
ANNUAL REPORT 2016

European Network of Forensic Science Institutes

ENFSI



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BKA, Germany



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Message from the Chairman



MESSAGE FROM THE
BOARD AND SECRETARIAT

Dear Readers,

The incidents which happened in Paris and Brussels have underlined the need for an efficient exchange of police and juridical information between the different countries in Europe. Forensic information has played a key role in these events, as exchange of DNA-profiles and fingerprints turned out to be essential in identifying the international network of terrorists. The speed of the analysis and the exchange, enabled through the Prüm framework decision, made this information available in a couple of days.

In collaboration with the Dutch Presidency, an ambitious Action Plan for achieving a European Forensic Science Area (EFSA2020) was discussed and agreed on with the members of the Law Enforcement Working Party. ENFSI plays an important role in the majority of the actions which were defined in this document. The ENFSI membership has discussed this engagement during the Annual Meeting held in Bilbao, Spain in May 2016. After green light was given from ENFSI, the Action Plan was approved by the Council of Ministers at their meeting on June 9th.

Subsequently, the ENFSI Board has set up an EFSA 2020 Task Force to assist the European Commission and the Law Enforcement Working Party in the achievement of these actions. Different questionnaires have been circulated to do a stock-taking exercise on the need of further Best Practice Manuals and Proficiency Tests. The results are currently being analysed and will be available soon.

The ENFSI Board has taken the decision to use the Europol Platform for Experts (EPE) as the future ENFSI intranet. During the Joint Meeting and the Annual Meeting, more information about the new platform was made available. A number of training sessions were organized by Europol to train the web masters or chairs of the ENFSI statutory bodies. An EPE Task Force supports the users in answering questions and providing a basic structure for each entity.

ENFSI believes in a further reinforcement of the close relations it has with Europol in order to fight against crime together in Europe. Initial steps are being taken in order to host forensic databases on this platform.

Describing all the ENFSI projects and achievements would require a space much larger than this report, so we proudly present you the highlights of the activities ENFSI recently has been involved in by means of its members and different task forces.

The ENFSI Board highly appreciates the time and energy put in by committed colleagues!

Personally I am most grateful for their superb work and dedication to ENFSI!

I hope you all enjoy reading this year's report!

Jan De Kinder
Chairman of the 20th ENFSI Board



Kornelia Nehse

MEMBER OF THE 20TH ENFSI BOARD

Dear ENFSI members!

My name is Kornelia Nehse, I am 58 years old and started my career in Forensic Science in 1986. Working my way through crime scenes and forensic expertises, making court appearances and taking the lead as head of the "Textiles and Micromorphology", I finally moved to forensic management.

I graduated from the University of Applied Sciences Niederrhein in Textile and Clothing engineering and therefore, joined the European Fibres Group - EFG (later ETHG). As a founding member, steering committee member, general secretary and chairperson of this group I share a long history with ENFSI.

The EFG was the first to implement a Best Practice Manual for which the EFG committee, which I was part of, was awarded with the ENFSI Working Group Award during the EAFS meeting in 2003.

For many years I have been the permanent ENFSI representative of the Forensic Science Institute in Berlin, which is part of the State Criminal Police Office in Berlin, Germany. The institute is one of the biggest forensic science institutes in Europe.

During the Annual Meeting in Bilbao, which took place in May 2016, I was elected as an ENFSI Board Member, which is a great honor and pleasure to me.

Together with Erkki Sippola I'm currently responsible for ENFSI's Expert Working Groups (EWG). As a former EWG chair I know that the groups need our support and I know quite well how cumbersome and at the same time how gratifying the tasks of the EWGs can be.

One of the major common tasks for us is to build and maintain trust between the Board and the ENFSI EWGs to foster the exchange of information and drive common activities to improve the quality and delivery of forensic science throughout Europe. EU Direct Grants (Monopoly Projects) are living proof of what we can achieve with joint efforts. The EWGs and their members play an extremely important role in these projects and contribute largely to the success.

Building a strong network in which all ENFSI members can rely on each other and are willing to play an active role, is an essential issue to me. ENFSI, its EWGs and members have opened many doors for me and I hope that you all will encounter similar experiences.

I thank you all for being part of ENFSI and at the same time wish to encourage you to take an active role within the organization. There might be obstacles to overcome, but I promise, it will be worthwhile and beneficial for ENFSI and for yourself if you take action.

As the host of the ENFSI Annual Meeting 2017 in Berlin, I look forward to welcome all ENFSI permanent representatives at the meeting. The ENFSI Joint Meeting with the EWG chairs and Board Members present at the end of the year 2017 will be another event serving as an opportunity to strive for common aims.

Fruitful discussions and good decision-making processes are necessary to give ENFSI a common voice and keep it a driving forensic force in Europe.

Yours, Kornelia Nehse

Dariusz Zuba

MEMBER OF THE 20TH ENFSI BOARD



Dear ENFSI members!

During the Annual Meeting 2016 in Bilbao, I was elected as ENFSI Board Member, together with Kornelia Nehse. I would like to introduce myself and share my first experiences in this new position with you.

I graduated from the Faculty of Chemistry at the Jagiellonian University in 1996. At that time I had already cooperated with scientists from the Institute of Forensic Research in Krakow. I performed the experiments for my Master's thesis there - on the identification of alcoholic beverages on the basis of the analysis of their impurities. Although this was more than 20 years ago, I am still associated with this institution. I was first an assistant then, after having obtained a Ph.D, an assistant professor and later became an associate professor after habilitation. From 2006-2014 I was Head of the Alcohol and Drug Unit within the Department of Forensic Toxicology. Since 2015 I'm the Research Director at the Institute of Forensic Research in Krakow. I have published over 50 peer-reviewed papers and I'm still an active researcher. Additionally I serve as a lecturer at the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution and I am involved in lectures, seminars and workshops for experts in forensic chemistry and toxicology, as well as graduate and postgraduate students from different departments (chemistry, biology, pharmacy, law and administration).

My path first crossed with ENFSI in 2000, when I assisted with the organization of the European Academy of Forensic Sciences (EAFS) in Krakow. In 2002 I officially attended the Drugs Working Group meeting for the first time. Over the years I have actively participated in the EWG's work. I was particularly responsible for communication and maintaining the website. In 2006 I organized the annual meeting of the Drugs Working Group in Krakow. In 2007, I became a member of the Research & Development Standing Committee (RDSC). From 2007-2009 I was involved in a FORJUST project, which was a predecessor of the Education & Training Standing Committee. At that time, I had close cooperation with many people who are nowadays ENFSI Member representatives, including Board members.

Within the ENFSI Board I am responsible, amongst others, for education and training issues. My professional career allows me to define the training needs for experts and representatives of law enforcement involved in the forensic process from

the crime scene to the courtroom. In cooperation with the RDSC and Quality and Competence Committee (QCC), I have started to develop a strategy for the development of education and training to be used in the next few years.

I think a new strategy for E&T is unavoidable because rapid technological developments significantly influence the work of forensic experts, who must be scientists that respond to emerging new challenges and improve their qualifications continuously. Correct interpretation of the results as well as the acknowledgement of new fields of expertise, particularly within the field of digital forensics, are only two of numerous important issues. The number of cases in cross-border crimes is increasing rapidly and therefore it is necessary to harmonize procedures used at crime scenes and in forensic laboratories. This is particularly important in the era of terrorist attacks and mass disasters.

I want to pay more attention to the transfer of knowledge and skills by involving the Standing Committees and Expert Working Groups (EWGs) for this activity. But close collaboration with or outsourcing to other categories such as academia, CEPOL (European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training) and professional training institutes is also necessary to improve the qualifications of experts. One of the main goals for the first few months of my work within the ENFSI Board was strengthening the cooperation with these partners. As a result, a higher number of courses in forensic science are offered for the ENFSI community and outstanding ENFSI experts are involved in leading these courses. The offers should increase in the following years.

