



EFSA2020 Action Plan from the ENFSI perspective

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**Congratulations for the 60th
Anniversary of the Institute of
Criminalistics !**

**Council Conclusions and Action
Plan on the way forward in view of
the creation of an European
Forensic Science Area - Council
conclusions (9 June 2016)**

**EFSA2020 is not just about forensic
community and ENFSI !**

EFSA2020 Action Plan - preamble

HAVING REGARD to **the value of the cross-border exchange of DNA-profiles, fingerprinting data and vehicle registration data under the Prüm Decisions 2008/615/JHA and 2008/616/JHA of 23 June 2008 on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime**

EFSA2020 Action Plan - preamble

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT **the Council Framework Decision 2009/905/JHA of 30 November 2009 on the accreditation of forensic service providers carrying out laboratory activities concerning DNA and fingerprints**

EFSA2020 Action Plan - preamble

RECALLING THAT in December 2011 **the Council approved conclusions regarding the realisation of a European Forensic Science Area by 2020,** “**where routine forensic processes for the collection, processing, use and delivery of forensic data should be based on equivalent minimum forensic science standards** and where forensic service providers should work on the basis of a common approach to implementation of these standards that fosters closer cooperation between them and the criminal justice systems”

EFSA2020 Action Plan - preamble

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Council
Conclusions of 16 June 2015 on the Renewed
**European Union Internal Security Strategy and the
European Agenda on Security** consider forensic
science critical to law enforcement and
prosecution

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NOTING THAT **forensic evidence is increasingly important in criminal matters and that law enforcement and judicial authorities must be confident that the forensic data they rely on is of high quality, irrespective of the jurisdiction under which the evidence was produced or processed**

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NOTING THAT a **European Forensic Science Area** would foster cooperation and provide confidence through alignment of procedures and practices of **forensic service providers in Member States** as mentioned in the Renewed European Union Internal Security Strategy

EFSA2020 Action Plan - preamble

REAFFIRMING the need to ensure **the effective and appropriate exchange of scientific evidence and the increased need to use of forensic data from one Member State in the judicial processes of another**

EFSA2020 Action Plan - preamble

RECOGNISING the important role of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) as a platform for efficient forensic knowledge **exchange**, as well as other stakeholders and forensic science service providers, with a view to developing minimum quality requirements for forensic examinations, facilitating international collaboration and identifying important systemic needs for the forensic community

EFSA2020 Actions

1. '**Best Practice Manuals** for forensic disciplines'
2. 'Stimulating **exchange of forensic information from databases**, for example in the areas of weapons and ammunition, explosives and drugs'
3. '**Proficiency tests and collaborative exercises** for forensic disciplines'
4. '**Forensic awareness and training** for law enforcement and justice communities'
5. 'Stimulate **accreditation of forensic service providers and competence of forensic personnel** on a voluntary basis'
6. 'Stimulating **exchange of forensic data via Prüm** and improving its quality'

Actions can be condensed as

- **Reliability of forensic services**

- Best Practice Manuals
- Proficiency tests and collaborative exercises
- Accreditation of forensic service providers

- **Sharing of forensic information**

- Exchange of forensic information from databases
- Exchange of forensic data via Prüm

- **Improving forensic awareness**

Reliability

- Best Practice Manuals are required to set minimum standards and to harmonise forensic services
- Proficiency tests and collaborative exercises are required to achieve accreditation
- Accreditation of forensic service providers is the best means to assure quality, i.e. reliability

Why accreditation?

- Accreditation is the only worldwide accepted means to demonstrate laboratory's performance
 - Can be used e.g. when presenting reports in the courts
 - Accreditation is a great management tool, it increases mutual trust between the experts and management
- Accreditation is the only means to achieve mutual acceptance of laboratory results
 - Once examined, the results and conclusion apply everywhere in the world
 - Based on multilateral agreements between national accreditation bodies, EA and ILAC

Why mutual acceptance?

- Cross-border cases, evidence from two or more countries may be used as evidence in the courts
- Training of end-users becomes much more simple, when common standards are used
- Subcontracting services from other countries' laboratories
 - Increases trust between the customer and service provider

Is an accredited laboratory better than a non-accredited laboratory?

Not necessarily, but they cannot really be compared since the performance of a non-accredited laboratory is not known!

Sharing of forensic information

- Pan-European reference databases (1st stage)
- Databases for identifying persons (2nd stage)
 - E.g. Prüm database (not fully utilized)
- Databases for linking cases (2nd stage)

Forensic awareness

- ◉ Importance of quality system and accreditation for forensic end-users
- ◉ How to identify a reliable forensic expert
- ◉ Understanding forensic reports
 - Evidential value
 - Concept of uncertainty

Conclusion

- Implementation of EFSA2020 Action Plan:
 - Improved combating cross-border crime and terrorism
 - Accreditation of laboratories providing forensic DNA and fingerprint services
 - Minimum standards for collection, processing and delivery of forensic data
 - Quality of forensic science irrespective of the jurisdiction under which the evidence was produced
 - Fostering cooperation and providing confidence through alignment of forensic procedures and practices
 - The exchange of scientific evidence and use of forensic data from one MS in the judicial processes of another

Role of ENFSI

- Implementation of the EFSA2020 Action Plan is the core of ENFSI Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020
- ENFSI has been recognised as a monopoly organization by the EC, started in 2009
 - *“ENFSI has been identified as a body of technical competence and high degree of specialisation which may benefit from a directly awarded grant, pursuant to Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation”*
- ENFSI has utilized Monopoly funding to implement EFSA2020 Actions

... and this work still continues...



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THANK YOU!
