

# Fingerprint Exchange between EU Member States Project (FEEU)

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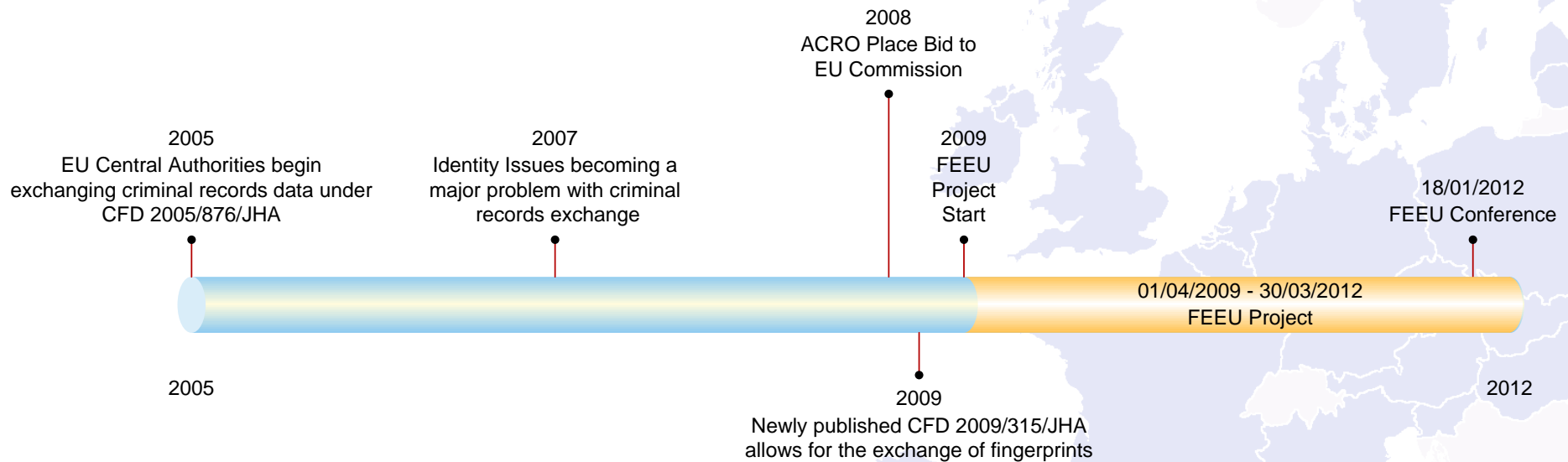
***FEEU Conference 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012***



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# Background



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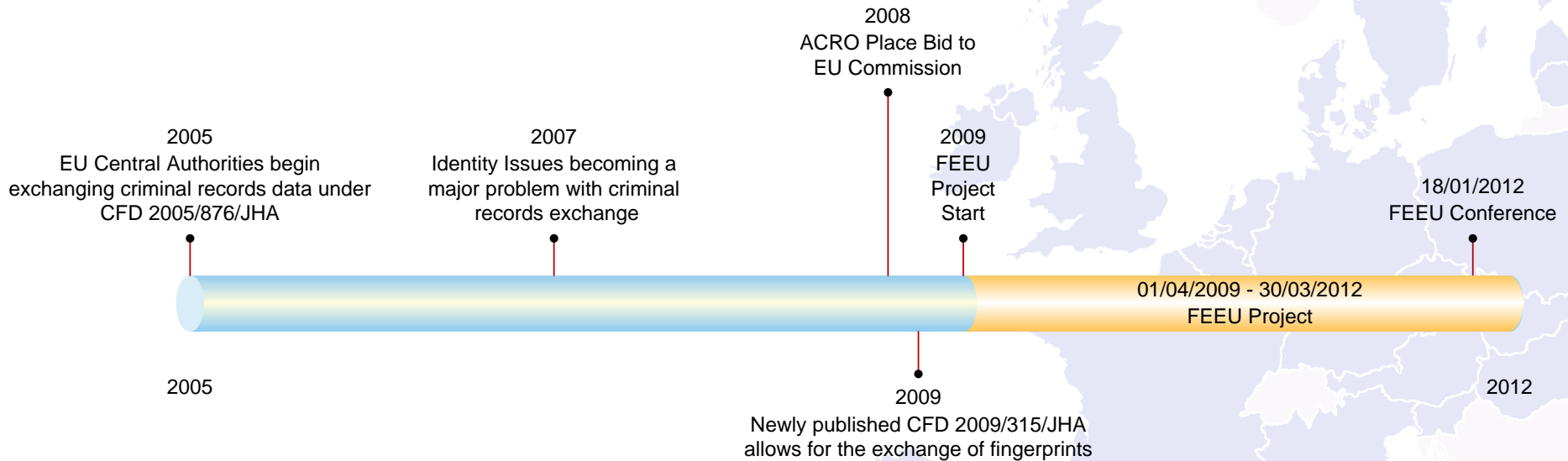


