroups of the European Security Research and Innovation Forum, resulting in a subgroup Forensics specifically addressing the future research requirements for forensics in the future (2012 and beyond)*
  - *To attract funds for the development of forensic practice throughout Europe and provision of research.*
  - *In addition to the previous issue ENFSI has also been active in the 7th Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration activities for 2007-2013 (FP7). ENFSI has influenced the call for proposals regarding the so-called forensic toolbox. In its current version it offers possibilities to the ENFSI-institutes for successful applications.*

f) Target promotion of ENFSI to key groups who could be beneficial to ENFSI and support organisers of ENFSI meetings in local publicity.

- *An ENFSI Board delegation has visited Eurojust (The Hague – The Netherlands). It has been agreed to intensify the cooperation in the near future.*

## 2. Education & Training:

ENFSI will promote and act as a catalyst for education of customers and training of forensic scientists to achieve excellence in forensic science delivery.

### Actions

a) The Board will encourage the EAFS committee to:

- Continue the work of the subcommittees FORSTAT, FORJUST and Multilingua.
  - *FORSTAT has organised a workshop (13-14 June 2008 in Edinburgh) on "Evidence and evaluation: problem and applications". FORSTAT has also established a research group for forensic-statistical issues.*
  - *The FORJUST project has focused on a) the creation of a set of guidelines on the education and professional training of judges, prosecutors, lawyers and the police and b) the drafting of a working document on the qualifications of instructors. FORJUST has finalised its activities in the spring of 2009 by writing a report after having organised a survey among the various stakeholders.*
  - *Multilingua (ML) is in a crucial phase of its existence. The activities have been at a minimal level this year. The Board has appointed an external advisor Phil Jones to evaluate the problems and possibilities of the ML-group. Based on his findings, the ENFSI Board will do a proposal to the membership about the future of the ML-group.*
- Organise Training and Education workshops during the EAFS Triennial Meeting.
  - *The organisers of the EAFS Triennial meeting 2009 in Strathclyde have not organised a series of workshops which are explicit focusing on E&T. However, due to its nature a workshop always includes E&T-aspects.*
- Organise One day One Topic seminars for all ENFSI members on topics decided by the ENFSI membership.
  - *The Board has formulated potential topics for OOS's in the ENFSI year 2009-2010. The membership has been asked for comments and additional suggestions. A proposal for the next year's schedule will be discussed at the AM2009.*
  - The Board will establish contacts with Training Networks like the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and CEPOL.
    - *The Board as been in touch with both organisations and both are interested in collaboration with ENFSI. In practice, the collaboration will focus on courses and seminars on forensic science topics which are relevant for non-scientists like police officers, judges, prosecutors, etc. ENFSI may be able to provide qualified teachers. In the next ENFSI year these intentions should be transferred in actions.*
    - *CEPOL and ENFSI have agreed on a MOU which is waiting for the formal approval by the CEPOL Board.*
    - *In October 2008 ENFSI has assisted CEPOL for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year in organising a course on forensic science in Budapest. In*

*the forthcoming 3 years these courses will be organised by CEPOL France (Bordeaux). ENFSI has offered its assistance for this series as well.*

- The Board will encourage Working Groups to:
  1. Organize workshops for young scientists
  2. Develop Best Practice Manuals
- *These activities have been discussed during the one to one briefings of the WG's to the Board as well as at the Joint Meeting.*
- Scientist from Working Groups will be sponsored to participate in educational/scientific conferences.
- *A limited number of these requests were received by the Board. All requests have been granted.*

### 3. Science:

ENFSI will encourage expert opinion based on robust science that is objective, reliable and validated.

#### Actions

- The contacts with universities and other relevant institutions or individuals from the scientific world will be intensified in order to enhance the scientific basis and knowledge in ENFSI.
  - *See 2a.*
- Participation of ENFSI laboratories in EU research projects will be stimulated. The EAFS committee will act as a source of advice.
  - *EAFS has contributed to the elaboration of the ESRIF report (see 1e).*
- The project 'Study on obstacles to cooperation and information sharing among forensic laboratories and other relevant bodies of different member states and between these and counterparts in third countries [European contract - JSL/DI/2007/025]' will be continued.
  - *This project has been very successful and appeared to be the initiation of the achieved monopoly status of ENFSI. A continuation of the project is to be expected in the course of 2009.*
- There will be scientific input in the Thematic Part of the Annual Meeting.
  - *In addition to the Thematic Part 'Caseload Management', 3 WG chairs will give a presentation on the status and progress of their respective expertise field at the Ankara AM2009.*
- ENFSI members will be made more aware of relevant scientific meetings through the ENFSI website and e-mail.
  - *See 1c.*
- ENFSI will have contacts with Interpol, especially in the organizing of the Interpol Triennial Meeting 2010. ENFSI chairman has been nominated as a member of the Organising Committee.
  - *In the past year no formal contacts between Interpol and the ENFSI Board took place. A number of individuals from the ENFSI community including the chairman will participate in the Organising Committee.*
- The EAFS committee will be encouraged to improve knowledge transfer between individual stakeholder groups (scientists, police, lawyers), researchers and practitioners as well as within the ENFSI community.

