# 23rd FINWG Annual Meeting

**Luxembourg, Luxembourg**

**7 – 9 October 2026**

# Report



The 23rd ENFSI Fingerprint Working Group (FINWG) Meeting took place from October 7 to 9, 2026, at the "Technopolis" congress center in Luxembourg, as set out in the programme in Appendix 1. The conference brought together 102 participants representing approximately 40 European and non-European countries.

The conference opened on the morning of October 7 with welcoming remarks from Kristin Schmit, Central Director of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Grand-Ducal Police of Luxembourg, who provided an overview of the host agency's operations and highlighted future challenges such as digitalisation, recruitment, and proactive territorial policing. Following this, the FINWG vice-Chair, Francesco Zampa, officially welcomed the attendees on behalf of the Steering Committee, thanking the organisers and outlining the meeting's core objectives to share information and promote active participation within the working group. Finally, Steering Committee member Sanna Pöytäkivi introduced the various industry suppliers exhibiting their forensic technologies at the event.

**Scientific Presentations**

**Wednesday, October 7, 2026**

The scientific sessions kicked off with R. Topper from the Grand-Ducal Police in Luxembourg, who presented a research project focused on developing a likelihood ratio model to assess the strength of the evidence of fingerprint characteristics based on the rarity of minutiae. Following, Prof. A. Bécue from the University of Lausanne shared the 2022-2025 Interpol review on fingermarks, highlighting a growing focus on alternative solvents to PFAS, powder suspension optimisation, and a push toward "frugal forensic science" for resource-limited environments. Later in the afternoon, S. Claveria of the Mossos d'Esquadra, Catalonia, outlined the Direct Grant 2024 FORECAST project, an initiative funded by the European Commission to deliver specialised training courses on fingerprint visualisation to member institutions. The day's scientific program concluded with S. Pöytäkivi from the NBI, Finland, who discussed the critical distinction between the validation and verification of chemicals, suggesting the development of international ENFSI guidelines to standardise these processes across the working group's laboratories.

**Thursday, October 8, 2026**

*Workshops*

Parallel workshops were held on Thursday morning, with each subgroup (Visualisation and Comparison) running its own.

The comparison workshop, moderated by Sarena Wiesner, Dikla Eliyahu, and Bertrand Chanson, focused on the screening, recruiting, and training of fingerprint comparison experts. It was highly interactive, drawing on the experiences of several fingerprint bureaus.

The second half of the comparison workshop and the entire visualisation workshop focused to industry suppliers[1] who presented their latest technologies for visualising, capturing and comparing friction ridge marks.

*Business Meeting*

The Business Meeting took place on the first afternoon of Wednesday, October 7. The FINWG Secretary reviewed the current group "Term of reference", noting adjustments related to Associate Members following new ENFSI rules and the subsequent e-mailing list updates. The group was briefed on ongoing document revisions and the drafting of Best Practice Manuals. Due to the

[1] Thales, Integrated Biometrics, and Laboratory Imaging for Comparison; Attestor Forensics, Smytec, Foster&Freeman, West Technology Forensics, Arrowhead Forensics, Forenscope, Laboratory Imaging, and BVDA for Visualisation.

departures of two Steering Committee members during the year, public elections were held. The current Steering Committee composition was confirmed, and Sergi Claveria's mandate was extended (45 votes in favour out of 61). Carla Cristina Ameixa Fernandes Vaz de Carvalho was elected as a Steering Committee member and new head of the Visualisation subgroup (48 votes in favour out of 61).
The position of website editor currently remains vacant.

*Scientific sessions*
The scientific sessions resumed on Thursday afternoon following the morning workshops. A. de Jong and A. Lubach from the NFI, the Netherlands, shared their laboratory's probabilistic approach to fingerprint comparison, showcasing custom software tools designed to measure the frequency and rarity of fingerprint patterns and individual minutiae. Prof. A. Bécue then returned to the stage to discuss recent research from the University of Lausanne, which included the development of a 3D-printed portable coaxial illumination device and a recommended chemical sequence for developing prints on blue thermal paper. Dr. A. Mattei from Carabinieri, Italy provided the group with an update on the collaborative exercises for 2024 and 2025, detailing the findings regarding fingermark visualisation on euro banknotes and, on comparison side, the specific challenges examiners face when comparing complex or transferred marks. Exploring more unconventional substrates, C. Pisano from the Malta Police evaluated the potential of Vacuum Metal Deposition (VMD) for visualising fingermarks on bird feathers to aid in wildlife crime investigations. Wrapping up Thursday's presentations, H. Lau from the Hannover Forensic Science Institute, Germany, detailed the digitalisation journey of their fingerprint section, illustrating how replacing physical archives and older equipment with streamlined, software-based workflows has improved their analytical transparency.

