



### **F17 The Emergence of a Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Team in Hungary**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will gain a clearer understanding of how a Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) team was established in Hungary.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by raising awareness that DVI teams need to be formed and well trained for the welfare of society. The establishment of a DVI team in Hungary may serve as an example of how challenging this undertaking could be, and that through perseverance and commitment such a goal can become reality.

Since 1989, as the Communist era came to an end in Hungary, mafia gangs and political groups emerged mainly in Budapest, the capital city, where violence was virtually unknown and non-existent. Among many blasts and car bombs, the terror attack on Soviet Jewish Immigrants in 1991 and the assassination of four people in downtown Budapest in 1998 were most significant. In the years to follow, traffic accidents became the main producer of disaster victims.

In 2008, the first attempt to establish a DVI team was initiated by the Semmelweis University's Forensic Department, addressing the State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice who approved the idea. However, bureaucracy, lack of interest and funds, as well as other priorities, prevented this plan from actually coming to fruition. Thus, the Medical University's Forensic Department took it upon itself to create a Forensic Expert Team as part of a DVI group which included a forensic pathologists, dentist, anthropologist, and DNA specialist. This independent initiative finally encouraged the officials of the Ministry of Justice and Interior in 2010 to appoint a DVI unit under the umbrella of the Central Crime Scene Investigation Department within the Hungarian National Police Force.

In 2011, a bus crash in Egypt which killed 11 Hungarian tourists intensified the urgency of this matter. As a result, the department in charge developed the infrastructure of DVI in Hungary, ensuring a nationwide coverage including the forensic departments of all four medical universities as well as the local forensic police expert teams.

Presently, concrete plans are underway to create a common vision among those involved in DVI through workshops and training. International cooperation, especially within Europe, is necessary and encouraged to ensure the highest of professional standards in this field of forensic science.

In facing common challenges and service to humanity, the concepts of accompaniment and assistance in developing capacities are vital in chartering an individual path for progress and growth. Great accomplishments in public service are possible through unity of vision and action and mutual and ongoing understanding, collaboration, and support.

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**DVI, Hungary, CSI**