

The aim of ENFSI is to ensure that the quality of development and delivery of forensic science throughout Europe is at the forefront of the world\*



Lady Justice [unknown artist, 17th century]

\* from the ENFSI Constitution

## CONTENTS

<b>1. FOREWORD</b> .....	3
<b>2. INTERNAL ORGANISATION</b> .....	4
a. Membership .....	4
b. Board .....	4
c. Secretariat .....	5
d. ENFSI Meetings .....	5
<b>3. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING</b> .....	7
<b>4. QUALITY COMPETENCE COMMITTEE (QCC)</b> .....	9
a. Composition QCC .....	9
b. Activities .....	9
<b>5. EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES (EAFS)</b> .....	11
a. Composition EAFS Standing Committee .....	11
b. R&D-strategy .....	11
c. 5th Triennial EAFS Conference .....	11
<b>6. EXPERT WORKING GROUPS</b> .....	13
a. Chairpersons of the 16 Expert Working Groups .....	13
b. Activities .....	13
c. Best Working Group Award.....	14
<b>7. ENFSI AWARDS 2009</b> .....	15
<b>8. EXTERNAL CONTACTS</b> .....	16
<b>9. DEVELOPMENTS</b> .....	19
a. Monopoly Programme .....	19
b. NAS report .....	20

### COLOPHON

#### Text contributors:

Christina Bertler

Jim Fraser

Richard Gill

Jan De Kinder

Wim Neuteboom

Tore Olsson

Marcel van der Steen

#### Editors

Wim Neuteboom

Sheila Willis

#### Logistics Coordinator

Burhanettin Cihangiroglu

#### Design and Print

Korza Basim

#### Edition

3000

Requests for extra copies

secretariat@enfsi.org

All rights reserved.

Reproduction in any form or  
by any means is allowed only  
with the prior permission of

ENFSI

With pleasure and pride I present the first Annual Report in the history of ENFSI which is not primarily written for the ENFSI community itself. This illustrates the direction in which ENFSI is going: from an internal focused organisation to an external focused organisation.

Looking back I can say that 2009 was very successful for ENFSI. In the course of the past year ENFSI has been recognised by the European Commission as a monopolist i.e. being the sole representative of the forensic science community in Europe. As a consequence of this status, ENFSI has achieved a privileged position in getting EC-funds for performing projects (500,000 euro in 2009 and 650,000 in 2010). This option has generated a lot of ideas within the ENFSI community.

The number of ENFSI members increased this year from 55 to 58 in 33 European countries, illustrating that ENFSI is an attractive network. The number of applicants was even higher, but some applicants did not meet the current eligibility criteria. This increase in applications initiated a discussion within the Board on the identity of ENFSI. The discussion will be continued and be finalised at the Annual Meeting 2010. Until then, the Board decided on a moratorium of new members.

A broad platform for forensic scientists and managers to exchange ideas and experiences was provided by ENFSI in 2009. The full list of meetings on scientific and managerial topics is impressive; a detailed overview is presented further on in this report. It illustrates the need in the forensic community to meet colleagues abroad.

ENFSI has intensified its contacts with external partners resulting in official agreements like the Memorandum of Understanding with CEPOL and the Letter of Intention with Eurojust. Other contacts were of a more practical and informal nature.

The year 2009 has not only brought forth cheerful moments. A sad moment was the passing away of our Board member Aleksander Glazek in March 2009 after a long period of illness. He was generally recognised as someone who has contributed substantially to what ENFSI has become today.

I hope that you will read this report with pleasure and I welcome your comments for further improvements for the next year's report.

