



WORKING GROUP ON THE CRIME SCENE – SCOPE, AIM AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The purpose of this note is to set out the scope, aim and terms of reference of the ENFSI Working Group on the “Crime Scene”.

(i) SCOPE

The Working Group recognises the importance of the “crime scene” and its central role in the effective use of forensic science in crime investigation and the administration of justice. In order to maximise this contribution and support the aims of ENFSI the scope of the Working Group is:

- to consider the “crime scene” as part of the overall contribution of forensic science to crime investigation and the administration of justice;
- to recognise that a broad definition of the “crime scene” needs to be employed that covers the location, collection and interpretation of forensic evidence from suspects and victims as well as places/locations.
- to recognise the broad spectrum of interests of police, forensic and law enforcement agencies in effective “crime scene” examination, the involvement and representation on the Working Group will reflect this broad view.

(ii) AIM

The aim of the Working Group is to promote co-operation between ENFSI members and other national agencies/organisations thereby increasing the effectiveness of the contribution of crime scene examination to the investigation of crime and the administration of justice.

(iii) OBJECTIVES

In particular the Working group will achieve these aims by:

- Exchanging information and expertise through meetings.
- Promoting quality assurance (e.g. by Collaborative Testing) and the development of professional standards.
- Harmonising methods used at crime scenes.
- Co-ordinating research activities into crime scene techniques.
- Providing education and training to scene examiners and investigators.

- Establishing international access to scene methods and data collections.
- Producing a good practice manual for investigators and scene examiners’

(iv) TERMS OF REFERENCE

Membership of the Working Group shall be open to all members of ENFSI and those State, Government and Police organisations who are involved in crime scene work for the Police or Government. The Working Group may admit guest members from:

- ENFSI member countries providing their application is supported by the ENFSI member and a simple majority of all members;
- Non ENFSI countries by a simple majority of all members.

The number of delegates attending meetings may have to be limited, in which case delegates should be chosen to represent a broad involvement in crime scene work and as wide a range of countries as possible.

The Chair shall be held for a maximum of three year. A management and planning group will be established for the Working Group that will organise the meetings and provide a secretariat for the Working Group. The Working Group should meet at least once a year with the venue changing on a rotating basis within Europe.

Meetings should not exceed two days (not including travel time) and shall be financed by a registration fee or by sponsorship.

Each meeting will be recorded in a written report that will be sent to all members of ENFSI. This report will not be considered confidential and will not be binding on any member of the Working Group.

As set out in the scope the Working Group will take an overview of “crime scene” work and the areas covered will include:

- development of standards for all aspects of crime scene examination
- development of quality management/systems for crime scenes;
- exchange of information on methodology proceeding, protocols and check lists.;
- raising awareness of all players in the law enforcement and criminal justice system to the importance of crime scene examination;
- collaboration on areas of mutual interest that support the development of crime scene examination at European level.