

EXCHANGE Project's Symposium

Challenges to criminal justice and police and judicial cooperation: the DNA data exchange within the Prüm system

More information can be found here: exchange.ics.uminho.pt



22 June 2020
9.30 - 11.30 WET (Portugal)
10.30 - 12.30 CET (Brussels)

Online via Zoom | Requires registration

EXCHANGE

Forensic Geneticists and the Transnational Exchange of DNA data in the European Union: Engaging Science with Social Control, Citizenship and Democracy

Grant agreement No 648608



Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation





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The transnational exchange of DNA profiles for criminal justice and police use is an important tool for the prevention and investigation of criminal offences across borders. European Union Law, under Prüm Decision, compels Member States to create the conditions for the reciprocal automated exchange of DNA profiles for stepping up on cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime.

In this symposium, the major achievements of the [EXCHANGE](#) project will be presented, as input for open discussions among various stakeholders. Topics of discussions include taking stock of the current situation of the transnational DNA data exchange and debating ongoing challenges and the future of the Prüm system.

The event aims to bring together and put into dialogue professionals and scientists working in fields related to criminal justice, forensic genetics, and police and judicial cooperation in the EU.

About the EXCHANGE project

The EXCHANGE project explores the societal, ethical, regulatory and political impacts of the implementation of the Prüm Decisions in the European Union.

Besides an overall view on the stage of implementation of the Prüm system in the different EU Member States, an in-depth study of the cases of Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, and the United Kingdom have been carried out.

The EXCHANGE project is supported by the [European Research Council](#) (ERC), a public body established by the European Commission to promote cutting-edge science through highly competitive funding. The project is hosted by the [Communication and Society Research Centre](#) (CECS), [Institute of Social Sciences](#) (ICS) at the University of Minho, Portugal.

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Program (time in WET)

9.30-9.40 Welcome and Introduction

- Isabel Estrada Carvalhais, Deputy of the European Parliament, Member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats
- Filipe Vaz, Pro-Rector for Research and Projects, University of Minho
- Moisés Martins, Director of Communication and Society Research Centre, University of Minho

9.40-10.05 Exchange Project Results

- Helena Machado, Dean of Institute of Social Sciences, Principal Investigator of Exchange Project, University of Minho

10.10-11.10 The Prüm System: Present and Future Challenges

Moderator: Nina Amelung, Researcher of Exchange Project, University of Minho

- Georg Biekötter, Political Administrator at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
- Reinhard Schmid, Head of the Central Identification Service Austria and Deputy Head of Austrian Forensic Services
- Séverine Steuve, Custodian of the Belgian DNA Database, National Institute for Criminalistic and Criminology
- Victor Toom, Independent Scholar

11.15-11.30 Final discussion

Participation and logistical issues

The Symposium will occur via [Zoom](#). **The event is free but requires registration.**

To register please send an email until June 17 for the email exchangeprojectevents@gmail.com. The following information must be included: Complete Name; Affiliation; Country.

The number of participants is restricted to 275.

The link to access the meeting will be provided by the Exchange team upon registration.

You might find information on how to join a Zoom meeting [here](#).

Other helpful technical indications are available [here](#).

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Speakers Biographical Note

Georg Biekötter, political administrator at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, Directorate of the General Justice and Home Affairs / Directorate Home Affairs; studied philosophy, political science and journalism at FU Berlin, joined the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union in 1997; political administrator dealing particularly with police cooperation; Secretary of Council Working Party on Information Exchange and Information Management IXIM (former DAPIX), main files are the implementation of the interoperability legislation, of the "Prüm Decision" and of the "PNR Directive".



Isabel Estrada Carvalhais, Member of the European Parliament for the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament. Isabel is Associate Professor of the University of Minho and member of the Center of Research in Political Science-CICP in Portugal. Isabel holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Warwick (UK). She is a full member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, and of the Committee on Fisheries, and substitute member of the Committee on Regional Development.



Helena Machado, Full Professor of Sociology and Dean of the Institute for Social Sciences, University of Minho. Principal Investigator of the ERC-funded EXCHANGE project. Her research critically engages Social Studies of Science and Technology, ethics, and criminological perspectives. Helena's current work explores the challenges emerging from the uses of genomics in contemporary modes of governance of criminality, with a focus on the transnational genetic surveillance of criminalized populations through police and judiciary cooperation in the EU.



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Moisés Martins, Full Professor at the Department of Communication Sciences of the University of Minho. He directs the Centro de Estudos de Comunicação e Sociedade (Communication and Society Research Centre), which he founded in 2001. He is the Editor of the journals *Comunicação e Sociedade* and *Revista Lusófona de Estudos Culturais/ Lusophone Journal of Cultural Studies*.



Reinhard Schmid, detective, legal, forensic and project management expert, working for the Vienna police and the Ministry of the Interior Austria since 1983. Appointed in 2002 as head of the Central Identification Service Austria and deputy head of Austrian Forensic Services. Member of the “Prüm member state founding group” as Austrian head of delegation since the beginning of the Prüm project in 2004 and supporter of EU Member States, EU Council and EU Commission as Prüm evaluator and advisor. Supporter of third countries such as e.g. the Western Balkan states in the development of biometric and crime scene databases, legal framework and Prüm like network systems. Head of Austrian delegation in different EU Council LEA information exchange Working Parties such as DAPIX, DAPIX Interoperability and the new IXIM WP and thus also initiator of the Prüm NG initiative during the Austrian EU Presidency as WP Chair in 2018.



Séverine Steuve, studied Science Chemistry and thesis in Molecular Biology at Free University Brussels, joined the National Institute for Criminalistic and Criminology in 2009, and is now expert at the National DNA database and manager of the Belgian DNA-database since 2017.



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Victor Toom obtained his PhD in the social sciences in 2010 from the University of Amsterdam. He's been researching forensic practices for over 15 years. In 2018, he delivered a study on the cross-border exchange of DNA data in the context of the Prüm Decisions which was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee.



Filipe Vaz, Pro-Rector for Research and Projects, University of Minho. PhD and aggregation in Physics. Specialist in new materials development



Moderator

Nina Amelung, Post-doctoral researcher at the ERC funded EXCHANGE project, Nina's current research investigates the democratic challenges of cross-border biometric data-exchange. Her interest lies in public controversies and public understandings related to forensic DNA technologies across the European Union, and in particular in Germany, Poland, Portugal, the Netherlands and the UK.

