

fast changing hypotheses scientist should be willing to defend forcefully the outcomes of their research, both within the police force but also in the public debate. Of course I am aware that in post modern times the scientific truth has become illusive, and that scientists have the disposition to question the validity of their own findings, that most of the time they are very hesitant to issue policy recommendations. The problem is however, if they do not do it, who will? And I am of the opinion that, although the scientific truth has become illusive, nonsense is still nonsense. If you are in science and run into nonsensical policies: please take a stand and speak up! A brave police deserves courageous scientists.



## REPORT ON THE 2009 CEPOL RESEARCH AND SCIENCE CONFERENCE BADHOEVEDORP, THE NETHERLANDS, 18-20 NOVEMBER 2009

By

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The European Police College organized its seventh annual Police Research and Science Conference on 18-20 November 2009 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The conference was organized by the Police Academy of The Netherlands in close co-operation with Austria, Germany and CEPOL's Research and Science Working Group. The title of the conference was 'Future Policing in Europe: A Shared Agenda for Research'. Around 75 police researchers, trainers, practitioners and policy-makers discussed several dimensions concerning the challenges faced by police forces across Europe.

The challenges include several dimensions. A first dimension concerns organizational issues, such as technological innovation, risk-management, diversity in and around police forces, multi-disciplinary co-operation with other partners, intelligence-led policing, and selection and recruitment. Another important strand concerns the challenges in crime and disorder, such as cyber-crime, radicalization, and external security deficits. Finally, the conference dealt with the European dimension of policing, police training and police research.

The topic 'Future Policing in Europe' was approached from an academic as well as a practical angle. Under the guidance of several moderators, the conference activity worked with several modes of presentation and interaction, including plenary speeches, mini-seminars, poster sessions and a panel discussion. This mix of conference modes aimed at involving all participants to a maximum extent and at alternating their role of speaker, listener and debater. The conference organizers made an effort to invite a balanced representation of male and female speakers, mature and promising new researchers, and attendees from several European Member States.

The objectives of the conference activity included: 1) providing support to police by research, science and an academic approach; 2) exploring expectations and possibilities for comparative research efforts in a European perspective; 3) strengthening the networking processes between police science and police practice; 4) consolidating the integration of research and police education; and 5) encouraging the exchange of knowledge between the security field and police research. The final objective was to reflect on the consequences of innovation and policing reforms.

**18 November 2009, first day of the conference**

The conference was opened by the Chief Constable and Chairman of the Executive Board of the Police Academy of The Netherlands, Mr Ad van Baal. His opening speech was followed by a lecture by Prof. Dr. Pieter Tops, Member of the Executive Board of the Police Academy of The Netherlands and Professor of Public Administration of the University of Tilburg, The Netherlands, who provided an expose about the importance of informal and tacit knowledge for the further development of police organizations, and the role of knowledge and research in the professionalization of police officers. The training and research agenda may also present police forces throughout Europe with strategic issues, such as the emergence of a reflective and intelligent work force, which may present new management challenges for politicians. Other challenges that present themselves when a police forces becomes more knowledgeable, include matters of authority, flexibility and image.

The session, which was chaired by the Chairman of the CEPOL Research and Science Working Group, Dr Janos Fehervary from the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the *Sicherheitsakademie* in Vienna (Austria) was then proceeded by Dr Peter Neyroud, Chief Constable and Chief Executive of the National Policing Improvement Agency of the United Kingdom. He presented a plenary lecture entitled 'Shifts in Policing, Police Profession and Police Organization', in which he elaborated on topics such as the economic pressures on policing resulting from budget cuts in public expenditure, the rising costs and declining tax revenues. He also paid attention to the changes in the performance management in policing and the role of science in policing. Furthermore, Mr Neyroud analyzed the composition of the police work force, the role of the detective, the rise of nationalization and localism, as well as internationalization. All these trends harbour significant challenges for police forces throughout Europe.