# Central Authority Conviction Exchange

- EU Member States begin exchanging criminal records information between dedicated central authorities under CFD 2005/876/JHA.
- Two parts to the process:
  - 1) Requests
  - 2) Notifications



# Background



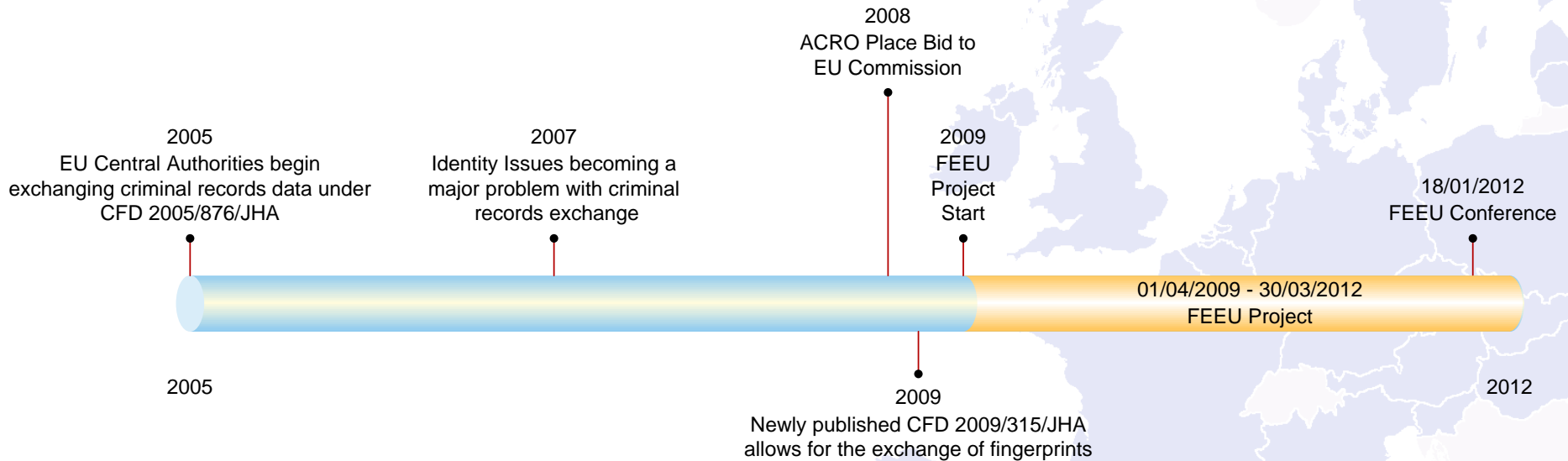


## Identity Issues

- Correct identification of persons becoming an issue for EU Member States
- UK request that fingerprints should be included within the arrangements for conviction exchange to improve the identification of persons



# Background





## EU Commission Bid

ACRO placed a bid to the EU Commission to fund a project which concerned proving the benefits in underpinning the current conviction exchange process with fingerprints.

The bid was successful and the FEEU project commenced in April 2009.



