

## European Forensic Institute – Follow-up report

<b>STANDARD 1: STANDARDS FOR INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE</b>	
<b>JUDGEMENT:</b>	
<b>Recommendation (as per EQA Report)</b>	<b>Take-up and Implementation of Recommendation</b>
<p>KR1: While acknowledging that the current QA tools have been sufficient to ensure a high level of quality and control hitherto, the panel recommends that as EFI is entering a new stage of growth and development it should further strengthen and formalise its internal structure and procedures; this means, in particular, involving more closely its teaching and administrative staff and its students in its decision-making processes.</p> <p>This means, in particular, that EFI should formalise its internal quality assurance procedures in order to ensure that the same guarantees are maintained in the future. For this purpose, the panel recommends that EFI should create a formal QA Board or Committee as well as a broader, independent, more structured and more diverse advisory group. This would allow EFI to better meet the needs of its own internal management and to extend its IQA to new areas that will become crucial in shaping its institutional future, e.g., its research, overall programme development, marketing, recruitment and alumni strategies. Timeline: Within 12 months from the date of publication of this report.</p>	<p>We have revised our organisational chart to further strengthen and formalise our internal structure and procedures. With this, additional full-time staff/collaborators have been engaged including in roles of academic administration, laboratory management and research/programme leader.</p> <p>We have also formally established a Quality Assurance Board (QAB) who focuses on maintaining and improving the quality of education delivered by our institution in accordance with national and international standards, particularly those set by the MFHEA and ISO9001.</p> <p>At the date of this report, we are undergoing External Quality Assurance Audit for the ISO9001 QMS upon successful completion of the Internal Audit.</p> <p>Update January 2026: We successfully completed the initial certification in December 2025.</p>

<b>STANDARD 2: INSTITUTIONAL PROBITY</b>	
<b>JUDGEMENT:</b>	
<b>Recommendation (as per EQA Report)</b>	<b>Take-up and Implementation of Recommendation</b>
<p>KR2: EFI should prepare, without delay, a comprehensive strategy for its planned growth and international expansion, in</p>	<p>We have prepared a comprehensive strategy for our planned growth and international expansion, in order to anticipate the quality challenges and managerial changes we will</p>

<p>order to anticipate the quality challenges and managerial changes it will have to face in this new stage of its development – not least because it will be entering new territory with different types of competitors and new opportunities for cooperation. Timeline: Immediately from the date of publication of this report.</p>	<p>have to face in this new stage of our development.</p> <p>Our comprehensive strategy includes updating our SWOT, updated organisation chart and clearly defined strategic priorities.</p>
<p>R1: EFI could start formally allocating funds for research activities that are of interest to the Institute as such and/or to faculty members (individually or in teams).</p>	<p>We have funds allocated to research projects through our Professional Partnership Programmes.</p>

<b>STANDARD 3: DESIGN AND APPROVAL OF PROGRAMMES</b>	
<b>JUDGEMENT:</b>	
<b>Recommendation (as per EQA Report)</b>	<b>Take-up and Implementation of Recommendation</b>
<p>KR3: EFI should close any existing gap between the different linguistic versions of its programmes and make certain that no such gap appears in the future. Timeline: Within 6 months from the date of publication of this report.</p>	<p>To ensure consistency between the different linguistic versions of our programmes, we have consolidated the role of Programme Leader to ensure the role covers all versions of the same programme, ie: one programme leader for the programme delivered in different languages. The programme leader is supported by a faculty that is proficient in the language of delivery.</p>
<p>KR4: EFI should make certain that its new online graduate programmes will offer the same level of guarantee for the acquisition of skills/competences (in addition to knowledge) and for the protection of academic integrity. Timeline: Before the actual start of the first new Master’s programme in the autumn of 2024.</p>	<p>We have ensured that our new online graduate programmes will offer the same level of guarantee for the acquisition of skills/competences (in addition to knowledge) and for the protection of academic integrity through interactive digital laboratories including access to cloud-based tools such as virtual machines to simulate digital environments.</p> <p>In addition, academic versions of other relevant software and tools for investigations and crime analysis have been and are being procured to ensure students have access to the most relevant and up-to-date tools used by professionals in the field.</p> <p>Furthermore, our Professional Partnership Programme (PPP) gives students the</p>

	opportunity to access professionals and their tools/experience in the respective subject areas.
R2: The panel recommends that EFI could make its programmes more truly European and international, in particular through the provision of more opportunities for study periods or internships abroad – preferably, as expected, via EFI’s formal participation in the Erasmus programme.	Yes – we are actively working with the Erasmus+ programme opportunities including student mobility and blended intensive programmes.
R3: The panel encourages EFI to start defining its role in continuing education for practitioners (including in the future for its own graduates) in its medium-term strategic planning. This would imply developing a formal procedure for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in line with local regulations in Malta.	Noted.
R4: Further to its Key Recommendation 1 (under Standard 1), the panel advises EFI to set up an independent, international Advisory Board comprising high level experts from both the academic and professional world.	Noted.