Jan De Kinder, Chairman of the 13th Board



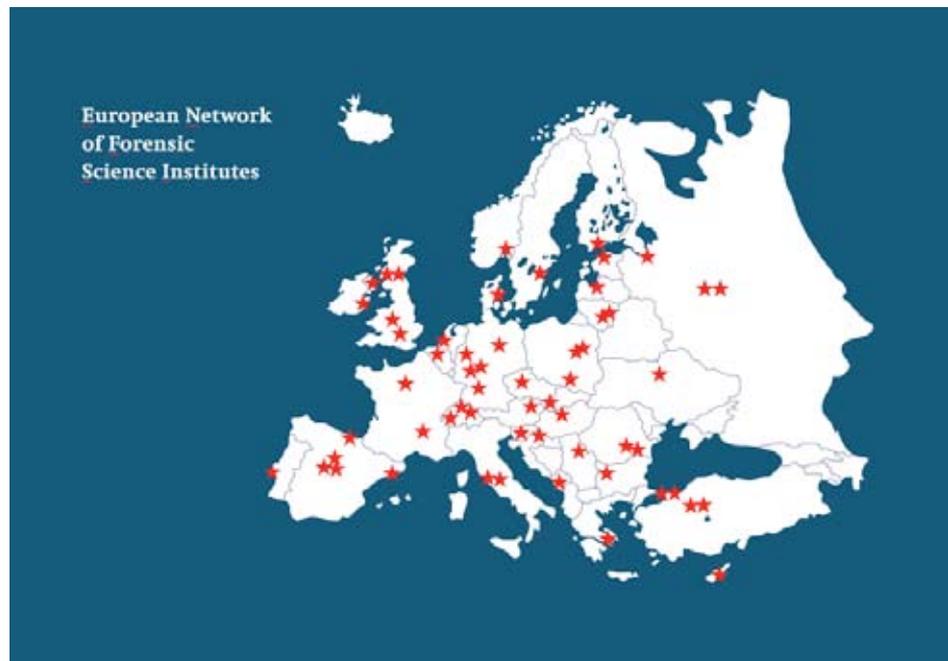
**Membership**

In the course of the year three new member-institutes joined ENFSI:

- Nacionalni Kriminalisticko-Tehnicki Centar (Beograd – Serbia)
- Forensic Center of Police Directorate (Danilovgrad – Montenegro)
- Internal Security Agency Forensic Laboratory (Warsaw – Poland)

The total number of ENFSI member-institutes is now 58, geographically spread over 33 European countries. All 27 EU-countries are represented in ENFSI except Malta and Luxemburg which do not have forensic laboratories of their own.

The map shows the cities where ENFSI members are situated.



## Board

At the AM 2009 Dave Werrett (UK) stepped down as the ENFSI Chairman (end of term). The passing away of Aleksander Glazek (Poland) in March 2009 left another position in the Board vacant. After the elections at the AM 2009 the new composition of the 13th Board became:

Jan De Kinder (Belgium) - Chairman

Pawel Rybicki\* (Poland) - Chairman designate

Kurt Zollinger (Switzerland) - Member

Tore Olsson (Sweden) - Member

Burhanettin Cihangiroglu\* (Turkey) - Member



## Secretariat

The Board is supported by the Secretary Wim Neuteboom (The Netherlands) and the Co-Secretary Peter de Bruyn (The Netherlands).

## ENFSI Meetings

Spread over the year the Annual Business Meeting, six Board Meetings and the Joint Meeting (where the Board meets the Expert Working Group Chairs) took place. This set of meetings has become traditionally.

Category	Date	Venue
Board Meeting	January 13 -14	Birmingham
Board Meeting	March 26 - 27	Brussels
Board Meeting	May 25	Ankara
Annual Business Meeting	May 27 - 28	Ankara
Board Meeting	June 23 - 24	Linkoping
Board Meeting	September 07	Glasgow
Board Meeting	November 16 - 17	Kiev
Joint Meeting	November 16 -17	Kiev

\* Elected at the AM 2009



Opening address of the Joint Meeting.



Participants in front of the meeting venue

In 2009 three One day, One topic Seminars (OOS) have been organised focusing on current and strategic topics.

Date	Venue	Topic
January 12	Birmingham	Development and Implementation of a Research Strategy for ENFSI
August 24 – 25	Wiesbaden	NAS-Report 'Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States' and its Implications for European Forensic Science
October 23	Oslo	The Future of ENFSI The Monopoly Program

Last but not least, the 5th Triennial European Academy of Forensic Science (EAFS) Conference took place in September 2009 - under the ENFSI-umbrella - organised by Strathclyde University in Glasgow.

