



Forensic laboratories and quality assurance

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Institute of Forensic Science of the Police Force

Quo Vadis, European Forensics?

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Content

- **brief history of the Institute of Forensic Science of the Police Force**
- **legislation defining the activity**
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- **future**

History of the Institute

- until 1 February 1991 – 4 departments crime techniques and expertise
 - Institute of Criminalistics Prague
 - **congratulation for 60th anniversary**
- 1 February 1991 – establishment of the Institute of Forensic Science of the Police Force – responsible for the President of Police Force
- 1 October 1992 – incorporated into Academy of the Police Force
- 1 April 1995 – incorporated into Investigation and Criminal Expert section of the Ministry of the Interior
- 1 October 2002 – responsible for the Minister of the Interior
- 1 January 2004 – incorporated into Presidium of the Police Force – responsible for the President of the Police Force
- 1 August 2012 – responsible 1st Vice-president of the Police Force

28 years of history



**KRIMINALISTICKÝ A EXPERTÍZNY
ÚSTAV POLICAJNÉHO ZBORU**
INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE



1991

2016

Police Force Levels

- **National: Presidium of the Police Force**
- **Regional: 8 Regional Police Headquarters**
- **Local: 53 District Police Headquarters**



Workplaces of the Institute

- Workplace Bratislava
- Workplace Slovenská Ľupča
- Workplace Košice



Workplace Bratislava



The Academy of the Police Force area

Workplace Slovenská Ľupča



Stand alone area

Workplace Košice



Regional Police Headquarters area

Organizational structure

- Bratislava
 - Internal and material-technical provision department
 - Applied psychophysiology department
 - Division of scientific examination
 - Division of forensic identification
- Division of scientific examination and forensic identification Slovenská Ľupča
- Division of scientific examination and forensic identification Košice



Number of employees

- 279 employees, of which:
 - 214 policemen
 - 202 experts (university education)
 - 12 laboratory technicians (secondary schools education)
 - 57 public servants (secondary schools education)
 - 8 civil servants (university education)



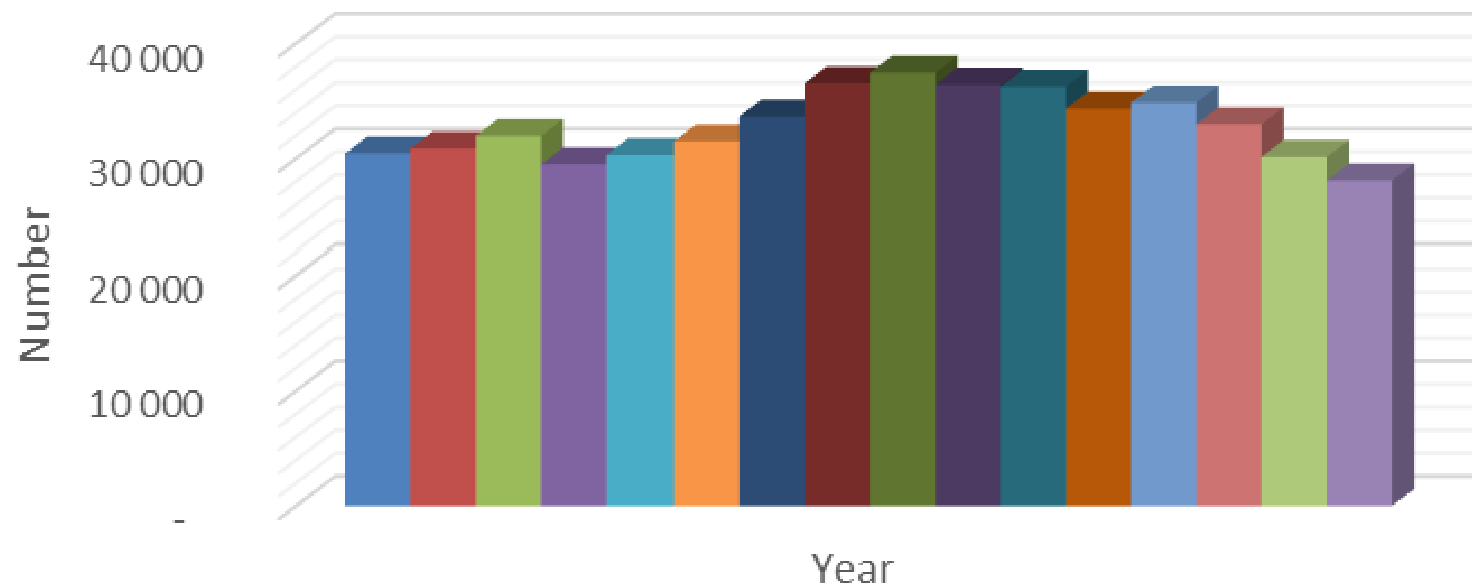
Number of expert witness opinion per year

