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Criminal Justice Programme of  
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# EFEN NEWSLETTER

## Introduction

Welcome to the final edition of the EFEN Project Newsletter.

The EFEN Project will officially end on the 26th of October 2014.

## EFEN Project Summary

The EFEN Project has seen some fantastic results from across the five work streams. The research workshops held as part of work stream one has provided up to date comprehensive information about the use of fingerprints across the EU. This research has shown that many Member States are in a similar position with legislation and resources. However it has also been a brilliant opportunity to share best practise. Similarly the work stream 3 activities have successfully raised awareness and provided information to Member States about the key CFD's and how fingerprints can be a useful identification tool when convicting foreign offenders.

The project has also successfully implemented an interface between the UKCA and the UK AFIS database allowing for fingerprints to be sent directly for searching and loading. The new process has eliminated the manual activities of the process and therefore we have seen a time saving of 78% for notifications and 71% for requests and a time saving of 55% for notifications and 48% for requests.

All of the results and outcomes of the project are being collated into a series of reports which will be shortly published on CIRCABC.

## EFEN Project Conference in Rome

The EFEN Project staff organised and held the 'end of project' conference in Rome, Italy on the 23rd – 24th of September 2014.

Over 80 delegates from 21 EU Member States attended the conference and represented their respective departments responsible for criminal records, fingerprints and judicial training, along with representatives from Judicial and Law Enforcement agencies.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity for the project team, invited speakers and delegates to share information, experience and also best practice. The specific aims of the conference were to relay the findings of the project, hear from other Member States about their experiences, learn about training activities being completed across the EU and to initiate discussion and debate on the future use of fingerprints.

The conference event was also successful in promoting awareness of the new IDQEU Project and resulted in some delegates and organisations expressing a wish for greater engagement with the new project. The event also served to promote a greater awareness of the ECRIS Fingerprint Practitioner Network established as part of the EFEN Project; in order to share and exchange best practice and support future development in this area.

The conference presentations, photos and all the EFEN Project final reports have been published on the EFEN Project's interest group on CIRCABC (<https://circabc.europa.eu/faces/jsp/extension/wai/navigation/container.jsp>)

For further information please contact:

efen@acro.pnn.police.uk  
+44 (0)1489 569800

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## The ECRIS Fingerprint Practitioner Network

An objective of the EFEN Project was to establish an ECRIS Fingerprint Practitioner Network. This network was designed to provide an open forum to debate the use of fingerprints, support each other, exchange best practise, formalise mutual understanding and support development in this area. The project team initially invited partner countries (Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain) to join this network and have since expanded this network, which now includes a number of other Member States. Current members of the network expressed a view that it would be beneficial for this network to continue.

A key objective of the project was to consider options to sustain this network beyond the life of the EFEN Project and therefore the project engaged with Member States to seek views on the future of the network.

A questionnaire was sent to all 28 Member States to which 19 Member States responded. Overwhelmingly, 18 of those agreed that it was beneficial for the network to continue and 15 Member states indicated that they would be interested in joining the network if it was to continue. This provides evidence that a large number of EU Member States would like to see the ECRIS Fingerprint Practitioner Network continue after the end of the EFEN Project.

Whilst arrangements have yet to be formalised, it is proposed that the ECRIS Fingerprint Practitioner Network continues. The network will continue to use CIRCABC to publish and maintain a list of contact details of the network members, promote and monitor the forum functionality for discussions and to upload update reports every 6 months. It is also proposed that annual meetings will be held to share best practice amongst all network members. The final outcome of this proposal will be communicated as soon as a decision is made.



## EU Practitioner Information Manual

The project team has created a guidance manual aimed at judges and prosecutors to explain the use of fingerprints in criminal proceedings and how these can be obtained.

After receiving feedback from some Member States we have decided to have the manual translated in to several languages. These will be available on our CIRCABC space soon. It is also possible to have paper copies of the English version posted. Please let the project team know by sending an email to the EFEN Project mailbox ([efen@acro.pnn.police.uk](mailto:efen@acro.pnn.police.uk)) detailing how many copies you would like and your full address.

We hope you find the manual useful and encourage its dissemination through your judicial agencies

## Final Thanks and Acknowledgements from the EFEN Project Team

The EFEN Project team would like thank all those who participated in the activities of the project.

Many of the activities completed by the project have required participation and engagement from other EU Member States and the response we received was very positive.

The contribution from Member States has enabled the project to identify some interesting and important results which have been seen as positive steps forward.

Special thanks go to Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain who were partner countries to the EFEN Project as well as the European Commission for providing the funding to carry out this project.