

Last year, 2017, the German association, BID, had drafted a standard describing for the service of private investigation, in short a framework for the provision of private investigative services.

It is a German standard, a so-called DIN-Standard; DIN stands for German Industrial Standard.

Of course, orientation was the legal conditions and the current requirements within the European Union. Also important were the British Standards BS102000 ("Code of practice for the commission of investigative services") and the documents of the IKD "Code of Ethics", "Common Minimum Standards", "Common Standards of Competence", "IKD Model Data Protection Regulation Policy" and "Manual / Guideline of Competences".

This new standard, called DIN SPEC 33452, will provide investigative service providers in Germany with new qualification options and make it easier for customers to differentiate reputable providers from dubious ones. In the long term, DIN SPEC will thus contribute to increasing the reputation of the industry and opening up new fields of activity. Look up: <http://www.dinspec33452.de/>

German PI can be certified according to this standard. This means transparency in the enforcement of legitimate interests of clients, services are comparable and they create trust.

Our colleagues felt that this project should also receive international attention. Especially as the need for investigative services has grown in the context of globalization.

Although already in a row, especially European countries, the profession of Private Investigator is regulated by the Government and certain requirements criteria for this activity are defined, so far there are no matching professional qualifications and competence descriptions by means of common terminologies.

A specific ISO standard is intended to describe the requirements for the qualification of private investigative service providers (educational service) to obtain high level professional knowledge, skills and competences.

In March 2018, the German Standards Committee decided to transfer this project to the ISO Committee (ISO means International Organization for Standardization). It will meet in China in September 2018 and discuss this matter.

That means, if approved, this body will commission the development of an ISO standard.

The ISO committee consists of 16 member states, of which at least 5 countries must be willing to participate in this project. In addition to Germany, the initiator, the US, Japan, China and France have already expressed their interest in the project.

From our point of view it would be useful if the IKD checks which of the IKD member countries would also accompany the ISO project.

The Austrian Association had signalled interest and I can imagine that there is support in the UK, especially since there is already a national British standard for PI's.

Germany is currently working on the complete draft of the standardization plan. Additionally we have worked out specific country situation for PI and handed it over to the ISO-Committee.

Austria has e.g. the entire professional conditions to detectives by law.

Finally, the German colleagues would be happy if the IKD-member association supported the project for develop ISO-Standards by the national standard organisations respectively the national ISO - committees.