

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

other events. Campbell is a truly international body, however, with members of its Steering Group drawn from a number of countries.

The Collaboration has to date completed 22 reviews summarising the best research evidence on various crime and justice issues ranging from the effects of specific interventions such as CCTV surveillance, street lighting and neighbourhood watch programmes on levels of crime, to studies of counter terrorism strategies, the effects of sentencing on reoffending, and the effects of mentoring interventions on juvenile delinquency.

Specific policing approaches have also been assessed in studies looking at the effectiveness of problem oriented policing (POP), hot spots policing, and the relative success of competing strategies for addressing street level drug markets. Many of these full reviews have also been condensed into 'user abstracts', which provide concise summaries of the key findings of each review. These abstracts represent a more user-friendly version of the reviews, which can themselves be rather technical and methodological in nature.

As well as publishing reviews of research evidence, the Campbell Collaboration organises events across the world to bring together academics, government researchers and practitioners. The Ninth Annual Campbell Colloquium was held in Oslo from the 18th to the 20th of May 2009 and was themed "Better Evidence for a Better World". A number of sessions stressed the importance of evidence based interventions and of proper impact evaluations of social programmes.

Plenary speakers included the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jonas Gahr Støre, who talked about the increasing importance of evaluating interventions such as immunisation programmes. He argued that proof that interventions were successful helped build a culture of support for interventions. Richard Horton, Editor in Chief of the *Lancet* then asked why we do not always act on evidence, citing the example of climate change. He emphasised the importance of communication between research and practitioner communities, and the challenge of successfully explaining complex issues to the public.

Hans Rosling (Professor of Global Health, Karolinska Institute (KI), Sweden) delivered an entertaining and revealing presentation entitled 'Towards an

evidence-based world view'. Professor Rosling illustrated the importance of using evidence to challenge pre-existing perceptions, contesting, in particular, popular assumptions about the 'developed' and 'developing' world. The Gapminder Foundation (www.gapminder.org) hosts a number of video presentations which challenge received wisdom about these issues. Howard White (Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Egypt) also stressed the importance of challenging theoretical assumptions and carefully assessing the impact of interventions to ensure resources are being spent wisely.

A highlight in the field of Crime and Justice was Dr. Jonathan Shepherd's (Director of the Violence and Society Research Group, School of Dentistry, University of Cardiff, UK) Jerry Lee Lecture examining the contributions of public health research to violence prevention. His presentation highlighted the findings of a number of studies undertaken in the UK. One RCT revealed the benefits of using toughened glasses to reduce injuries in pubs and bars, and evidence from another meta-analysis illustrated the effectiveness of brief alcohol misuse motivational interviews in helping modify future alcohol consumption.

Dr Shepard concluded that, compared with medical sciences, applied crime science is under-developed. University Police Schools and Offender Management Schools which integrate research, training and practice, should be at the foundation of criminal justice systems. Practitioner-academics are needed in crime and justice, as in the field of health, to drive evidence-based policies and interventions. Links to other papers from the conference in the area of Crime and Justice can be found here: www.campbellcollaboration.org/Colloquium/colloquium_programme/Crime_and_Justice_Track.php

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is currently working with the Center for Evidence Based Crime Policy (CEBCP) at George Mason University to fund further work by the Campbell Collaboration. A systematic search for evaluative studies of non-curricular law enforcement strategies to prevent school crime and disorder (Policing schools) has just been commissioned, along with five new systematic reviews in the following areas:

- Effectiveness of GIS upon crime reduction
- Legitimacy in policing
- Stress Management Training and Development Programs for Police Officers and Recruits
- Crime displacement and diffusion of crime prevention benefits resulting from geographically focussed police initiatives
- Effect of interview and interrogation methods on investigative outcomes

The NPJA is also working on translating selected systematic reviews into 'What Works' guides aimed at police practitioners. The purpose of these guides is to provide an online resource that distils the key findings of the reviews, in addition to other robust research evidence, into a style and format suitable for a non-academic audience. The aim is to make the work of the research and academic community more easily accessible to police practitioners on a day to day basis.

Reviews currently on the Campbell website may be a useful resource for your organisation in addressing common policing issues faced by forces all around the world. The Campbell Library (<http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/library.php>) enables free access to reviews on a number of important subjects.



THE SCOTTISH INSTITUTE FOR POLICING RESEARCH (SIPR)



By

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Established in 2007 and supported by investment from the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland and the Scottish Funding Council, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) is a consortium of thirteen universities. Its key aims are:

- To undertake high quality, independent research of relevance to policing in Scotland;
- To engage in a range of knowledge exchange activities in order to strengthen the evidence base on which policing policy and practice are developed;
- To provide a single focus for policing research in Scotland in order to foster the development of national and international links with other researchers, policy makers and practitioners;
- To enhance policing research capacity in Scotland by developing the research infrastructure and enhancing research skills.

SIPR's activities are organised around three inter-disciplinary Research Networks which bring together researchers from over 15 different academic disciplines. The Police-Community Relations Network focuses