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## Project Deliverables

- **Fingerprint Facility** - Develop a facility capable of processing the requirement of the international exchange of fingerprints
- **Workshop with EU Member States** - Negotiate and make arrangements for fingerprint exchange
- **EU Index of Non-EU Nationals** - Explore the challenges and benefits of how fingerprints could be utilised to support a potential EU index of non-EU national offenders
- **Host an EU Conference**



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## **Fingerprint Facility - Objectives**

- **Create a dedicated fingerprint bureau to support the exchange of conviction data between the UK and other EU Member States.**
- **Procurement of Hardware and Software**
- **Employ fingerprint officers**
- **Explore possibilities of exchanging fingerprints electronically**



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## **Fingerprint Facility -** **Achievement of Objective**

- **Collaboration with a local police force (Hampshire Constabulary)**
- **Employed two Tenprint Technicians to process incoming fingerprints onto the UK national AFIS (IDENT1) and to extract fingerprints from the database to send to respective EU Member States**
- **Additional equipment; AFIS terminals, scanners, printers and other peripherals**



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## Achievement of Objective Cont'd

- 1) **Manual Process** - Hard copy fingerprints printed directly from IDENT1
- 2) **ACRO Fingerprint Application** - The ability to convert hard copy tenprint cards into NIST, JPEG, PDF and TIF files. The ability to convert incoming NIST files to JPEG, PDF and TIF formats. Ability to encrypt the files for secure transmission to EU Member States.
- 3) **IDENT1 Interface** - Extract NIST files directly from IDENT1 at the UK Central Authority
- 4) **ECRIS** - IDENT1 interface and ACRO Fingerprint Application capabilities



## **Workshop with EU Member States - Objectives**

- **Run workshops with EU Member States to explore exchange possibilities**
- **Secure arrangements to exchange fingerprints with EU Member States**
- **Collate data and case studies from the exchange of fingerprints**
- **Develop a mutual understanding of the benefits of utilising fingerprint exchange for these purposes**



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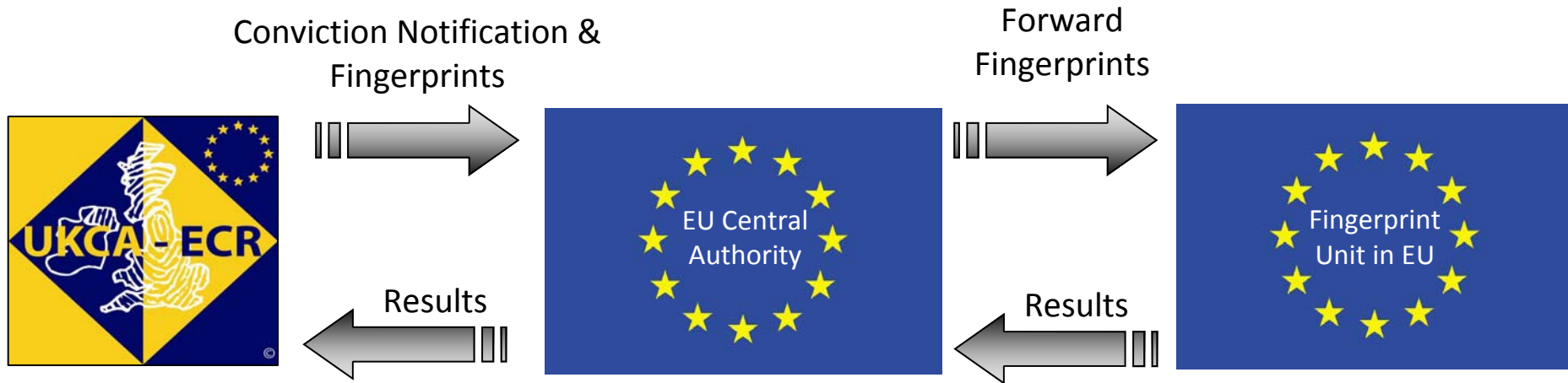
## Workshop with EU Member States

- Visited 18 Member States
- Documented the current position and challenges
- 12 arrangements agreed
- Flexible solutions
- Manual & Electronic
- Pilot exchanged with 14 EU Member States



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# Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta & Romania



# Case study #1

January 2010 - UK places a wanted marker on the PNC for an individual known as Male A

June 2010 - the UKCA-ECR makes a request to Lithuania for an individual known as Male B. The request was sent with fingerprints.