For the first time an ENFSI Business Meeting was held in Turkey. Almost all member-institutes (only 4 apologies) attended the meeting. The incoming members had a special welcome. It is remarkable that 14 out of 55 permanent representatives were new and participating in the Annual Meeting for the first time.

The meeting ran from May 26 – 28th at the “Sheraton Hotel & Convention Centre” in Ankara. The Thematic Part – traditionally on the first day –focused on ‘Casework management’, a classical issue in the forensic community. The invitation of 3 Expert Working Group Chairs who gave updates of the recent developments in their respective Working Groups was a new departure for the AM.



Annual Meeting Ankara – The 12th ('old') Board



Annual Meeting Ankara – All participants

The recently achieved Monopoly status was one of the main topics at the meeting. ENFSI Chairman Dave Werrett gave a short explanation followed by the introduction of two speakers: Jacques Verraes replacing Jacques Barrot, vice-president of the European Commission, responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security and Richard Gill, the intended manager of the future ENFSI Monopoly Program. Both gave a presentation on this topic from their respective positions.



Annual Meeting Ankara – Newspaper attention



Other highlights were:

- The ENFSI Chairman presented an overview of the income and expenses 2008-2009, the balance sheet (31-03-2009) as well as the audit statement by the Financial Audit Committee. Furthermore, he presented the budget plan 2009-2010. The membership agreed with the financial overviews and plans.
- The bid by the Netherlands Forensic Institute to host the Secretariat for another term of three years was unanimously accepted by acclamation.
- Christina Bertler presented the recent survey on the Quality Assurance status of the ENFSI-institutes. The number of accredited laboratories is now over 50% and a substantial number is seriously working on accreditation.
- The Distinguished ENFSI Contributor Award 2009 was granted by acclamation to the late Aleksander Glazek.
- Peter Pfefferli presented his views on the Education & Training (E&T) field. At the request of the Board he accepted the task of starting up an E&T project group.
- The Netherlands Forensic Institute was assigned as the host of the 6th Triennial European Academy of Forensic Science (EAFS) Conference 2012. The venue will be The Hague.

## Composition QCC

## QCC

Position	Name
Chairperson	Christina Bertler (Sweden)
Secretary	Birgitta Roseen Pettersson (Sweden)
Member	Roger Vouillamoz (Switzerland)
Member	Tomasz Kupic (Poland)*
Member	Mirosław Rosak (Poland)**
Member	Mary Giblin (Ireland)
Member	Victoria Morton (UK)
Board representative	Tore Olsson (Sweden)

\* until November 2009

\*\* as of November 2009

## Activities

The QCC is collaborating with European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) on quality issues that are specific for the forensic fields. As a part of this the committee and the EA arranged a two days seminar “Quality Issues in the Forensic Process - for the European Accreditation Bodies” in Voorburg, The Netherlands, January 2009. The aim of the seminar was to familiarise the accreditation bodies with the forensic process focusing on comparative areas and work at the scene of crime. The EA-members and the members of the ENFSI Quality Committee Liaison Group (QCLG) were invited to attend the seminar.

The programme European Mentorship for Forensic Accreditation (EMFA) also called “The Flying Mentors” started in 2007 and continues until the fall of 2010. The aim is to have five more ENFSI laboratories ready to apply for accreditation by the end of the programme. Five accredited laboratories have made twin-pairs with five non-accredited laboratories. The accredited laboratories are acting as mentors, performing training and internal audits etc. Two of the non-accredited laboratories were ready to apply for accreditation in 2009.

The need for proficiency tests (PT) in different forensic fields is evident from the responses to the annual ENFSI QCC Survey among the ENFSI members regarding quality and competence issues. There is also a concern relating to the use of the PT's and the results from them, their use to show good performance and also to act to improve the management system. In order to clarify the purpose of PT schemes from an ENFSI viewpoint, a new policy concerning proficiency tests and collaborative exercises was drafted by the QCC.