• 1994 – 30 532	• 2006 – 30 285
• 1995 – 30 962	• 2007 – 31 473
• 1996 – 34 255	• 2008 – 33 633
• 1997 – 33 783	• 2009 – 36 515
• 1998 – 34 308	• 2010 – 37 424
• 1999 – 34 274	• 2011 – 36 402
• 2000 – 33 673	• 2012 – 36 224
• 2001 – 32 991	• 2013 – 34 302
• 2002 – 30 430	• 2014 – 33 968
• 2003 – 30 857	• 2015 – 32 956
• 2004 – 31 951	• 2016 – 32 435
• 2005 – 29 479	• 2017 – 28 076



Number of expert witness opinion per year

IFS - number witness opinion



■ 2002 ■ 2003 ■ 2004 ■ 2005 ■ 2006 ■ 2007 ■ 2008 ■ 2009
■ 2010 ■ 2011 ■ 2012 ■ 2013 ■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017

Legislation defining the activity

- Act no. 171/1993 Coll. about the Police Force
- Act no. 382/2004 Coll. about the experts, interpreters and translators ...
- Act no. 301/2005 Coll. the Code of Criminal Procedure
- Act no. 160/2015 Coll. Civil Court Proceedings
- Act no. 161/2015 Coll. Civil Out of Court Proceedings
- Act no. 162/2015 Coll. Sprper Legal Proceedings
- ...



Mission of the Institute

- Act no. 171/1993 Coll. about the Police Force – one from main tasks:
 - performing expert witness opinion in forensic science according to special regulations
 - Act no. 382/2004 Coll. about the experts, interpreters and translators ...:
 - Institute is registered at the Ministry of Justice as special expertise institution in Forensic Science
 - paragraph 16 „...expert witness opinion carried out special expertise institution ... meeting terms according to **technical standard*** ... signed by the statutory body ...“
- * it means quality standard ISO 9001 and ISO/IEC 17025