**Friday, October 9, 2026**
The final day of the meeting featured a packed schedule of research.
L. Hussey from the UK's DSTL opened the session by identifying Powder Suspension as the most effective general practice for recovering fingermarks from 3D-printed materials like PLA, ABS, and resins, which prompted a revision to their official visualisation manual.
J. Nordfors from the Finnish NBI then walked the group through their process of formally validating the holistic ACE-V comparison method using historical alphanumeric data from past proficiency tests and collaborative exercises.
Shifting to advanced analytical techniques, Prof. K. Frisch from Aarhus University, Denmark, demonstrated the DESI-MS mass spectrometry imaging method, showcasing its ability to visualise fingermarks without sample preparation, separate overlapping prints using AI, and detect exogenous substances like cocaine.
Practical laboratory safety was subsequently addressed by N. Nuindam of the Dutch NFI, who proved that removing the toxic additive phenol from Gentian Violet formulations does not diminish its enhancement performance on adhesive tapes.
Expanding on known techniques, S. Wiesner from the Israel Police showed that the WETWOP™ white wet powder suspension is highly effective not just on tapes, but on a variety of non-adhesive surfaces like plastics, metals, and nitrile gloves.
Addressing modern digital evidence challenges, F. Firanescu from the Swedish NFC discussed the methodologies and difficulties involved in extracting and examining fingerprints directly from high-resolution photographs and videos of hands.
L. Mertens from the Grand-Ducal Police, Luxemburg, then detailed a multidisciplinary application of 1,2-Indanedione/zinc to enhance latent footwear marks on porous substrates.

Finally, A. Mattei concluded the scientific programme by providing an update on the recently completed FOR-FUTURE project's work packages.

**Social Events**

In addition to the scientific and administrative agenda, the meeting featured organised social events to foster networking among the international delegates. On the late afternoon of Wednesday, October 7, participants were offered a guided tour of Luxembourg City. The primary social gathering occurred on the evening of Thursday, October 8, featuring a social dinner held at the Headquarters of the Grand-Ducal Police.

At the end of the meeting, it was announced that the 24th FINWG Annual Meeting will be hosted by RaCIS Carabinieri in Milan, Italy, from October 6 to 8, 2027.



## APPENDIX 1

**- WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2026 –**

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| 08:00 – 09:30 | Registration of the participants at the conference venue |
| 09:30 | Start of the program |
| | 09:30 – 09:45<br>Welcome and opening<br>*Luxembourg representatives (TBD)* |
| | 09:45 – 10:00<br>Welcome<br>*Steering Committee representatives (TBD)* |
| | 10:00 – 10:30<br>Introduction of suppliers<br>*Sergi Claveria* |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee break / Suppliers Exhibition / Poster Session |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | Scientific Session |
| | 11:00 – 11:30<br>The rarity of fingerprint characteristics and establishment of a likelihood ratio model<br>*Randy Topper, Grand-Ducal Police, Luxembourg* |
| | 11:30 – 12:00<br>Interpol review of fingermarks - Overview and focus<br>*Andy Becue, UNIL, Switzerland* |
| 12:00 – 12:15 | Group Photo |
| 12:15 – 13:15 | Lunch |
| 13:15 – 14:15 | Business meeting<br>• Members of the Working Group: overview<br>*FINWG Secretary*<br>• *Steering Committee* members election<br>• Any other matters |
| 14:15 – 14:45 | Coffee break / Suppliers Exhibition / Poster Session |
| 14:45 – 15:15 | Scientific Session |
| | 14:45 – 15:00<br>Direct Grant 2024 (Fingerprint Visualisation training courses)<br>*Sergi Claveria, Mossos d'Esquadra, Catalonia (Spain)* |
| | 15:00 – 15:15<br>Verification of visualisation chemicals - what is enough?<br>*Sanna Pöytäkivi, NBI, Finland* |
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| **17:00 – 19:00** | **Guided tour of Luxembourg City** |
| | *Free evening* |

**- THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2026 –**

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|---|---|
| 09:00 – 10:30 | Workshops (parallel sessions for each subgroup) |
| | **Visualisation subgroup**<br>(moderated by Sergi Claveria, Sanna Pöytäkivi and Aldo Mattei)<br>*Meet the suppliers – what is on the market?* |
| | **Comparison subgroup**<br>(Bertrand Chanson, Sarena Wiesner, Dikla Eliyahu)<br>*Screening, recruiting and training of fingerprint comparison experts* |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee break / Suppliers Exhibition / Poster Session |
| 11:00 – 12:45 | Workshops (parallel sessions for each subgroup) |
| | **Visualisation subgroup**<br>(moderated by Sergi Claveria, Sanna Pöytäkivi and Aldo Mattei)<br>*Meet the suppliers – what is on the market?* |
| | **Comparison subgroup**<br>(Bertrand Chanson, Sarena Wiesner, Dikla Eliyahu)<br>*Screening, recruiting and training of fingerprint comparison experts* |
| 12:45 – 13:45 | Lunch |
| 13:45 – 14:45 | Scientific Session |
| | 13:45 – 14:15<br>Measuring the rarity of minutiae types in fingerprint patterns<br>*Arent de Jong & Anko Lubach, NFI, Netherlands* |
| | 14:15 – 14:30<br>Fingermark visualisation: Overview of some research projects conducted at ESC/UNIL<br>*Andy Becue, UNIL, Switzerland* |
| | 14:30 – 14:45<br>CEs 2025 updates<br>*Aldo Mattei, Carabinieri, Italy* |
| 14:45 – 15:15 | Coffee break / Suppliers Exhibition / Poster Session<br>*Distribution of attendance certificates* |
| 15:15 – 15:45 | Scientific Session |
| | 15:15 – 15:30<br>Feather Forensics: Evaluating VMD for Fingermark Visualization in Wildlife Crime Investigations<br>*Clara Pisano, Malta Police Forensic Science Laboratory, Malta* |
| | 15:30 – 15:45<br>Digitalization: When old processes block new thinking<br>*Helene Lau, Forensic Science Institute, Hannover (Germany)* |
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| **18:30** | **Meeting place for the Bus at “Place de la Constitution, Boulevard Franklin D. Roosevelt »** |
| **19:00 – 22:00** | **Gala Dinner at the Headquarters of the Grand-Ducal Police** |

**- FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2026 –**

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|---|---|
| 09:00 – 10:30 | Scientific Session |
| | 09:00 – 09:20<br>Identifying best practice for Fingermark and DNA evidence recovery from 3D-printed materials<br>*Laura Hussey, DSTL, UK* |
| | 09:20 – 09:30 (ABSENTEE)<br>The past, present and future of case processing strategies<br>*Craig Mullen, Forensic Science Ireland, Ireland* |
| | 09:30 – 10:00<br>Validation of Fingerprint comparison method<br>*Johanna Nordfors, NBI, Finland* |
| | 10:00 – 10:30<br>DESI-MSI – A New Approach for Advanced Fingerprint Visualisation and Chemical Characterisation<br>*Kim Frisch, Dept. of Forensic Medicine, Aarhus University, Denmark* |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee break / Suppliers Exhibition / Poster Session<br>*Distribution of attendance certificates* |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Scientific Session |
| | 11:00 – 11:15<br>The Effect of Phenol on the Performance of Gentian Violet<br>*Nol Nuindam, NFI, Netherlands* |
| | 11:15 – 11:35<br>Expanding the use of white wet powder suspension<br>*Sarena Wiesner, DIFS, Israel Police, Israel* |
| | 11:35 – 11:55<br>Fingerprint Examination from pictures and videos of hands<br>*Fabian Firanescu, NFC, Sweden* |
| | 11:55 – 12:10<br>Multidisciplinary application of 1,2-Indanedione/zinc<br>*Luc Mertens, Grand-Ducal Police, Luxembourg* |
| | 12:10 – 12:30<br>MP2022 updates<br>*Aldo Mattei, Carabinieri, Italy* |
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| 12:30 – 13:00 | 24th FINWG Annual Meeting: announcement<br>&<br>Closing of the 23rd FINWG Annual Meeting |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch<br>*Distribution of attendance certificates* |