Close cooperation with stakeholders, including the European Commission, is a basic requirement for the development of ENFSI. It is important for ENFSI to be recognized as a leading organization in forensic sciences. It will facilitate the development of member institutions through research and development projects as well as training for their experts.

I hope that my enthusiasm and energy will contribute to the development of ENFSI. A closer cooperation with ENFSI permanent representatives and experts from EWGs is very important, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas on improving ENFSI's work. I will do my best to help you succeed.

Yours, Dariusz Zuba



Isabelle Jopp and Elisabeth Pickersgill

Dear ENFSI members and friends of forensic science,

we very much enjoyed supporting the ENFSI membership over the last year and hope that we (at least nearly always) have been working to your utter satisfaction! A lot of experience could be gained within the past year which by now allows us to run the ENFSI Secretariat smoothly.

Although at the beginning we struggled with a several new tasks, such as administrating the new public homepage www.enfsi.eu and setting up the environment of the ENFSI intranet on EPE (Europol Platform for Experts), we hope to have always met your expectations. Our daily work is diversified and we are frequently confronted with interesting topics. It may happen that we have not all answers at the ready but we always aim to find a quick solution for your problems and needs.



During the Annual Meeting in Bilbao

In 2016 we attended every Board Meeting, the ENFSI Annual Meeting in Bilbao as well as the Joint Meeting in Riga in order to be able to provide you with comprehensive meeting minutes. We always strived for a prompt submission and feel confident that the communication within ENFSI has improved significantly!

During the year we visited many new places and met new faces but unfortunately also had to say goodbye to some colleagues leaving ENFSI. But as every end is followed by a new beginning, we are looking forward to working together with those who joined ENFSI recently.

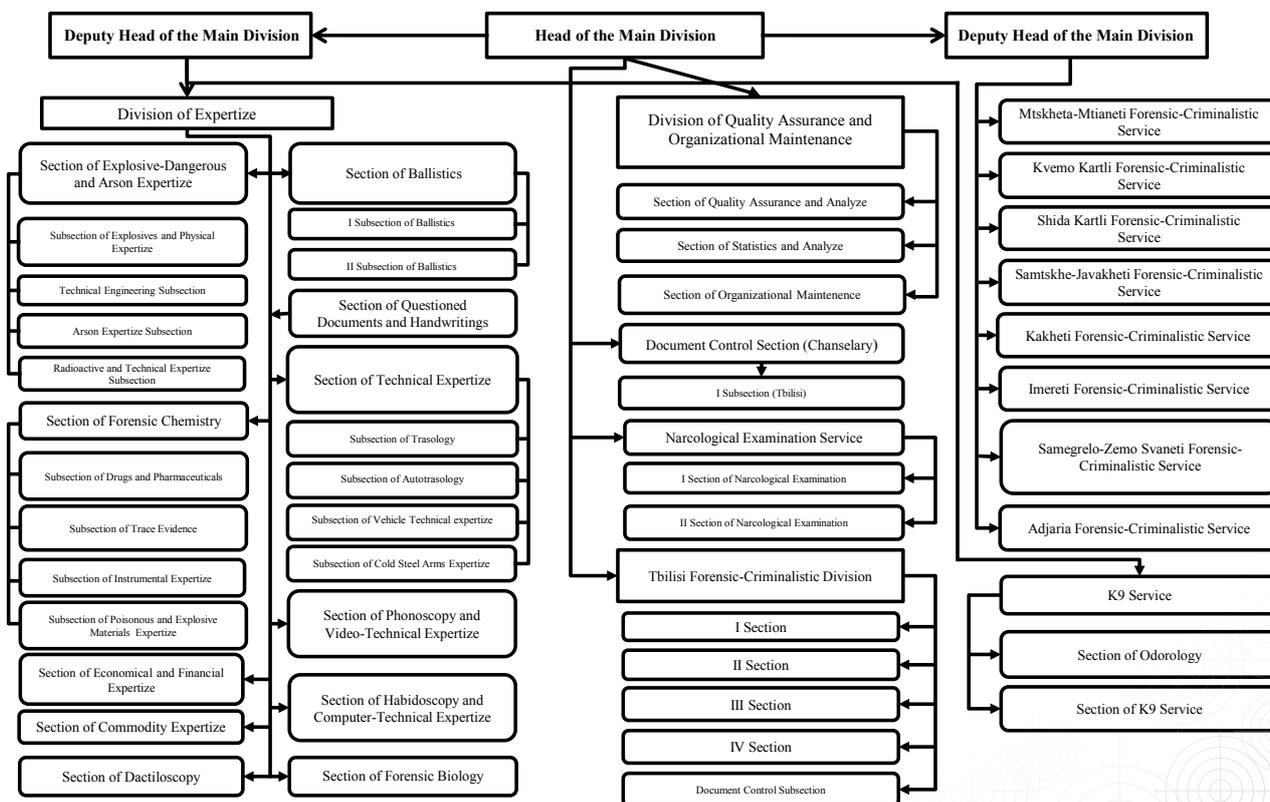
We would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and understanding and are excited to continue working for ENFSI! We will be facing new challenges in the coming years but are positive about a good success by close collaboration with the whole ENFSI community!

Yours
Isabelle & Lisa
from the
ENFSI Secretariat

NEW PLACES



Forensic-Criminalistic Department of The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia



Tbilisi







New ENFSI Member from Georgia

In 2016 ENFSI was pleased to welcome with the Forensic Criminalistic Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (FCD) a second institute from Georgia.

The application forms sent in September 2015 were reviewed by the Board and accepted by the Membership, the audit later could only confirm that the laboratory in Tbilisi is perfectly fulfilling all requirements to become an ENFSI member institute.

The FCD is a structural unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia with about 500 employees providing forensic services for Georgian law enforcement agencies on civil, administrative and/or criminal cases.

FCD director Nugzar Sujashvili as well as ENFSI permanent representative Georgi Beridze were welcomed by the ENFSI Membership during the Annual Meeting in Bilbao and brought best impressions back to their staff in Tbilisi.



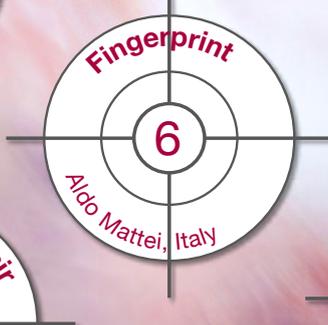
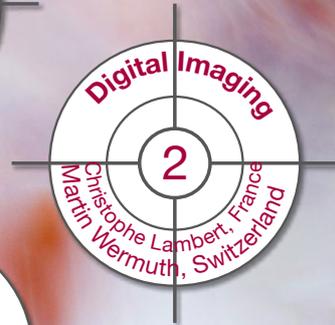
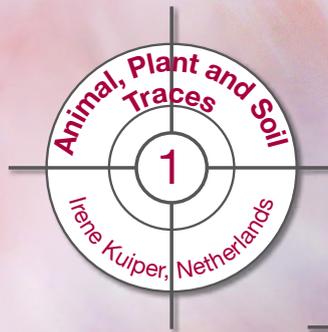
The services provided by the FCD cover forensic fields such as

- Crime scene investigation,
- Drugs, pharmaceuticals and unknown substances
- Fibers, paint, glass and ink
- Ballistics
- Serology
- Explosives, engineering and arson
- Fingerprints
- Forensic speech and voice analysis
- Questioned documents and handwritings
- Facial recognition, digital media (photo & video) and computer forensics
- Toolmarks and traceology
- Traffic accident reconstruction and analysis
- Commodity
- Economical and financial analysis
- Scent identification (odorology)
- Canine service



IN CLOSE-UP

Expert Working Groups





Best Working Group

ENFSI IN
CLOSE-UP

Fire and Explosion Investigation Working Group

In 1997, at the First European Academy of Forensic Science in Lausanne, a working group was initiated by five people with passion for fire scene investigation. This working group became part of ENFSI and since then has evolved into the Fire and Explosion Investigation (FEI) Working Group.

