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

EFEN
ECRIS FINGERPRINT EXCHANGE NETWORK

EFEN NEWSLETTER

Introduction

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the EFEN Project Newsletter. This newsletter provides an update on the work of the EFEN Project. We have now held workshops with 21 Member Sates in total and have confirmed plans for our end of project conference in Rome.

The Project is due to end on 26 October 2014.

EFEN Project Conference in Rome

The project team are pleased to announce that the EFEN Project conference will be held in Rome at the Roma Eventi De Trevi Conference Centre on 23rd and 24th September 2014 .

The conference centre is located in a magnificent neoclassical palace and is situated in the heart of Rome. It is also a stone's throw from its namesake, the Trevi Fountain.

Invites have been sent to all EU Member States inviting representatives from departments responsible for criminal records, fingerprints and judicial training. The project has funding for three delegates from each Member State to attend.

This will enable representatives from many different specialisms to benefit from the findings and analysis from the EFEN Project and to hopefully explore future business development in this area for the mutual benefit of EU member states.

Please return any outstanding confirmation of attendance forms to efen@acro.pnn.police.uk as soon as possible to confirm your place at this event. We look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Incoming Fingerprint Functionality goes live

A key part of the project is to implement new business functionality within the UKCA-ECR to more efficiently process incoming fingerprints from other Member States and share the best practice with all EU Member States.

After a series of testing involving all suppliers and users, the project has now been able to implement the system into live operation.

There are two main elements of the system:

1) Import interface between the UKCA-ECR database and The UK AFIS (IDENT1).

When receiving fingerprints via ECRIS in a NIST format file the Central Authority staff can directly search IDENT1 and submit work automatically into the IDENT1 workflow at the fingerprint Bureau. This electronic process has eliminated the need to print, scan and manually process incoming fingerprints.

2) Tasking between the UKCA-ECR and the Fingerprint Bureau.

The tasking system is built within the existing UKCA-ECR database. The system allows users to send manual tasks from the UK Central Authority to the Fingerprint Bureau. This system is utilised if it is an unusual request type or when fingerprints are not in a NIST file.

The project team will evaluate its performance over numerous months to measure cost, time and general efficiency savings. These results will be detailed in a report and shared with Member States at the EFEN Project Conference.

For further information please contact:

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Network Meeting

The third ECRIS Fingerprint Expert Network meeting was held on Monday 3rd March in Madrid, Spain. Representatives from all five partner countries - Latvia, Lithuania, Spain, Portugal and Slovenia - of the project attended, along with representatives from Romania, France and Italy. This group aims to provide guidance, resolve issues and provide an expert view of matters surrounding identification in ECRIS.

The agenda included a number of topics including a project update, an overview of preliminary statistics from the data collected from 20 EU Member States at the EFEN Workshops, criminal record rejection research, as well as discussions surrounding Third Country Nationals. Additionally, Spain provided an update to the group about the work they are currently undertaking to link and exchange fingerprints within ECRIS.

The EFEN Project team will be looking into the options for sustaining the network beyond the project as the project draws to an end in October 2014. Watch this space for news on the future of the group.

If you are interested in attending the next meeting please contact the project team. The details of the next meeting will be circulated in the next couple of months. The minutes of this meeting and all previous meetings are available on our CIRCABC site.

A new project to Improve Data Quality for EU Criminals

Police and judicial authorities across the EU routinely exchange data on EU criminals, but it can be challenging for Member States to assist each other if the data they are sharing is not of good quality or is insufficient to correctly identify individuals. Each Member State has its own unique ways to identify their nationals.

ACRO submitted a bid to the EU Commission to address this issue and have been awarded funding for a project to Improve Data Quality for EU Criminals.

The project has three key objectives:

1) Improve the quality of criminals information exchanged throughout the EU;

2) Provide a resource to ensure mutual understanding amongst practitioners (Police, Central Authorities and Courts) regarding other member States requirements; and

3) Contribute existing EU wide cooperation around EU criminal records exchange.

These objectives will be addressed through a learning package which will be available to all EU Member States. This tool aims to inform practitioners on the procedures for obtaining criminal records information from other EU Member States and the importance of correct data capture.

There will also be a desktop and mobile reference tool, which will allow practitioners to identify the information that is needed by another EU Member State in order to identify the correct persons criminal history.

The entire product will be available in all languages of the EU Member States. For further information please contact: eu.data.app@acro.pnn.police.uk or +44 (0)1489 569 800.

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