

On 25-27 September 2019 International Scientific-Practical Conference on “Current Issues of Forensic Expert Activities. Contemporary Problems, Trends and Prospects of Development of Criminalistics and Forensic Expertise” took place in Yerevan. The conference was attended by more than 300 domestic and foreign forensic experts and criminalists, as well as specialists in various related areas of forensic expertise and criminalistics.

The working languages of the conference were Armenian, Russian and English, with simultaneous translation into all working languages of the conference.

The conference was organized by the National Bureau of Expertises of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia and was unique in domestic practice in terms of its purpose and composition of participants. It was dedicated to the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the “National Bureau of Expertise” SNPO of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia and became a particular platform for consolidating the scientific potential of forensic organizations of the Republic of Armenia and foreign partner organizations.

The solemn ceremony of the conference were attended not only by scientists and practitioners of the forensic field, but also representatives of the legislative, executive, judicial and other governmental authorities, members of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, top management of the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Republic of Armenia, Police of the Republic of Armenia and National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia, the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia, the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Armenia, as well as representatives of the diplomatic community of the USA and Japan in the Republic of Armenia and leading specialists in the field of jurisprudence, healthcare, education and science of the Republic of Armenia.

The conference opened by the welcome speech of Argam Hovsepyan, Director of National Bureau of Expertises of the Republic of Armenia, Head of the Chair of Forensic Medicine of National Institute of Healthcare after academician S. Kh. Avdalbekyan of the Ministry of Health of RA. Dr.Hovsepyan mentioned that over the past 15 years it had been possible to establish the

country's largest forensic organization, which being a full member of the European Network of Foreign Science Institutes since 2011, currently fully and efficiently implements goals and objectives for which it was originally created. Director A.Hovsepyan especially noted the priority and importance for "National Bureau of Expertises" of the Republic of Armenia of being a full member of the ENFSI to actively extend cooperation aimed at implementing modern achievements in the field of forensic expertise of the Republic of Armenia as well as promoting common goals. It was also emphasized that ENFSI membership made it possible to be involved in ENFSI working process, Working Group activities and have opportunity to be guided by Best Practice Manuals, modern methodologies and technologies implemented in European expert practice.

In the solemn part of the conference program, the official greeting of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan was read out, afterwards the Chairperson of the Program Committee of the International Conference, General Prosecutor of the Republic of Armenia Artur Davtyan, as well as President of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Academician Radik Martirosyan and representatives of other governmental authorities delivered their addresses.

In the solemn part of the conference, in the presence of the top management of the Republic of Armenia, a video message by ENFSI Chairman Michael Bovens was presented, in which, along with a congratulatory word and wishes for further prosperity and the implementation of the plans, the brief history of the establishment of cooperation of the National Bureau of Expertises of RA with ENFSI, its main directions were presented, as well as the areas where partnership between ENFSI members and the National Bureau of Expertises of RA could actively develop were emphasized.

Taking into account that National Bureau of Expertises of the Republic of Armenia was founded in 2004 within the framework of the intergovernmental agreement on International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the United States of America, congratulatory address was also delivered by the U.S. Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Christopher Smith in Armenia.

Congratulatory speeches and addresses were also made by Chairman of the ENFSI Road Accident Analysis Expert Working Group (RAA EWG) Florin Rusitoru, heads of foreign forensic institutions, ENFSI members from, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, honored guests both from the Republic of Armenia and from other foreign countries.

On 25 September, after the solemn part and the opening of the conference, plenary sessions were held, where reports were heard on topical issues and tasks of organization, conduct of forensic expertise and directions for the development of forensic sphere.

The conference was continued on 26-27 September, in the framework of four thematic sections, round tables, workshops covering the current scientific and practical narrow areas of forensic expertise and criminalistics, in which also the interdisciplinary features of forensic research were analyzed.

In the frames of the conference 4 sections were held on the following topics: “Contemporary Issues of Criminalistics and Forensic Expert Practice”, “Contemporary Issues of Forensic Medicine and Expert Practice”, “Contemporary Issues of Road Accidents Circumstances Expertise, Opportunities for Practical Application of Modern Equipment and Software”, “Role and Features of the Application of Method of Dendrochronological Research in the Field of Forensic Botanical and Ecological Expertise”. It is especially important to note that in the framework of the section on “Contemporary Issues of Road Accidents Circumstances Expertise, Opportunities for Practical Application of Modern Equipment and Software” with the participation of experts of Road Accident Circumstances, Technical State of Vehicles and Transport-Traceological Expertises Department of the National Bureau of Expertises of the Republic of Armenia was held the Annual Meeting of the ENFSI Road Accident Analysis Working Group. This section was headed by Chairman of RAA EWG Mr. Florin Rusitoru. It is also important to emphasize that during the work of RAA EWG plenary reports were heard, practical aspects of the use of software for the analysis and modeling of the mechanism of road accidents were considered, in particular PC Crash. In conclusion of the working group areas for cooperation and information of exchange were determined until the next meeting, scheduled for 2020.

Within the frames of the section on “Contemporary Issues of Forensic Medicine and Expert Practice” by order of Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia, nearly 100 participants received 15 Continuing Medical Education credits (CME).

In the course of the international scientific and practical conference international cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed between the leading expert institutions of the participating countries and the National Bureau of Expertises of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, in particular National Institute of Forensic Expertise of Romania, National Center of Forensic Expertise of the Ministry of Justice and Forensic Center of Police General Inspectorate of Ministry of Internal Affairs the Republic of Moldova, Kyiv Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Expertise of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, “Healthy Forest” LLC of the Russian Federation, Central Forensic Laboratory of the Police of Poland, Center of Forensic Expertise of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Odessa Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Expertise of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, Research Center for Forensic Examination on Intellectual Property of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

In the result of the reports and discussions on the platform of the conference a set of arrangements and agreements were reached aimed at conducting joint activities and extending cooperation, including also between ENFSI member institutions.