July 2010 - Similar match made to this name. Fingerprints are checked and match those of Male A

Information is passed back to the UK that Male B is Male A. He is actively sought by the UK to be arrested and extradited to Lithuania.



## Case study #2

UKCA-ECR receives the notification and creates a record on the PNC for Male A.

Lithuania sends a conviction notification to the UK for an individual known as Male A. The notification was sent with fingerprints

Fingerprints are checked and match the record of Male B

Lithuania are informed of the identity discrepancy and the PNC record is made over into the correct record.

Records would not have been linked if it were not for the exchange of fingerprints



## Case study #3

Romanian individual charged with Rapes  
of two vulnerable persons in the UK

UKCA-ECR requests previous convictions  
from Romania.

The response comes back with this person  
having a previous conviction for Rape in  
Romania.

The Romanian suspect denies that these  
are his convictions.

Fingerprints are sent to Romania and the result confirms  
the identity of these convictions to this person

The UK were then able to use these convictions as  
supporting evidence. The individual was handed a life  
sentence without parole for 11 years.



# Greece, Ireland, Portugal & Slovenia



Conviction Notification



Results



Fingerprints

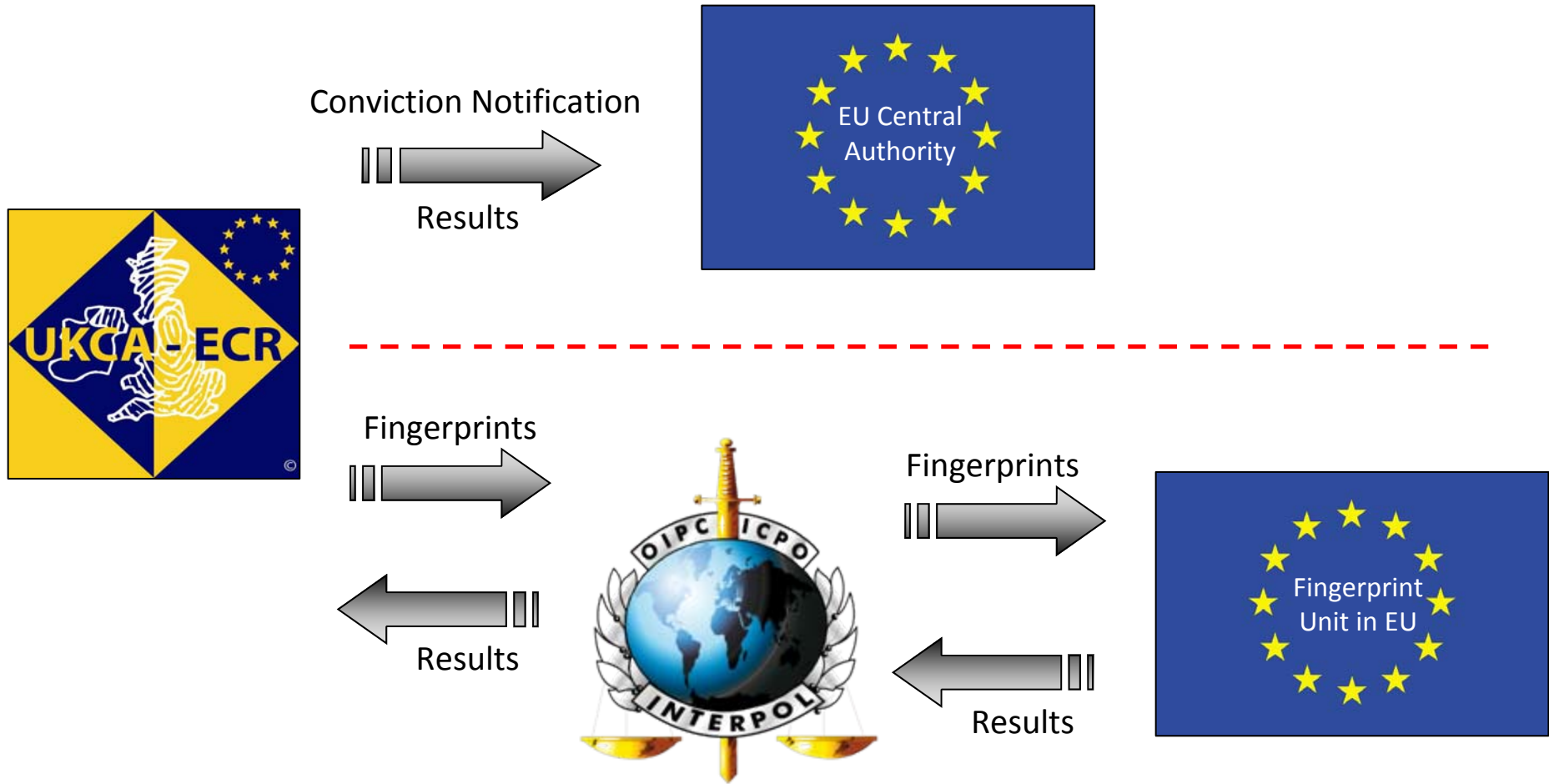


Results



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# Austria, Netherlands & Spain