FEI covers all aspects of fire scene investigation, diffuse phase explosion investigation and chemical analysis & interpretation of fire debris. The working group has three subcommittees: Fire Scene, Explosions and Accelerant.

FEI consists of members from 45 ENFSI institutes and 8 associated member institutes, active in at least one of the three subcommittees. To discuss the work on particular projects within the three subcommittees and to define the priorities set by them an annual meeting is organized for all members.

The annual meeting in 2016 was held in Scotland and hosted by the University of Dundee. This event gathered 51 attendees, representing 30 ENFSI members. Meeting highlights were case presentations, on-going projects updates, fire scene safety, as well as presentations on implementation of Bayes in fire debris analysis, background study of volatile organic compounds from clothing, different fire debris analysis processes, standardization activities in the US and feedback from the Symposium "AG Brände/Raumexplosionen der KKWT/ED" In continuation of the annual meeting, in 2016 FEI organized three workshops on the topics "UV-light at the fire scene", "Examination of electrical appliances" and "Hands-on interpretation/discussion of case work Fire Debris Analysis Data".

A lot of work was done during the year. FEI annually organizes a collaborative exercise (CE) for both, the Accelerant and Fire Scene subcommittee members. On an average 40 participants take part in this exercise which is organized by a volunteering member of FEI.

FEI has developed several guidance documents for first responders and experts. Creating new appendixes and guidelines is an ongoing task, two new guidelines have just been finalized: "Practical guide for Fire Investigator and Specialist in fire and explosion investigation" and "Best practice manual for Explosion investigation".

FEI is working on two projects within the 2014 Direct Grant "Towards the Development of pan European databases in forensic Science": 1. Develop information relating to the understanding of fuel additives across Europe and 2. Developing a European Ignitable Liquid database. These projects are expected to be completed in May 2017.

Two databases are available to the FEI membership. A database with a literature collection is continuously updated, currently there are 233 references uploaded to the collection, covering publications from 1981-2017. FEI has also set up a training and research database for burn patterns.

Plans for 2017 comprise continuous work on on-going projects, arrange CEs, start working on new appendixes, arrange workshops on fire experiments in situ for fire scene investigators and oil training for chemists. The annual meeting will be held in Lausanne in September.

In 2017 the working group will celebrate its 20th anniversary in Lausanne where it all started. The event will be a special occasion to acknowledge all the work that has been done within the working group by dedicated and motivated persons with passion for their profession, and to the heads of their institutes for approving the time they spent on ENFSI work.



Joint Meeting in Riga, the ENFSI Chairman hands over the Best Working Group Award to Camilla Lilleng

Standing Committees

According to the ENFSI constitution Standing Committees are implemented within the association in order to reach ENFSI's objectives such as quality management and research & development.

Apart from Training and Education which is a task both Standing Committees are dealing with, the two committees provide support as follows:

- The aims of the Quality and Competence Standing Committee (QCC) are to develop policies and provide advice to the ENFSI membership, the Board and the Expert Working Groups. QCC thus helps the ENFSI statutory bodies to comply with best practice and international standards.
- The Research and Development Standing Committee (RDSC) acts as the strategic advisor to ENFSI on matters of Research and Development in a broad sense, including also the improvement of knowledge transfer between individual stakeholder groups and finding new ways of funding.

Members of the QCC

- **Ralph Kleuskens**
(officiating Chairman,
Ministry of Safety and
Justice in The Netherlands)
- Maria Kambosos
(BKA-Germany)
- Ondrej Laciak
(ENFSI Board
Representative,
IFS Slovakia)
- Chanda Lowther-Harris
(Metropolitan Police
Service UK)
- Wim Neuteboom
(temporary member)
- Merike Rump
(EFSI-Estonia)

Members of the RDSC

- **Bart Nys**
(Chairman,
NICC-INCC-Belgium)
- Thomas Biermann
(BKA KTI-Germany)
- Christophe Champod
(ESC-Switzerland)
- Üllar Lanno
(EFSI-Estonia)
- Sean McDermott
(FSI-Ireland)
- Didier Meuwly
(NFI Netherlands)
- Tapani Reinikainen
(NBI FL-Finland)
- Dominique Saint-Dizier
(ENFSI Board
Representative,
INPS-France)
- Cecilia Vahlberg
(NFC Sweden)
- Dariusz Zuba
(ENFSI Board
Representative for E&T,
IFR Poland)



**QCLG-Meeting 2016
in Budva,
Montenegro**

Quality and Competence Standing Committee

The Quality and Competence Standing Committee (QCC) acts as an advisor and coordinator to relevant ENFSI entities on matters of quality and competence in a broad sense and supports the ENFSI Members to comply with international standards and best practices including achieving and maintaining accreditation.

In 2016 the QCC started to perform a benchmark on Quality Management with the aim to support knowledge transfer between members on the implementation of the ISO 17025 standard. The first phase was limited to four ENFSI-labs and three major quality management topics (management review/internal audits/non conformities and corrective actions) to find out if members would experience added value with this benchmark. During the workshops at the Quality and Competence Liaison Group (QCLG) Meeting 2016 in Budva (Montenegro) sharing experiences and solutions on the basis of a benchmark was seen as helpful. In 2017 the QCC will expand the scope of the benchmark to more labs.

In collaboration with the ENFSI EWGs the QCC has made an updated PT/CE list for all 17 ENFSI working group areas. The list should improve the information position of members in their objective to strengthen their quality assurance by participating in proficiency tests (PTs) and collaborative exercises (CEs). The PT/CE list provides an excellent opportunity to identify gaps in the availability of PTs and CEs and to stimulate new developments in line with the EFSA 2020 goals. On this topic the QCC worked together with the ENFSI EFSA 2020 Task Force. Another collaborative delivery was the annual ENFSI survey, which included specific parts on PT/CE and Best Practice Manuals (BPMs). The survey was sent out in the 4th quarter of 2016 to every member and its results will support the decision making process regarding the development of both PT/CEs and BPMs.

In 2016 the QCC was a liaison to ISO/TC 272 and CEN/TC 419. These Technical Committees of ISO and CEN have the objective to develop standards that pertain to laboratory and field based forensic science techniques and methodology in broad general areas such as the detection and collection of physical evidence, the subsequent analysis and interpretation of the evidence, and the reporting of results and findings. The aim for ENFSI is to supply relevant forensic knowledge to the Committees and to collect information on standardization for ENFSI members.

In 2016 the work within the Technical Committees led to the publication of ISO 18385 „Minimizing the risk of human DNA contamination in products used to collect and analyze biological material for forensic purposes“. In addition, two Committee drafts were developed: ISO 21043-1, “Forensic analysis- Recognition, recording, collection and storage of forensic material” and ISO 20962 “Forensic Science Vocabulary”. In 2017 the intention is to develop these Committee drafts into Draft International Standards (DIS).

Together with the RDSC the QCC has made a proposal for E&T activities within ENFSI. This “way forward” document now suggests a more down to earth approach for the E&T, focusing on existing knowledge within the ENFSI-network and making use of already proven methods of knowledge transfer used by EWGs and SCs.

The ENFSI QCLG Meeting 2016 was hosted by the Forensic Center of Montenegro. The event took place on the 3rd-4th November 2016. The main goal was to inform Quality Managers of member institutes and EWG liaisons on topics of Quality Management and have discussions about currently existing challenges.

R&D Standing Committee (RDSC)

Organisation and membership

During the year 2016 two members of the RDSC had to leave: Mrs Laurence Dujourdy (INPS, France), who has left the INPS to pursue an academic career, and Mr Yves Schuliar (Gendarmerie, France), whose mandate has terminated. To compensate for this loss and considering the additional tasks and responsibilities that have been taken on by the RDSC, an extension of the effective RDSC membership was requested from the ENFSI Board. This extension was granted by the Board, who appointed two new members to the RDSC ranks: Mrs Cecilia Vahlberg (NFC, Sweden) and Mr Didier Meuwly (NFI, Netherlands). Furthermore, Board Member Dariusz

Zuba has joined the RDSC team as a special liaison of the Board for the E&T Activity Group – an activity that is shared between the RDSC and the QCC.

