



ISF Project MiAS+

Multidisciplinary Initiative for User-Oriented Workshops and Advanced and Special Training in the Field of Forensic Science

2023-
2027

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What is the ISF Project MiAS+?

The project MiAS+ is an EU-funded project under the current national programme of the Internal Security Fund, the focus of this project being forensic science. (More information on the ISF on the SON intranet page of KT-F&E-Koordination (Research and Development Coordination of the Forensic Science Institute) and in the newsletter 09/2023).

Duration: 01/10/2023 – 30/09/2027

Project volume: EUR 650,458.35

Funding rate: 75 %, own contribution (25 %) will be borne by the BKA

Coordinator: BKA

Partners: all Forensic Science Institutes attached to State Criminal Police Offices (LKA)/Customs/Federal Police

Project funding no.: ISF-5793-23-0045

Who are the relevant contacts?

General questions on the application and the project as such as well as on the process of applying for measures:

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What is the ISF Project MiAS+ about?

The project focuses on basic and advanced training for forensic science institute staff and their networking among each other at both national and European level.

In the field of forensic science, there are specific questions concerning analytical approaches and methods which cannot be served by training offered by large software and equipment manufacturers. Furthermore, in training courses open to the public, these suppliers are prohibited from handling seized items, hazardous substances or materials related to ongoing investigations. Hence, this project has been designed to found and establish a basic and advanced training platform which will offer advanced training and exchange of experience regarding specific topics; furthermore, students writing their Bachelor/Master degree theses will be supported for the purpose of direct scientific knowledge gain for forensic science institutes attached to Land Criminal Police Offices (LKÄ), customs investigations services (Zollkriminalämter) or their educational and scientific centres (BWZ) and the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA).

All measures planned are intended to help expand the networks of staff at national level (Federation-Länder working groups) and European level (e.g., European Network of Forensic Science Institutes/ENFSI Working Groups) and also to enable the exchange of subject-specific and applied knowledge. The preceding project, MiAS, whose purpose was to promote training and training visits for technical staff, especially in the field of DNA analysis and chemistry, made it clear that there is a need for advanced applied training for staff in all fields of forensic science and to enable the exchange of subject-specific professional knowledge. MiAS+ is intended to set up trendsetting new standards and processes in the area of training which are a prerequisite for the future performance and efficiency of forensic science as a whole, and to establish standards for cooperation at both national and European level.

What measures are planned in the project?

The project will comprise 3 kinds of measures:

M1: "Workshops and Specialised Training Courses" for users on specific issues of forensic science
e.g., workshops or trainings on specific applications/scenarios/problems related to forensic science
The aim is to carry out 40 measures during the entire funding period which will be staged at various venues in Germany. These venues are to include the LKÄ / the BKA or their respective educational and scientific centres (BWZ) or other training grounds that can be used by the training providers or other public bodies (e.g. fire brigade, dog handling units, the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), etc). Out of the measures planned, at least 5 are to be staged, with the involvement of EU Members States and other European states, in Germany.

M2: "Training visits / hands-on training"

such as training visits by single individuals or teams (teams of experts and case officers) on specific applications / scenarios / processing flows related to forensic science.

The aim is to carry out, at various venues, 60 hands-on trainings for altogether 120 participants during the entire funding period.





What measures are planned in the project?

M3: "Carrying out of small projects aimed at specific knowledge gain, e.g. on the basis of students' degree theses"

The aim is to support altogether 30 students' degree theses (15 Bachelor, 15 Master theses), in particular at the LKÄ, in order to establish there the possibility to enable such project work and to create new - or strengthen existing - structures. Small projects that cover a wide variety of subjects and involve more than one institute or can be expected to be useful for a large audience will be given preference.

All specialised areas and all occupational fields related to forensic science are eligible for carrying out such measures.

All measures need to be applied for in good time with Project Coordination (Projektkoordination) to ensure smooth processes.

Who can participate, and how?

In general, all staff pertaining to German forensic science institutes attached to LKÄ or BKA as well as customs and Federal Police are eligible for participation in the measures.

Measures with a European focus are also open to staff from European forensic science institutes.

As to a participation of EU Members States, the following constellations are conceivable:

- Participation open to all forensic science institutes from EU Member States; events held in English;
- Colleagues from EU Member States can participate in/be invited to events as speakers due to their specialist knowledge and special expertise;
- Event related to recent European developments and requirements, e.g. in the context of ENFSI activities, accreditation requirements, European exchange via the Working Groups.

How to apply for a planned measure

For applications, Project Coordination (KT-F&E) provides a form which is to be filled in accordingly.

Applications for measures are made by the respective hosts/organisers.

State Criminal Police/customs services/Federal Police preferably direct their application via the coordination unit (KT-F&E-Koordination) of the respective institute (or the respective representative in the AG-F&E of the Commission for Criminal and Forensic Science/Identification Services (KKWT/ED) to the BKA's coordination unit BKA-KT-F&E-Koordination. BKA staff make their applications directly with BKA-KT-F&E-Koordination.

Example: 2 staffers from different forensic science institutes (e.g. from Bavaria and from Saxony) wish to participate in a 3-day hands-on training at a third institute, e.g. in North Rhine-Westphalia, to learn more about a given applied subject. The application naming the participants is directed by the 3rd institute (in NRW) where the training measure is held via their own coordination unit (F&E-Koordination NRW) to BKA-KT-F&E.





What costs are borne, and by whom?

All travel costs incurred by German project partners participating in the measure will be borne. Co-hosts/co-organisers who have to travel to the venue, e.g. in their function as speakers, also have the status of "participant".

Furthermore, costs are covered that are related to the participation of European staffers in measures organised at European level. Non-EU Member States (e.g. Switzerland) must be treated separately.

All costs are settled directly from the budget of Project MiAS+. This is why settlement of travel expenses is not to be requested from other entities. Applications for official trips should contain the note "Costs covered by a third party – IZ24 ISF-Projekt MiAS+".

Corresponding billing templates will be provided by IZ24 to the registered participants.

What needs to be taken into account in the overall process?

Application for a planned measure is to be done by the way described above.

Organisational planning of the measure is to be carried out by the host/organiser in cooperation with IZ24 (Linda LESIAK).

Invitations to participants will be sent by the host/organiser via, e.g., Working Groups or other networks, with the project coordination unit being CC'ed.

After conclusion of the measure, a note of proof is to be prepared so checks can be made by the appropriate EU entity:

M1 and M2: For each measure, after its conclusion at the latest, a short summary of the event in the form of an agenda/programme and a list (original) of participants with their signatures should be sent to Project Coordination.

M3: Once a small project has been completed, at least an abstract of the relevant degree thesis (in both German and English) is to be sent electronically to Project Coordination. Such notification is to mention the project funding and must contain the EU logo.

As a rule, all presentation slides/degree thesis papers must contain the EU logo to refer to the project for otherwise no costs will be covered.

For any questions, it would be very much appreciated if the project contact persons were contacted first, in order to not create double structures and misunderstandings.