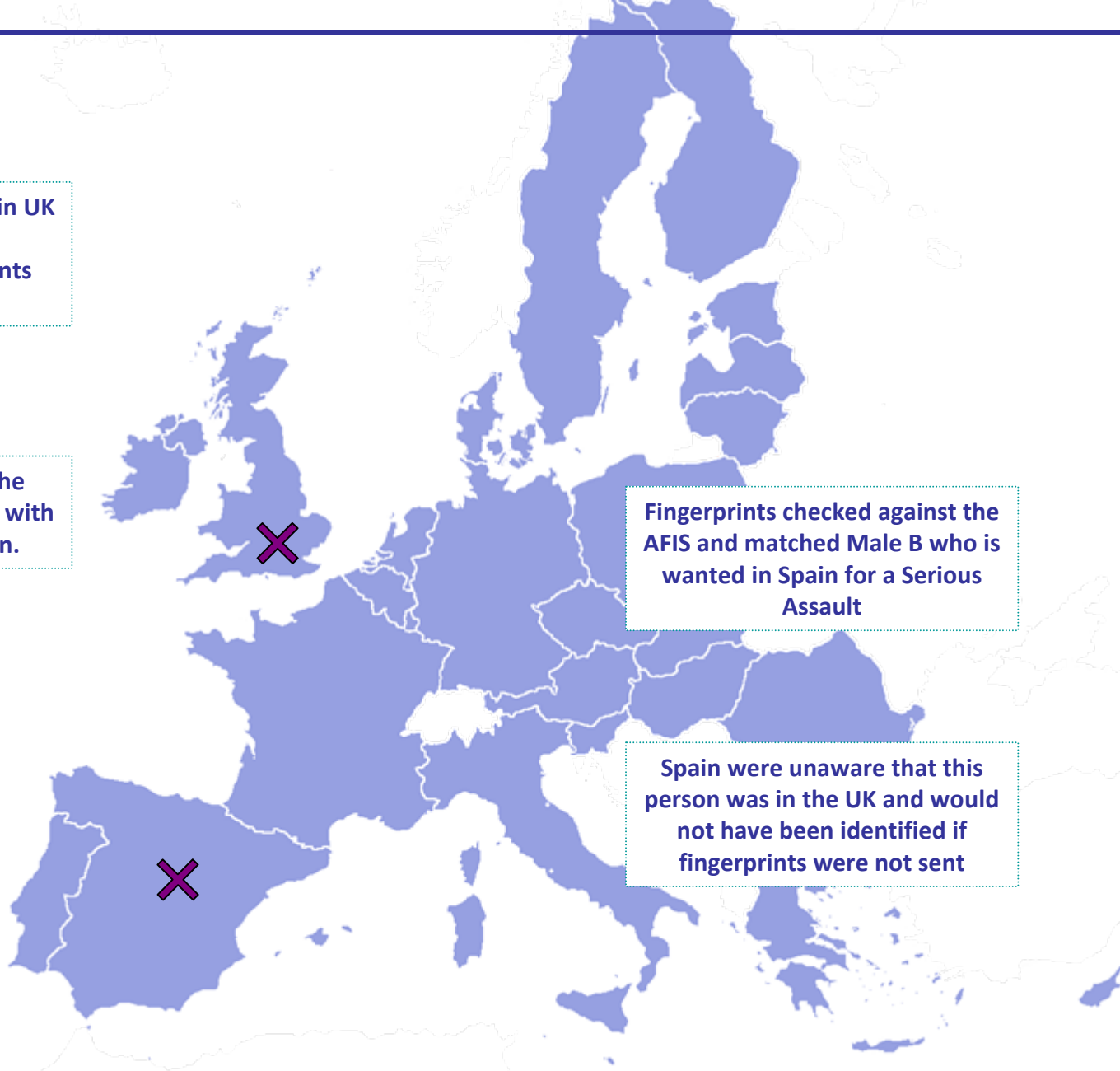
## Case study #4

**Spanish national convicted in UK  
– Male A – Conviction  
notification and Fingerprints  
sent to Spain.**

**Names checked against the  
Spanish population register with  
no hit to a Spanish citizen.**

**Fingerprints checked against the  
AFIS and matched Male B who is  
wanted in Spain for a Serious  
Assault**

**Spain were unaware that this  
person was in the UK and would  
not have been identified if  
fingerprints were not sent**



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# Results - Outgoing

Approximately **9,000** sets of fingerprints have been sent to EU Member States

**47%** of fingerprints matched fingerprints on EU databases

**16%** of the matching fingerprints proved that false or different alphanumeric details had been used

**7.4%** of all conviction notifications that were sent with fingerprints matched records where different or false identity details had been used



# Results - Incoming

**63%** of fingerprints of convicted UK nationals sent from EU Member States matched fingerprints on the UK AFIS

**21.4%** of these matches related to false or different alphanumeric details

**13.4%** of all conviction notifications of UK nationals that were sent with fingerprints matched records where different or false identity details had been used





## Results Summary

- Improves integrity of data
- Assists in the ability to use previous convictions in the prosecution and sentencing of offenders
- Assists in the elimination of the innocent
- Identify wanted persons
- EU Member States able to build comprehensive databases (fingerprints and conviction data) of their citizens that have committed crimes within the EU



