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## **INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC AGENCIES: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE**

In the modern world, investigative and forensic agencies in many countries operate within highly integrated systems that combine criminal investigation, scientific expertise, and cross-border cooperation. Forensic science plays a central role in this process, acting as a bridge between law enforcement agencies and legal procedures, enabling evidence-based investigations to extend beyond national borders [1, p. 15]. Investigators and forensic specialists utilize scientifically grounded methods for evidence collection and analysis, which improves the quality of investigations and allows the integration of data into international information systems.

A prominent example of effective international cooperation is Interpol. The Interpol Pollution Crime Forensic Investigation Manual describes how 190 member countries coordinate forensic methods and information exchange to combat environmental crime. This system ensures not only standardization of investigative methods but also compliance with legal norms and the protection of human rights during international forensic operations [1, p. 42]. Interpol serves as a platform for experience sharing and training law enforcement personnel from different countries, increasing the efficiency of joint investigations.

An important international standard is the Minnesota Protocol, endorsed by the United Nations. Known as the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death, this document establishes clear forensic-medical procedures for investigating suspicious or extralegal deaths. The Protocol is widely recognized as an international benchmark in cross-border forensic investigations, ensuring high scientific and legal quality. Its implementation standardizes approaches to death investigation, enabling the compatibility of results across jurisdictions [2, p. 9-14].

The effectiveness of international forensic cooperation largely depends on trust among governmental agencies, transparent governance, and a legal infrastructure that balances accountability with operational effectiveness. Researchers emphasize that stable and efficient cooperation between law enforcement agencies requires not only modern technical resources but also mutual trust and clear legal regulation of interactions [3, p. 87-92].

A modern trend in international forensics is the use of forensic intelligence, which involves the systematic integration of crime scene data, laboratory results, and investigative information. The integration of such data allows for more effective detection of criminal patterns, prediction of offenses, identification of serial offenders, and formulation of operational investigative hypotheses [4, p. 45-50]. The application of forensic intelligence enhances the effectiveness of law enforcement internationally and enables timely responses to complex criminal threats.

The use of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and video analytics, allows large volumes of evidence to be processed efficiently and accurately, significantly increasing the effectiveness of investigations. These technologies help analyze criminal data at scale, detect complex relationships between events, and provide a reliable evidentiary base for judicial processes [5, p. 33-37].

Professional associations, such as the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (CSFS) in the UK, play a key role in harmonizing international forensic standards. They coordinate research, implement quality standards, and exchange best practices among specialists, which promotes global interoperability and ensures a high level of professional training for forensic experts [6].

The Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence (SWGDE) in the USA develops guidelines for preserving and analyzing digital evidence. These guidelines are shared globally to ensure consistency and interoperability of forensic digital evidence [7].

Some national forensic units adopt integrated scientific structures, such as the South Wales Joint Scientific Investigation Unit in the UK, which unites experts from local police forces under a single specialized accredited laboratory. This approach increases investigative capacity, reduces duplication of efforts, and ensures consistent quality of forensic examinations [8].

International cooperation in investigative and forensic activities is essential for combating transnational crime. The use of standardized methods, professional networks, trust, legal frameworks, and modern technologies enhances the efficiency, legitimacy, and quality of forensic investigations.

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## **SUPPORTING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

In every country in the world, law enforcement officials are at the frontline of efforts to combat organized crime. The building of criminal investigative and other law enforcement capacity is a core component of UNODC's work (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). Technical assistance includes institutional and operational capacity building of law enforcement and judicial bodies to strengthen investigation and prosecution of organized crimes. Training is offered to police investigators, prosecutors and judges, criminal intelligence analysts, specialized drug and organized crime investigators and customs officials.

UNODC delivers a range of trainings to law enforcement officers on topics of relevance to fighting organized crime in their local contexts. It also employs modern technical training such as computer-based training as well as assistance in improving information exchange between law enforcement agencies, custom and border control authorities in different countries.

UNODC also supports evidence-based law enforcement responses by analyzing report questionnaires submitted by States parties to the Organized Crime Convention. On this basis, research conducted by UNODC is vital in identifying regional and global