

J30 The European Document Experts Working Group (EDEWG) Organization and Service

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Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will have learned how the EDEWG is organized and how others can interact with their knowledge, how information is spread to all the members, subgroups with their topics, setup of collaborative exercises, and practical training in workshops.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by showing how the EDEWG supports the aims and objectives of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) in the area of forensic document examination.

The activities of EDEWG will be directed toward: exchange of information and expertise, support on technical issues, promoting quality assurance, proficiency testing and collaborative exercises, harmonization of examination procedures and techniques, and cooperation in research and development

EDEWG is managed by the Steering Committee (eight experts from different institutes and different European countries). The chairman as a member and head of the steering committee has a four-year term of office. The working group consists of 61 ENFSI members from 32 different countries and 11 associate members. A conference is held every two years and business meetings are held annually, in conjunction (where possible) with the EDEWG Conference. During the annual business meeting, besides other administrative duties, the voting of the steering committee takes place. The duration of the conference is normally 3.5 days comprising one day of workshop, oral presentations, closed sessions, poster sessions, and hands-on as well as presentations of new equipment during the meeting as a road show by suppliers. The information of all our members is organized through our own digital teamsite, including a communication platform, where one can message expert to expert.

EDEWG has a number of mainly technical-based subgroups, each taking forward areas such as research and development, method validation, writing of methods and procedures, quality assurance-trials, exchange of information, collection of samples and information for database purposes, etc., in specified areas of questioned documents. At the moment, the topics of these subgroups are: (1) non-destructive examination of printing products (2) analysis of inks and toners; (3) document dating; and (4) security documents recognition.

Each year, EDEWG produces one quality assurance trial to distribute among its members. The evaluation of the results helps the Steering Committee to decide if, for example, workshops are necessary to train its members or if existing best practice methods need to be adapted or new methods written.

This presentation will deal with organizational structure of EDEWG inside of ENFSI. Attendees will learn about the Steering Committee and their obligations. The annual tasks of EDEWG, such as Conference, business meeting, collaborative exercises, and renewal of best practice methods will be presented. Furthermore, all of the subgroups will point out one of their hot topics at the moment and how they organize further educational trainings. Attendees will obtain a view on the EDEWG teamsite, which is also being used as a communication platform.

EDEWG, Document Experts, Communication Channels