Looking at the number of RDSC members, it should be noted that with regard to the Terms of References for R&D this count was exceeded. However, because of the amount of work and specific capacities required, extra members can be co-opted – typically from academic circles. They have the same tasks as regular members, but are restrained from voting. The RDSC for this reason was glad to welcome Didier Meuwly as an addition to the Steering Committee.

RDSC Activity Groups

As the activity and responsibilities of the RDSC has markedly increased during the last couple of years, it was deemed necessary to establish a number of well-defined Activity Groups in which specific members could be more involved. These Activity Groups and corresponding organisation were presented to and accepted by the ENFSI Board. The following table briefly introduces the Activity Groups and their membership:

Activity Group	Members	Description
Strategy	All members	Advice to the Board regarding R&D needs and international developments
Databases	Bart, Cecilia, Christophe, Tapani, Thomas	Development of forensic databases, involvement in the MP2014 project
Funding	Bart, Cecilia, Didier, Ullar, Tapani,	Promotion of forensic needs and funding opportunities, outreach to R&D sponsors
Education & Training	Bart, Christophe, Sean, Didier	Development and advice to the Board regarding E&T needs, collaboration with QCC
Empirical R&D	All members	Technology watch and advice to the Board regarding R&D opportunities, outreach to R&D partners (including academic and commercial)



OOS participants,
March 2016, Brussels

E&T Collaboration between RDSC and QCC

The plans for setting up of a brokerage and assistance platform for the overarching education and training needs of the ENFSI member labs were further developed together with the QCC. The initial texts and proposals written by Marcel van der Steen, Bart Nys and Ralph Kleuskens were taken up by the QCC group and RDSC, especially under direction of Wim Neuteboom (QCC) and Didier Meuwly (RDSC). A Policy Document on E&T together with a Strategic Plan containing concrete propositions will be presented to the ENFSI Board at the Annual Meeting 2017 for discussion and approval. In the future the RDSC Activity Group on Education and Training will take the lead in the follow-up of this Activity.

EU Partnership Vision Text and Discussions

The communication of ENFSI with the EU DG Home continued on a good basis. A vision text for the mid-term future of forensic R&D was drafted and presented to the EC. We are looking forward to the calls for the final Horizon2020 implementation period (2018-2020) which are now under development. Further discussions and collaboration with the Commission during the follow-up framework of Horizon2020 are anticipated. In the future the RDSC Activity Group on R&D Funding will take the lead in this task.

Involvement in the Europol EPE Platform

The Web presence of ENFSI Working Groups and Committees, based on the EPE platform of Europol, has been established. To this end the RDSC has actively participated in the EPE Task Force headed by Erkki Sippola. Next to the ENFSI general portal, which provides

the Working Groups and Committees with an open-access communications platform, an 'ENFSI Collaborative Projects' (ECP) portal has been set up on EPE, which offers a secure environment for R&D and other projects. Within this platform non-ENFSI and non-forensic partners can collaborate safely with ENFSI partners without having to worry about intellectual property issues and legal/confidentiality or commercial obstructions.

Involvement in the Monopoly 2014 Project

The RDSC has followed closely the developments within the sub-projects of the MP2014 Direct Grant 'Towards the Development of Pan-European Databases in Forensic Science'. Especially the sub-project N1, 'Towards Big forensic Data', which performs feasibility studies and develops a demonstrator for an over-arching forensic database architecture, was closely monitored. In the future the RDSC Activity Group on database development will take the lead in this follow-up.

Organisation of a One Day One Topic Seminar (OOS)

In March 2016 an OOS on the theme of 'Financing R&D in the European Forensic Science Market' was organised by the RDSC in Brussels. This event boasted contributions from forensic, EU, NATO and other partners who presented the opportunities and frameworks they offer towards international collaboration in forensic development projects. A number of past successes were also highlighted, with a special emphasis on the accomplishments of past and ongoing ISEC-funded Monopoly Projects. In the future the RDSC Activity Group on Education and Training will take the lead in similar events of general interest to the international forensic community and to ENFSI in particular.

ENFSI Annual Meeting 2016 in BILBAO



The 28th Annual Meeting, hosted by the Forensic Science Unit of the Basque Country Police Ertzaintza, was held in Bilbao (Spain) from Tuesday 10th to Friday 13th May 2016 in the Bizkaia Aretoa – Paraninfo building of the University of the Basque Country. Representatives of 55 laboratories from more than 30 countries attended this event and voted on several important decisions. Joined by two chairs from Standing Committees, one Expert Working Group Chair, the Direct Grant manager and the Secretariat the number of participants reached 86 persons.



After the Forensic Science Unit of the Basque Country Police applied in 2014 for hosting this event, the membership at the Annual Meeting in Bratislava did not hesitate for a moment to agree on having this important meeting in the beautiful town of Bilbao, which with the Guggenheim Museum as a great international symbol, "is the gateway to the Basque cultural universe".



Most of the participants chose to stay at the Meliá Hotel where on Tuesday evening the registration took place followed by a welcome cocktail serving as opportunity to chat to members one has not seen for a while or to get know "newcomers".

The Annual Meeting was inaugurated on Wednesday, May 11, with words of welcome by the Minister of Security of the Basque Government, Ms. Estefanía Beltrán de Heredia and the Head of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Ertzaintza – Basque Police, Mr. Jose M. Yurrebaso. The Chairman of ENFSI, Mr. Jan De Kinder, thanked the organizers for offering to host the Annual Meeting in their country and welcomed everybody to this significant event.

Following the tradition from last year's Annual Meeting, the event started with the "Thematic Day" of which the key topic was "How to fit forensic supply with demand".

As an introduction to the topic three presentations were given:

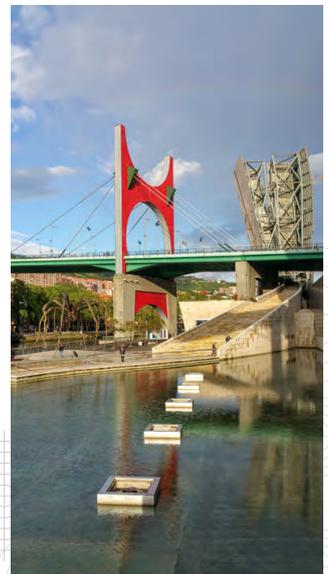
- "Forensic Demand; ENFSI Board – Annual Forensic Service Agreement", by Mr Üllar Lanno, from Ekei laboratory (Tallinn – Estonia)
- "The role of forensic consultants", by Ms. Karolien Van Dijck, from NICC laboratory (Brussels – Belgium)
- "Development of process efficiency using Lean methodology", by Mr. John Hermansson, from KTC laboratory (Vanløse, Denmark).

After the presentations a brainstorming session aimed on the collection of feedback from the membership regarding the question "What else could be worked on in my laboratory?" was opened.

At the end of the day the membership was asked for an exchange of ideas to identify ENFSI's strategic priorities for the Strategic Plan 2017–2020.



In the evening a guided bus tour of Bilbao was organized so as to see the most emblematic sites, along la Gran Vía and its shopping and financial centres, bank buildings, squares and palaces, institutional seats, the Old Quarter, Alhondiga, the Guggenheim and other places of interest. The official reception took place in the City Hall of Bilbao. The participants and their companions were received by City Council and Basque Government officials in the famous Arab Hall before leaving for the gala dinner in Azkuna Centre, a former majestic wine warehouse.