Competence assessment is becoming an issue of increasing importance since all organisations need to confirm the competence of the staff members. This is also essential if the interpretation part of the forensic process is included in the accreditation. The QCC Competence Assurance Project (CAP) drafted Guidance for Assessment on Competence and will send it for approval early 2010. Furthermore, CAP has also defined a concept for a General Knowledge Exam for forensic experts. The project has performed a benchmarking exercise to see how forensic experts are trained and also how their competence is assessed throughout Europe. This exercise clarifies the need for a guideline of how to assess competence and also to have common competence requirements throughout Europe.



## Composition EAFS Standing Committee

EAFS

Position	Name
Chairman	Marcel van der Steen (The Netherlands) *
Member	Dariusz Zuba (Poland)
Member	Christophe Champod (Switzerland)
Member	Michael Pütz (Germany)
Member	Erkki Sippola (Finland)
Member	Colin Kimpton (UK)
Member	Jim Fraser (UK) **
Board representative	Pawel Rybicki (Poland)
External (non-ENFSI) advisor	Walther Parson (Austria)
External (non-ENFSI) advisor	Colin Aitken (UK)
Organiser EAFS Triennial Conference 2012	Jo Puts (The Netherlands) ***

\* as of September 2009 (member prior to this date)

\*\* untill September 2009

\*\*\* as of October 2009

### R&D-strategy

The objective of the ENFSI R&D-strategy is to give direction to and facilitate innovation, research and development within the European forensic community. It is generally felt that criminal investigations could benefit even more from science as it does today if the forensic world would be attached closer to new developments in science and technology. The direction in which the ENFSI R&D-strategy should go was discussed at the OOS 'Development and Implementation of a Research Strategy for ENFSI' in Birmingham in January 2009.

In order to achieve this, a common strategic view, joint efforts and support from within and outside the forensic community is crucial. In building ENFSI's R&D-strategy end-users of forensic science, key R&D officers within the forensic community and the ENFSI Working Groups have been asked for their input in order to come to a demand driven and realistic strategy. This input will be used to establish a sound mid and long term R&D-strategy with which ENFSI and all of its members can operate in order to increase the level of innovation.

### 5th Triennial European Academy of Forensic Science Conference

The conference was held in the UK for the first time hosted by the Centre for Forensic Science at the University of Strathclyde (professor Jim Fraser). The theme of the conference was 'Knowledge Exchange: the Cycle of Knowledge Creation, Transfer and Application'. Almost 600 delegates from 40 countries around the world attended. The meeting was opened by the Minister for Community Safety who was followed by professor Anne Glover, the Chief

Scientific Adviser for Scotland. Over 100 presentations, around 300 posters and 10 workshops led by subject experts supported this theme in three parallel sessions.

Formal and informal feedback from delegates was extremely good and the Barony Hall as a location for the plenary presentations drew particular comment. The social program was capped by a ceilidh in Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum which was attended by around 350 delegates who had a memorable and very enjoyable evening.

The proceedings of the conference were published in a special issue of Science & Justice in March 2010.



Plenary opening session



Opening address by Jan De Kinder

## Chairpersons of the 16 Expert Working Groups

## EXPERT WORKING GROUPS

Expert Working Group	Chairperson
Digital Imaging	Jurrien Bijhold (The Netherlands)
DNA	Ingo Bastisch (Germany)
Documents	Fritz Koehler (Germany)
Drugs	Michael Bovens (Switzerland)
Explosives	Zuzanna Brozek-Mucha (Poland)
Fibres	Kornelia Nehse (Germany)
Fingerprints	Paul Chamberlain (United Kingdom) * Monika Hilgert (Germany)**
Firearms	Walter Wenz (Germany) * Mark Mastaglio (United Kingdom)**
Fire & Explosion Investigation	Niina Viitala (Finland)
Forensic Information Technology	Zeno Geradts (The Netherlands)
Forensic Speech & Audio Analysis	Catalin Grigoras (Romania)* Andrzej Drygajlo (Switzerland)**
Handwriting	Stephen Maxwell (United Kingdom)* Tony Stockton (United Kingdom)**
Marks	Dave Baldwin (United Kingdom)
Paint	Knut-Endre Sjøstad (Norway)
Road Accident Analysis	Florin Rusitoru (Romania)
Scene of Crime	Wout Karelse (The Netherlands)

\* until September 2009

\*\* as of September 2009

### Activities

The 16 Expert Working Groups have progressed an impressive number of activities in 2009. The results are recorded in their specific annual reports. Considering the number of people needed to perform each and every activity within the Working Groups, it is easy to imagine that many scientists have contributed to obtaining these results. This emphasises again that the Working Groups are the scientific backbone of ENFSI. This is illustrated, among other things, by the setting up of proficiency tests & collaborative exercises and the publication of Best Practice Manuals on a wide range of topics.

