

## Rules for publicising the participation in the GEDNAP Proficiency Tests

Dear Colleague,

The GEDNAP Proficiency Test is a modular quality assurance exercise organized by Carsten Hohoff and the IFMG team. Its aim is to provide the opportunity to participate regularly in an external quality control and to award a certificate that documents successful participation (see also The GEDNAP Concept and the GEDNAP Manual; [www.GEDNAP.org](http://www.GEDNAP.org)).

This certificate confirms that the participating laboratory has successfully typed a specified number of stains and/or reference samples using a specified number of genetic loci in the module 1 to 6. In conjunction with regular successful participation, the certificate represents an important part of the documentation of the laboratory's competence.

For participants who offer forensic DNA analysis services, it may seem desirable to publicise their successful participation in the GEDNAP Proficiency Tests. However, this can sometimes happen in an (intentionally or unintentionally) incomplete or even misleading form, which contradicts the goals of this scientific proficiency test formulated in the GEDNAP statutes.

Therefore, all participants are asked to commit themselves to the observance of the following rules:

- A public reference to a participation at the GEDNAP Proficiency Test (e.g. in brochures, documents and on internet sites) is permissible only by the participant specified in the certificate. This is independent of whether the participant is a natural or a legal entity.
- The reference to participation in the GEDNAP Proficiency Test is to be documented, particularly concerning web sites, by a representation of the original GEDNAP certificates (e.g. as a pdf document or readable diagram), so that the nature and the date of participation can be examined.

In the event of an offence against these rules, the participant is requested to correct the inadmissible reference to GEDNAP participation within a set period. If no correction takes place within this period, then the participant is excluded from the current GEDNAP Proficiency Test or, if this is already completed, from the next GEDNAP Proficiency Test. In the event of a continuing abusive reference to GEDNAP participation, possibly even by persons or companies who have not participated at all in the GEDNAP Proficiency Test, the organizers reserve the right to take legal action.

The observance of these rules is to be confirmed by an authorized signature of the participant on the enclosed form, as a condition for participation in the current GEDNAP Proficiency Test.



**Carsten Hohoff, PhD**

Director of the GEDNAP Proficiency Tests

## Declaration

I recognize the 'Rules for public references to the participation in the GEDNAP Proficiency Tests' by my signature and commit myself to the adherence to the following rules:

- A public reference to my participation at the GEDNAP Proficiency Test (e.g. in brochures, documents and on internet sites) is permissible only by the participant specified in the certificate. This is independent of whether it concerns with the participant around a natural or a legal entity.
- The reference to a participation at the GEDNAP Proficiency Test is to be documented particularly with internet sites by a representation of the original GEDNAP certificates (e.g. as pdf document or readable diagram), so that the kind and the time as well as range of the participation can be examined.

I understand that I am requested with an offence against these rules under setting one period to correct the inadmissible reference to the GEDNAP participation. If no correction takes place within this period, then I am excluded from the current GEDNAP Proficiency Test or, if this is already terminated, from the next GEDNAP Proficiency Test. With a continual abusive reference to a GEDNAP participation of my person, also of persons or companies, who do not participate even at all in the GEDNAP Proficiency Test, the organizer itself will initiate legal steps.

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Place, Date

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Name, Surname, Function

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Signature & official Stamp