Still full of last night's impressions, ENFSI Chairman, Mr. Jan De Kinder, welcomed the participants the next morning to the Business meeting. A quorum was declared and everyone was ready to vote on important decisions. The chairman was delighted to introduce new ENFSI representatives to the membership and handed over the "Certificate of Representation" to:

- Faruk Aşicioğlu (ATE Istanbul, Turkey).
- Markus Cichon (LKA Hamburg, Germany)
- Lynn Dennany on behalf of Matthew Baker (CFS Strathclyde, UK)
- Dolores Moreno Raymundo (INTCF Madrid, Spain)
- Henrik Rasmus Sønderby (NKC Copenhagen, Denmark)
- Dag Størksen (NCIS Oslo, Norway)
- Patrick Touron (IRCGN Pontoise, France)
- Rafal Wasiak on behalf of Adam Frankowski (CFLP Warsaw, Poland)
- Reinout Woittiez (NFI The Hague, The Netherlands)
- Dariusz Zuba (IFR Krakow, Poland)

Moreover, the ENFSI community was pleased to welcome the

- Forensic Criminal Main Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tbilisi/Georgia as a new member institute, represented by the director of the institute, Mr. Nugzar Sujashvili and the representative-member, Mr. Giorgi Beridze.

Mr. Thomas Andermann then explained the process of creating ENFSI's own legal entity, founding an association under German law. In this context, the new secretaries, Ms. Elisabeth Pickersgill and Ms. Isabelle Jopp introduced themselves and expressed their pleasure to support the ENFSI Board and, of course, the whole ENFSI community.

As Mr. Thomas Andermann's term as a Board Member had expired, a new member of the Board was elected:

- Ms. Kornelia Nehse from the State Criminal Police Office Berlin in Germany.

The Chairman Designate, Mr. Erkki Sippola, explained the situation ENFSI would face next year, as three official members of the Board will end their terms. It was suggested that an additional Board Member should be elected for three years, serving as a support for one year before filling one vacant position in the 21st Board next year.

- Dariusz Zuba from the Institute of Forensic Research in Krakow, Poland, was elected to take on the task of continuity within the Board together with Erkki Sippola and Kornelia Nehse.

During the afternoon, the Chairman gave a presentation on EFSA 2020 actions to "foster cooperation between police and judicial authorities across the European Union with a view to creating a European Forensic Science Area by 2020", stressing the impact on ENFSI, being designated a monopoly status in the field of forensics by the European Commission.

The manager of the EU Direct Grant projects, Mr. Richard Gill, made a thorough presentation on all the programmes which are under way or just finished. In addition to the general information, Mr. De Kinder described the eight project proposals for MP2016 which were preselected from 21 proposals and the criteria applied.

"Communication" was the topic of Mr. Sippola's talk about a Task Force, identifying the needs within the ENFSI community. One result of their work was a change of communication platform. The internal website will be moved from "Wunderkraut" to the Europol Platform for Experts (EPE).

Both Steering Committee (Vice-)Chairpersons, Mr. Bart Nys (RDSC) and Ralph Kleuskens (QCC) gave a presentation on the work and achievements in 2015-2016, followed by the report of the Board from the ENFSI Chairman.



After the busy day everyone enjoyed an evening in the Guggenheim Museum with an amazing exhibition and a dinner in relaxed atmosphere.

On the last day, Mr. Jan De Kinder opened the meeting with a presentation on ENFSI Action Plan 2016-2017 based on the ENFSI Strategic Plan 2014-2017.

After treasurer and Board Member Mr. Ondrej Laciak, gave an overview on ENFSI finances, Mr. Thomas Andermann started his presentation on the Expert Working Groups (EWG), ENFSI's strongest workforce, with the mission statement "The purpose of ENFSI is to share knowledge, exchange experiences and come to mutual agreements in the field of forensic science. ENFSI is recognized as an expert group in the field of forensic sciences".

Following this eulogy on Working Groups, Mr. Fernando Viegas, Chairman of the award winning Scene of Crime Working Group, gave a presentation on crime scene investigation, showing the enormous progress in this field from the 20th Century up to the present.

Mr. Andermann continued his previous presentation with the future of the Project Groups "Forensic Archaeology" and "Bloodstain Pattern Analysis", informing also about the Board's decision to merge these two with the Scene of Crime EWG due to the strong connection of the disciplines.

Enjoying the current Annual Meeting serves also as a reminder that future events have to be planned. During the Business Meeting in Pontoise in 2015, the membership voted on Istanbul for hosting the 2017 Annual Meeting. Dr. Yalcin Buyuk, Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) in

Istanbul, presented the programme of activities planned for this event in his country in 2017, showing a video with beautiful pictures of Turkey and Istanbul.

- The city of Berlin was then elected as the venue for 2018 after Ms. Kornelia Nehse from the Institute of Forensic Sciences of the State Criminal Police Office of Berlin gave a short presentation on the town and facilities.

In the preview on 2018, Ms. Dominique Saint-Dizier gave a brief update on the preparation of the next EAFS meeting in Lyon.

The ENFSI Chairman closed the Annual Meeting by summarizing the main decisions and thanking ENFSI members for their contributions to the productive discussions.

Programme for accompanying persons

The organization prepared a programme of activities for accompanying persons which consisted of a trip to Donostia – San Sebastian, on Wednesday, 11 May. Donostia has been declared European Capital of Culture for the year 2016. Visitors could enjoy the spectacular views of the city and the Concha beach.

On Thursday, 12 May, there was a trip to the Coast of Biscay – Urdaibai - Gernika. The tour started at the Assembly House of Gernika, where the history of the Basque Country was explained, followed by a visit to the town of Gernika. A visit to the typical fishing village of Bermeo served as opportunity to have a stroll along its streets. Finally, there was a visit to the small islet of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. José María Yurrebaso Sestafe and his Institute (FSU – Ertzaintza Basque Police) was thanked for the incredible organization of the Annual Meeting and received a glass trophy in recognition of the great effort made to make this event such a success.



ENFSI Chairman and Cairman Designate working hand in hand

Joint Meeting in Riga

1-2 December 2016

In the beautiful setting of wintery Riga, the ENFSI Board as well as the chairpersons of the Expert Working Groups and Standing Committees had a successful Joint Meeting, organized by the State Forensic Science Bureau of the Republic of Latvia. Amongst the topics discussed were the professionalization of the organization by a clear description of the roles of the members of the steering committees of the Expert Working Groups, their use of the centrally managed financial means, the new intranet platform of ENFSI, as well as a further adjustment of the reimbursement rules for the travel expenses caused by Expert Working Groups. The planning and reporting cycle documents related to the

latter were discussed regarding content and structure. The Fire and Explosion Investigation (FEI) Working Group was rewarded for their excellent work during 2016.

The Board Members further discussed the candidates for the Quality and Competence Committee and reviewed the advancement in setting up the proposal for the Direct Grant 2016, allocated by the European Commission. Furthermore the Board decided to review the current field of play of the Expert Working Groups in the following meetings.



The event was rounded off by a rustic dinner in a medieval restaurant leaving everyone with the opportunity to visit the lovely Christmas markets in the old town, offering handcrafted decoration and delicious mulled wine.



Participants of the Joint Meeting together with Maira Ģentoricka, who organized the meeting in Latvia's capital.



**Board Meeting in Wiesbaden, guests:
Richard Gill and Ralph Kleuskens**



ENFSI Board Meetings 2016

In 2016 the „old“ and later on the „new“ Board came together almost every month to perform a managerial role aiming to develop the ENFSI policies. The timeline on the right provides an overview on the schedule for the Board Meetings which took place either as face to face meetings in ENFSI institutes or by means of video conference.

Demanding meetings involving important discussions and decisions were held in Bilbao prior and following the Business Meeting as well as in connection with the Joint Meeting. Both these meetings serve as opportunity for the Board to speak directly with the membership and get important feedback.



