



**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Training of experts on fingerprints and biometrics**

Requested by SE EMN NCP on 1st October 2018

**Miscellaneous**

Responses from [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Croatia](#), [Cyprus](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Estonia](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Greece](#), [Hungary](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Malta](#), [Netherlands](#), [Poland](#), [Slovak Republic](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#), [United Kingdom](#), [Norway](#) (23 in total)

*Disclaimer:*

*The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*

**Background information:**

According to Regulation (EU) No 603/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013, results from fingerprinting should be compared and verified by an expert. The Swedish Migration Agency trains experts in fingerprint comparison. We have in the past sent our soon to be experts for training in England at the College of Policing. To our understanding, they have recently restricted applicants from other countries. We are now looking for other ways and other international educations on this subject. We are therefore interested in how other member states educate experts in fingerprint comparison. We are also keen to know if you train experts in facial comparisons as well.

**Questions**

1. Do your MS trains experts in fingerprint comparisons?
2. Do your MS trains experts in face comparisons?
3. If you answer YES to questions 1 and 2 can you explain where you send them to be trained, what kind of training they received and which qualification does the expert receive?

**Responses**

	Country	Wider Dissemination	Response
	Austria	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Belgium	Yes	1. Yes 2. No

EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Training of experts on fingerprints and biometrics

			<p>3. The operators of the Immigration Office are trained on-site. Initially, operators were trained by the company Printrak International Inc, provider of the fingerprint system, according to the principle train the trainee. Our senior operators are on the job for more than 15 years. So now a new operator is trained by the senior operators. We're not asking for special qualifications. New operators are selected on the ability of working concentrated and focused.</p>
	<b>Bulgaria</b>	Yes	<p>1. Yes, trainings of experts to work with fingerprint systems are conducted.</p> <p>2. Yes, trainings of experts to work with face comparisons systems are conducted.</p> <p>3. The Forensic Science Research Institute of the Ministry of the Interior has been set up, which carries out research in the field of forensic science, criminology, forensic medical science. Experts are prepared for the various structural units of the Ministry of the Interior. New methods are developed for detecting and investigating traces and material evidence. The institute maintains and uses the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) with work stations in the Regional Police Directorates and border checkpoints of the Border Police General Directorate. It also maintains and uses the EURODAC system with workstations in the BPGD, the Migration Directorate and the State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministers. It handles the materials from the police registration and maintains a central dactyloscopic and material evidence database. The Institute performs the training of the expert staff all over the regional departments and methodologically manages them.</p>
	<b>Croatia</b>	Yes	<p>1. 1. Yes</p> <p>2. 2. Yes</p> <p>3. 3. Such trainings are conducted in accordance with the rules of criminalistics techniques. Fingerprint comparison is performed by Forensic Science Center Ivan Vučetić, Zagreb and face comparison is performed by specialized police officers of criminal police.</p>
	<b>Cyprus</b>	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p>

EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Training of experts on fingerprints and biometrics

			<p>2. Yes</p> <p>3. For fingerprint comparisons, the Fingerprints Identification Laboratory (F.I.L) of Cyprus Police is responsible for the training of all involved personnel. It is a 2-year training accredited to the ISO 17025 standard. The training includes also training in fingerprint laboratories in other countries. For face comparisons, the training is usually made abroad (BKA Germany, Metropolitan England, NFI Netherlands) or in Cyprus, by foreign experts.</p>
	<b>Czech Republic</b>	Yes	<p>1. Yes, we do.</p> <p>2. Yes, we do.</p> <p>3. In both cases the expert-to-be has to go through 1-2 years training under the supervision of an experienced expert. In this period the expert-to-be has to pass a training course for experts of criminology which takes several months. All the training is concluded by an exam which has to be repeated and passed every seven years. In case of face comparison, the expert-to-be has to have University degree in the field of natural science and during the training period the expert-to-be has to pass courses specialised on knowledge of photography (specifically knowledge of impact of the used photography technique on characteristics of a face), knowledge of work with video-records, photos, and possibilities of software editing etc.</p>
	<b>Estonia</b>	Yes	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. Yes.</p> <p>3. There are trainings for experts in fingerprint comparison, which is conducted by the Estonian Forensic Science Institute. The basic training in fingerprint comparison is given by the The Police and Border Guard College of the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences. Close cooperation is also with the Estonian Criminal Police experts. Training of experts in face comparisons is mostly an internal training of the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board, which on basic level is conducted by the Intelligence Analysis Division and in advanced level by experts of other MSs (e.g. from the German Federal Police).</p>

EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Training of experts on fingerprints and biometrics

	<b>Finland</b>	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Forensic Laboratory of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has an internal training programme regarding fingerprints. I.e. it does not offer training for other than the police.</li> <li>2. Yes, Finnish experts have been trained by the FBI.</li> <li>3. Please responses to Q.1 and 2. No information regarding qualifications received.</li> </ol>
	<b>France</b>	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The system used for residence permit applications and for Eurodac compares fingerprints within its base against each other and determines whether there are fingerprints that match. The training proposed to the agents is focussed on the way to read files and hints given by the system. It is only a way to help agents to take decisions. It is not a real training process. The training is linked to the number of files that are dealt with. The agents are trained through their own experience.</li> <li>2. No (since there is no photo in the system)</li> <li>3. N/A</li> </ol>
	<b>Germany</b>	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes.</li> <li>2. Yes.</li> <li>3. The Federal Criminal Police Office in Wiesbaden trains both experts in fingerprint analysis and experts for comparing photographs. The training is carried out in line with the stipulations laid out in the AFOS (Basic and Further Training Regulations for Experts – Aus- und Fortbildungsordnung für Sachverständige), and lasts between three and five years. The prerequisite for admission to training as an expert is a degree from a University of Applied Sciences/Bachelor’s degree, or an educational qualification that is recognised as being equivalent. This training is primarily intended to be taken up by employees of the Federation and of the Länder. Officers from foreign police forces may also take part in the training where capacity is available. The language of the training and of the examination is German. The training is broken down into three levels (modules). In addition to the modules, which for the most part serve to bring across the theoretical content, trainees are to take advantage of the module-free periods in order to put the contents that they have learned into practice in their home forces. As a rule, written</li> </ol>

EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Training of experts on fingerprints and biometrics

			proof of performance must be provided in the subject-specific modules. The training ends with a written and an oral examination. Trainees' home forces can appoint them as experts once they have successfully passed the final examination. There is also an expert level below the qualification as an expert. This requires attendance at the corresponding introductory course. Successful completion of the respective introductory course qualifies trainees to work as fingerprint analysts or photograph analysts.
	Greece	Yes	<p>1. see Q3</p> <p>2. see Q3</p> <p>3. According to the Greek legislation and the Quality Management System applied to the Forensic Science Division of the Hellenic Police (ISO 17020 and 17025), the training of its specialized personnel in the field of applied forensic science is carried out with continuous theoretical and practical approach in the respective subject and includes the following steps: • Bibliography study. • On-the-job training. • Testing performed by the trainee under the supervision of an Expert. • Evaluations during the training procedure by an Expert. • Final evaluation by the Head of the Department. The above training is normally carried out at the premises of the Forensic Science Division, accompanied by participation to relevant European and international seminars. In particular, it is noted that for the Fingerprints, Crime Scene Investigation and Audio Visual, Photography and Modus Operandi Sections, the specialty of expertise is awarded to police officers who are graduates of the police academy. The duration of the training is at least two (2) years and the Forensic Science Division of the Hellenic Police ensures the continuous training of its personnel, which is evaluated annually for its technical proficiency. It should also be noted, that officers, who have been continuously trained for at least three (3) years, are awarded the specialty of expertise, and are enabled to carry out expert reports.</p>
	Hungary	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. N/A</p>

