

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Specific Database in place – no funding

Currently, there are five laboratories capable of doing forensic DNA analysis (Forensic laboratory at Ministry of Interior, Forensic laboratory at Zagreb Medical School, Forensic lab at University Hospital Split, Forensic laboratory at Osijek Medical School and privately owned laboratory “Genos”).

During 2001 at the Forensic Science Centre "Ivan Vucetic" the first Croatian DNA database was established. Since 2006, Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) is in official use while all stored DNA profiles are in accordance with international recommendations by ENFSI and INTERPOL. The DNA database is divided into following categories: suspect- known, forensic unknown, forensic mixture, staff and others. The Croatian DNA Database also defines the number of alleles per locus for the mixed DNA profile. The DNA Database currently has about 29,500 DNA profiles of suspects and about 4000 DNA profiles from disputed traces. Since the establishment of DNA evidence at the Center until the present day, there were more than 1000 "hits". At the moment, only DNA the laboratory from the Forensic Science Center is contributing to the Croatian national database.

Through the new Criminal Procedure Act, in 2008, Croatia extended the number of criminal offences for which samples of biological material can be taken. Now, whenever it is probable that useful information for proving a criminal offence will be gathered through DNA analysis, however, only for criminal offences for which a minimum prison sentence of six months has been prescribed. The extension of the time limit for storing and keeping data collected was extended from 10 years to 20 years following the completion of the criminal case. Longer storage is possible under certain circumstances.

The Enforcement of Prison Sentence Act was amended to allow DNA to be taken from all prisoners convicted of a criminal offence for which the minimum prescribed prison sentence is 6 months, and who will be found serving a prison sentence at the time when the amendments to the Act come into force.

However, there has been no government funding provided to actually implement the provisions of the Act.