**STANDARD 4: STUDENT-CENTRED LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT**

**JUDGEMENT:**

<b>Recommendation (as per EQA Report)</b>	<b>Take-up and Implementation of Recommendation</b>
<p>KR5: EFI should ensure that the quality and security of examinations is also fully guaranteed for its new, fully online Master’s degrees. Timeline: Within 6 months from the date of publication of this report.</p>	<p>We have successfully implemented and utilised our online proctoring tool without issues throughout Academic Year 24/25.</p>
<p>KR6: EFI should design and implement more formal procedures and platforms, e.g., student complaints, student guidance, student mobility, career information, Personal Learning Plans, etc.</p>	<p>EFI embraces the spirit of independence within our student body to encourage our students to build crucial life skills including problem solving, networking and conversation. We aim to approach setting formal procedures and</p>

Timeline: Within 12 months from the date of publication of this report.

platforms in a balanced manner. Within this balanced scheme, we intend to approach the issues highlighted by the panel as follows:

Student complaints - an "Issue Notification Form" has been designed and provided for general complaints. This form will be managed by the QA team to ensure the student body feels adequately confident and unconstrained in expressing their thoughts through the segregation of duties.

Student guidance - as the SUB team continues to mature, student guidance will be handed over to the SUB team as more senior students assist their juniors in their academic career. This is expected to be a gradual process as the Academic Team begins to hand over certain aspects to the SUB Team. Throughout the last Academic Year, the SUB Team has continue to mature in it's tasks and independence.

Student mobility - we are encouraging student mobility through both the Erasmus Charter and our Professional Partnership Programmes (PPP). 10 students have been selected for our first mobility project within the ECHE student mobility project and are expected to commence mobility in 2026. Students have also participated in research projects across Europe with our PPP Partners.

Career information - EFI has been running annual career orientation events for students since Academic Year 22/23 and hosts our "Meet the Experts" series of online talks which is open to the public. Our students are always invited to join the talks. (<https://www.eufor.eu/events/category/meet-the-experts-en/>). In addition, all students at EFI are registered as student members of the European Association of Crime Analysts, allowing them access to a network of professionals and annual conferences. We are currently organising our career information sessions to provide better tailored career guidance to students through career themed monthly events.

Personal Learning Plans - EFI provides for students to select elective modules throughout the programme. This allows students to adapt their programme to their learning goals and career ambitions. Our student support team is

	on hand to guide students who require clarification or further guidance in terms of their personal learning plan.
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**STANDARD 5: STUDENT ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, RECOGNITION AND CERTIFICATION**

**JUDGEMENT:**

<b>Recommendation (as per EQA Report)</b>	<b>Take-up and Implementation of Recommendation</b>
<p>KR7: EFI should continue its efforts to foster its declared European identity by gradually reducing its dependency on one main country, culture, gender and age group; this is of course a very significant challenge that may not be achieved in the short term, but is likely to become crucial in the medium term. The panel acknowledges that the leadership is aware of this necessity, but recommends that EFI reshape its strategy and clarify its future priorities in this regard; starting with a solid analysis of marketing data, markets and messages.</p> <p>Timeline: Within 24 months from the date of publication of this report, ongoing.</p>	<p>In line with our strategy and goals, our process for internationalisation began from AY 22/23 where we attended trade fairs beyond our main market. In fact, for AY 25/26, our student body made up of nationals from 46 different countries, compared to 30 in AY 24/25.</p> <p>With the crucial resource gap to coordinate our marketing activities filled, we are able to focus on our broader strategy of expanding to other EU markets, with a solid analysis of marketing data, markets and messages.</p> <p>Further supporting our internationalisation plans, we are also actively participating in Erasmus+ activities.</p> <p>Underpinning all of EFI's strategy and goal is our adherence to the common European principles of inclusivity, gender equality and non-discrimination. EFI seeks to promote equal opportunities and access, inclusion, diversity and fairness across all its actions. This approach is embedded in our institutional culture, ensuring fair treatment for all in our community or those who want to join our community.</p>
<p>KR8: In order to ascertain whether graduates are successfully entering the labour market in the forensics area or continuing their studies, EFI should henceforward conduct regular tracer studies regarding its alumni.</p> <p>Timeline: Within 12 months from the date of publication of this report.</p>	<p>We consistently perform our one-year post graduation survey with our Alumni and continue to do so.</p> <p>Less formally, through our internal channels and social media (LinkedIn), we continue to be connected with our graduates, where we are able to see a highlight of our graduate career progression.</p>
<p>R5: The panel encourages EFI to accelerate the creation of an alumni association, in order to keep track of all its</p>	<p>Agreed. We are evaluating the platform to best manage our alumni network.</p>

graduates and to be able to involve them in its future development.	
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**STANDARD 6: TEACHING STAFF**

