
Editorial

The finishing editorial touches for the 19th issue of the European Law Enforcement Research Bulletin had to be done in midst a period of a pandemic crisis, caused by an hitherto unknown spread of a miniscule, sub-microscopic organic structure, of which scientist are at odds with each other in calling it an animate being. The SARS-CoV-2 virus, triggering the COVID-19 disease has rattled rigorously at the social foundations of communities, nation states, and even the European project, by severely disrupting societal circulation, exchange of goods and daily routines alike. Not all parts of and citizens of Europe were affected on the same level, but this period will most certainly be recorded in the history books as a pan-national collective shock-experience and – and while this lines are written - the spread of the virus has not stopped and is ongoing on a global level.

Times of crunch are, however, also often times of fostering reflection and communication about the reasons for and consequences of disaster – “don’t let a good crisis to waste” has become an frequently cited phrase: if there is any positive side-effect to be found in the ravage of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, then it might be putting a break on sliding down the slope of the disquieting trends towards post-facticity and fake-news: the apparent suffering and fate of people infected by the novel virus, extorts even from the most stern science-sceptics the insight, that apart from a miracle, evidence-based research and scientific methodology are the most promising instruments to overcome the pandemic crisis.

It is no real surprise though that the territorial mushrooming of the Covid-10 disease has had already yielded a massive effect in regard to the enforcement of law: virtually overnight the applicable law changed substantially, as many European governments (and worldwide) had declared a case of emergency, enacting emergency law, and in effect restricting fundamental rights, e.g. the right of free movement. Organisational resources had to be re-deployed all of a sudden as EU-internal borders were re-erected and the focus of policing efforts had to be shifted and realigned to the “new reality” of the abruptly altering patterns of social life (e.g. decline of traffic, stop on leisure events). There has been no shortage of

commentary about the possible impact crisis and implications of the pandemic on social life in general and law enforcement in particular. However, there is forthcoming evidence that there will be certain profound effects to be noticed – if those repercussions will prompt basic innovation, will trigger a “game-change”, or after a while will be processed so that everything will be back to normal is to be seen. Examining the facts, taking an analytic perspective and making an effort to consider all relevant aspects and context shall be a tested approach for overcoming a crisis – everything what scientific research stands for.

This issue of the European Law Enforcement Research Bulletin at hand is hopefully a good example of showcasing convincing results of the constructive dialogue between scholarship and practicing law enforcement, as openness to the scientific mindset holds a sincere promise to ultimately become a benefit for law enforcement in general in its various areas and aspects.

The key-note delivered to the 19th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology last September by the Executive Director of Europol (the “European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation”), **Ms Catherine De Bolle**, can be taken indeed as a strong indication, how the process of rapprochement between police leadership and (critical) scholarship – even on this high level - has progressed and is progressing. We are delighted to present her contribution to this conference statement as a statement for closer future cooperation here in our publication.

One could see the Europol Director’s speech as a particular form of trust-building between two wary communities – here is where the general topic of the first of four original research articles, discussing police trust-building strategies connects. **Dorian Schaap** presents a summary of his findings from his doctoral thesis, where he examined comparatively the approaches of police institutions in three European countries in generating and designing solid and positive relationships with their citizens and communities and their prospect for success or failure.

Being trusted by the public in large is for sure a fundamental condition for sustainable and effective law enforcement work and a headstone for any community policing concept. **Robin Hofmann & Thomas Feltes** inform us about the role social media could take for good practices in this regard. Their contribution is built on set of empirical data and insights, gained in H2020 research project and documented in an publicly accessible handbook for practitioners.

Again based on scarce empirical research, **Roddrick Colvin** updates us about the emergence and evolution of and gay and lesbian police associations in Europe – that is some major West-European countries, to be more precise. Nevertheless this is a relevant topic, which does not only touch upon intra-organisational issues of reform for the various police forces in the Member States, but also relates to higher-level concerns about diversity and

police culture as such and eventually refers back to the theme of trust-building with citizens and communities.

Hard figures outlining the illegal business of trading and smuggling of endangered animal and plants and the efforts to curtail those activities are presented in the article by **Hans Ditrich**. Not necessary seen as a hot-spot of organised crime, the public interest in the enforcement of protective environmental laws can be expected only to rise in line with growing concerns about the global level of destruction of natural habitats and the looming climate-crisis.

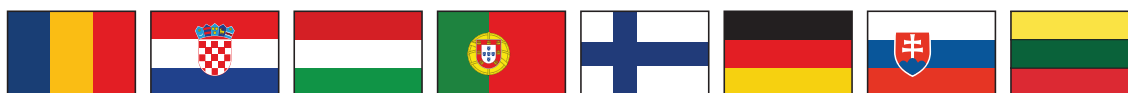
The emergent threat of organised crime on the European level, as well as the institutional settings to counter those dangerous developments, are analysed from contrasting ends in articles by **Klaidas Kuchalski** and **Evangelos Stergioulis**. While one outlines comprehensively the various areas where organised crime is undermining lawful business, societal coherence and democratic procedures, concluding in a call for enhanced European efforts, the other takes a look at the development of Europol as the principal institutional vehicle to actually tackle the organised-crime-thread, with a particular view on national sovereignty. Reading both contributions in parallel might generate new questions for research and research.

