



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate E : Migration and Security Funds; Financial Resources and Monitoring
Unit E.1 : Union actions

Brussels,
HOME.DDG1.E.1/SC

Subject: Support to the project 'Towards the European Level Exchange of Facial Images'

To whom it may concern,

Through this letter, the European Commission (Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs) wishes to communicate its support for the EU funded project entitled 'Towards the European Level Exchange of Facial Images', hereinafter referred to as the TELEFI project.

The TELEFI project will review the organisational, technical and legal aspects of facial recognition in connection with the investigation and prosecution of crime across Europe. The work will consider the future potential of exchanging facial image data between EU Member States within cross-border cooperation between EU countries' police and judicial authorities to combat terrorism and cross-border crime more effectively (Prüm Decision).

The TELEFI project is being implemented between 1st January 2019 and 30th June 2020 by a consortium of six European Law Enforcement Organisations:

1. Estonian Forensic Science Institute
2. Estonian Police and Boarder Guard Board
3. Finnish National Bureau of Investigation
4. Latvian State Forensic Science Bureau
5. Netherlands Forensic Institute
6. Swedish National Forensic Centre

This project, No 821284 — TELEFI — ISFP-2017-AG-FORENSIC is funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund — Police.

To help achieve a successful EU funded TELEFI project outcome, the European Commission will be most grateful if you can kindly assist the project team in conducting their study on the current status of facial images and recognition across EU Member States. This will involve responding to their information requests and providing them with appropriate data. The collected data will be treated confidentially.

Eesti Kohtuekspertiisi Instituut
Ullar Lanno
Tervise TN30
13419 Talinn
Estonia

Additional information can be found on the TELEFI project website: www.telefi-project.eu

In case of further questions, please contact the TELEFI Project Manager, Ms. Andra Sirgmetts (andra.sirgmetts@ekei.ee, +372 58519093 or info@ekei.ee +372 663 6601).

Thank you very much in advance for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

Stéphanie CARILLON
Head of Unit
e-signed



TELEFI

project

= Towards the European Level Exchange of Facial Images



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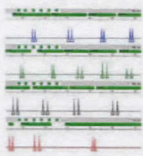


Background information

November 14th 2017 a call for proposals: **ISFP-2017-AG-FORENSIC**

This call for proposals aimed at funding projects in the area of forensic science in the EU with a specific focus to stimulate the exchange of forensic data via Prüm and to improve its quality

Prüm modalities today:



DNA



Dactyloscopic Data



Vehicle Registration Data

?



Facial images

?



Speech recordings

Future modalities?



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The prediction of future behaviour?

- Number of image capturing devices grows rapidly (Wireless infrastructures for CCTV and Surveillance systems, in-car video systems and body cameras)
- Quality of video/images improves constantly
- A broad availability of facial images (EU- or national databases, device biometric locks, social media etc.)
- Automatic facial recognition technology

Criminal activities are more likely to be recorded

Criminals are more likely to be identified



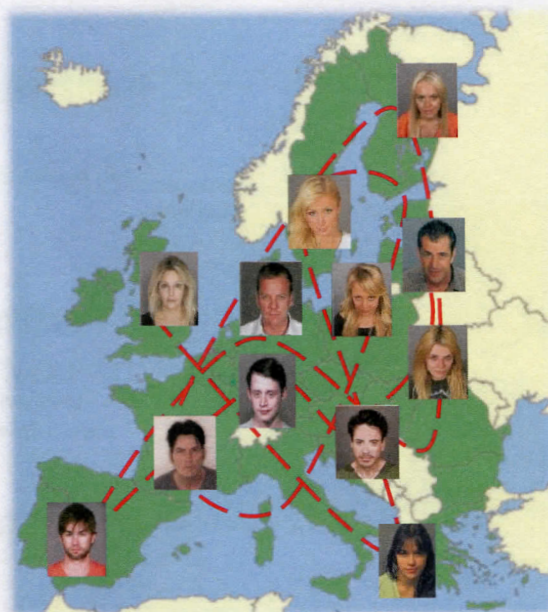
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= Towards the European Level Exchange of Facial Images

General objective:

- To map the current situation of facial recognition in criminal investigations in **all EU Member States**
- To recognise the status and position of the Member States to move towards the possible exchange of **Facial Data**



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Project specific objectives

- 1) What are the current practices and procedures across EU Member States regarding the use of facial data for crime investigations?
- 2) Which national and international organisations are involved in facial data exploitation across Europe?
- 3) What facial images containing national databases are in place?
- 4) What technical solution is currently used for facial data processing in the EU Member States?
- 5) What legal instruments or regulations are in place regarding facial data management across the EU Member States?
- 6) What quality standards are currently being applied for the capturing and use of facial data in the EU Member States?
- 7) What is current and long-term vision within different European countries regarding the future of pan-EU exchange of facial data?
- 8) What steps can be taken for the further harmonisation of this area across Europe?



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Project consortium

Coordinator:  **ESTONIAN FORENSIC INSTITUTE** (Responsible for EE and UK)


Partners:



Estonian Police and Border Guard Board



POLIISI
Finnish National Bureau of Investigation



Polisen
Swedish National Forensic Centre



State Forensic Science Bureau Republic of Latvia




Netherlands Forensic Institute
Ministry of Justice and Security

Map of Europe





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Implementation Timetable

LEWP members support is needed

Data collection preparation

January 1st 2019

Data collection
Survey + 23 MS visits


May 2019 – Dec 2019
(+ 3 month?)

Data analysis

Dissemination of results

Thematic Conference

June 30th 2020
Sept 30th 2020?



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Project activities and outcomes

Activities of data collection and data analysis



Outcomes

1. Detailed description of the current status of facial recognition across the EU Member States
2. Recommendations on harmonizing the field at the European level
3. Dissemination of results and stimulation of discussion among relevant stakeholders on the way ahead

Results



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<https://www.telefi-project.eu/>



First three months of the project

1. Kick-off meeting
2. Project website
3. Survey questionnaire
4. Release of Public Procurement on legal state-of-play review
5. First draft of the interview questionnaire
6. Description of Facial Data and Recognition situation in home countries of team members of the Project
 - Sweden, Latvia, Estonia
 - Netherlands, Finland, UK
7. Establishment of contacts at MS-s



About TELEFI Project

The ISFP project "Towards the European Level Exchange of Facial Images" (TELEFI project) will undertake a study on how facial recognition is currently being used for the investigation of crime across EU Member States. In addition, public consultation will be given in the context of establishing the exchange of facial image data between countries.



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Next nine months of the project

8. Survey distribution to the MS-s
9. Visiting period agreements
10. MSs visiting - starting from May 2nd 2019 until December 15th 2019

Austria	France	Lithuania	Poland
Belgium	Germany	Luxembourg	Portugal
Bulgaria	Greece	Malta	Romania
Croatia	Hungary		Slovakia
Czech Republic	Ireland		Slovenia
Cyprus	Italy		Spain
Denmark			



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For more information, please visit: <https://www.telefi-project.eu/>



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