It can be noted that the structure of most Working Groups is getting more complicated: there is an increasing number of permanent sub-groups and special project groups (e.g. data-mining, QA/QC, interpretation etc.). Most Working Groups were active in formulating project proposals under the umbrella of the Monopoly Program 2009.

Finally, the networking collaborations of the Working Groups with other organisations outside Europe are worth mentioning. This is in keeping with the trend that ENFSI is increasing its external orientation.

### **Best Working Group Award**

The DNA Expert Working Group has been granted the Best Working Group Award 2009. This Award was based mainly on the impact that the DNA Working Group had in 2009 on the European level ending in a Council Framework Decision on Accreditation of forensic service providers carrying out laboratory activities. At the Joint Meeting in Kiev the Working Group chairman Ingo Bastisch received the certificate as well as a miniature statue of the national Ukraine icon: the Cossack.



Ingo Bastisch receiving the Certificate

The ENFSI Board and the EAFS SC have established Awards to honour those who have made significant contributions to forensic science. The Distinguished ENFSI Contributor Award is granted for the work completed for the benefit of ENFSI. The other Awards are granted for scientific work. The Awards were presented during the 5th Triennial European Academy of Forensic Science Conference in Glasgow. The recipients were:

- Distinguished ENFSI Contributor Award: Aleksander Glazek (†)
- Distinguished Forensic Scientist Award: Ludwig Niewöhner
- Emerging Forensic Scientist Award: Cedric Neumann
- Working Groups Award: DNA Working Group
- Best Poster Award: Marie-Pierre Milon



Cedric Neumann receiving his Award

The names and biography of the recipients have been included in the digital Hall of Fame on the ENFSI website.

Through the year ENFSI had a lot of contacts at various levels with other international organisations. A selection of these contacts and their nature are presented here in an alphabetical order.

### **CEPOL**

In November 2009 the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ENFSI and CEPOL was signed. The MoU allows both organisations to enhance cooperation in the areas of information exchange and training. It outlines that both organisations will identify issues that may be of interest to the other, such as, advances in forensic sciences that could assist criminal investigations; the use of established scientific techniques; and the dissemination of knowledge among senior police officers.

Additionally, the MoU, states that ENFSI will:

- Identify and liaise with institutions who can potentially contribute to CEPOL training activities;
- Link to CEPOL's website and advertise CEPOL's training activities;
- Support CEPOL members who are asked to attend ENFSI meetings.

The MoU states that CEPOL will:

- Allow ENFSI members to give courses on topics they feel require greater understanding and awareness in order to assist criminal investigations;
- Ensure ENFSI members are reimbursed for travel and subsistence when supporting CEPOL activities;
- Link to ENFSI's website and post information about latest developments in forensics, cases of interest, and so on.

### **Eurojust**

In 2009 a delegation of the ENFSI Board has twice visited Eurojust Headquarters in Voorburg – The Netherlands. Their main conclusion was that ENFSI and Eurojust agreed on the fact that in order to make forensics much more effective across the EU Member States ENFSI, the law enforcement and Eurojust should join forces in a more structured way. This joint view has been laid in mutual Letters of Intention. In future, delegations of both Boards will meet twice a year to make the collaboration concrete.

### **European Commission**

There have been a series of contacts with Brussels during 2009. The two main topics were a) ENFSI's Monopoly Program and b) the ESRIF Report. The first topic belongs to the domain of DG Justice, Freedom and Security, the second one to DG Enterprise.

The Monopoly Program will be explained in more detail in another chapter of this ENFSI annual report.

