



ENFSI BOARD ACTION PLAN 2010 – 2011

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 ENFSI 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.
 - Provide guidance to the work of the Working Group based on the demands from the Membership as well as from the Standing Committees.
 - Revise the communication channels to improve the communication between the WG and the Board.
 - Provide scientific input to the annual meetings by inviting WG chairmen to present key-issues in their area.
 - Monitor the activities of the WG's.
 - Stimulate the activities of the Working Groups by:
 - Involvement in the Monopoly projects.
 - Focus on the WG activities (projects) and less on an annual meeting
 - Revise the presence of non-ENFSI (associated) members in the Working Group activities.
 - Creating more interaction between the WG's and the SC's.
- c) Direct a Project Group on the future structure of ENFSI.
- d) Continue to develop the ENFSI website as a source of communication between members/Working Groups/Committees through:

- Use the website facilities for discussion forums on ‘live’ issues.
- Provide key dates of upcoming forensic meetings.
- Exchange (structured) information through the ENFSI websites about focus areas of the labs (restricted access pages).
- Revise the structure and layers of protection of the ENFSI-members website base on feedback from the members as well as from the WG’s.
- Set up tools for the ENFSI website for the management and communication of EC monopoly programme activity (Monopoly 2009 submission).

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

Actions

- e) Define a strategy to better inform the forensic world of the work of ENFSI through:
 - Provide a year’s *external* report on the activities of ENFSI and its Working Groups and Committees.
 - Evaluate the performance of the website.
 - Chair the International Forensic Strategic Alliance for the forthcoming year.
 - Present the achievements of ENFSI during the past three years as contribution to the Interpol IFSS.
- f) Continue to liaise with the EU to:
 - Maintain the position of ENFSI as a Monopoly body for the EU.
 - To attract funds for the development of forensic practice throughout Europe and provision of research.
- g) Target promotion of ENFSI to key groups who could be beneficial to ENFSI and support organisers of ENFSI meetings in local publicity.
- h) Identify strategic partners to ENFSI.
- i) ENFSI will seek to develop a network of laboratories that can be called upon to respond to the needs of another European laboratory or laboratories that are faced with a major crisis through terrorist activities or organised crime. A list of unique expertise fields of the ENFSI Members will be created for the same purpose.

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 its subcommittee FORSTAT.
 - Organise One day One Topic seminars on relevant topics.
- b) The Board will encourage Working Groups:
 - To organize workshops for young scientists.
 - To develop Best Practice Manuals.
 - By sponsoring scientists from Working Groups to participate in educational/scientific conferences.
- c) The Board will support the development of an E&T Project Group to explore in a broad way the needs and possibilities regarding forensic education and training.

- The contacts with Training Networks like the European Judicial Training Network and CEPOL will be strengthened.
 - Training opportunities for EUROJUST will be organized.
- d) Through the Monopoly 2009 proposal the E&T Project Group will
- Define forensic E&T needs of forensic stakeholders to improve forensic awareness.
 - Identify qualified forensic E&T providers (organizations and individuals) within Europe.
 - Develop guidance and products for forensic E&T of user groups of forensic science, e.g. courts, prosecutors, attorneys, police colleges etc.
 - Establish a single point of contact for consultancy in matter of forensic E&T in Europe.
 - Operate a network of forensic E&T providers in Europe.

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) ENFSI members will be made aware of relevant scientific meetings through the ENFSI website and e-mail.
- d) ENFSI will have contacts with Interpol, in particular in the organizing of the Interpol International Forensic Science Symposium 2010.
- e) The E&T Project Group will be encouraged to improve knowledge transfer between individual stakeholder groups (scientists, police, lawyers), researchers and practitioners as well as within the ENFSI community.
 - i) Project groups will be set up that deal with certain issues together with the Working Groups. The ENFSI Board is receptive and ready to do this kind of projects.
 - j) The Board together with the EAFS committee keeps a watching brief on emerging science.
 - k) The board will encourage the publication of reference scientific works under the name of ENFSI.