**August video
conference**



Rome



Riga

2016

19th Board

27th-28th January
(Bilbao)

2nd March
(video conference)

15th-16th March
(Wiesbaden)

13th April
(video conference)

10th May
(Bilbao)

20th Board

13th May
(Bilbao)

30th May
(video conferenece)

16th-17th June
(Yerevan)

22nd August
(video conference)

6th-7th October
(Rome)

18th November
(video conference)

**30th November and
2nd December**
(Riga)



Monopoly Programmes

DR. RICHARD GILL – ENFSI MONOPOLY PROGRAMME MANAGER

EU Direct Grant Funding

2016 has seen opportunities and several new challenges for ENFSI in the management of the EU direct grants provided to the organisation in support of European forensic cooperation. The 2013 grant to ENFSI, “Towards the Vision for European Forensic Science 2020 (TVEFS-2020)” represents the last grant to ENFSI from the ISEC (General Programme on Security & Safeguarding Liberties / Specific Programme on Prevention of and Fight against Crime) as that funding programme has come to an end. The start of 2016 saw the new ENFSI Secretariat in Wiesbaden take over the Co-ordinator role for TVEFS-2020 with a formal amendment to the signed Grant Agreement. At the end of January 2016 a Mid-Term Progress Report for TVEFS-2020 was delivered to the EC representing the half way point in the planned project implementation. At that time the implementation was close to being on schedule but by the Spring several difficulties arose across various work areas. There were unavoidable with significant problems in the availability of staff and equipment for several TVEFS-2020 activities and one specific work area was encountering difficulties with the regulations for the movement of fuel samples around Europe for analysis as part of the project work. Changes to the TVEFS-2020 project plans were agreed with the EC to help solve these difficulties but, by mid-year, it was clear that much time have been lost and the original plan to complete the implementation by 31st December 2016 had become unrealistic. A formal application was made to the EC to extend the implementation period from 24 months to 29 months. This was granted and the TVEFS-2020 projects will now finish implementation on 31st May 2017 with reporting to the EC over the summer of 2017.

The 2014 EU direct grant represents the first to ENFSI from the new 7-year EU funding programme (Internal Security Fund - Police, ISF-Police) managed by the EC Directorate-General Migration & Home Affairs. The 2014 grant, “Towards the Development of Pan-European Databases in Forensic Science (TDPEDFS)” started implementation on 1st January

2016 with a planned completion in 24 months. The drafting of the TDPEDFS Grant Agreement under the new ISF-Police funding structure led to the EC questioning the eligibility of ENFSI Members claiming VAT when procuring goods and services using the grant. Further, retrospective questions were also raised about the VAT eligibility for EU direct grants in previous years and the amounts of money involved became very significant. Prolonged discussions between ENFSI and the EC took place over several months and, pleasingly, the matter was resolved with an agreement that VAT will be eligible in most situations. This is an important outcome for all future direct grant applications to the EC.

The Mid-Term Progress Report for the TDPEDFS work produced at the end of 2016 has shown that much of the work is running close to the original timetable set out in the signed Grant Agreement. Nevertheless, there are some specific work activities that have experienced significant difficulties over the last year leading to some delays. As an example, the Conference on Big Data in Forensic Science has been moved from November 2016 to February 2017. In many ways, the delays are not surprising when considering the complex and challenging nature of this work and the high dependence on recruiting relevant staff, setting up effective sub-contracts, working alongside international companies and using governmental server and network capabilities. Nevertheless, various mitigation strategies have been put into place and it is anticipated that some time will be made up as the work progresses. Further, all activity areas are reporting good progress towards their planned goals and deliverables. The general progress will be carefully monitored in the early months of 2017 and, if some of the work activities continue to show delays relative to the original project plans, then consideration will be given to make an application to the EC for permission to extend the implementation period for TDPEDFS to ensure that all the work can be completed and all relevant goals can be delivered.

A formal invitation from the EC to ENFSI to make an application for a direct grant within the 2016 ISF-Police Annual Work Programme was received in October 2016 setting the maximum potential grant at €1,500,000. In anticipation of such an invitation, prior to that date, the ENFSI Board had already made some preparation by deciding that the programme theme would be “Steps Towards a European Forensic Science Area (STEFA)”, by making calls to the ENFSI community for project proposals and by undertaking a preliminary selection of likely projects for inclusion in the grant application. Nevertheless, the EC 2016 invitation saw a very large shift in the funding rules and procedures for submitting such an application. The application process has now moved to the same internet portal as the EU Horizon 2020 funding and requires all participating organisations to register on the portal before a Grant Agreement can be signed. The first significant problem was that the 2016 EU grant was being offered for an implementation period of only one year. This was impractical for the types of project that ENFSI wanted to deliver and, thankfully, discussions with the EC led to this offer being extended to a full 2-year implementation. In addition, an area of major disadvantage for the ENFSI community was a move to disallow grant funding to any organisations (and their employees) not located in EU countries. Furthermore, this rule also disallows the funding of all organisations based in the UK and Denmark because both countries have opted out of the ISF-Police funding programme. The ENFSI network is a very broad organisation that includes many Members from countries not eligible for funding under these new rules. In previous years, it has been acceptable for such organisations to be declared as “Associate Partners” within the Grant Agreement such that, at the very least, their employees would be able to claim travel & subsistence costs from the grant when participating in the project work. Unfortunately, the “Associate Partner” status was no longer available within the new 2016 ISF-Police funding rules and, although discussions with the

EC followed, the general ISF-Police funding rules could not be explicitly modified for ENFSI. In consequence, all the preliminary work on the selection of projects for the 2016 direct grant application had to be revisited as many project team participants were no longer eligible for any funding. Thus, some of the 2016 projects have needed a significant redesign to ensure that they are still viable and, in some instances, alternative funds and approaches have been sought to ensure that key participants remain able to participate. All of this has taken considerable time and the EC has provided support by moving the application deadline for the 2016 direct grant from December 2016 to April 2017.

Looking back to the early months of 2016, ENFSI submitted final reports to the EC for two previous EU supported work programmes that both finished implementation at the end of 2015:

- 2011 funding – “Improving Forensic Methodologies across Europe (IFMAE)”, after a 3-year implementation.
- 2012 funding – “Towards European Forensic Standardisation through Best Practice Manuals (TEFSBPM)”, after a 2-year implementation.

This is the first time that the reporting of two ENFSI direct grant programmes has taken place simultaneously. The administration work associated with one final report is very substantial and two at the same time represented a very significant challenge. This was the last ENFSI task undertaken by the finance and administration team at EFIC in Warsaw PL (the location of the previous ENFSI Secretariat) after they had administered the two work programmes throughout most of their implementations. It is very pleasing to note that both final report packages were delivered on time and have been fully accepted by the EC.



ENFSI Direct Grant 2013

Direct Grant Projects (2013) – 2-year programme (grant awarded € 645,649) - ISEC funding

Programme Theme: “Towards the Vision for European Forensic Science 2020 (TVEFS-2020)”.

Current Status: Grant Agreement signed / Work commenced on 1st January 2015 / Formal EC extension of implementation period until 31st May 2017

EU Reference: HOME/2013/ISEC/MO/ENFSI/4000005962

	Project Title	Project Leader
T1	Creation and shared use of an international database of ignitable liquids and substances.	Jeanet Hendrikse (NFI-The Hague, NL)
T2	Development and implementation of new analytical methods and databases for the detection of additives in fuels and fire debris.	Frank Schäfer (BKA-Wiesbaden, DE)
T3	Proficiency tests for the fingerprint domain.	Aldo Mattei (RaCIS-Rome, IT)
T4	SmartRank: Likelihood ratio software for searching national DNA databases with complex DNA profiles.	Titia Sijen (NFI-The Hague, NL)
T5	DNActivity: International cooperation in activity level interpretation of forensic DNA evidence.	Ate Kloosterman (NFI-The Hague, NL)
T6	The development of a statistical software package for likelihood ratio calculations.	Annabel Bolck (NFI-The Hague, NL)

ENFSI Direct Grant 2014

Direct Grant Projects (2014) – 2-year programme (grant awarded € 1,425,821) ISF-Police funding

Programme Theme: “Towards the Development of Pan-European Databases in Forensic Science (TDPEDFS)”.

Current Status: Grant Agreement signed / Work commenced on 1st January 2016.