ESRIF stands for the European Security Research and Innovation Forum. ESRIF tasks itself to define the European Research and Innovation needs for the mid- to long term, following the 'public – private dialogue' as a model. Individuals from the ENFSI cohort have been active in a number of sub-committees during the preparative phase of the ESRIF-report. The report was issued in December 2009 and forensic science is recognised as a field for innovation and new technologies. A call for R&D projects is to be expected in the course of 2010.

### **IFSA**

The International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA) is a cooperation of ASCLD (USA), ENFSI (Europe), SMANZFL (Australia) and AICEF (Latin America), the main regional networks of forensic institutes. The Annual IFSA Meeting in Anaheim, USA (13 – 17 September 2009) was attended by the ENFSI Chairman Jan De Kinder. Besides this face-to-face meeting two teleconferences were organised.

### **ILAC**

Two meetings were organized between ILAC representatives and members from the forensic community. ENFSI / QCC and EA were the organisers of the meetings. These were fruitful meetings with discussions regarding the forensic process and the relevant paragraphs of ISO/IEC 17020 and ISO/IEC 17025. A future guideline for the whole process from the scene of crime to the report by the forensic institute will be developed.

ENFSI also participated, represented by the QCC, in the ILAC Accreditation Committee meeting in Warsaw (April 2009).

### **European co-operation for Accreditation (EA)**

ENFSI / QCC had close co-operation with EA concerning quality assurance issues and accreditation. ENFSI participated at the two EA Laboratory Committee meetings in 2009.

### **Stockholm-Seminar**

The seminar on "The Accreditation of Laboratory Activities/Reaching the Same Quality Standard for Analysis DNA and Fingerprints" was arranged by the incoming Swedish EU-presidency in Stockholm on June 2-3, 2009. The aim of the seminar was to raise the awareness about the benefits of accreditation of organisations that provide results used in law enforcement purposes, focusing on DNA and fingerprints. Several presentations were made on topics concerning quality systems, accreditation and the practical implication of such a system. The ENFSI Chairman Jan De Kinder presented the organisation and the activities within ENFSI. The outcome of the meeting was taken into account when a proposal for a Council Decision on mandatory accreditation for laboratory activities concerning DNA and fingerprint was presented in the

Police Co-operation Working Party (PCWP) by the Swedish presidency and the Kingdom of Spain.

ENFSI was requested to inform the PCWP about the on-going work concerning quality issues in general and also focusing on the areas of DNA and fingerprints. The document presented to the PCWP showed different activities that are planned to support the forensic community and also the co-operation with EA.

The Council Framework Decision on Accreditation of forensic service providers carrying out laboratory activities was approved on the 30 November 2009 (code 2009/905).

The ENFSI DNA Expert Working Group made large contributions to the final approved Resolution concerning DNA-markers. This Working Group participated also in one of the PCWP meetings and presented the proposal for the use of 12 markers as the European Standard Set of Loci (ESS).

ENFSI was also discussed as a potential source for consultation if forensic issues need clarification. This was mainly discussed in the Ad Hoc Group for Information Exchange. This group handles questions concerning the implementation of the Prüm Decision about information exchange.

### **UK Forensic Science Regulator**

In November 2009 a Board's delegation spoke with the UK Forensic Science Regulator, Mr. Andrew Rennison. He would like to cooperate with ENFSI as the Quality Assurance standard setting body to get the police more involved. From ENFSI's side it was stated that ENFSI is open for cooperation, although there may be limitations in terms of time or competing priorities.

It was agreed that a strategy document will be drafted. The document will describe the ideal situation regarding forensic crime scene work in Europe. Based on this perspective a strategy for the next 5 years will be formulated. Other potential stakeholders as well as the end-users of forensic services must be given the opportunity to play a role in the discussions.

Earlier in 2009 ENFSI was represented at the Forensic Regulator Stakeholder Meeting in London (29 January 2009).

### **UNODC**

Experts from the ENFSI community have been involved in the publications on forensic topics issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna. Furthermore, there have been informal, contacts on a number of issues.

