Council of the European Union

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(OR. en)

5553/17

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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Law Enforcement Working Party
Subject:	Forensic Training for Law Enforcement Officers

- **Introduction**

As stated in Article 3 of Regulation 2015/2219 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training, CEPOL is the agency responsible for supporting, developing, implementing and coordinating training for law enforcement officials. CEPOL is mandated to develop, implement and coordinate training addressing specific criminal or policing thematic areas, such as forensic training.

On 9-10 June 2016, the Justice and Home Affairs Council Ministers endorsed the Council Conclusions and Action Plan on the way forward for the creation of a European Forensic Science Area.[1] Action 4 of the said Action Plan aims to improve forensic awareness among law enforcement authorities. This will foster better understanding and confidence among the forensic service providers.

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[1]   10128/16

Whilst recognising the efforts undertaken in this field to develop training, there are still significant gaps between training needs and training currently available in the area of forensics. In light of this, the Maltese Presidency will undertake a quantitative assessment of the forensic training needs in the medium-term covering a 3-year period (2018 – 2020). The questionnaire covers the whole process of crime scene investigation starting from the actions of the first responders until the presentation of evidence in court. This questionnaire is one of a series that is being sent out by the Maltese Presidency to target the training needs of practitioners in their respective fields. Similar questionnaires have been disseminated within the DAPIX[2] and SIS/SIRENE working parties.[3]

In an effort to identify the relevant forensic training needs, Member States are invited to reply to this questionnaire and send their replies to the Council Secretariat (lewp@consilium.europa.eu) or the Presidency (lewp.mhas@gov.mt) **by 28 February 2017**. The results will be presented at the Law Enforcement Working Party and will form the basis for further work during the Maltese Presidency, and contribute to the CEPOL Training Programme.

- **Scope**

The objective of this exercise is to enable CEPOL to better meet the training needs of Member States and to develop efficient, targeted approach to training on a specialised, thematic level. This will raise the effectiveness of law enforcement across the EU and it will stimulate the development of a harmonised law enforcement culture.

- **Intended Audience**

This questionnaire is aimed at managers and/or senior officers responsible for the provision of forensic services.

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[2]   Police Cooperation/Prum Training Needs Questionnaire (5102/17)
[3]   Police Cooperation/SIS and SIRENE Training Needs Questionnaire (5038/1/17 REV 1)

- **Level of Training**

The adherence to the Law Enforcement Training Scheme (LETS) general principles, namely strands, ensures that EU level training for law enforcement officials is of high quality, coherent and consistent. Therefore, training programmes mentioned in the questionnaire are targeted at specialists/officers with a considerable amount of expertise and experience within the specific field. The awareness raising and basic first responders training has to be carried out at a national level. CEPOL's offered training has to be complementary to the national training.

Part 1 - Review of Existing Training Opportunities

1.1   Forensic Science and Policing Challenges

The aim of this training is to increase awareness of modern forensic techniques, their deliverance and impact on policing as well as of developments and initiatives taken at the European Union level in harmonising approaches.

Training corresponds to the Action 4.7 of the Action Plan on the way forward for the creation of a European Forensic Science Area, which envisages the development and implementation of training programmes on forensic awareness.

Using the scale provided hereunder, indicate how much of a priority do you consider this training to be during 2018 – 2020 (please tick accordingly).

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who would need this training:

Please justify your answer _____

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1.2   New Technologies to Detect False Documents

The aim of this training is to explore and share information, including best practices in order to enhance false document detection and security standards at border crossing points and forensic laboratories throughout the national territory.

Using the scale provided hereunder, indicate how much of a priority do you consider this training to be during 2018 – 2020 (please tick accordingly).

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who would need this training:

Please justify your answer _____

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1.3   Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Management

This training aims to establish enhanced coordination and management of national and international DVI operations and to enhance and harmonise the level of knowledge of law enforcement personnel in the different Member States involved in coordinating and managing DVI as well as in the identification of all victims.

Using the scale provided hereunder, indicate how much of a priority do you consider this training to be during 2018 – 2020 (please tick accordingly).

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who would need this training:

Please justify your answer _____

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1.4 Webinar on Forensic Work on the Crime Scene

The aim of this webinar is to introduce several methods to analyse crime scene evidence.

Using the scale provided hereunder, indicate how much of a priority do you consider this training to be during 2018 – 2020 (please tick accordingly).

