

Improving the skills of forensic experts

The EU has been helping Turkey modernise its investigation techniques in forensic science.

Forensics apply a broad spectrum of sciences and technologies to investigate and establish facts relevant to criminal or civil law. Such investigations are an important aspect of judicial reform and fundamental rights as they present an alternative to more traditional forms of evidence collection and ensure that crimes can be solved faster even without eye witnesses.

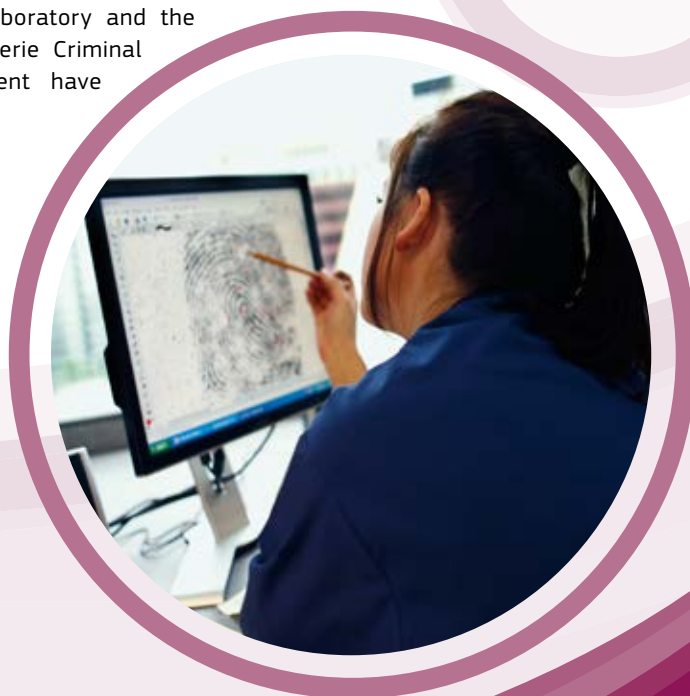
This project focused on making the best use of fingerprints or tyre treads, performing DNA analyses on biological materials preserving evidence, examining firearms and cartridge cases, and verifying signatures or seals on valuable documents. It helped to improve identification of criminals and substantiation of crimes, through scientific examinations and evaluations of the physical evidence collected during investigations. It established a network for collaboration between EU experts and the staff at key Turkish forensic institutions.

A resident twinning adviser was based full-time in Istanbul for the duration of the project. More than 100 international experts spent more than 350 working days on short term missions, and more than 1,000 Turkish trainees attended seminars and workshops, or took part in study visits to Member States' forensic science laboratories. This made a strong contribution to greater quality and credibility in expert reports and criminal analysis, and help wider EU efforts in the field of justice and security too, in particular in the fight against organised crime.

PROMOTING RULE OF LAW

But the objective was not just higher detection or conviction rates. The project also strengthened the rule of law. Its focus on EU standards was geared to boosting transparency, and providing additional safeguards for the innocent. The use of modern investigation techniques can prevent human rights violations.

The main Turkish beneficiary institution is the Council of Forensic Medicine in the Ministry of Justice, but the Criminal Police Laboratory and the Gendarmerie Criminal Department have



Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Turkey

IPA – AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE. AN INVESTMENT IN RULE OF LAW.

also gained from it. Concrete outcomes include a best practice manual produced by the Police, Gendarmerie and the Council of Forensic Medicine, and the upgrading of several of the laboratory methods used so they meet the standards required for international accreditation.

The project has contributed to better quality management systems in the forensic science institutions of Turkey.

PROJECT DETAILS –

Improving the skills of Turkish forensic experts



Partners:

Spanish Ministry of Justice,
Dutch Ministry of Justice

Total cost in €:

€ 2.11 million

EU Contribution in €:

2.01 million (95%)

Start date:

April 2011

End date:

April 2013

Results:

The project has demonstrated the good cooperation between the main Turkish institutions for forensic investigations: the Council of Forensic Medicine, the Police and the Gendarmerie. Intensive cooperation between the Turkish institutions and their Spanish and Dutch twinning partners helped achieve the following:

- the first European Best Practice Manual on Crime Scene Investigations according to the relevant international standard (ISO 17020) has been finalised in Turkish and will be used for future investigations;
- training in 22 different fields of forensic sciences has been provided to 1037 participants from the three institutions involved, as well as other Turkish institutions;
- four laboratory methods are ready to be accredited under the relevant international standard (ISO 17025) in each of the three Turkish institutions involved.

Techniques:

Training

Project website:

www.forensicskills.eu