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) The theme for the Monopoly Program 2010 will be “the interpretation of forensic evidence”. The Board will submit a proposal prior to the deadline at the EC.
- b) Through the Monopoly Program 2010, a standard for the interpretation of forensic evidence will be established.

- c) The board will promote an improved standardised approach to interpretation of potential forensic evidence. Consecutively, ENFSI will interact with wider stakeholders, using improved interpretation, to reach a common understanding of the potential and limitations of forensic science.
- d) The E&T Project Group will be encouraged to provide dedicated trainings to European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), CEPOL and EUROJUST to remove obstacles in accepting statements based on the interpretation of forensic evidence.
- e) The ENFSI Members, Working Groups and Standing Committees will be encouraged to apply for financing of their projects within the FP7 Framework – Advanced Forensic Toolbox.

5. Quality and Competence:

ENFSI will develop an agreed model for a European Forensic Science Laboratory that would meet all of the requirements of a modern forensic science laboratory. ENFSI will provide a framework for implementation, maintenance and demonstration of quality.

Actions

- a) 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 May 2011, more than 70 % of all ENFSI members should be accredited.
- b) The Board will, on request, support non-ENFSI laboratories in their developing process.
- c) The Board through the QCC standing committee will develop a comprehensive list of proficiency tests and collaborative exercises (PT should be in focus) for use throughout Europe. To achieve this it will make full use of:
 - Inputs from ENFSI members.
 - Inputs from WG's.
 - Other experts in the field.
- d) As to the production of best practice manuals (BPM):
 - The Board will continue to insist on production of BPM's for all working groups.
 - QCC will propose a template for the area specific parts for these BPM A guideline for the structure of reports will be set up.
 - QCC will ensure that they are sufficiently practical, so that they can easily be used by the accreditation bodies.
- e) The Board will continue to 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.
- f) The Board will encourage the QCC to:
 - Continue the contacts with relevant organisations like EA/ILAC/BIPM.
 - Establish training of technical experts, in collaboration with the EA.
 - Continue all running projects like Measurement of Uncertainty, Management of Reference material, reference collections and data collections.
- g) The CAP project will be continued

- Translate the performance based standards for specific work areas as required.
- Develop guidelines for the assessing of reporting officers.
- Develop general knowledge exam for reporting officers through the inclusion in the Monopoly Program 2010 proposal.

- h) The Board will encourage the QCC to organise One day One topic Seminar on relevant QA topics.
- i) 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.
- j) The EMFA project will be continued according to the project plan and will be expanded with an EMFA-2 project. Other bilateral support projects can be facilitated through ENFSI if an external funding can be foreseen.
- k) Through the Monopoly 2009 project (with a lifespan over three years)
 - The development of an ILAC guideline for the implementation of ISO-standards throughout the forensic process (together with ILAC and other regional forensic organisations).
 - Enhancing the awareness of European accreditation bodies to different forensic fields.
 - Training technical assessors for quality assessment in different forensic fields.
 - The development of guidelines for the validation of analytical and comparative methods in forensic science.
 - The development of guidelines for conducting proficiency tests and collaborative exercises in forensic science.
- l) The Board will look for means of further exploring the issue of the delivery of qualitative results even when there is a high pressure from the caseload backlog (case load management).

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 collaborate with the EU on a forensic component to the FP7 program and stimulate members to apply for funding. The same applies for specific programs of relevant EC DG's (e.g. Home, Justice and Enterprise) through the ISEC annual plans and CBRN action plans.
- b) The EAFS committee will discuss within the ENFSI community the strategic plan for R&D. Mechanisms for stimulating R&D will be examined and put into place.
- c) The EAFS SC together with the Board will develop a plan to establish 'demand driven' R&D within the ENFSI community.
- d) The EAFS SC together with the Board will set up and maintain a network of R&D lead-persons (R&D liaison officers).
- e) Contacts with universities will be enhanced through the EAFS committee in cooperation with the ENFSI members.
- f) Stimulate and initiate collaboration between Working Groups on R&D projects, e.g. on CBRN.

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