After the general overture, the conference entered into more detail. Several plenary speakers were requested by the conference organizers to focus on particular issues, relating both the organizational as well as contextual aspects in the development of policing. First, Dr Tatiana Tropina from the Cybercrime Research Institute in Cologne (Germany) dealt with cyber-policing as a current and future challenge for law enforcement. She mentioned several threats which emanate from cyber-crime, including the migration of traditional crime (such as child pornography and money laundering) to the Internet. Resulting from this threat is the necessity to organize cross-border law enforcement co-operation. Self-evident as this co-operation may be, however, there are several challenges to cope with, such as the different procedural rights for suspects and victims, as well as the lack of proper facilities to tackle cyber-crime within a number of law enforcement systems. Dr Tropina gave an overview of initiatives in this field, such as CIRCAMP and the creation of the European Cyber Crime Platform by Europol, as well as training programmes.

After lunch, Professor Sirpa Virta from the University of Tampere (Finland) spoke about the theme 'Preventing Radicalization' and brought about several avenues for new research relevant for police forces throughout Europe. She elaborated on the EU Home Affairs and Security Strategies, from which new challenges have evolved in this particular field. Themes she listed were radicalization as a phenomenon and police training through the EU ISEC programme. Professor Virta maintained joint multi-disciplinary research projects are needed, and moreover, to tackle radicalization properly one may need to reach beyond conventional crime prevention. One of the pressing questions she put forward is the extent to which police officers are equipped to recognize the early signals of radicalization and extremism.

The final plenary lecture on the first day of the conference was presented by Prof. Dr. Gorazd Meško, Dean of the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security of the University of Maribor (Slovenia). For him, the conceptual challenges the police is currently confronted with include the emergence of contemporary social control, including the citizens as a policing resource and institutionalized informal control. Professor Meško spoke at length about the issues arising in the context of 'multi-lateral' policing, which includes co-operation between public police officers and private security employees. Research issues evolving concern for instance patterns of conflict, competition, co-operation and partnership. The speaker believed the challenges for further research lie – amongst others - in a comparative study in Europe and the public opinion about plural security providers. After a well-spent day, the conference participants met for dinner to consolidate their European network.

## Second day

The programme of 19 November 2009 provided in two more plenary lectures, followed by simultaneous interactive mini-seminars about developing trends and poster sessions presented on newly emerging topics. In a morning session moderated by Professor Joachim Kersten from the German Police University in Münster, Germany, the first plenary lecture was presented by Professor Tom Vanderbeken of Ghent University (Belgium), who spoke about the anticipation of future (in-) securities and the role of risk assessment. A new challenge for police forces nowadays is to police the risk society, which is based on an increased exploitation of knowledge and intelligence. Police forces nowadays have to think ahead and have to rank the likelihood and potential seriousness of risk events. Professor Vanderbeken explained in detail the difference between threat analyses, vulnerability studies, harm assessments and risk analyses, and concluded that scenarios studies can be useful tools to assess and anticipate developments and to take a reflexive attitude towards multiple futures.

After the coffee break, Dr Sabine Vogt from the German Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) in Wiesbaden, Germany, offered the conference participants a look into the innovatory power of European police forces. Early detection and diagnosis of the shifts and challenges lie at the heart of the reflective potential of police agencies. Geographical and strategic early detection can reveal a connection between different phenomena and prepare the police force to make steps in terms of setting objectives, planning strategies and prioritizing policies and instruments. Dr Vogt explained how the pieces of the puzzle evolving from an environmental analysis can be put together in a process model, called STEP. She introduced the BKA scenario technique, which is worked out in the form of workshops based on real cases, such as delinquency which is related to the capital markets. A similar scenario technique was applied in the context of the UN / EU peace keeping missions.

After the discussion, the conference participants separated in groups and went to an array of five different interactive mini-seminars about developing trends. The themes of these mini-seminars were 'techno-policing' (by Dr Renato Raggi from the Carabinieri Officers College in Vicenza, Italy); 'policing diversity' (by Professor Sirpa Virta, University of Tampere, Finland); 'knowledge-led policing' (by Professor Joachim Kersten from the Ger-

man Police University in Münster, Germany); 'Recruitment, education and careers in European police forces' (by Professor Tore Björge, Norwegian Police University College, Oslo, Norway); and 'private policing' (by Professor Raimundas Kalesnykas, Dean of the Law Faculty of the International School of Law and Business, Vilnius, Lithuania). The method of the mini-seminars allowed conference participants to select two themes, which meant that in a smaller setting, they felt more encouraged to intervene and raise questions.

