



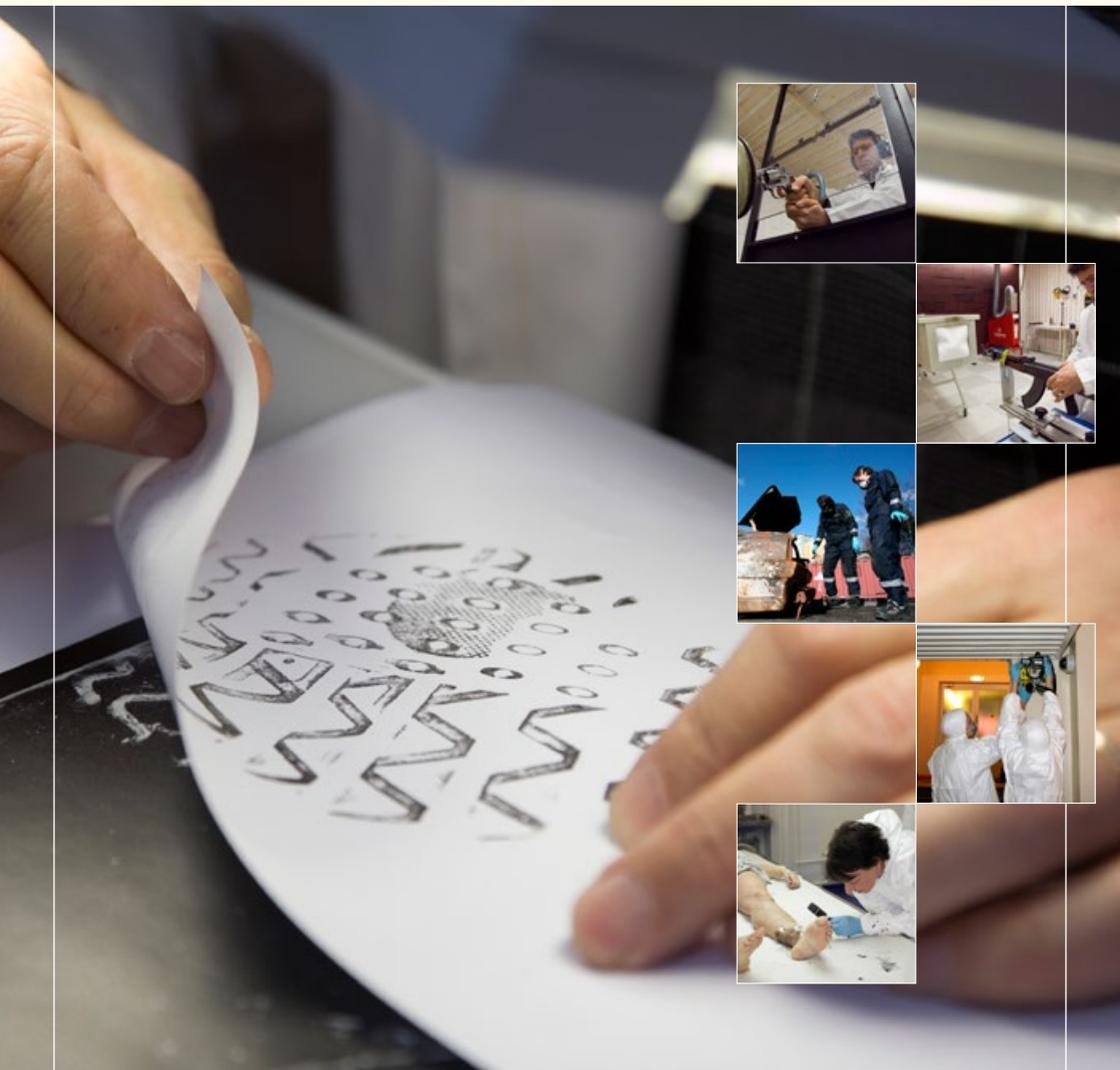
With the financial support of the Prevention
of and Fight against Crime Programme
European Commission – Directorate – General Home Affairs



REPUBLIC OF LATVIA STATE POLICE FORENSIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT

implements project aimed to introduce ISO/IEC 17020 standard
in crime scene investigation

Project partners – Forensic Unit of Stockholm County Police and Estonian Police and Border Guard Board.

