



## CAPACITY BUILDING OF FORENSIC EXPERTS



### OBJECTIVE OF THE SWISS SUPPORT

The ultimate objective of the project is to support Bulgaria's goal to join the Schengen agreement and to meet its obligations under the Prüm Treaty in matters of exchange of information. The project has thus two specific objectives:

- To modernize training in forensic investigations in compliance with European best practices;
- To strengthen the capacity of the forensic laboratories of the Ministry of Interior to meet the increased demand for crime scene material traces and obtain the necessary accreditation to exchange data internationally.

Modern criminal investigations increasingly require sophisticated technologies and instruments to collect, examine and preserve material traces of crime scenes. Since the Ministry of Interior Act of 2006 that sanctioned the demilitarization of policing in Bulgaria, forensic capabilities have been progressively strengthened. To reach European standards and meet the goals of the National Strategy for Countering Crime, the Academy of the Ministry of Interior approved a program of modernization of its curriculum in forensic studies and its laboratory. This will allow to meet the higher demand for scientific evidence of crime by the police and comply with the European norm EA ISO/IEC 17025 in the field of forensic investigations.

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### RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The main results of the project are:

- A new multi-disciplinary forensic laboratory with modern equipment is established at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior for training purposes;
- Inspired by Swiss forensic experts of the School of Forensic Sciences of the University of Lausanne, a new training curriculum is adopted;
- Forensic services of the Ministry of Interior at central and regional levels meet the higher demand for basic and complex forensic analyses and comply with European norms.



## ACTIVITIES

The project has or will carry out the following activities:

- With the support of Swiss experts from the University of Lausanne, several workshops were conducted to develop two manuals for higher education in forensic studies in 2015;
- Through coaching sessions, workshop exchanges and study visits, Swiss experts supported the full revision of the curriculum in forensic studies in Bulgaria; the latter was adopted in 2015;
- Rehabilitation of a large space of the Academy of the Ministry of Interior to accommodate a central forensic training laboratory in 2017;
- The project acquired sophisticated equipment – microscopes of several types, DNA machine - that were delivered to the training laboratory of the Academy of the Ministry of Interior and the forensic laboratories of the ministry;
- The Academy currently trains 121 students who will graduate in 2019 and obtain a university degree in forensic studies;
- Procedures have been revised to obtain accreditation for DNA analyses allowing sharing information internationally.

## KEY INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

### FOCUS AREA

Crime scene forensic investigations; higher education

### COUNTRY

Bulgaria

### GOALS

Modern training in forensic studies meeting European best practices;  
Increased capacity of the Ministry of Interior forensic laboratories to exchange data internationally.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

Modern laboratory equipment for higher standards in training of forensic experts;  
Sophisticated equipment of forensic laboratories of the Ministry of Interior to meet a higher demand in complex forensic investigations.

### TARGET GROUP

- Forensic specialists of law enforcement

### EXECUTING AGENCY

Academy of the Ministry of Interior  
Research Institute of Forensic sciences and Criminology (RIFSC)

### PARTNERS

- School of Forensic Science of University of Lausanne, Switzerland

### BUDGET

CHF 1'176'470  
(Swiss contribution CHF 1'000'000)

### DURATION

2012-2018

### CONTACTS

#### EXECUTIVE AGENCY

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For more information, visit:

<http://swiss-contribution.bg/en/funds/security>



SWISS-BULGARIAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME  
ШВЕЙЦАРСКО-БЪЛГАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО

SWISS ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION

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