

Information Sheet for Research Study

You are invited to participate in the 2025 Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) Registry Implementation collection exercise. Your participation is voluntary. This document explains information about the study. You should read the information below and ask questions about anything that you do not understand. A researcher will be available to answer your questions.

You should only decide to participate if the following is true for you: **You are responding on behalf of a Forensic Science Service Provider.**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to research and collect data from Forensic Science Service Providers (FSSPs) on their:

- Use and adoption of documentary standards on the OSAC Registry so OSAC can understand the extent of use for these standards.
- The level and type of implementation (FSSPs: full, partial, not yet, will not, or not applicable) of documentary standards on the OSAC Registry so OSAC can understand how the standards are being used.
- Communication efforts regarding their use, adoption, and implementation of the standards on the OSAC Registry to determine how OSAC can support, help, or work with the nation's FSSPs to improve the implementation of these standards into their standard operating procedures (SOPs).

PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT

- Participation in this collection exercise is voluntary.
- If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to complete one (1) questionnaire. The collection exercise has an expected completion time of 15-30 minutes. You will be asked for contact information such as email address, agency mailing address, and phone number, and demographic information such as name, organization name, city and state. Questions will also focus on OSAC Registry standards implementation.
- Participants must be at least 18 years old.
- Participants should hold a professional position as a Forensic Science Service Provider.
- Participants should be fluent in English.
- Your responses will be used to prepare final reports of aggregated data for the benefit of the forensic science community and OSAC.

PAYMENT/COMPENSATION FOR PARTICIPATION

You will not be compensated for your participation.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- Data access is limited to the members of the NIST research team, NIST Research Protections Office (RPO) to include the NIST Institutional Review Board (IRB), and the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP). The IRB reviews and monitors research studies to protect the rights and welfare of the research subjects.
- When the results of the research are published, presented to the forensic science community, or discussed in conferences, no identifiable information will be used.
- Collections completed by respondents may be used for historical trend analysis.

POSSIBLE RISKS

Possible risks or discomforts associated with this study are low. The names and email addresses of the respondents, organization names, and locations are the greatest risk of exposure. Identifiers will be kept beyond study closure for follow-up communication and historical trend analysis purposes. However, the identifiers associated with respondents will be protected by NIST's information technology security protocols and access to the respondent's identifiers will be limited to internal personnel only. There is a small risk to professional reputation.

INVESTIGATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

- If you have any questions about this study, please contact the OSAC Program Office within NIST's Special Programs Office at forensics@nist.gov.
- If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the NIST Research Protections Office and/or Institutional Review Board at 301-975-5445 or email rpooffice@nist.gov.

- If a participant requests to be withdrawn from the study, contact the project lead, Vincent Desiderio, via email at Vincent.desiderio@nist.gov.

I understand the above description of the research and the risks and benefits associated with my participation as a research subject.
I understand that by proceeding and selecting I AGREE, I am choosing to take part in this research voluntarily.

DO NOT SIGN THIS INFORMATION SHEET. PLEASE KEEP IT FOR YOUR RECORDS.