	Latvia	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. Yes</p> <p>3. According to the Regulation No. 603/2013 in the Republic of Latvia the results of the comparison are checked by the State Border Guard experts, who have received the certificates of dactyloscopic identification specialty under the procedure established by the Law On Forensic Experts. Forensic expert is a person who has special knowledge and experience in a certain field of science, technology, art or craft and who has obtained a forensic expert certificate in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Law On Forensic Experts (available from <a href="https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/280576-law-on-forensic-experts">https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/280576-law-on-forensic-experts</a>). A forensic expert-examination in the Republic of Latvia pursuant to their competence are entitled to perform state forensic experts and private forensic experts after receiving a forensic expert certificate. The amount of knowledge necessary to acquire the right to perform forensic expert-examination is laid down in the Cabinet Regulation No. 834 (adopted 20 December 2016) “Procedures for the Certification and Recertification of Forensic Experts” (available from <a href="https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/287605-procedures-for-the-certification-and-recertification-of-forensic-experts">https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/287605-procedures-for-the-certification-and-recertification-of-forensic-experts</a>) and is carried out by training programmes approved by the Council of Forensic Experts. The training programmes consist of two parts – general and special. In the general part of the training programmes the candidate shall acquire the legal and general theoretical knowledge of forensic expert-examinations necessary for a forensic expert and is the same in all programmes of specialities. In the special part the candidate should acquire different subjects according to the selected speciality of the expert, carry out the study expert-examinations, submit for review the expert opinions of study expert-examinations. In order to obtain the specialty of dactyloscopic identification, forensic expert candidates shall acquire the “Dactyloscopic identification” programme (specialty code 08.01) with 588 academic hours (1 academic hour – 45 minutes) provided. The training programme “Person identification by external features” (specialty code 12.01) includes 180 academic hours (1 academic hour – 45 minutes). Detailed descriptions of the abovementioned training programmes are available on the website <a href="https://www.ta.gov.lv/LV/tiesu_ekspertu_padome_1536/tiesu_ekspertu_kandidatu_apmacibu_programm_as_1534">https://www.ta.gov.lv/LV/tiesu_ekspertu_padome_1536/tiesu_ekspertu_kandidatu_apmacibu_programm_as_1534</a>. The acquisition of the training programme by the candidate shall be certified by an attestation issued by a forensic expert-examination institution or head of the training (if training does not take place in a forensic expert-examination institution). To receive a forensic expert certificate forensic expert candidate shall submit an application to the Council of Forensic Experts with necessary documents</p>
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EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Training of experts on fingerprints and biometrics

			<p>attached and pass the examination according to the Cabinet Regulation No. 834. After successful completion of the examination the forensic expert candidate receives certificate with respective qualification. The information regarding certified forensic experts is included in the Register of Forensic Experts, which is available on the website of the Court Administration (<a href="https://eksperti.ta.gov.lv/en">https://eksperti.ta.gov.lv/en</a>). With approval of the Cabinet Regulation No. 835 (adopted 20 December 2016) “A list of forensic expert-examination institutions and the Classification of Specialities of Forensic Experts” (available from <a href="https://likumi.lv/ta/id/287606-noteikumi-par-tiesu-ekspertizu-iestazu-sarakstu-un-tiesu-ekspertu-specialitasu-klasifikatoru">https://likumi.lv/ta/id/287606-noteikumi-par-tiesu-ekspertizu-iestazu-sarakstu-un-tiesu-ekspertu-specialitasu-klasifikatoru</a>) the classification of specialities of forensic experts, the list of forensic expert-examination institutions and the forensic expert specialties of forensic expert-examination institutions were established. According to that the “Dactyloscopic identification” specialty (person’s identification using volar papillary lines) is in the competence of the State Police Forensic Service Department, the State Border Guard Central Board Forensic Service and the State Forensic Science Bureau, while the “Person identification by external features” specialty is in the competence of the State Police Forensic Service Department only. The training programmes “Dactyloscopic identification” and “Person identification by external features” in the Republic of Latvia are carried out predominantly by the State Police Forensic Service Department.</p>
	<b>Lithuania</b>	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes.</li> <li>2. Yes.</li> <li>3. Migration Units: Yes, the Migration units' of the Police Department experts are trained at the Lithuanian Police Forensic Science Centre. Experts working with the automatic fingerprint identification and the EURODAC data systems are qualified dactyloscopic data handling specialists. These gained qualifications enable experts to compare and verify the results. These experts are also sent to be trained in other EU expert laboratories. The State Border Guard Service: experts are not trained regularly. E.g training sessions were organised after obtaining the LiveScanTM Cs500e and CS1000e/p scanners.</li> </ol>
	<b>Luxembourg</b>	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes.</li> </ol>

EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Training of experts on fingerprints and biometrics

			<p>2. No.</p> <p>3. Current national legislation (Article 6 (3) paragraph 2 in accordance with Article 12 (2) paragraph 2 of the Law of 18 December 2015 on international protection and temporary protection) only foresees taking photographs and fingerprints of the applicants, which are then run against EU or regional databases (e.g. EURODAC, EUROPOL, VIS, SIS II, CCPD). This allows the Judicial Police to inquire whether the applicant had entered the European Union using a valid passport and a visa, had been subject to an entry ban and/or had already applied for international protection in another Member State prior to applying in Luxembourg. The Judicial Police uses the information gained from these databases not only to verify the identity of the applicant, but also to verify the veracity of his/her statements. The training of the officers of the Judicial Police is done at the national level by the SCF (Service contrôle frontalier) but also their officers receive training at the international level provided by FRONTEX (CCC – Common Core Curriculum) and the Bundeskriminalamt in Germany.</p>
	Malta	Yes	<p>1. Yes. We train our experts abroad.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. Our fingerprints experts have been trained at the former College of Policing in UK and at the Israeli Division of Forensic Sciences, Israel. Training were short courses on fingerprint identification and comparisons. Expert were awarded certificates of having undergone this training.</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. Yes. All employees of the Aliens Police Department, Identification and Human Trafficking (AVIM) who use the so-called Basic Provision Identification receive training in taking (digital) fingerprints. The Basic Provision Identification is a combined identification and registration process for suspects and aliens.</p> <p>2. No. The AVIM does not train experts in face comparisons. When ID fraud or other errors are at issue, the required expertise is "hired" from the Dutch Forensic Institute and their results are incorporated in the Basic Provision Identification.</p>

EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Training of experts on fingerprints and biometrics

			<p><b>3.</b> About question 1: all the employees of the AVIM receive an internal training about the Basic Provision Identification. A part of this training is taking fingerprints. These employees are not trained separately.</p>
	<b>Poland</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> no</p> <p><b>2.</b> no</p> <p><b>3.</b> Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that issues related to fingerprinting and inference based on fingerprints are discussed during the specialist training in Forensic Science organized by the Border Guard Training Center in Kętrzyn. At the same time, it is worth to add that issues related to determining the identity of persons during border control (identification of persons based on comparative photographs) are carried out within the framework of the trainings such as: a) Specialist checkpoint specialist - specialist training, b) Documents authorizing to cross the border and stay on the territory of the Republic of Poland and the EU - a refresher course, c) Border control of persons at external borders - a refresher course. In addition, issues related to the comparison of fingerprints and face-to-face comparisons are discussed in general in the basic training program in the department of the Border Guard (topics: Determining the identity of persons in border control and Practical use of the ICT system as part of border checks (VIS)) implemented by Border Guard training centers.</p>
	<b>Slovak Republic</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Accredited in-house training under supervision of certified expert of the Institute. This training is available only for experts of the Institute. Each newly employed expert has her/his schedule with subjects/lectures/workshops, trainings and internships for 3 years. The experts must successfully pass 2 examinations, for which a special commission is established. After 3-year period and successful fulfillment of all pre-conditions, a head of the department may ask the Director of the Institute to grant a certificate of Competence to this new expert. Than s/he can give an opinion and interpret results independently.</p>

EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Training of experts on fingerprints and biometrics

	<p><b>Spain</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. Yes.</p> <p>3. This task is carried out by National Police specialized officers, who receive their basic and specialized training on the subject in house.</p>
	<p><b>Sweden</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. 3. We have recently trained experts in fingerprinting in Great Britain as well as educated through mentorship at the agency.</p>
	<p><b>United Kingdom</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. The College of Policing was responsible for training experts. However, they no longer perform this service and have been converting the relevant learning programmes so they can be licensed to forces as national policing curriculum products for local delivery. Local agencies are now responsible for training experts, while the College of Policing works with colleagues to develop a replacement programme.</p> <p>2. Please see Q1.</p> <p>3. Please see Q1.</p>
	<p><b>Norway</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. • The Norwegian National Police Immigration Service (NPIS) does not train experts in manual fingerprint comparisons. The fingerprints taken upon registration of the asylum seeker are registered in our systems, if there are any doubts, the National Criminal Investigation Service (Kripos) is consulted. • The National Criminal Investigation Service (Kripos) does carry out on-site fingerprint training for their staff – this includes lessons, practical exercises and guidance. Once completing this training, a person is granted the authority to make fingerprint comparisons. Kripos is accredited for 10-finger fingerprinting.</p> <p>2. yes. • The Norwegian National Police Immigration Service (NPIS) does not. • The Norwegian National</p>

EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Training of experts on fingerprints and biometrics

			<p>ID Center has sent their facial comparison experts to courses run by the FBI. These experts also take part in conferences about biometrics and other related professional seminars etc. The ID Center does conduct training up to level II staff – Norway is in the process of developing a professional environment for national experts. Kripos, the National Criminal Investigation Service is responsible for this development effort. • The National Criminal Investigation Service (Kripos) is in the process of developing the field of expertise for comparison of faces, and conducts training for staff with lessons, practical exercises and guidance.</p> <p><b>3.</b> where you send them to be trained: o initial training at the Norwegian National ID Center, advanced training at FBI and conferences and other related professional seminars o The National Criminal Investigation Service (Kripos) conducts its own internal staff training. what kind of training they received: o The Norwegian National ID Center does not work with fingerprint comparisons. However, together with The National Criminal Investigation Service (Kripos), the ID Center is developing an electronic training program and classroom training module which examines how to take fingerprints (flat): how to consider/ evaluate prints and to provide users with guidance about how to make the best possible fingerprints. This is part of the training for staff at the Norwegian National Police Directorate who work with passports and IDs in connection with the Pass and ID project (PoID) funded by The (EU) Internal Security Fund, ISF. o Kripos makes every effort to follow the recommendations of the European network of forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), and specifically the Digital Image Working Group (DIWG). o Authorization from Kripos requires the expert to have completed a pre-defined number of comparisons with «ground truth» that is to say, a predetermined answer: this has to be done within a certain period of time. These experts are organized in a Unit which manages the national ABIS (biometric matching system) and that the expertise will be used to verify lists of candidates with automatic facial recognition (facial review). o The Norwegian National ID Center has sent their facial comparison experts to courses run by the FBI. These experts also take part in conferences about biometrics and other related professional seminars etc. The ID Center does conduct training up to level II staff. Kripos, the National Criminal Investigation Service, is responsible for developing a professional environment for national experts. • and which qualification does the expert receive ? At Kripos, the expert becomes authorized to conduct finger print comparison and/ or facial comparisons upon completed training.</p>
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