In the past year ENFSI has faced two very important developments: a) the ENFSI Monopoly Programme and b) the NAS-report. The relevance of both was reason for organising One day, One topic Seminars dedicated to these developments. Additionally, these developments have also been discussed at other ENFSI occasions e.g., at Working Group meetings, Board meetings, the business meeting and in the member-institutes. Both developments are explained here in more detail.

### **Monopoly Programme**

The EU has recognised ENFSI as a monopoly organisation in its Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2009 for the specific programme on the “Prevention of and Fight against Crime”. The relevant paragraph in the AWP is:

“Development of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes, to facilitate cooperation between institutes, and promote the recognition of the results of forensic analysis and opinions of forensic experts across the EU both for police work and for criminal proceedings (€ 500.000). ENFSI is a monopoly organisation since it is the only network of Forensic Science Institutes of the Member States in Europe.”

This decision has provided ENFSI with new opportunities for influencing the way that forensic services are delivered throughout Europe to support criminal investigations and to deliver justice within the courts. Project work involving different forensic institutes and other organisations has always been a corner-stone of ENFSI activity to achieve progress towards its stated aims. EC monopoly funding for project activity represents a step-change in the resources available to implement such projects.

For 2009, the ENFSI Board has adopted a monopoly programme theme of “Sustainable Quality Within European Forensic Science”. The number of project proposals received from the ENFSI community have far exceeded the funds available. Eventually seven projects were selected for the final 2009 bid to the EC with a programme of work over a three year timescale.

#### Monopoly Projects (2009)

1. The development of an ILAC guideline for the implementation of ISO-standards throughout the forensic process.
2. Enhancing the awareness of European accreditation bodies to different forensic fields.
3. Training technical assessors for quality assessment in different forensic fields.
4. The development of guidelines for the validation of analytical and comparative methods in forensic science.
5. The development of guidelines for conducting proficiency tests and collaborative exercises in forensic science.
6. European Forensic Education & Training Network (EFETN).

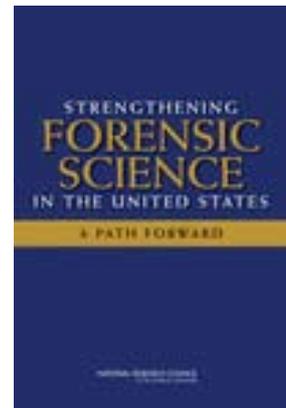
7. ENFSI website tools for the management and communication of EC monopoly programme activity.

The 2009 monopoly proposal was submitted to the EC in December 2009 and the programme of work is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2010. Work is already underway on the ENFSI bid for 2010 with the EC indicating that € 650.000 can be made available.

The ENFSI community fully recognises the significant opportunities and challenges arising from the award of monopoly status. A one day meeting in Oslo (The Future of ENFSI - The Monopoly Program) was held on 23 October 2009 to discuss these matters. Lively debates took place about the selection of themes and projects, the provision of resources and the engagement of the whole ENFSI community.

### **NAS report**

Early 2009 the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) published a critical report on the situation with respect to forensic science in the USA called “Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward”. The report focuses on scientific shortcomings and policy changes that could improve forensic sciences. The NAS stated that the field suffers from a reliance on outmoded and untested theories by analysts who often have no background in science, statistics or other empirical disciplines. Forensic evidence is often the product of shoddy scientific practices that should be upgraded and standardized.



The Bundeskriminalamt in Wiesbaden organised a One day, One topic Seminar (August 25-26, 2009) to discuss the NAS-report and its impact on Europe. 22 participants from the ENFSI community discussed the report from different points of view. They felt that the situation in the Europe isn't the same as in the USA. Europe is a lot stronger from a number of aspects, but can still be strengthened.

Europe has a tradition of research and development in the fields where the shortcomings were identified in the NAS-report and is more on the forefront of forensic science research. Still, efforts are needed to avoid a too big diversification of forensic research. There is a need to deal with horizontal issues within ENFSI, such as “how to report results”, “scales of conclusions” and “interpretation of forensic results”.

The participants also referred to the study commissioned by the European Commission entitled “Study on Obstacles to Cooperation and Information-sharing among Forensic Science Laboratories and other Relevant Bodies of Different Member States and between these and Counterparts in Third Countries” (contract number JLS/D1/2007/025).