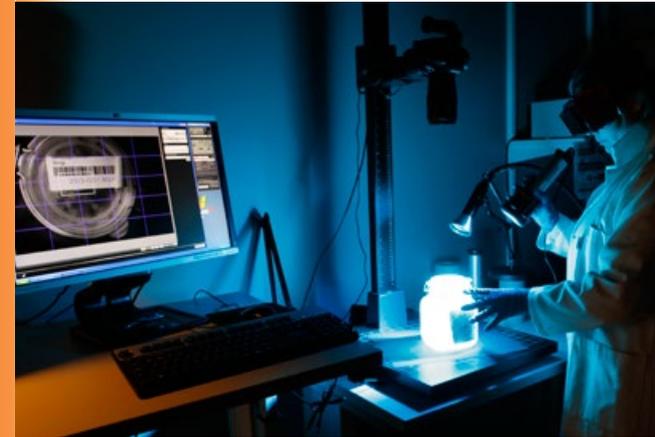




STATE POLICE FORENSIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT

IMPLEMENTS PROJECT AIMED TO INTRODUCE
ISO/IEC 17020 STANDARD IN CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

In April 2013 State Police Forensic Service Department under framework of EU program „Prevention of and Fight against Crime” launched implementation of project “Implementation of ISO/IEC 17020 in Crime Scene Investigation Process to Develop Common Practices for Evidence Gathering in Cross-border Context” (Project No. HOME/2012/ISEC/AG/FP/C1/4000003845). Funds allocated from EU are EUR 510 097.30, which is 90% of total project budget. Project partners are Forensic Unit of Stockholm County Police and Estonian Police and Border Guard Board.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Main objective of project is to implement quality management system according to ISO/IEC 17020 standard and training of experts as well as increase awareness among crime scene experts regarding their role in joint investigation teams, where gathering of evidences has to be performed to ensure their admissibility in court proceedings taking place in other countries.

Project is being implemented to avoid situations in which evidences gathered in one country are not being recognized as admissible due to non-compliance with standards established in other country.

During project external audits will take place to identify necessary improvements in existing procedures to reach compliance with ISO/IEC 17020 standard. Preventive and corrective measures will be defined as well as implementation of these measures will be started.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

During project implementation via cooperation of crime scene experts from Latvian State Police, Estonian State police and Stockholm County Police following activities will be implemented:

- external audits;
- two study visits;
- meeting and workshop for experts from Baltic countries;
- seminars and trainings for crime scene experts on quality management system and ISO/IEC 17020 standard, training for experts, who will ensure compliance with quality system requirements, seminars and trainings on significance of above mentioned quality standard, changes applied to crime scene investigation process and chain of custody;
- development of instructions and manual for experts;
- development of Crime Scene Investigation Management System.

Project will be implemented within 24 months and will finish in April 2015

PROJECT PARTNERS



THE STATE POLICE OF LATVIA

Police are obliged to protect the life, health, rights and freedoms, property, public and national interests of the criminal and other illegal threats.

We organize our work, respecting the legality, humanism, human rights, social justice, transparency, and on the basis of population assistance.

The rights and legitimate interests are protected regardless of nationality, social, financial

and other status, race and national origin, sex and age, education and language, religious affiliation, political and other convictions.

State Police has five regional administrations, which are responsible for policing priorities and the availability of public security police.



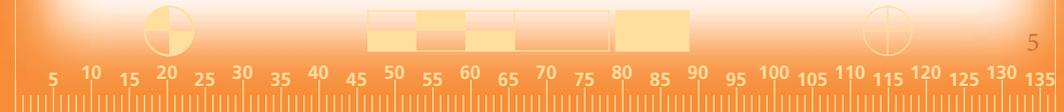
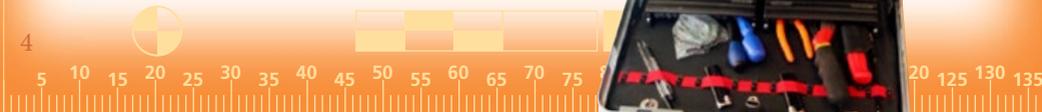
FORENSIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE POLICE OF LATVIA

