ECRIS Fingerprint Exchange Network (EFEN) Project Overview
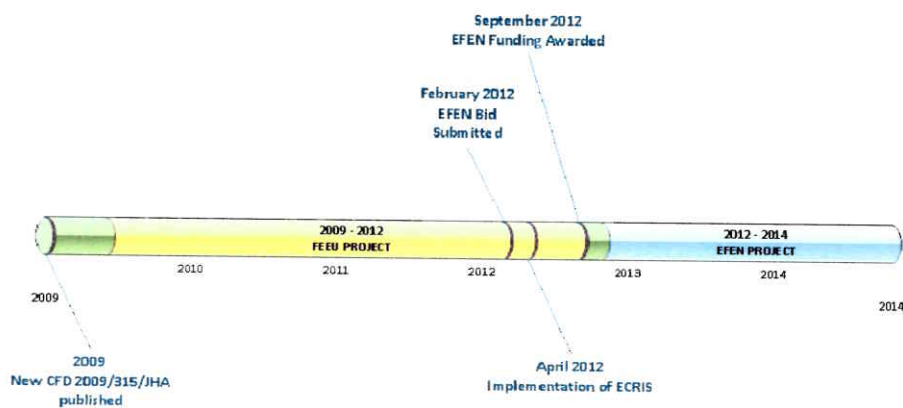
With Financial Support from the Criminal Justice
Programme of the European Union

Background

September 2012
EFEN Funding Awarded

February 2012
EFEN Bid
Submitted

2009 - 2012
FEEU PROJECT

2010   2011   2012   2013   2014

2009

2014

2012 - 2014
EFEN PROJECT

2009
New CFD 2009/315/JHA
published

April 2012
Implementation of ECRIS

The "Fingerprint Exchange between EU Member States" Project

➢ Proved the concept that fingerprints can assist and support criminal record exchange

➢ Created momentum in a change of opinion towards fingerprints

➢ Identified the need and opportunity for future development in this area

EFEN Project Objectives

Support implementation of CFD 2009/315/JHA across the EU with a particular focus on article 11(c)

Support implementation of CFD 2008/675/JHA across the EU with a particular focus on identity and its importance in the use of previous convictions in criminal proceedings
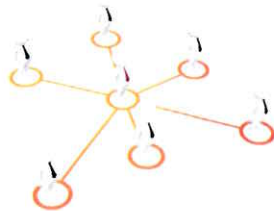
Develop and share best practice in relation to utilising fingerprints within criminal records exchange through the establishment of an ECRIS fingerprint practitioner network and at workshops with EU MS

Raise awareness and mutual understanding of the different judicial systems and associated importance of identification in criminal records exchange through networking with the EU judicial community

Promote harmonisation between all EU MS and relevant accession countries by supporting integration into exchange processes within ECRIS with a particular focus on judicial cooperation with regard to the use of fingerprints as a part of EU criminal record exchange

EFEN Work Stream 1

Project Deliverable

"Workshop with all EU MS to share best practice and establish a network of EU Fingerprint Practitioners"

EFEN Work Stream 1

Objective 1 of 5...

1. Visit every EU MS to share best practice of using fingerprints within criminal record exchange between EU MS

Achievements...

✓ Workshops held with 21 MS

✓ Engaged with criminal records and fingerprint representatives

✓ Best practice shared by presentations

✓ CIRCABC used to further share best practice after workshops

EFEN Work Stream 1

Objective 2 of 5...

2. Identify the potential gaps in linking fingerprints with criminal record exchange within the EU so the European Commission can make an informed decision on the need for further CFDs in this area

Achievements...

- ✓ Questionnaire and workshop data collected from 25 MS
- ✓ Data analysed to understand the situation in more detail
- ✓ Findings summarised in a report

EFEN Work Stream 1

Objective 3 of 5...

3. Identify practitioners and establish an ECRIS fingerprint practitioners network to provide an open forum to debate the use of fingerprints within ECRIS in order to develop a mutual understanding between MS

Achievements...

- ✓ Practitioners identified and invited
- ✓ 3 meetings have been held so far
- ✓ 9 MS attended
- ✓ All information published on CIRCABC

EFEN Work Stream 1

Objective 4 of 5...

4. Consider options to sustain the network beyond the life of the project

Achievements...

✓ Agreement by MS that this should continue

✓ sustainability is currently being discussed

EFEN Work Stream 1

Objective 5 of 5...

5. Further develop the recommendations of the MUCRI Project relevant to identification issues and the sharing of best practice

Achievements...

✓ Considered previous projects and recommendations including MUCRI

✓ Addressed in the work stream report

Project Deliverable

"Implement new business functionality with UKCA-ECR and share the best practice with all EU MS"

Objective 1 of 3...

