

communities and circles of researchers in Europe (and beyond).

This small and modest publishing project is driven by an ambition to make a significant contribution towards improving the links between police training, education and research.

Seen from a training and learning perspective, research and science have to be understood as indispensable elements as they not only feed and incite the individual learning progress, but also because they will be alert to future training needs.

This is the very first issue of the Bulletin. Readers should be aware that the publication is in a trial period, during which we wish to find out to what extent this periodical can achieve its ambitious goals while commanding very limited resources.

It is also important to understand what the Bulletin does *not* want to be: it is neither a full-blown scholarly journal, nor is it meant to disseminate any kind of police-related news. Rather it strives to become a self-sustained vehicle to spread relevant information about police-related research findings, scientific projects, studies and events. It will focus very much on the European scene and connections, without ignoring the links and developments being achieved beyond the European horizon.

Experience will show how much the Bulletin serves an actual demand. The CEPOL Governing Board will decide on the future viability of the project at a later stage. I also want to point out that the Bulletin is a project invented, promoted and implemented by CEPOL's Research and Science Working Group, driven by the enthusiasm of the members of the group. The Bulletin depends on the willingness of police officers, trainers and experts to support the project by actively making contributions.

As Director of CEPOL I would like to offer the project mine and the Secretariat's support and I wish the Research and Science Working Group and the members of the editorial teams all the best for the project's implementation. A good outcome will strengthen European police cooperation and the fight against crime.

Welcome to the First Issue of the CEPOL Bulletin



By CEPOL's Research and Science Working Group and Bulletin Editorial Team

Welcome to the very first issue of the *European Police Science and Research Bulletin* disseminated by CEPOL - European Police College. It is the product of a process which started in CEPOL's Research and Science Working Group a while back, when the need for a periodical gathering and spreading information on police research in Europe was identified. Since then, the initial idea has been reshaped, fine-tuned and adopted to the character of CEPOL, which functions as an EU Agency and a network at the same time.

The concept is quite simple and straightforward. The Bulletin will provide a platform where experts across Europe can keep each other informed on a regular basis about police research projects and matters related to police science. Built on scarce, mainly voluntary sources, the Bulletin is — and does not strive to be more than — something in between a journal and a newsletter.

Its main feature is to be as brief as reasonably possible rather than to be exhaustive. In other words, it aims to highlight opportunities for cross-field contacts and further exchange among the various experts and institutions in Europe who are engaged in police-related research and science matters. The Bulletin also aims to reach-out to police officers in practice, who are looking for innovative ideas and scientifically grounded concepts, explanations and solutions. For more information about the Bulletin's aims and scope, as well as the procedure for contributing to the publication, please visit CEPOL's website.

In this first issue we present contributions from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Italy and Sweden. You will also find a report about the 2008 CEPOL Police Research and Science Conference. Finally, announcements of forthcoming conferences and events are listed. The focus is on the European scene, on the one hand, and on events

featuring dedicated police research and science topics, on the other. Please forward any relevant, future announcements to the Bulletin email address.

It must be underlined that this periodical just aims to offer a humble spotlight on the wide-range of police research going on in Europe. We have learned that, in many Member States, police officers and scientists are working on interesting and relevant problems and research topics. The challenge is to give this knowledge a better visibility beyond established boundaries of nationality or language.

Despite different cultures and legal frameworks, we believe that there are no differences in principle between the core missions conducted by a police officer in Finland, in the Netherlands, in Spain or in Greece. Good practice and research findings are thus to be shared as widely as possible in order to build up European knowledge in policing.

This Bulletin is a fragile new media and our hope is that it will be found to be of relevance within the professional networks CEPOL is a part of. It is now up to you — the reader — to bring more content. Please do not hesitate to share your work and to propose contributions for the next issues. Make this Bulletin yours — send us your contributions. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is published on the CEPOL's website on the bulletin pages.

The Sixth CEPOL European Police Research and Science Conference Report

*By Dr János Fehérváry, Head of Unit, Sicherheitsakademie, Austria &
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For the sixth consecutive year, CEPOL organised its annual European Police Research and Science Conference, on 24-26 November 2008 on the outskirts of Vienna. As a flagship event for CEPOL's research and science activities, the aim was to support the dissemination of research results and the optimisation of cooperation between police training institutions, universities, research institutes and researchers in the field of police science. The host country Austria, supported by Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, centred the event around the topic of 'Comparative policing research from a European perspective: with a focus on organised crime'. By taking Europol's 'Organised Crime Threat Assessment' (OCTA) report as a case in point, the experts and participants were invited to tackle questions regarding how a comparative scientific approach can (pro) actively support the development of best practice in police training and police practice in Europe.

Almost 80 participants, representing equally police trainers, researchers and police practitioners, listened to the contributions of 12 expert speakers from EU Member States and European institutions such as Europol and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. In several workshops, the topics were examined in more detail and participants had the opportunity to exchange knowledge and opinions.

Welcome addresses by the Director of the Austrian Sicherheitsakademie, Norbert Leitner, and the Conference Manager, Dr János Fehérváry, were followed by a presentation of CEPOL's research and science activities by the (then) Chair of CEPOL's Training and Research Committee, Salvatore Siena. The first day of the conference was dedicated to the keynote addresses of three distinguished European experts in the field of organised crime. The round of keynote addresses was opened by Prof. Hans-Jörg Albrecht, Director of the Max-Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law (Germany), with a comprehensive introduction on the topic of 'Police, policing and organised crime — Lessons from organised crime research'. Looking closely at available research about organised crime, the policing of organised crime and the results of what he called 'organised crime policies', He guided the audience