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who would need this training:

Please justify your answer

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1.5 CEPOL Exchange Programme

The CEPOL Exchange Programme promotes the exchange of information among law enforcement officers and contributes to disseminating practical knowledge and good policing practices.

Using the scale provided hereunder, indicate how much of a priority do you consider this training to be during 2018 – 2020 (please tick accordingly).

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who would need this training:

Please justify your answer

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Part 2 - Identification of New Core Thematic Areas

2.1   Train the Trainer Course on Awareness raising for front-line officers, investigating officers and emergency responders

This training would prepare the trainers to further deliver training as foreseen in the Action 4.6 of the Action Plan on the way forward for the creation of a European Forensic Science Area.

Action 4.6 states that courses on forensic awareness for members of emergency services and other first responders should be developed. This training would cover the actions and steps that the first responders to a crime scene should carry out, in particular how to detect, secure and preserve the evidence until crime scene experts arrive at the scene.

Using the scale provided hereunder, indicate how much of a priority do you consider this training (Train the Trainer Course) to be during 2018 – 2020 (please tick accordingly).

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who would need this training:

Please justify your answer

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2.2   Recognition of Forensic Evidence

This training would provide the crime scene investigators the ability to recognise forensic evidence, in particular the knowledge on how to establish the best evidence which is significant to the case being investigated and that the same evidence would yield reliable information to aid in the fact finding mission.

The training corresponds to the Action 4.8 of the Action Plan on the way forward for the creation of a European Forensic Science Area, which envisages the organisation of training on forensic collection of evidence.

Using the scale provided hereunder, indicate how much of a priority do you consider this training to be during 2018 – 2020 (please tick accordingly).

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who would need this training:

Please justify your answer

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2.3   Analysis of quality control and quality assurance of samples

This training would support and enhance quality assurance and quality control practices to provide the highest quality of laboratory results and services. This training would ensure and maintain the highest standards of achievements and accuracy in forensic science.

Using the scale provided hereunder, indicate how much of a priority do you consider this training to be during 2018 – 2020 (please tick accordingly).

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who would need this training:

Please justify your answer

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2.4 Appropriate training in new forensic methodologies and technologies

This training would cover modern methodologies in line with newest technologies that are coming into use in crime scene investigations. The trainees would be able to explore and share information on the latest equipment and services, and would enhance their capabilities to reconstruct an event that happened in the past.

Training corresponds to the Action 4.5 of the Action Plan on the way forward in view of the creation of a European Forensic Science Area, which envisages the development of appropriate training in new technologies/methods used during crime scene investigation.

Using the scale provided hereunder, indicate how much of a priority do you consider this training to be during 2018 – 2020 (please tick accordingly).

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who would need this training:

Please justify your answer

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2.5   Workshops on methods/best practices used during crime scene investigations

The training would take the form of a workshop where different methods used during crime scene investigations should be shared and further discussed. This training would also be designed in a manner to stimulate the development and use of existing best practices among the Member States.

Using the scale provided hereunder, indicate how much of a priority do you consider this training to be during 2018 – 2020 (please tick accordingly).

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who would need this training: [   ]

Please justify your answer

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2.6   Collection, Preservation and Analysis of Evidence

In accordance with Action 4.8 of the Action Plan on the way forward for the creation of a European Forensic Science Area, training seminars on forensic collection of evidence should be developed by CEPOL. This training intends to offer the law enforcement officers the skills and knowledge needed to correctly document, collect, preserve and analyse evidence. This would ensure that the evidence taken for further examination is recovered, stored and transported without contamination. Further to this, the training should also take into consideration the analysis of evidence.

Using the scale provided hereunder, indicate how much of a priority do you consider this training to be during 2018 – 2020 (please tick accordingly).

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who would need this training: [ ]

Please justify your answer _____

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2.7   Presentation of Evidence in Court

The law enforcement authorities would receive training on the presentation of evidence in courts, in particular the practices to follow when preparing for and testifying in court.

Using the scale provided hereunder, indicate how much of a priority do you consider this training to be during 2018 – 2020 (please tick accordingly).

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who would need this training: [ ]

Please justify your answer

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Part 3 - Identification of other training needs

3.1   Is there any other training (complementary to national training) which should be considered by CEPOL? Please elaborate further.

Subject: [   ]

Target Group: [   ]

Level: [   ]

Indicate using the scale provided hereunder how is the subject a training priority during 2018 – 2020?

Not Important		Important		Crucial	

Indicate the estimated number of officers who will need this training: [   ]

Please justify your previous answer

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