



**European Network of  
Forensic Science  
Institutes**

## AIM

ENFSI is the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes. ENFSI is recognized as a pre-eminent voice in forensic science worldwide by ensuring the quality of development and delivery of forensic science throughout Europe.

The aim shall be achieved through membership meetings, expert meetings, open forensic science meetings as well as the work of the Board, Standing Committees and Expert Working Groups. Further, it will:

- Expand the membership throughout Europe;
- Encourage all ENFSI laboratories to comply with best practice and international standards for quality and competence assurance;
- Establish and maintain working relationships with other relevant organisations all over the world.

## HISTORY

In 1992 the directors of Western European governmental forensic laboratories agreed that they should hold regular meetings to discuss topics of mutual interest.

At the first meeting in 1993 in Rijswijk (The Netherlands) 11 laboratories were represented. It was agreed that membership of ENFSI would be open to countries from the whole of Europe. The formal Founding Meeting took place on October 20,

1995 and is considered to be the official birthday of ENFSI. Here the founders of ENFSI signed the Memorandum of Understanding governing the operation of the Network, the first regular Board was elected and the logo was introduced.



At the Annual Meeting 1999 in Moscow, the first Constitution for ENFSI was accepted by the membership.

In that same year the ENFSI website was established. The website, [www.enfsi.eu](http://www.enfsi.eu), is now the main source of information about ENFSI and a major means of communication within the ENFSI community.

In 2002 a permanent Secretariat was established, financed from the members fees.

In 2009 the EU recognised ENFSI as a so-called monopolist i.e. it is considered as the sole voice of the forensic community in Europe.

[WWW.ENFSI.EU](http://WWW.ENFSI.EU)

## MEMBERSHIP

ENFSI is a dynamic expanding organisation that welcomes new members that can meet the ENFSI criteria.

The number of members has increased over the years from 11 forensic laboratories in 1993 to almost 60 forensic laboratories today. These include some non-governmental laboratories.

The member-laboratories are geographically spread right across Europe and include all the (candidate-)countries of the European Union.

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Science Institutes



Forensic laboratories can become a member of ENFSI if they fulfill a number of eligibility criteria:

- Originate from a European country
- Cover a broad area of forensic expertise
- Achieved accreditation (ISO17025) or planned
- Credible status in its own country
- Employ at least 25 experts allowed to give evidence in court

Forensic laboratories that are not ENFSI members can, with some restrictions, participate in the activities of the Working Groups.



## STRUCTURE

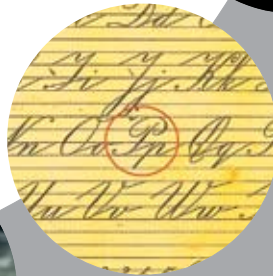
ENFSI is governed by a five member Board, elected for a three-year term by the membership from the directors of its member-institutes. The Secretariat supports the Board members in their duties. The 16 Expert Working Groups are the backbone of ENFSI in terms of the scientific knowledge and interests. Two Standing Committees are designated for specialised activities:

- Quality and Competence Committee (QCC)
  - Developing policies on Quality Assurance and Competence Assurance
  - Providing advice to the Expert Working Groups and ENFSI members
  - Helping the ENFSI laboratories to comply with best practice and international standards
  
- European Academy of Forensic Science (EAFS)
  - Being the window to the scientific world
  - Developing a research strategy
  - Organising scientific conferences
  - Publishing a glossary (various languages) with typical forensic words and terms

## WORKING GROUPS

The Working Groups cover a broad range of forensic disciplines:

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Digital Imaging | 9. Fire and Explosion Investigation    |
| 2. DNA             | 10. Forensic Information Technology    |
| 3. Documents       | 11. Forensic Speech and Audio Analysis |
| 4. Drugs           | 12. Handwriting                        |
| 5. Explosives      | 13. Marks                              |
| 6. Fibres          | 14. Paint and glass                    |
| 7. Fingerprints    | 15. Road accident analysis             |
| 8. Firearms        | 16. Scene of Crime                     |



## ACTIVITIES

Most important activities:

- The Annual Meeting (for members only)
- The EAFS Triennial Meeting (open scientific meeting)
- One day, One issue Seminars  
(open meetings for special topics)
- Meetings of the Expert Working Groups  
(restricted access)
- Collaborative studies and proficiency tests
- Advice to EU Institutions on forensic issues
- Publication of Best Practice Manuals
- Publication of glossaries (various languages)  
with typical forensic words and terms

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ENFSI has official contacts with a number of organisations:

- American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD)
- Senior Managers Australian and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories (SMANZFL)
- Academia Iberoamericana de Criminalística y Estudios Forenses (AICEF)
- International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA)
- The International Forensic Summit (TIFS)
- Interpol
- Various EU Institutions e.g. Europol, Eurojust, DG Home Affairs and DG Justice
- International Laboratory Accreditation Organisation (ILAC)
- European Cooperation of Accreditation (EA)
- Bureau International Poids et Mesures (BIPM)
- College Européen de Police (CEPOL)



## CONTACT

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