

Content for the section “Find a Forensic Expert” in the e-Justice portal

The forensic examination is an examination of an object or situation requiring special (expert) knowledge in a certain field and it is performed by a forensic expert (aka forensic scientist or forensic science expert). The most common types of forensic examinations are fingerprint examination, DNA examination, document examination, handwriting examination, digital forensics, forensic medicine, forensic psychiatry, ballistics, forensic toxicology, soil examination, paint and glass examination, road accident analysis etc. Types of forensic examinations and their titles may differ across countries. However, forensic experts do not examine the application of the law, nor provide interpretation of it. In most EU countries forensic experts are either state forensic experts (e.g. employed by a state forensic science institution) or private forensic experts.

Duties and responsibilities of a forensic expert, rights to perform forensic examinations are usually established by the law. Regulations may differ, but as a rule most countries have certain requirements that have to be fulfilled in order to become a forensic expert and perform forensic examinations in a given field, e.g. requirements regarding education, training, certification.

The results of a forensic examination are detailed in a forensic expert report (aka expert opinion). A forensic expert report is a document in which the forensic expert, on the basis of the results of a scientific study or physical examination of an object or situation, provides reasoned answers to the questions posed by the person in charge of the proceedings (e.g. investigator, prosecutor) or the court. A forensic examination may be performed in criminal, administrative or civil proceedings either in pre-trial investigation (usually by request of an investigator or a prosecutor) or in the court investigation (by request of the court).

Several EU countries keep lists or registers of forensic science experts, for example, Netherlands www.nrgd.nl.



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Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania have developed the Unified Register of Forensic Science Experts. It is available for everyone on the internet free of charge from three national interfaces:

<https://eksperti.ta.gov.lv> – Latvian interface

<https://kohtuekspert.just.ee> – Estonian interface

<https://ekspertai.ltec.lt> – Lithuanian interface.

The Unified Register of Forensic Science Experts has been developed by State Forensic Science Bureau of Latvia in co-operation with Estonian Forensic Science Institute, Forensic Science Centre of Lithuania and Lithuanian Police Forensic Science Centre. At the moment it contains information on 796 certified forensic science experts both state and private.

The aim of the register is to promote cross-border co-operation in the field of forensic science. The software developed for the register will be available for other EU countries in order to create their own forensic science expert registers and to join the Unified Register of Forensic Science Experts.

Forensic science in Latvia

Forensic science institutions:

- **State Forensic Science Bureau**, www.vteb.gov.lv
- **State Police Department of Criminalistics**,
www.ekspertize.vp.gov.lv
- **State Borderguard Forensic Service**, www.rs.gov.lv
- **State Forensic Medicine Centre**, www.vtmec.gov.lv
- **Daugavpils Psychoneurological hospital**, www.dpns.gov.lv
- **Riga Psychiatry and Narcology Centre**, www.rpnc.lv

The register of forensic experts: <https://eksperti.ta.gov.lv>

The register contains information on certified forensic experts both state and private.

The law on Forensic Science Experts (in English):

<http://vvc.gov.lv/image/catalog/dokumenti/Law%20On%20Forensic%20Experts.docx>



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Forensic science in Estonia

Forensic science institutions:

Estonian Forensic Science Institute, www.ekei.ee.

The register of forensic experts: <https://kohtuekspert.just.ee>

The register contains information on certified state forensic experts.

The Forensic Examination Act (in English):

<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530102013102/consolide>

Forensic science in Lithuania

Forensic science institutions:

- **Forensic Science Centre of Lithuania**, www.ltec.lt
- **Lithuanian Police Forensic Science Centre**, www.policija.lrv.lt
- **State Forensic Medicine Service**, www.vtmt.lt
- **National Service of Forensic Psychiatry**, www.vtpt.lt
- **Fire Research Centre**, www.gtcentras.lt

The register of forensic experts: <https://ekspertai.ltec.lt>

The register contains information on certified forensic experts both state and private.

The Forensic Examinations Act (in Lithuanian): <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.286DC4AF9827/xuQtSxICGE>



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