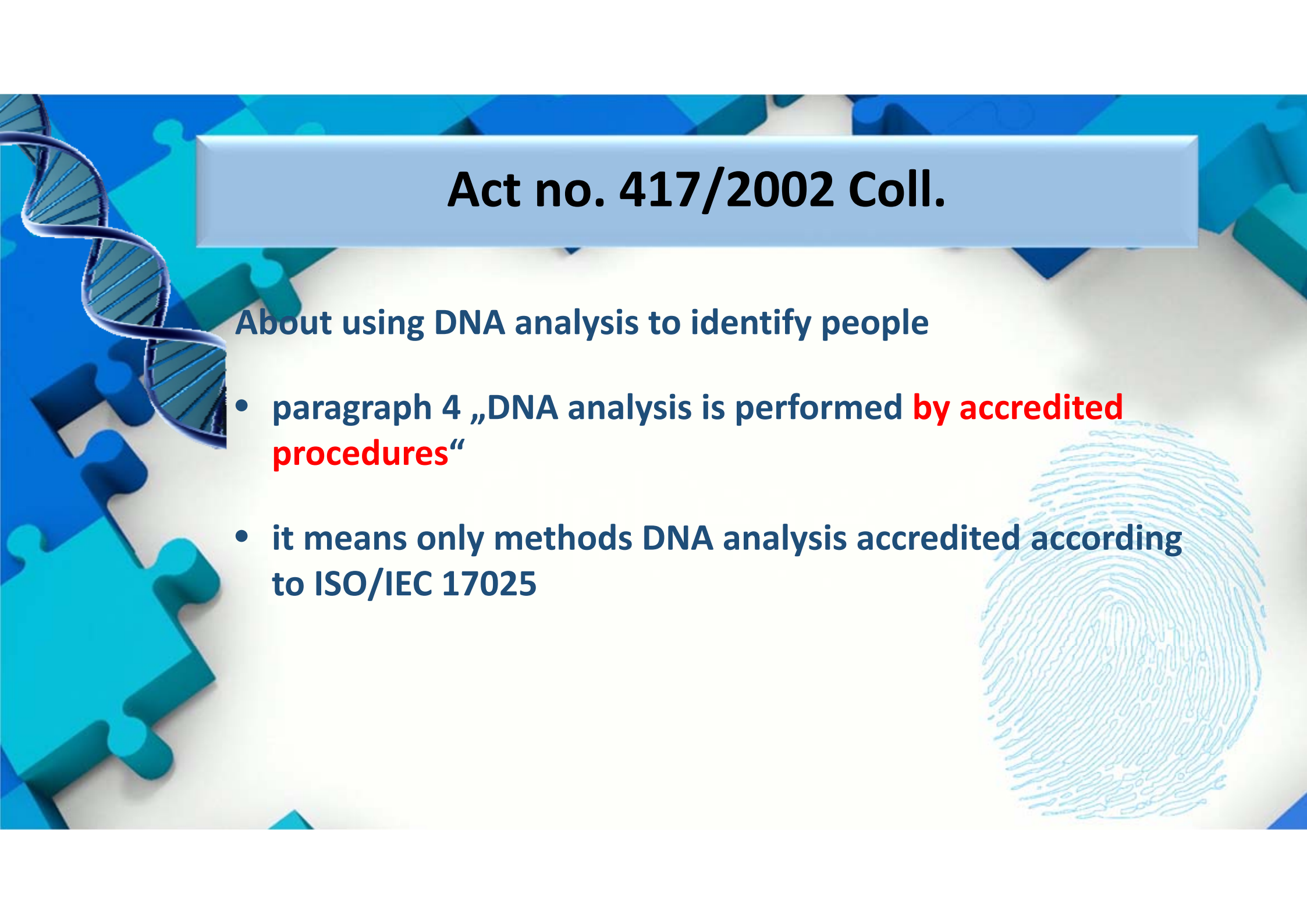


Mission of the Institute

- Organizational directive of the Ministry of the Interior – one from main tasks:
 - performing expert witness opinion in forensic science in accordance with the relevant **international quality standards*** and European Network of Forensic Science Institutes requirements

* it means quality standard ISO/IEC 17025





Act no. 417/2002 Coll.

About using DNA analysis to identify people

- paragraph 4 „DNA analysis is performed **by accredited procedures**“
- it means only methods DNA analysis accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025

Quality assurance (ISO 9001)

- ISO 9001:2000 certificate in 2002 – only for workplace Bratislava
- in 2003 – the certificate has been extended to workplaces in Slovenská Ľupča and Košice



Quality assurance (ISO 9001)

- current certificate according to international standard ISO 9001:2015 for all workplaces is valid until 25 April 2020



Quality assurance (ISO/IEC 17025)

- ISO/IEC 17025:2005 certificate in 2006 – only for workplace Bratislava
- in 2007 – the certificate has been extended to workplaces in Slovenská Ľupča and Košice



Quality assurance (ISO/IEC 17025)

- current certificate according to international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005 for all workplaces is valid until 10 September 2023





Quality assurance (ISO/IEC 17025)

- last accreditation audit was implemented in July 2018
- with respect to the effective date of the standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (25 January 2018) we are currently analyzing the changes needed for implementation
- by 31 December 2018 at the latest, we need to notify the national accreditation body (SNAS) of the date for implementing changes
- the deadline for their implementation may not exceed 30 November 2019

Why we need it?

- accreditation **brings rules (staff requirements, validation, PT/CE, ...)**, through manuals, SOPs, work instruction, ... better understand own regular work
- helps to harmonize procedures
- using accredited methods, all appropriately trained staff will achieve the same results within the established limits
- facilitates collaboration between laboratories
- helps to exchange informations and experiences



Why we need it?

- quality assurance means continuous improvement
- through these better explain activities and procedures at court hearing
- experts are more independent from external influences on a professional level



Internal audits

- QCLG meeting 2016 in Budva:

What is the purpose of the internal audits for your organisation?

- A. Only to remain accredited – 6 %
- B. To prepare external audit – 0 %
- C. To improve quality management system – 51 %**
- D. To assess the status of the quality management system – 43 %**



Internal audits

- QCLG meeting 2016 in Budva:

Does your organisation also perform internal audits of nonaccredited products/activities?

A. Yes – 70 %

B. No – 30 %



Combination of standards

- combination ISO 9001 and ISO/IEC 17025:
 - assists in process management of the institute
 - assists in monitoring of operational processes, products and service delivery processes
 - it also assesses the management of the institute in all departments



Combination of standards in 2016

- combination ISO 9001 and ISO/IEC 17025 – 3 laboratories
- combination ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17020 – 5 laboratories
- ISO/IEC 17020 – CSI, Handwriting, ...



Future

- combination of developed standards
- extension of accreditation according to ISO/IEC 17020 (CSI)
- increasing the number accredited methods (almost half of ENFSI members till 2016 accredited less than 50 % used methods)
- **more administrative work**
- **the need for finances**



Future

- development of standards in the field of Forensic Science (ISO/TC 272)
 - development of ISO 21043-1, „Forensic analysis- Recognition, recording, collection and storage of forensic material“
 - development of ISO 20962 „Forensic Science Vocabulary“



EFSA 2020

- EFSA 2020:
 - action 4 – „Improving forensic awareness among law enforcement and justice communities“
(The Netherlands – example)
 - action 5 – „Stimulate accreditation of forensic procedures and competence of forensic personnel by forensic service providers on a voluntary basis.“





Thank you for your attention!

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