

Note from the editors

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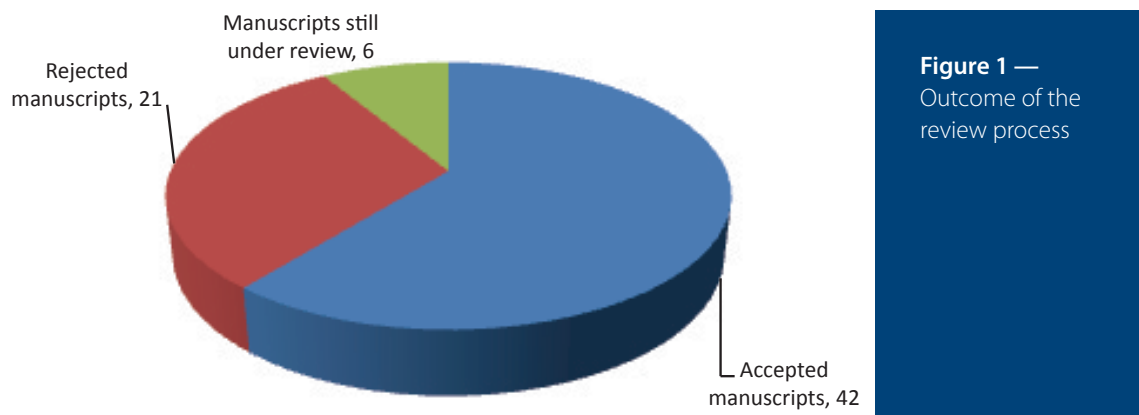
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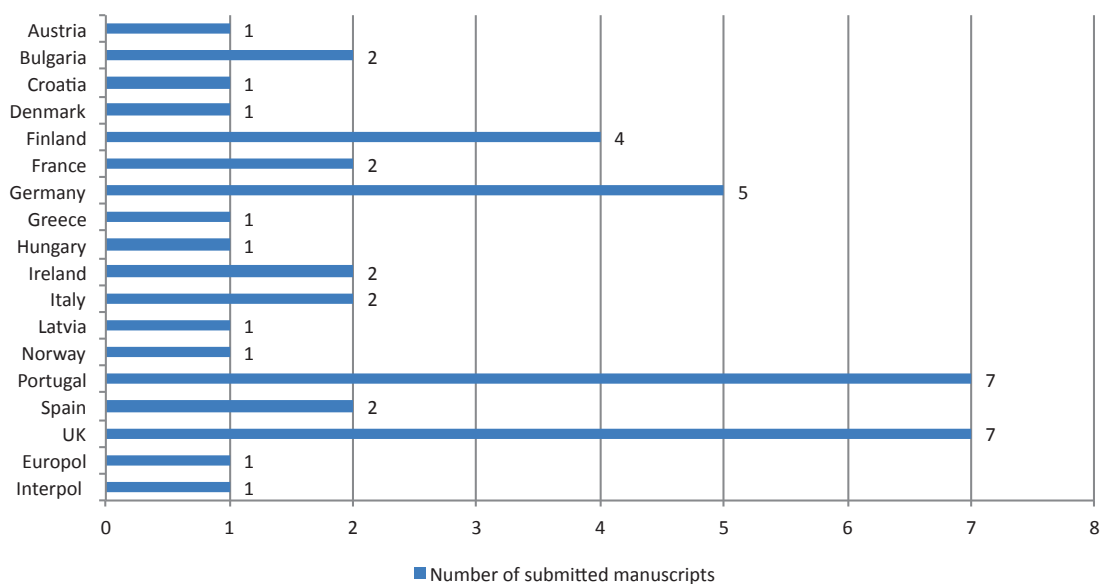
The present members of the editorial board of the *European Police Science and Research Bulletin* were appointed in August 2015 for a term of 2 years. Therefore, the current issue will be the last one published under our editorial guidance.

In the last 2 years, we have tried our best to achieve the aims of the Bulletin by publishing research papers, reviews and other information that extend the theory and contribute to improve practice in the fields of policing and law enforcement, in particular in European and international contexts. During this period, 69 manuscripts were submitted to the Bulletin. In order to minimise the length of the review process, we applied a two-stage process: the submissions were first reviewed for publication suitability in the Bulletin by the members of the editorial boards; if suitable, they were then assigned to one of the editors for handling the double-blind peer review process. Of the 69 submitted manuscripts, 42 (approx. 61 %) were ultimately accepted for publication (see Figure 1). Regrettably, 21 manuscripts (approx. 30%) had to be rejected, either because they did not meet the aims and scope of the Bulletin or because of the overall poor quality of the manuscript. The remaining six manuscripts are still under review. The length of time from submission to publication varied substantially. Most papers could be published within 6 months of the date of submission, which is quite fast for a journal with a double-blind peer review process. Unfortunately, for a few manuscripts, it took considerably longer, although we made every attempt to keep delays as short as possible.



With regard to the geographic origin of the manuscripts that were finally published in the Bulletin (not the nationality of the authors), 16 different countries and both Europol and Interpol are represented (see figure 2). Some countries were obviously more productive than others in the last 2 years. The large number of publications from populous countries such as the United Kingdom or Germany is not surprising. The performance of Portugal and Finland, however, two countries with a relatively small population, is certainly remarkable. The shortage of manuscripts from several countries with large police forces and a long

Figure 2 — Geographic origin of published manuscripts



research tradition in the field of policing, such as the Netherlands, is unsatisfactory. For the next years, one important aim of the Bulletin should be to receive more manuscripts from countries under-represented in Figure 2. This would not only support CEPOL's mission to foster European and international law enforcement cooperation, but probably also improve the quality of the Bulletin.

Finally, we would like to highlight the relatively large number of female authors that have published an article in the Bulletin in the last 2 years (see Figure 3). In spite of the traditionally 'male' organisational culture of the police and the fact that woman are still under-represented in most European police forces, 40 % of our authors were female. Nevertheless, there is still some upward potential, which may be realised by the new editorial board to be appointed shortly.

For this edition, the current editorial board picked papers from very different areas. The subjects treated in this issue range from organised crime to the use of microspectrophotometry in forensic analysis, and include such interesting and relevant topics such as smuggling of migrants, crowdsourcing, internet jihadism, video surveillance or artificial intelligence. We wish the readers a pleasant journey through the ideas raised by the authors and many new insights from reading this issue of the *European Police Science and Research Bulletin*.

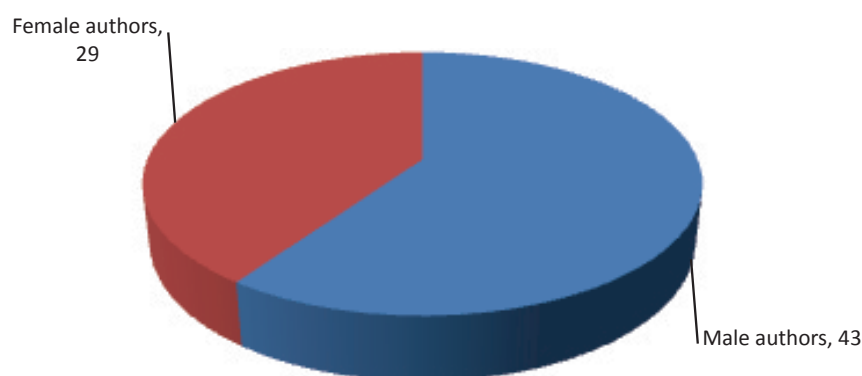


Figure 3 —
Gender of
authors