



Netherlands Forensic Institute
Ministry of Security and Justice

General information about the
Netherlands Forensic Institute

Evidently the best.

The Netherlands Forensic Institute

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As market leader in its field, the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) provides forensic services using state-of-the-art science and technology. In a dynamic environment, dedicated professionals produce forensic analyses quickly and effectively. In this way the NFI contributes to the investigation and prosecution of suspects, and the exoneration of innocent parties. By improving the objective information position of its clients, the NFI is making a relevant contribution to the criminal justice chain. The institute comprises over thirty different forensic disciplines, which makes it unique in the Netherlands.

The role and importance of forensic examinations are greatly increasing. Technological and scientific developments are occurring in rapid succession and offer ever more opportunities in the field of forensic investigation. The processes of securing and examining traces and interpreting the results are becoming more controlling and guiding in forensic investigations. As market leader, the NFI is continuously involved in developing innovations, in order to optimally service its clients and to anticipate future developments in the field of forensics.

Active in a dynamic market

The NFI's clientele is diverse, and includes not only parties in the criminal justice chain, such as the Public Prosecution Service and the police, but also inspectorates, public service providers such as ministries, and international information and investigation services. But it is not only the number of clients that is growing: the number of forensic service providers is also on the increase. This development keeps us on our toes. The NFI is an independent service provider, whose core values are objectivity and scientific integrity, offering services clients can rely on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Listening to the client

The NFI listens to the questions of clients and frequently involves them in the development of products. An example of this is 'The Forensic Book', the products and services catalogue of the NFI. In this publication, research is approached expressly from the perspective of the client; the range of products and services offered is reviewed each year, so that it remains tailored to the requirements and needs of

forensic examination results. To be able to offer investigation clients the best possible services, the NFI developed a wide range of sprint products. These products have very short lead times, ranging from 6 hours to 6 days. These lead times correspond with the pre-trial detention periods. Examples of sprint products are: Comparative ammunition tests, DNA 6-hour tests, fast screening of drugs and medicine in blood, X-rays at the scene of the crime, indicative chemical analysis of unknown substances, and brief examinations using digital technology. Automation in the classic forensic disciplines also results in time savings and objectification of the examinations.

Interdisciplinary teamwork

Forensic science is a fast-moving field. In addition, the forensic needs of clients are becoming increasingly complex and involve various disciplines in over fifty per cent of the cases. The NFI responds to this by providing tailor-made, interdisciplinary services. This entails working with several teams that can be deployed in complex cases. Clients can, for instance, call on the Mobile Forensic Team (MFT) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, which supports them in securing traces and carrying out examinations at the scene of the crime. The IDFO (Interdisciplinary Forensic Research) Team shows that interdisciplinary cooperation has added value. This team sees to the coordination in the more complex cases, involving several forensic disciplines. The result? One comprehensive report that summarizes all the forensic examinations conducted. Because several forensic disciplines discuss and combine their research results, a comprehensive conclusion is often reached, having a higher evidential value than the conclusions of the separate disciplines.

Investing in innovation

Scientific and technological developments continuously offer new possibilities for finding, securing and analysing traces. As a result, forensic research plays an increasingly guiding and directive role in criminal investigation. To anticipate the future, the NFI is investing heavily in Research & Development (R&D). R&D in turn plays an important role in knowledge development, product innovation and process improvement. This makes the NFI stand out from its competitors at home and abroad, and in this respect the institute also plays a leading role internationally. The NFI performs ground-breaking research in such fields as intelligent data analysis and DNA research.

Sharing knowledge – NFI Academy

The quality of traces and the way in which these are secured determine the range of options for forensic examinations. For that reason the NFI is working continuously on developing new Crime Scene Technology, in close cooperation with its clients. We are always trying to improve forensic awareness: awareness of the importance of properly tracking, identifying and securing traces. The NFI Academy

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NFI's clients. The Forensic Book provides a clear overview of products and lead times. It also paints a clear picture of the forensic possibilities per type of trace. In criminal proceedings, the furnishing of forensic proof is playing an increasingly important role. In the past decade the number of cases involving the NFI has increased fivefold. This strong growth necessitates clear agreements with clients. Based on these agreements, the NFI can deliver reliable results at short notice.

Keen and quick: sprint products

In addition to serving prosecution authorities, the NFI is faced with an increasing demand for its services on the part of investigation authorities. In investigations the first hours of forensic research are of the essence. This requires quick

plays an important role in these efforts. The Training & Knowledge Centre contributes to the continuous development of knowledge and skills within the forensic chain. The NFI Academy organizes (customised) training courses, contributes its expertise to (inter)national projects, and arranges crime scene simulations. The NFI Field Lab makes it possible to simulate various crime scenes, such as crime scenes resulting from nuclear, biological and terrorist attacks. We use this facility, which is unique in the world, for training courses, practical exercises and demonstrations.

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Socially relevant

Where possible, the NFI shares specialist knowledge with clients and partners. In this way we contribute to the strengthening of the forensic chain. This takes place, for

instance, during conferences and client days, and through scientific publications. These publications also demonstrate the social commitment that typifies the NFI. With these publications we bring subjects like forensic paediatrics, pathology and DNA to the attention of those target groups for which this knowledge is relevant.

International pooling of resources


Especially in a dynamic, knowledge-intensive market there is a lot to learn from each other. For that reason the NFI is working together with prominent partners, including leading hi-tech companies and international knowledge and research institutes. The NFI cooperates closely with these parties to develop new research methods, and to realise innovative products. And because crime knows no boundaries, our research is also crossing borders. That's why we are joining forces with various international partners. For instance, the NFI plays a prominent role within the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) and cooperates closely with international forensic research organisations and forensic players in North and South America, Asia and other regions.

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Products and services

Waste Products and Risks; Image Analysis and Biometrics; **Biological Traces Analysis;** Fire Investigation, Technical Investigation and Material Technology; **Chemical Identification Analysis;** Digital Technology; **DNA Profiling;** Explosions and Explosives; **Forensic Anthropology;** Forensic Element Analysis; **Forensic Medicine;** Hair Analysis; **Document and Handwriting Examination;** Interdisciplinary Forensic Investigation; **Intelligent Data Analysis;** Marks; **Mobile Forensic Team;** Non-humane Biological Traces; **Pathology;** Gunshot Residue; **Speech and Audio;** Toxicology; **Drugs;** Paint, Glass and Tape; **Traffic Accident Reconstruction;** Fibres and Textile; **Latent Fingerprint Unit;** Firearms and Ammunition.

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The Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) provides a large variety of forensic services. It uses the newest technologies and scientific insights. Passionately dedicated NFI professionals concentrate on the prompt provision of comprehensible, objective and – if necessary – interdisciplinary forensic analyses, with the aim of improving the client's information position. The NFI is independent and does not take a particular standpoint with regard to guilt or innocence.

General information

about The Netherlands Forensic Institute

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