- *This issue has not given priority this year.*
- The Board will encourage the publication of reference scientific works under the ENFSI name.
- *This has been stimulated during the one-to-one meetings with the WG chairs.*
- The Board will encourage and provide advice for scientists who wish to undertake projects in specific areas on a European wide basis e.g. project group on hair
- *The Hair Project Group has been very active. An update of the current status will be given at the Ankara AM2009.*
- Innovative methods will be stimulated and introduced.
- *This has been stimulated during the one-to-one meetings with the WG chairs.*
- Project groups will be set up that deal with certain issues together with the Working Groups. One example is the PGM (Platinum Group Metals) project under leadership of *Ingvar Kopp*. The ENFSI Board is receptive and ready to do this kind of projects.
- *There were no opportunities for a similar project in the past ENFSI year.*
- The Board together with the EAFS committee keeps a watching brief on emerging science.
- *The report of the National Academy of Science (NAS) has been identified by the Board as being relevant for ENFSI. It will be presented and discussed at the Annual Meeting 2009.*

#### 4. Value of Evidence

ENFSI will encourage the evaluation of the strength of evidence and how that should be communicated to the courts and customers.

- *This issue has been included in the ENFSI R&D Strategy document..*
- *A proposal was submitted for the FP7/Forensic Toolmarks, but was rejected. However, it will be included in the next call due in July 2009 in order to come to a Strategic Road Map concerning this subject.*

#### Actions

- a) Through the Committees and the WG's the Board will encourage overarching consideration of interpretation.
  - *QCC has recently started a project concerning the validation of comparative methods.*
- b) Communicate with Association of Forensic Science Providers (AFSP) [UK&ROI] regarding expert opinion project with view to having workshop or presentation at AM2009.
  - *This issue has not given priority this year.*
- c) Liaise with EAFS, FORJUST, FORSTAT and European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and assess possibility of contribution.

- *This issue has not been tackled in a structured way but only incidentally.*
- d) Consider the use of a survey to collate national initiatives in the area of evidence, evaluation and communication.
- *This issue has not given priority this year.*

## 5. Quality and Competence:

ENFSI will provide a framework for implementation, maintenance and demonstration of quality.

### Actions

- a) The Board will have close contacts with the QCC through:
- Participation of QCC meetings by a Board representative
  - Invitation of the QCC chair to Board meetings
  - Participation of a Board representative in Quality Assurance related meetings organised by the QCC
    - *There have been close contacts the whole year through. Tore Olsson has been the Board representative in the QCC.*
- b) The Board will encourage the QCC to:
- Continue the contacts with relevant organisations like EA/ILAC/BIPM
    - *The contacts have been continued intensively and the QCC-chair Christina Bertler has attended several meetings. See also QCC-report 2008 – 2009.*
    - *There is an on-going co-operation with EA to develop the procedures for accreditation of forensic providers, see 1a concerning TOS.*
    - *ENFSI QCC and at present also ASCLD are jointly co-operation with ILAC to revise the G19:2002 Guide for forensic laboratories.*
  - Continue all running projects like CAP, Measurement of Uncertainty, Sampling etc.
    - *All projects have been finalised or continued.*
    - Organise One day, One topic Seminar for all ENFSI members on topics decided by the membership
      - *See 1a, concerning the arrangement of two TOS-events.*
  - Set up a Proficiency Test/Collaborative Test policy
    - *A policy document by the QCC has been approved by the Board and will be published on the website after a final feed-back by the QCLG.*
- c) Annually it will be checked, through the QCC survey, if the member-institutes fulfil the eligibility criteria for membership. Members who do not fulfil the criteria or do not demonstrate sufficient progress towards fulfilment will be removed from ENFSI membership.
- *As usual the QCC-survey has been sent out in December 2008; the response was very satisfactory. The results will be presented at the*

*Ankara AM2009.*

- d) The EMFA project will be continued according to the project plan.
- *The 'flying mentors' project has been continued according to plan. Most participating institutes took advantage of the know-how and experience of their respective donor partners. The results so far will be presented at the Ankara AM2009.*
- e) The accreditation based on ISO 17025 of its members is a top priority for ENFSI. The Board will provide support to the members in general and – when requested – on individual basis as well. By 2008-2009 more than 50% of all ENFSI members should be accredited .
- *Apart from the EMFA-project no structured QA-activities have been performed or stimulated by the Board. Currently 29 out of the 55 ENFSI members (53%) are accredited according to the last QCC survey in 2008.*
- f) The ENFSI Board strives to acquire a 'monopoly status' for ENFSI so more means will be available to support the ENFSI community.
- *See 1e.*
- g) The Board will, on request, support non-ENFSI laboratories in their developing process.
- *No requests have been forwarded to the Board.*

## **6. Research and Development:**

ENFSI will enhance innovation in forensic science by research & development to improve service delivery to our customers. In order to support innovation ENFSI will actively explore funding opportunities.

### **Actions**

- a) The Board together with the EAFS committee will continue to pay attention on the 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Union, especially on the paragraph 'Advanced Forensic Toolbox'. The Board emphasises that combination of initiatives within ENFSI is needed.
- *See 1e*
- b) The EAFS committee will be encouraged to continue their work about R&D.
- *The EAFS will submit a policy document on R&D to be discussed at the Ankara AM2009*
- c) The EAFS committee will be invited to implement the ENFSI strategic position paper on R&D.
- *See previous issue.*
- d) Contacts with universities will be enhanced through the EAFS committee in cooperation with the ENFSI members.
- *Apart from the regular contacts with the universities of Lausanne and Strathclyde, no structured actions have been taken.*



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