EU Reference: HOME/2014/ISFP/AG/ENFSI/4000007822

	Project Title	Project Leader
N1	Towards Big Forensic Data (TBFD) - feasibility study & proof of concept.	Kornelia Nehse (LKA-Berlin, DE)
N2	Geographical Distribution of Firearms and Gunshot Residue throughout Europe: databases that help experts to report beyond the source level.	Amalia Brouwer-Stamouli (NFI-The Hague, NL)
N3	European Smoke and Ink Staining System Plus (EuSISS+).	Sandrine Lauper (INPS-Ecully, FR)
N4	Forensic Substance Database on Explosives (FoSDE).	Rasmus Schulte-Ladbeck (BKA-Wiesbaden, DE)
N5	Database Platform for the Combination of Various Existing Databases and Research Projects in the Field of Forensic Document Examination.	Rolf Fauser (LKA-Stuttgart, DE)

ENFSI Direct Grant 2016

Direct Grant Projects (2016) – 2-year programme (grant available € 1,500,000) - ISF-Police funding

Programme Theme: “Steps Towards a European Forensic Science Area (STEFA)”.

Current Status: Grant application underway (if successful implementation is expected to start on 1st January 2018).

	Project Title	Project Leader
G1	Benchmarking forensic laboratories for strategic planning purposes.	Tore Olsson (NFC-Linköping, SE)
G2	A fitted work tool for analytical data interpretation in forensic chemistry by multivariate analysis (chemometrics).	Sami Huhtala (NBIFL-Vantaa, FI)
G3	Collaborative exercise covering the forensic disciplines of DNA, document examination, fingerprint examination and handwriting examination.	Jonathan Morris (SPAFS-Glasgow, UK)
G4	Development of specialist fingermark visualisation training courses (FV Training).	Aldo Mattei (RaCIS-Rome, IT)
G5	Development of a training and education concept for forensic hair and fibre experts.	Jan-Eric Grunwald (BLKA-Munich, DE)
G6	IT forensic tools test and validation database (Valid).	James Luck (MPS-London, UK)
G7	Empowering forensic genetic DNA databases for the interpretation of next generation sequencing profiles (DNA.bases).	Ingo Bastisch (BKA-Wiesbaden, DE)
G8	Best Practice Manual - Forensic examination of digitally captured signatures and handwritten entries.	Tomasz Dzedzic (IFR-Krakow, PL)
G9	Best Practice Manual - Forensic comparison of soil traces.	Stefan Uitdehaag (NFI-The Hague, NL)
G10	Best Practice Manual - Fingermark visualisation at the scene of crime.	Linda Koomen (NFI-The Hague, NL)

EFSA 2020

TASK FORCE



Council Conclusions and Action Plan on the way forward in view of the creation of a European Forensic Science Area

Following the adoption of the Council Conclusions and Action Plan on the way forward in view of the creation of a European Forensic Science Area by the Council of the European Union on 9th June 2016, the ENFSI Board decided to set up a Task Force EFSA 2020 and asked in July 2016 the ENFSI members to nominate volunteers.

In September 2016, after considering various criteria such as e.g. personal experience as well as a geographical distribution, the ENFSI Board took the decision to accept the following nominations to join the Task Force:



Thomas Andermann,
BKA Wiesbaden, Germany (Chairman)



Raimonds Apinis,
SFSB Riga, Latvia



Oscar Ruiz Barba,
GCSP Madrid, Spain



Christina Bertler Edlund,
NFC Linköping, Sweden



Sara Falconi,
DAC-SPS Rome, Italy



Üllar Lanno,
EFSI Tallinn, Estonia



Judy van Overveld,
NFI The Hague, the Netherlands

The ENFSI Board asked the Task Force to carry out a detailed evaluation of the European Council Conclusions and draw up a corresponding implementation plan on how ENFSI can best support the execution of the EFSA 2020 Action Plan. The proposal of the Task Force will then be discussed with the Member Representatives during the Annual Meeting 2017.

The Task Force had its inaugural meeting on 21st October 2016 in Brussels. The ENFSI Chairman Jan De Kinder welcomed the Task Force members at the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology either face to face or via videoconference. Further, Jan De Kinder and the Task Force were pleased to welcome Agnes Loredana Buznosu from the Council of the European Union, General Secretariat, Patrick Hamon and Nada Milisavljevic, both from the European Commission, DG MHA.

The Task Force discussed together with the three representatives from the European Union in which way ENFSI could support the above mentioned Council Conclusions, i.e. the Action Plan EFSA 2020. It was agreed to concentrate on the first three actions in the Action Plan, as ENFSI is assigned as the Coordinator of these actions. Nevertheless, ENFSI may be asked to give advice to or support actions 4, 5 and 6, also.

Action Plan for the way forward for the creation of a European Forensic Science Area (EFSA 2020)

Action 1

Improving mutual trust by encouraging continuous quality improvement of forensic procedures and processes through the development and use of Best Practice Manuals (BPMs) for forensic analyses.

Action 2

Stimulate the exchange of forensic information from databases similar to the methodology used under the Prüm Decisions 2008/615/JHA and 2008/616/JHA, focusing on the areas of weapons and ammunition, explosives and drugs.

Action 3

Improving mutual trust by increased use of Proficiency Tests (PTs) and Collaborative Exercises (CEs) by forensic service providers.

Action 4

Improving forensic awareness among law enforcement and justice communities.

Action 5

Stimulate accreditation of forensic procedures and competence of forensic personnel by forensic service providers on a voluntary basis.

Action 6

Stimulating full implementation of the Prüm Decisions 2008/615/JHA and 2008/616/JHA to exchange DNA-profiles and fingerprints. In addition, improving the quality of forensic data exchanged between all Member States under the Prüm Decisions.

According to the actions 1 and 3 the 2016 ENFSI QCC survey was amended with some questions in order to gather some initial information according to the current disposition and future need of Best Practice Manuals. The Task Force as well as the QCC evaluated the responses to this questionnaire and conclusions to possible actions were drawn.

According to action 2 the Task Force would like to know the view on the need and advantages of forensic databases. A second questionnaire was prepared at the end of 2016 and sent to the EU Member States via the Law Enforcement Working Party (LEWP). The evaluation of the responses to this questionnaire should be the basis for proposals concerning the exchange of forensic information from databases in Europe.

Coordinators for action 4 are CEPOL and EJTN. The General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union will inform the Task Force on respective activities.

Coordinator for action 5 is the European Commission. As discussed during the last ENFSI Annual Meeting in May 2016, ENFSI will organize an OOS on this topic for managers of forensic institutes in order to stimulate the extension of accreditation scopes and to discuss suitable methods to ensure the competence of forensic personnel.

Action 6 is coordinated by DAPIX. As experts from ENFSI members are active in DAPIX, the Task Force will be informed on its progress.

ENFSI has already achieved a lot in the creation of a European Forensic Science Area. In particular Best Practice Manuals, Proficiency Tests, Collaborative Exercises and forensic databases are generally organized by the ENFSI Expert Working Groups and provided to the whole ENFSI membership. Improvement is always possible, e.g. by the development of new and existing BPMs, PTs and CEs or the creation of pan-European forensic databases. There is no doubt that ENFSI will develop in this way!

EPE



EPE user training course in the Europol premises

ENFSI EPE TASK FORCE

Development of communication has been one of the aims of the Board for some time. It has become clear, that ENFSI communication is mainly based on emails. Simultaneous use of various websites (intranet/internet) has not improved the situation at all, thus communication has become very fragmented and information flow unsatisfying.

In 2015 the ENFSI Board established a Communication Task Force which carried out an analysis of the current communication of ENFSI. The Task Force also gave recommendations on the way forward which were first presented during the Joint Meeting 2015 in Munich and later during the Annual Meeting 2016 in Bilbao. The recommendations can be summarized as:

- ENFSI should use only one communication platform that fulfils modern technical requirements
- The chosen platform should offer features that support different types of communication
- Maintenance and support should be ensured and security issues solved

While the Communication Task Force was working, the Board intensified discussions with Europol, also in the area of communication. Europol offered their communication and contents management platform – Europol Platform for Experts (EPE) – for ENFSI to become the primary communication basis. The system fulfilled all the requirements defined by the Task Force except for communication with externals. Finally the Board decided to use the EPE as internal website only whereas www.enfsi.eu should be kept as external website which needs to be further developed and maintained.

