



**International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)**  
**Information for IUGS E-Bulletin**  
**April 2018**

**1. IUGS-IFG and the Italian House of Representatives**

On 22 February 2018, the Italian House of Representatives (the Italian Parliament) invited Dr Rosa Maria Di Maggio, IUGS-IFG Officer for Europe, to deliver a presentation on forensic geology, entitled 'The Missing: Social, Technical and Juridicial Issues'. The conference, organised by Italian political parties, was aimed at highlight the Italian 'state of art' at planning, implementing and managing the search for missing persons.

**2. Brazilian Federal Police and Forensic Geology**

IUGS-IFG Officer for Latin America, Dr Fábio Augusto da Silva Salvador, delivered presentations on forensic geology at the Quadrennial Conference of the International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO) and the Brazilian Geological Congress.

**3. European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), Animal, Plant and Soil Traces (ASPT), Working Group at the James Hutton Institute**

Prof Lorna Dawson, IUGS-IFG Treasurer, hosted a group at the James Hutton Institute on 20 to 22 February. The ENFSI working group to provide a soil handling best practice manual for European Accredited Forensic Laboratories. This is a two-year project funded by the EU.

**4. Police Scotland**

A series of soil sampling and recovery awareness raising days were held with the Scottish Police Service on 7 and 8 February 2018, at the Police Training College, Tulliallan, Scotland.

**5. Queens University Belfast, Northern Ireland**

Queen's University Belfast will be hosting the 7th European Meeting on Forensic Archaeology, on 23 to 24 August 2018.

**6. Forensic Canine Detection**

IUGS-IFG Chair, Laurance Donnelly, was invited to attend a forensic canine detection lecture at Staffordshire University, UK. This was delivered by Martin Grime and co-organised by Prof John Cassella. Laurance has been involved in the use of detector dogs for over 13 years to assist with searches for graves. Further research is proposed to better understand geological and hydrogeological influences on the deployment of victim recovery dogs.

**7. Forensic Geology in India**

IUGS-IFG has taken positive steps to initiate and develop forensic geology in India. IUGS-IFG Chair has held preliminary discussion to hold a forensic geology session at the 36<sup>th</sup> IGC in Delhi.