



With financial support from the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union

EFEN NEWSLETTER

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The ECRIS Fingerprint Exchange Network (EFEN) project focuses on the use of fingerprints to support EU criminal records exchange. The project aims to share and collate best practice amongst EU Member States (MS). It also aims to raise awareness of the differing identification methods used by EU MS and its potential impact on using foreign convictions in court with the EU judicial community. This newsletter is designed to provide an update to MS on the progress of the project and will be published quarterly.

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

The EFEN project team aim to hold two workshops with each Member State. The first is held with representatives from criminal records, fingerprints and identification departments. The aim of this workshop is to research in detail the availability of fingerprints to central authorities for use within criminal records exchange. In cases where fingerprints are used with criminal records exchange best practise will be collated.

The second workshop is held with representatives from the national judicial training college or equivalent organisation. The aim of this workshop is to highlight the importance of correctly identifying persons when taking into account previous convictions in criminal proceedings. Current practises and processes will be presented, and how this impacts on Article 3 of CFD 2008/675/JHA. All findings will be published on CIRCABC.

ECRIS FINGERPRINT EXCHANGE NETWORK

The first network meeting was held in February in Brussels. Experts from our partner countries and delegates from Member States we have visited

will be invited to the next meeting in September 2013 to review the findings of the EFEN Project, identify best practise and to discuss other fingerprint issues with ECRIS such as the MoJ/ MoI divide, which is common across many member states.

To date we have held workshops with Romania, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Italy, Latvia, Czech Republic, Portugal, Poland and Denmark. We have workshops planned with another 4 Member States with others in negotiation.

CROATIA WORKSHOPS

Croatia officially joined the EU on 1st July 2013. Under Workstream 4 of the EFEN Project, the project team worked with Croatia to share best practice and support integration into EU criminal records exchange arrangements, with a focus on fingerprints.

Three workshops were held with Croatia earlier this year. The first took place in the UK and involved sharing the UK's experience of criminal record exchange and use of ECRIS.

The second workshop was held in Zagreb and afforded the project team the opportunity to learn about criminal record exchange and fingerprints in Croatia.

The third workshop was also held in Zagreb and at this workshop the project team met with representatives from the Croatian Judicial Academy to discuss identity issues and the use of foreign convictions in court.

All three workshops were highly informative and beneficial for all parties. As a result the Croatian Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior are agreeing a protocol to improve information sharing between them. Therefore they are hopeful that Croatia will be able to exchange fingerprints alongside criminal records in the future.

Days left of the workshop phase as of 08/08/13:

205

For further information or to schedule in a workshop, please contact:

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