Forensic Service Department is structural unit of the State Police and is the biggest forensic institution in country with central forensics laboratories and divisions in Riga as well as regional ones in Daugavpils, Liepaja and Valmiera. Department performs 90% of all forensic investigations (with exception of coroner's inquests) on requests of police, prosecutor's offices, courts, Finance Police and other institutions. In average 22.000 forensic investigations are performed annually and Forensic Service Department's experts are working in biggest police stations. The main functions of the Forensic Service Department experts are to investigate material evidences on demand of law enforcement institutions, prosecutor's office and courts, and to provide expert statements, methodical and practical assistance to institu-

tions' inquiries in order to ensure proceedings in criminal and civil cases. All together there are working about 150 forensic experts and crime scene experts. Most of them are police officers.

To prove its expertise, quality management system according to international standards (ISO/IEC 17025) has been implemented in divisions of Forensic Service Department as well as in laboratories of Examination Bureau and Bureau of Regions, more than 15 areas are already accredited.

Forensic Service Department continuously improves methods applied and builds its capacity through improving professional skills of experts and within limits through procurement of state-of-the-art equipment. Forensic Service Department is member of European Network of Forensic Science Institutions (ENFSI).



PROJECT PARTNERS



ESTONIAN POLICE AND BORDER GUARD BOARD

In 2010 Estonian Police and Border Guard Board /PBGB/ was formed by merging former Police Board, Border Guard Board and Citizenship and Migration Board.

There are four regional structural units in PBGB - North Prefecture, East Prefecture, South Prefecture and West Prefecture – that performs tasks of all four main work areas – border control of the external border of the Schengen area, prevention and investigation of crimes, safety and public order in the state and determination of citizenship and issuance of documents.

Structure of prefectures is just the same, there are four similarly sub structured bureaus in each of them: Border Guard Bureau, Crime Bureau, Public Order Bureau, Citizenship and Migration Bureau.

As the prevention and pre-trial investigation of criminal offences are one of the main tasks of Criminal Bureaus, specialized Crime Scene Investigation /SCI/ unit is formed in each prefecture. In total, approximately 70 crime scene investigators, most of police officers, are performing technical investiga-

tion on scenes and in laboratory conditions every day.

Although the main functions, tasks and activities as well as legislative frame for all four SCI units are harmonised they still have some distinctions that come of regional quiddity. Just because of that, the division of work in CSI unit in North Prefecture that has to cover capital city Tallinn and it's surrounding area where the crime rate and thereof the workload is the highest, differs a bit from others.

CS investigators of SCI units are trained in the current scientific techniques and methods utilized in the identification, preservation, documentation, collection, and processing of evidence.

All CSI units in Estonian PBGB are working hard to arise forensic awareness and improve quality level applying little by little ISO/IEC 17020 related terms and principles in order to meet the requirements of the state of art of science and technology.

THE FORENSIC UNIT, STOCKHOLM COUNTY POLICE, SWEDEN

The Forensic Unit at Stockholm County Police consists of approximately 100 persons (Crime Scene Investigators as well as forensic scientists).

The Forensic Unit provides forensic services throughout Stockholm (~ 2 million inhabitants) and also assists with forensic knowledge to other authorities, such as the National Criminal Investigation Department and the Swedish Security Police.

The Forensic Unit performs crime scene investigations in all major/serious crimes in the Stockholm County. Several of the CSI's have areas of special competence (such as blood pattern analysis, forensic archaeology and osteology, environmental crimes, ballistic and shootings, fire investigations, post-blast and explosives and DVI (disaster and victim identification)).

The Forensic Unit also performs several forensic examinations at the Stockholm Forensic laboratory, for example development and identification of fingerprints, and examination of shoe prints, plastic bags, weapons, clothing and vehicles. Forensic Analysis is also performed at the Forensic Unit, to be able to connect and link crimes by forensic evidence.

Quality assurance is an important issue at the Forensic Unit and parts of the activities performed are accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025. Education and training as well as research and development are other focus areas, to achieve legal security and help to prevent and solve crimes now but also in the future.





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