



**EUROPEAN FINGERPRINT
WORKING GROUP
SECOND ANNUAL MEETING
CRACOW, SEPTEMBER 25th-27th, 2002**

PREFACE

The first steps towards establishing an ENFSI fingerprint working group were taken at the end of 1996, during a meeting of the International Fingerprint Research Group (IFRG) in St. Albans (United Kingdom). In March 2000, a letter containing details about the working group to be set up was sent to directors of all ENFSI institutes, to be distributed to those employees involved in fingerprint investigation. In September 2000, during the Second European Academy of Forensic Science Meeting in Cracow, the European Fingerprint Working Group was officially established.

The first annual meeting of the EFP-WG was held in August 2001, in France at the IRCGN in Rosny sous Bois. The aims of the EFP-WG are: promoting quality, efficiency and exchange of information in the field of fingerprint detection, imaging and identification throughout Europe.

The second annual meeting was organised on September 25–27, 2002 in Poland (Cracow) at the Institute of Forensic Research. The conference was accompanied by an exhibition of equipment by Foster & Freeman and Optoteam, who, together with BVDA and Jobin Yvon were sponsors of the meeting. During the three-day session several projects, each with its own project leader, were defined, including compilation of Best Practice Manuals, defining Standards of Competence and developing Proficiency Tests and Collaborative Exercises.

Ten oral presentations were also held. The first part of the presentations concerned universal subjects, such as the history of fingerprint visualisation and the role of Interpol in European Fingerprint Working Groups. Members of the Meeting were introduced to EFP-WG Quality Assurance Issues and continuously updated methods of fingerprint photography and digital enhancement.

Most of the other papers presented results of research on new methods of detection and enhancement of latent fingerprints. Furthermore, a subject linked to the AFIS system was also broached – one of the presentations dealt with the question of whether a systematic comparison of latent prints by AFIS systems might allow a significant increase in the detection of links between cases.

Some of the papers from these sessions have been published in the current issue of this journal.

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