



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.
 - Frequent use of decision making processes, in particular e-voting to involve all members in the progress and development of ENFSI.
 - Encourage debate at meetings and the regular use of One day One issue Seminar (OOS) workshops to explore major issues.
 - Invite individual members to take the lead in addressing particular issues as they arise.
- 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.
 - One to one briefing with Working Group and committee chairs.
 - Reports back to the members.
- 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.
 - Setting a standard page for each ENFSI member institute to fill in.
 - Setting up discussion forums on 'live' issues.
 - Provide key dates of up coming forensic meetings.

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.
 - Provide a year's report on the activities of ENFSI and its Working Groups and Committees.
 - Ensure that the website is as accessible to non-members as possible.
 - Continue to liaise with other prominent forensic groups world-wide: ASCLD, SMANZFL, AICEF etc.

- 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.
 - To attract funds for the development of forensic practice throughout Europe and provision of research.
- f) Target promotion of ENFSI to key groups who could be beneficial to ENFSI and support organisers of ENFSI meetings in local publicity.

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.
 - Organise Training and Education workshops during the EAFS Triennial meeting.
 - Organise One day One Subject seminars for all ENFSI members on topics decided by the ENFSI membership.
- b) The Board will establish contacts with Training Networks like the European Judicial Training Network and CEPOL.
- c) The Board will encourage Working Groups to:
 - Organize workshops for young scientists
 - Develop Best Practice Manuals
- d) Scientist from Working Groups will be sponsored to participate in educational/scientific conferences.

3. Science:

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

Actions

- a) 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.
- b) Participation of ENFSI laboratories in EU research projects will be stimulated. The EAFS committee will act as a source of advice.
- c) The project 'Study on obstacles to cooperation and information sharing among forensic laboratories and other relevant bodies of different members states and between these and counterparts in third countries [European contract - JSL/DI/2007/025]' will be continued.
- d) There will be scientific input in the Thematic Part of the Annual Meeting.
- e) ENFSI members will be made more aware of relevant scientific meetings through the ENFSI website and email.
- f) 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.

- g) 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.
- h) The Board will encourage the publication of reference scientific works under the ENFSI name.
- i) 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

Innovative methods will be stimulated and introduced.

- j) 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.
- k) The Board together with the EAFS committee keeps a watching brief on emerging science.

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.

Actions

- a) Through the Committees and the WG's the Board will encourage overarching consideration of interpretation.
- b) Communicate with Association of Forensic Science Providers (AFSP) [UK&ROI] regarding expert opinion project with view to having workshop or presentation at AM2009.
- c) Liaise with EAFS, FORJUST, FORSTAT and European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and assess possibility of contribution.
- d) Consider the use of a survey to collate national initiatives in the area of evidence, evaluation and communication.

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
- b) The Board will encourage the QCC to:
 - Continue the contacts with relevant organisations like EA/ILAC/BIPM
 - Continue all running projects like CAP, Measurement of Uncertainty, Sampling etc.
 - Organise One day One topic Seminar for all ENFSI members on topics decided by the membership
 - Set up a Proficiency Test/Collaborative Test policy

- 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.
- d) The EMFA project will be continued according to the project plan.
- 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
- f) The ENFSI Board strives to acquire a ‘monopoly status’ for ENFSI so more means will be available to support the ENFSI community.
- g) The Board will, on request, support non-ENFSI laboratories in their developing process.

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.
- b) The EAFS committee will be encouraged to continue their work about R&D.
- c) The EAFS committee will be invited to implement the ENFSI strategic position paper on R&D.
- d) Contacts with universities will be enhanced through the EAFS committee in cooperation with the ENFSI members.