**JUDGEMENT:**

<b>Recommendation (as per EQA Report)</b>	<b>Take-up and Implementation of Recommendation</b>
<p>KR9: The panel encourages EFI that it should continue its effort for the recruitment, training and development of more permanent (and possibly full-time or nearly full-time) qualified teachers proceeding from various backgrounds. This should best be implemented as part of a broader human resources policy and a more formal faculty development plan offering a medium-term perspective to its most important and most promising teachers (as well as administrators and support staff). Timeline: Within 12 months from the date of publication of this report.</p>	<p>From the field audit to the date of this report, we have been working to expand our team. Our full-time staff number has doubled since the audit including for academic, administrators and support staff.</p> <p>Our Faculty has also grown, reflecting the larger number of programmes we run and many of our lecturers continue to teach with us year on year. As a testament to our commitment to them, and vice versa, we issue medium-longer term teaching contracts with established Academic Staff within our institute, for example, 3-year instead of 1-year contracts.</p>
<p>R6: In addition to allocating more funding to research (Recommendation R1), the panel recommends EFI gradually pay more attention to fostering the development of the research capacity of its teaching/training staff. This may be achieved, in particular, in the form of more formal collaboration for the preparation of dissertations, more international cooperative research projects, and a more active/proactive participation in scientific meetings and conferences.</p>	<p>We are paying more attention to fostering the development of the research capacity of our teaching/training staff.</p> <p>This is particularly evident through research with our Professional Partnership Programmes Partners. A number of students successfully presented their research during a conference of the European Association of Crime Analysts in Italy in October 2025.</p> <p>We seek to continue to develop our research capabilities by forming more formal collaborations, participating in cooperative projects and actively participating in scientific meetings and conferences. We are also looking to support our students in publishing their research work.</p>

**STANDARD 7: LEARNING RESOURCES AND STUDENT SUPPORT**

<b>JUDGEMENT:</b>	
<b>Recommendation (as per EQA Report)</b>	<b>Take-up and Implementation of Recommendation</b>
<p>KR10: EFI should ensure that students enrolled in the new Master's programmes will have access from the beginning to all the necessary digital learning resources to engage with their fully online programme, including with respect to reference materials and contacts for the preparation of a strong Master's thesis. Timeline: Before the beginning of the first new Master's programme in 2024.</p>	<p>Further to actions outlined for KR4, all postgraduate students have access to our e-library (books and journals), professional association (EACA student member) and any other resources usually available for our undergraduate students.</p>
<p>R7: EFI could benefit from using its digital resources (courses, library, training) as a means for cooperation and exchanges with a select number of other HEIs, and for offering more module-based opportunities to practitioners in need of updating/upscaling of their level of qualification.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

#### **STANDARD 8: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

##### **JUDGEMENT:**

<b>Recommendation (as per EQA Report)</b>	<b>Take-up and Implementation of Recommendation</b>
<p>R8: The panel encourages EFI that it could make even more useful use of its comprehensive information system by relating and carefully analysing the data, in particular, for simulating future scenarios and programming its future strategy for institutional development.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

#### **STANDARD 9: PUBLIC INFORMATION**

##### **JUDGEMENT:**

<b>Recommendation (as per EQA Report)</b>	<b>Take-up and Implementation of Recommendation</b>
R9: EFI could consider expanding and partially reconsidering its marketing and media communication work, with a view to attracting more numerous and more diverse applicants for its undergraduate and, above all, for its upcoming new Master's programmes. The panel believes that this should also allow EFI to achieve a better balance of gender and nationality among students.	Noted.

#### **STANDARD 10: ON-GOING MONITORING AND PERIODIC REVIEW OF PROGRAMMES**

##### **JUDGEMENT:**

<b>Recommendation (as per EQA Report)</b>	<b>Take-up and Implementation of Recommendation</b>
KR11: EFI should review its programmes from the viewpoint of its further Europeanisation/ internationalisation, in particular, concerning student recruitment and academic exchanges for staff and students. Timeline: Within 24 months from the date of publication of this report.	In line with the new guidelines by MFHEA re programme accreditation, we are currently in the process of reviewing our undergraduate programmes.

#### **STANDARD 11: Cyclical External Quality Assurance**

##### **JUDGEMENT:**

<b>Recommendation (as per EQA Report)</b>	<b>Take-up and Implementation of Recommendation</b>