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# Prüm & FEEU

Austrian National Convicted in the UK

Conviction notification sent to Austria  
and loaded to Austrian Criminal Record

Austrian AFIS searched using Prüm - No Hit

Same Austrian national comes to notice in  
Poland under a different name

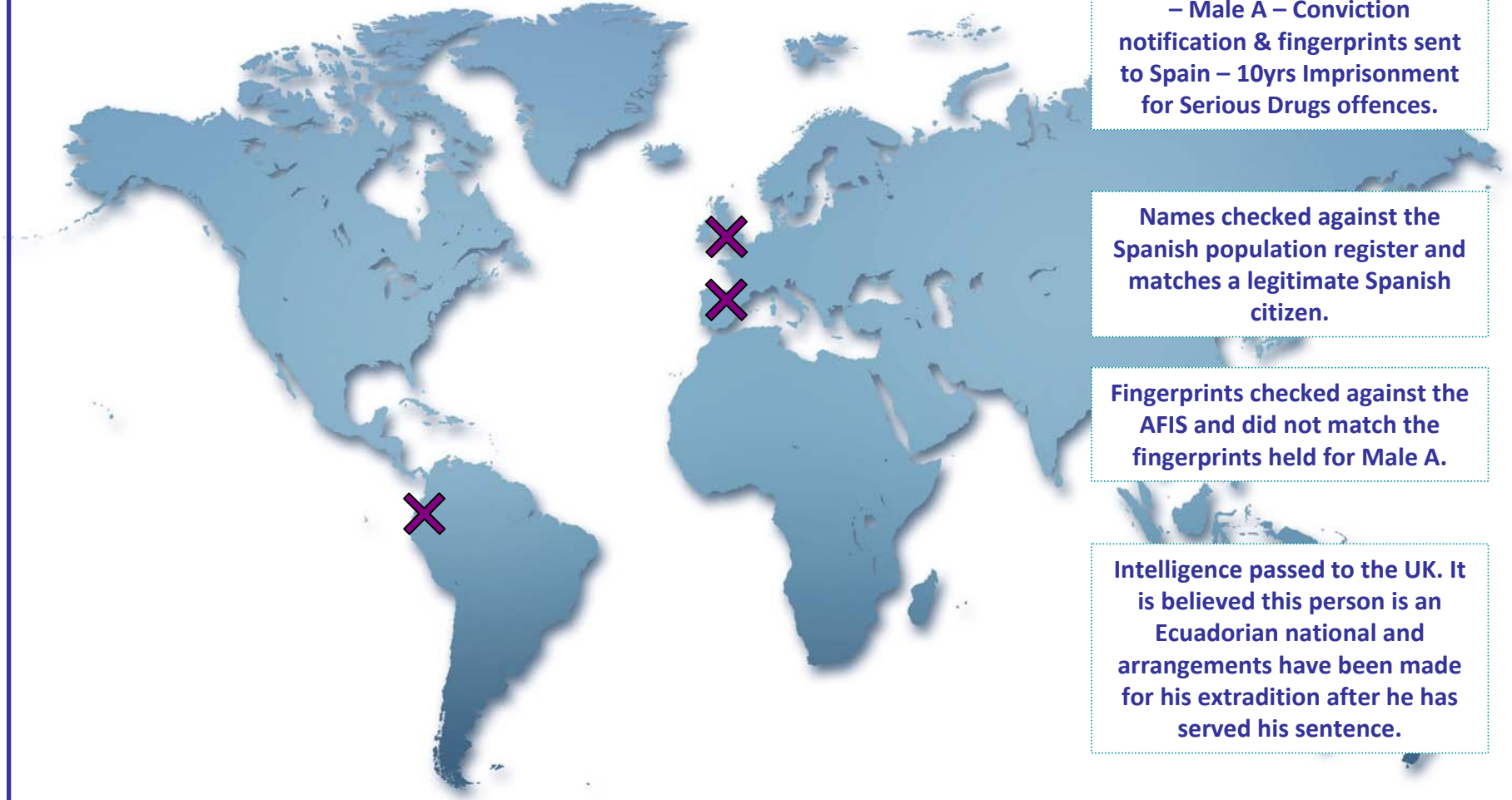
Request for previous convictions sent to  
Austria - No Hit

Austrian AFIS searched using Prüm - No Hit

If fingerprints were loaded to the Austrian  
AFIS and exchanged through the  
conviction process, a positive hit would  
have occurred when the second search  
was conducted using Prüm



## Case study #5



Spanish national convicted in UK  
– Male A – Conviction  
notification & fingerprints sent  
to Spain – 10yrs Imprisonment  
for Serious Drugs offences.

Names checked against the  
Spanish population register and  
matches a legitimate Spanish  
citizen.

Fingerprints checked against the  
AFIS and did not match the  
fingerprints held for Male A.

Intelligence passed to the UK. It  
is believed this person is an  
Ecuadorian national and  
arrangements have been made  
for his extradition after he has  
served his sentence.



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# European Criminal Record Information System (ECRIS)

- Means to exchange conviction information between EU Central Authorities
- Allows for the exchange of Tenprints (NIST) but not mandatory
- Means of exchange and not a system for processing fingerprints
- Countries to have systems ready by April 2012
- Secure route via sTESTA network



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## EU Index of TCN Nationals

- Explore how fingerprints could be used in an EU index of convicted third country nationals
- Pilot exchange to explore benefits
- Report findings to EU Commission



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# Questions?

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