1. Refine the UKCA-ECR electronic process for incoming fingerprints from EU MS

Achievements...

✓ New system developed for processing incoming FP via ECRIS

✓ Interface between UKCA-ECR and AFIS

✓ Process now electronic

EFEN Work Stream 2

Objective 2 of 3...

2. Reduce the amount of time it takes to check the identification of fingerprints through ECRIS

Achievements...

✓ Evaluation completed
✓ Reviewed original process time to new process time
✓ Considerable time and cost savings identified

EFEN Work Stream 2

Objective 3 of 3...

3. Share the experiences of implementing the new process with EU MS so that the project can inform best practice in this area

Achievements...

✓ Implementation process reported
✓ Evaluation results report
✓ Shared on CIRCABC and at conference

EFEN Work Stream 3

Project Deliverable

"Workshop with EU judicial bodies and engage with national judicial training colleges in each EU MS to raise awareness of the importance of identification (fingerprints) within criminal records exchange"

EFEN Work Stream 3

Objective 1 of 2...

1. Networking and sharing best practice by using established networks to emphasise the importance of identity within EU criminal record exchange and in particular its use for bad character and sentencing purposes

Achievements...

✓ Established new and utilised existing contacts
✓ Held workshops with 19 MS
✓ Presented information on the importance of identity and issues

EFEN Work Stream 3

Objective 2 of 2...

2. Support all EU MS with the implementation of CFD 2008/675/JHA, an existing cooperation instrument regarding taking account of convictions in EU MS in the course of new criminal proceedings

Achievements...

✓ Workshops focused around CFD 2008/675/JHA
✓ Identified status of implementation across the EU
✓ Informed participants of provisions

EFEN Work Stream 4

Project Deliverable

"Engage with Croatia to share best practice and support integration into criminal record exchange processes"

EFEN Work Stream 4

Objective 1 of 7...

1. Engage Croatia in the project

Achievements...

✓ Engaged with Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Judicial Academy

✓ 3 workshops held

EFEN Work Stream 4

Objective 2 of 7...

2. Ensure than Croatia are informed as to the latest developments in the use of fingerprints in criminal record exchange

Achievements...

✓ Three workshops with Croatia

✓ Presented the history and background

✓ Informed Croatia on the latest developments and current situation

EFEN Work Stream 4

Objective 3 of 7...

3. Enable Croatia to determine processes and policies on the exchange of fingerprints within ECRIS in preparation for their integration into the EU

Achievements...

✓ Engagement informed Croatia on FP within ECRIS
✓ Croatia has taken steps to allow sharing of data
✓ EFEN supported Croatia in this work

EFEN Work Stream 4

Objective 4 of 7...

4. Encourage Croatia to fully utilise all the functionality in ECRIS with particular emphasis on the fingerprint capability

Achievements...

✓ Informed Croatia of the benefits of using fingerprints
✓ Shared the UK experience of using fingerprints
✓ Promoted the use of fingerprints

EFEN Work Stream 4

Objective 5 of 7...

5. Learn from the Croatian experience of fingerprint exchange with EU Member States

Achievements...

- ✓ Obtained Croatia's experiences of exchanging criminal records and fingerprints
- ✓ Gathered data relating to availability of FP for the research study

---

EFEN Work Stream 4

Objective 6 of 7...

6. Inform the Croatian Judiciary of the benefits and allowable usage of proving identity through the use of fingerprints linked to EU criminal convictions
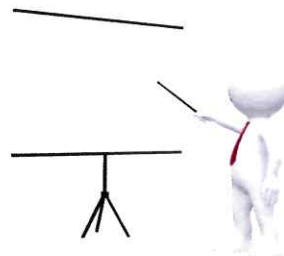
Achievements...

- ✓ Workshop held with the Judicial Academy in Croatia
- ✓ Information around the challenges and benefits presented
- ✓ Encouraged further activities to be completed at national level

EFEN Work Stream 4

Objective 7 of 7...

7. Croatia to present at project conference on their experiences

Achievements...

✓ Continued to engaged with Croatia
✓ Presentation at the conference

EFEN Work Stream 5

Project Deliverable

"Host an EU wide end of project conference"

EFEN Work Stream 5

Objectives...

1. Identify suitable delegates to attend EU conference
2. Identify suitable aim, objectives and material for inclusion in conference presentations
3. Identify suitable experience from member states
4. Hold an EU conference on fingerprints within ECRIS
5. Report findings of the project to delegates
6. Create an open environment for all EU MS to engage in
7. Produce a detailed report on the outcomes of the conference
8. Identify the next steps in improving the exchange of fingerprints within ECRIS

Sarah Fleming

EFEN Project Manager

efen@acro.pnn.police.uk

+44 (0)1489 569800