





- Short: PEN-MP
- Established in 2016 and affiliated with LEWP in 2019
- Over 80 police experts from 30 states (EU members and other countries)
- Extensive international conference
- Webinars
- Prevention campaigns



### Main goals:

- Strengthening of the cross-border police cooperation
- Exchange of good and poor practices to improve work
- Exchange of the latest techniques and developments in the field of missing persons

The **general definition of the Council of Europe** states that a **missing person** is a person, whose relatives, friends and acquaintances have no knowledge of this person's whereabouts or what has happened to this person, regardless of age (minor or adult), gender, status, citizenship or any other personal or social circumstances, nor are they familiar with the reason for this person's absence from the environment in which she/he normally lives.

Council of Europe, Recommendation CM/Rec (2009)12, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 9 December 2009

Most European police forces do not have a legal definition of a missing person:

- If the person's **life is in danger** or if this person's life or health are endangered,
  - if the person **needs help**,
  - if it is suspected that the disappearance happened **against this person's will**,
  - if it is necessary to **protect this person's health, life or freedom**,
- if the circumstances of the disappearance are **not in line with the nature or the behaviour of the missing person or his/her past habits, customs, social contacts or professional activity or his/her other personal circumstances**.





### Presentation of some facts:

- Over 600,000 persons go missing on the territory of the European Union each year (including UK);
  - of which 300,000 are children and minors
  - 40,000 persons remain missing as unsolved cases (data from 18 countries)
  - at least 15,000 unidentified discovered bodies are considered as unresolved cases on the territory of the European Union (data from 15 countries)



## Remember:

- Missing persons and unidentified bodies are inseparable areas of work.
- Some countries are introducing a third category of evidence – Evidence of unidentified vulnerable persons.
- The area of missing persons is still an untouched area – but very important.
- 40% of missing persons cases can be life-threatening for those persons - protecting people's lives is the basic task of any police force.
- **No problem:**  
**the person is missing as a result of a criminal offence**
- **Problem:**  
**impossible to determine what actually happened  
no crime scene, no traces, no information, no beginning,  
no starting point)**



## My ideal/dream world:

- Entry of all missing persons in EU countries (or in all Europe) to **SIS – Schengen Information System**
- Entry of all DNA samples and other identification methods (facial recognition, fingerprints, dental status) to Prüm - from missing persons, they relatives and unidentified bodies
- And possibility of cross-comparison of all those categories.

**Practical case from 2019:** - Norwegian journalist

- unidentified body, 1987 in Norway
- missing person, 1984 in Slovenia



**Most European police forces do not have a legal definition of a missing person.**

**Combating terrorism and cross-border crime (COUNCIL DECISION 2008/615/JHA explains):**

- member states shall open and keep national DNA analysis files **for the investigation of criminal offences**,
- member states shall ensure the availability of reference data from the file for the national automated fingerprint identification system established **for the prevention and investigation of criminal offences**,
- vehicle registration data – pretty much the same.

**Should we define „persons categories“ in the new Prüm legislation?**



### General knowledge:

Member State A has a biometric data of a missing person (maybe relatives) or unidentified human remains and a part of this data is made available within the frame of Prüm data exchange. MS B searches biometric database of MS A.

### Good news:

- we recognized the need,
- something is already done in DNA focus group,
- we do have a tool / tools (PRUM is one of the existing tools),
- we don't want to change the idea of the tool,
- it is also a tool, which could be crime related.

### FUTURE thinking

interoperability (body implants, dental status, medical information...) – more unrelated data about person gives higher identification possibility.



Thank You

for the opportunity

and

best regards from  
old investigation  
partners



# Q and A Time