After lunch, a variety of themes was presented by 'junior' researchers who are involved in a post-doctoral or professional research project. These poster sessions were performed by Anne van Ewijk of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain ('diversity in police organizations'); Martijn Schippers of the Dutch Police Region Amsterdam-Amstelland ('intelligence-led policing'); Maren Eline Kleiven of the Police University College Oslo, Norway ('police reform missions'); and Gregor Wewer of Europol ('governing police co-operation in the EU'). The latter sessions were mainly meant to initiate and strengthen particular thematic research networks throughout the European Union.

After a long traffic jam into town, the conference participants first did a bit of Christmas shopping in the town centre. This was succeeded by a very pleasant dinner in a restaurant in Amsterdam. At the start of the dinner, Chief Constable Bernard Welten of the Dutch Police Force Amsterdam-Amstelland presented an enthusiastic and inspiring speech about the value of research for the development of policing and police organizations (see the previous article).

## Final day

The final day of the conference was moderated by Professor Monica den Boer of the Police Academy of The Netherlands and the VU University Amsterdam (the Netherlands), and focused entirely on the EU efforts in the field of European police co-operation, in particular police training and police research. Police Commissioner Michiel Holtackers, Chair of the Annual Programme Committee of CEPOL and Head of Staff International Relations at the Police Academy of the Netherlands, gave the first lecture about the Stockholm Programme on the further development of the EU Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. He regarded police training as essential for building the necessary trust between law enforcement forces throughout Europe. In this

regard, an international exchange programme and internships are deemed indispensable. Moreover, specific training challenges were mentioned by Mr Holtackers, including the training which is targeted at the protection of vulnerable groups, such as victims of crime; the focus on serious crime with a cross-border dimension; training aimed at improved usage of the existing instruments for police co-operation; combined training efforts with third countries; and (common) training methods.

The issues raised by Mr Holtackers received a deep reflection from relevant practitioners and policy makers in the form of a panel discussion: Mr Christian Jechoutchek (Assistant Director Corporate Governance of Europol), Professor Dr. Klaus Neidhardt (Head of the Training & Research Committee of CEPOL and President of the German Police University in Münster) and Ms. Kristien van Goey (Directorate General Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission). The panel discussion evoked several interventions from the conference participants.

The conference was concluded by Professor Didier Bigo from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, France. He gave a flash demonstration of the legal and political events in the area of EU police co-operation during the past two decades. Professor Bigo observed a number of tensions arising from the Stockholm Programme, such as bringing the EU closer to its citizens through a reliable provision of security, and policing at a distance which is based on patterns of information-gathering and surveillance. He ended by advocating a European Union in which there is a balance between freedom of movement and security.

The conference participants departed with well-fed stomachs, and brains. The organizing countries The Netherlands, Austria and Germany as well as the Research and Science Working Group, were pleased with the active participation of police professionals, police trainers and police researchers from all over Europe, turning this event into a worthwhile annual gathering for the exchange of knowledge about police-relevant matters. CEPOL looks forward to seeing you all again at the 2010 CEPOL Research and Science Conference in Oslo!!

## THE CAMPBELL COLLABORATION AND EVIDENCE BASED POLICING – REPORT FROM THE NINTH COLLOQUIUM 2009



BY

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Given the variety of available research evidence about policing, it can often be difficult to make judgments about what interventions or policies are most effective. Police forces, government departments and public agencies need ways to identify the best available research evidence before making decisions about how to deploy finite resources. One approach to collating findings from disparate research papers is to undertake systematic reviews of available research evidence. The purpose of a systematic review is to sum up the best available research on a specific research or policy question by synthesizing the results of relevant studies meeting a specified standard (or level) of design and assessing the effects of different interventions.

The Campbell Collaboration (<http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/>) is an international body that produces systematic reviews on the effects of social interventions in a number of different areas, including crime and justice. The Campbell Crime and Justice Coordinating Group (CJCG) prepares and disseminates systematic reviews on reducing crime and delinquency and improving the quality of justice. The Crime and Justice Coordinating Group is coordinated by Charlotte Gill at the Jerry Lee Center of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania.

The International Secretariat of the Collaboration is now located in Oslo and is hosted by the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services. This office supports all aspects of Campbell's work, including the production of systematic reviews, internal and external communication, fundraising, and arrangements for the Annual Colloquium and