EPE turned out to be a versatile tool with many features on the one hand but unfortunately a number of severe limitations on the other hand. Subsequently, the Board

established an EPE Task Force to better learn about the features and to help the Expert Working Groups (EWGs) with the handling of this platform. The Task Force is composed of the following persons:

- Jan Biegstraaten (NFI), Scene of Crime EWG
- Nina Majuri (NBI)
- Bart Nys (NICC/INCC), RDSC Chairperson
- Rüdiger Schumacher (BKA), Firearms and GSR EWG
- Erkki Sippola (NBI), Board Member
- Kees van der Beek, (NFI), DNA EWG

The Task Force is very well supported by Julie Goussard and Manuela Mus from Europol. Additionally, Peter Mikula from Visma Consulting has been consulted to help the Task Force with technical issues. The EPE Task Force had one workshop at Europol and its members participated with the EPE training events organized by Europol.

Currently the EPE has been restructured such that every EWG has its own subsite, the same applies to the Standing Committees and the Permanent Members. All subsites are visible for everybody. All groups can also open sub-sites with limited access as defined by the responsible webmaster.

Apart from providing a management platform, EPE also offers useful tools such as a message forum, blogs, announcements and polls, to name a few. Work with EPE has only just started and lots of development can be expected during 2017.

The EPE Task Force continues its work in 2017 by creating advanced models of EWG subsites in order to provide a kind of template to the EWG webmasters and minimize their workload when adjusting their needs to the new platform.



ENFSI supports TAIEX activities

"TAIEX" is the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission. TAIEX supports public administrations with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation as well as facilitating the sharing of EU best practices. It is largely needs-driven and delivers appropriate tailor-made expertise to address issues at short notice in three ways:

- Workshops: EU Member State experts present specific areas of EU legislation in workshops to a large number of beneficiary officials.
- Expert missions: EU Member States expert(s) are sent to the beneficiary administration to provide in-depth advice on the transposition, implementation or enforcement of a specific part of EU legislation.
- Study visits: a group of three practitioners from a beneficiary administration take part in a study visit to an EU Member State administration.

ENFSI has been contacted to support TAIEX activities by the DG NEAR – Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations. A meeting on quality assurance has been held in Belarus, Minsk and supported by the members of the Quality Assurance and Competence Standing Committee and the ENFSI Chairman on 4-5 February 2016.

The ENFSI Chairman also participated in the High Level Dialogue on Security and Justice in Mexico City on May 25–27, 2016 to present the work done by ENFSI and to assess the different possibilities for collaboration between the EU and Mexico in the field of forensics.

reference: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/tenders/taix_en



Meeting in
Mexico City



ENFSI collaboration with Europol

In March 2015 ENFSI signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Europol to establish a mutual framework for cooperation against the background of the Council Conclusion for the creation of a European Forensic Science Area by 2020.

In order to have the best partner to host databases as aimed for in interlinked projects within 2014 Direct Grant "Towards the Development of Pan-European Databases in Forensic Science", a meeting took place in the Europol premises in February 2016. During the discussion with representatives a general overview on possibilities and restrictions could be obtained.

The meeting also served as an opportunity to talk about an internal website for the ENFSI Community. The Europol Platform for Experts (EPE) has been successfully working as a "secure web platform for specialists in a variety of law enforcement areas, enabling them to share knowledge, best practices and non-personal data online" (reference: facebook/Europol) for several years.

The platform structure and some tools were explained, special requirements for ENFSI discussed. Europol offered to run courses for Board Members, EWG Webmasters and the ENFSI Secretariat to familiarize main users with tools and ways to set up subsites.

Two training courses took place at the end of 2016, enabling the participants to launch the new ENFSI internal website and function as disseminator for other ENFSI users.

Since then subsites have been created and filled with content.

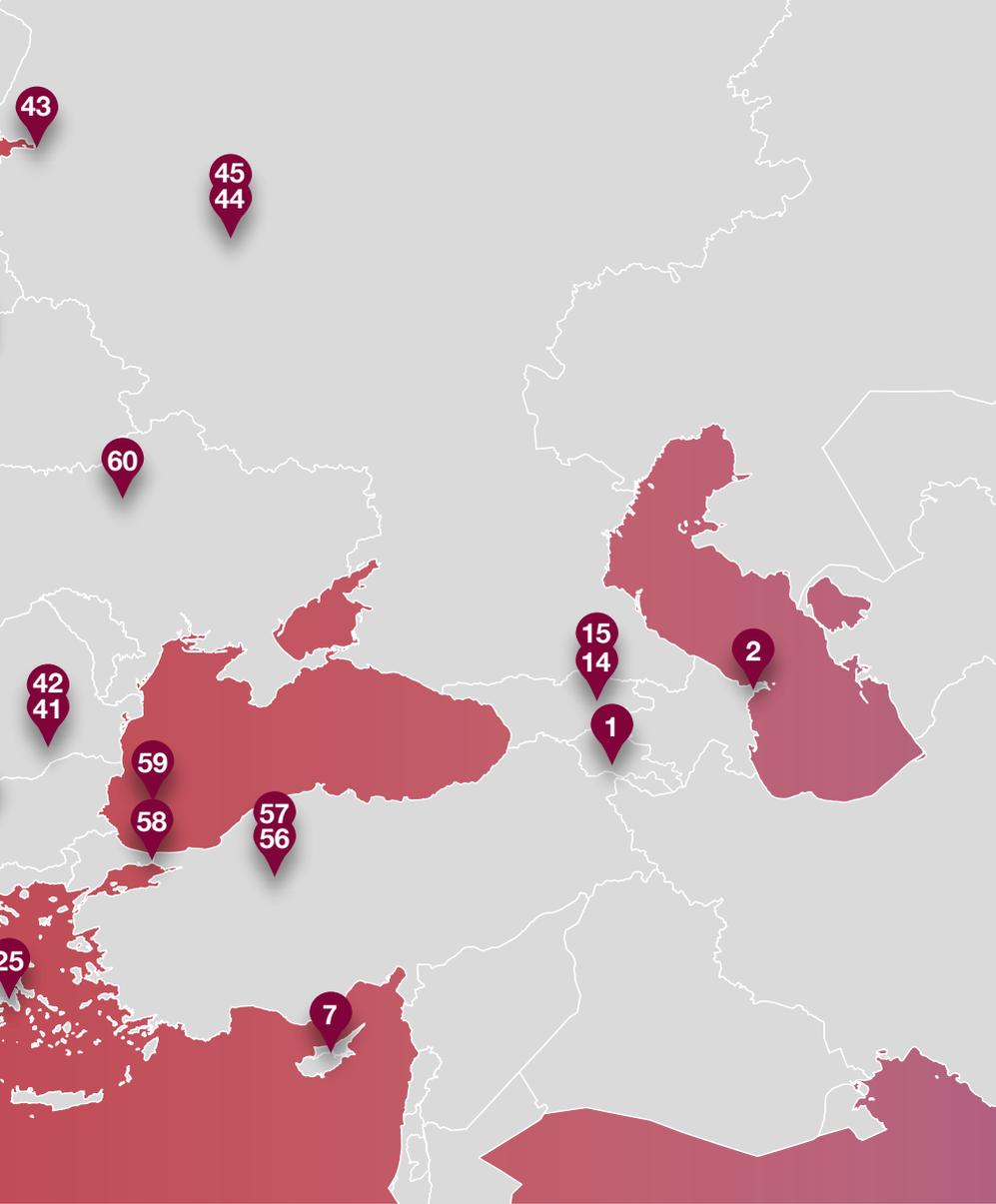
ENFSI is grateful to have found in Europol a competent and reliable partner and looks forward to future collaboration.



ENFSI MEMBERS



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