Finally, and with a strong logical link to the pandemic crisis, we present two articles from the ongoing H2020-funded IMPRODOVA research on domestic abuse respectively domestic violence. Criminologists raised early on in the crisis the prospect the general lockdowns, curfews and imposed residential quarantines that cases in this area will sharply raise due to a lack of opportunity for “social distancing”. The articles by **Jarmo Houtsonen** and **Catharina Vogt** were actually written and submitted before the pandemic crisis took off, but we expect more to hear more about this problem soon.

Editorial Board News

The European Law Enforcement Research Bulletin has established itself as an open-access scientific publication, especially in Europe, and is now regularly indexed on Google Scholar and EBSCO Discovery Service. The number of submissions are on the rise and there is more editorial workload to be done.

Prof. **Lucia G. Pais** (Portugal) recently had to end her commendable term on the Bulletin’s editorial board – we are grateful for her commitment and we trust she will continue her support for this publication. With Prof. **Thomas Görgen** continuing his membership of the Editorial Board for a while, CEPOL issued a call for new nominations to the Contact Points of the EU-Member States. In order to provide a swifter editorial service for submitting authors, we extended the number of editors on the board and are pleased to present their professional profiles to the readership:



Ioana Lucia Bordeianu, PhD, holds the rank of Police Chief Superintendent and is Head of the Foreign Languages and Socio-humanistic Sciences Department at Border Police School “Avram Iancu”, as well as Associate Professor at the Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Sciences and Communication Sciences of the University of Oradea - both located in Oradea, Romania. Her research is focussed on matters of sociology, education and security studies, while teaching among other subjects Professional Communication, International Co-operation and Security Management.



Ksenija Butorac obtained her MSc in Forensic Sciences (1990) after a Law degree and received her PhD degree in Criminology (1996) from the University of Zagreb, Croatia. She has been working as a Full Professor of Criminology, Penology and Addictions at the Croatian Police College of the Ministry of Interior, also teaching at the Military Studies and at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb. She was a Visiting Professor in Law Enforcement at the Police College in Lower Saxony, Germany and at the Faculty of Public Security, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania. Her areas of research include Phenomenology and etiology of modern

crime, especially Drug related crime, Juvenile Delinquency, Organised Crime and Terrorism. She has over 50 peer-reviewed academic book chapters and papers to her publication list.



Maj. **Zagon Csaba** is Assistant Professor at the National University of Public Service of Hungary and is an experienced customs officer with almost 30 years of practice in customs enforcement, risk analysis, and integrated border management. He graduated in Customs Administration and Security Studies and has been awarded his PhD degree in Military Sciences in 2015. He gathered extensive experiences in capacity building for border security agencies in several countries. Main areas of research are infrastructure networks, criminal intelligence analysis, law enforcement risk management and their influence on complex security.



Herminio Joaquim de Matos is an Assistant Professor at Instituto Superior de Ciências Policiais e Segurança Interna (ISCPSI) in Lisbon and Invited Assistant Professor at the Instituto Superior de Ciências Sociais e Políticas (ISCSP), Lisbon University. He holds a BA in Anthropology, a post-graduate diploma in Law Medicine and Forensic Sciences as well as Master- and PhD-degrees in History, Defense and International Relations. For more than 20 years, doing police work in Criminal Investigation and Criminal Intelligence areas (also as a trainer), he is actively involved in research in the fields of International Security, Terrorism & Political Violence, Terrorist Organizations, Counterterrorism, Organized Crime, Intelligence, Anthropology of Crime & Violence and Transnational Organized Crime. His research articles and reports have been published in national and international scientific journals since 2010.



Miklós Hollán is an Associate Professor at the Hungarian National University of Public Service a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Legal Studies of the Centre for Social Sciences (both in Budapest). He graduated in Law at Eötvös Loránd University in 1999, and obtained his Doctorate degree at the University of Szeged in 2007 (with his dissertation on confiscation). Main fields of his research experience are trafficking in human beings, criminalization of corruption and constitutional aspects of criminal law.



Vesa Huotari, PhD, has been working as a Senior Researcher at the Police University College in Tampere, Finland, since 2006, joining from his previous position at the University of Tampere. He has published on wide range of criminology and law enforcement topics on national and international level.



André Konze has been a Senior Police Officer from the State Police of North Rhine Westphalia, holding several positions at a national and international level. Inter alia he was the Dean of the German Police University, and had been the Programme Manager of the Police and Human Rights Programme of the Council of Europe. André Konze holds a Master's Degree from the University of Portsmouth in International Police Science and a Doctoral Degree from the University of Phoenix as a Doctor of Management. Currently serves at the European External Action Service as a Seconded National Expert, dealing with Human Resources within the Civilian Conduct and Planning Capability.



Jozef Medelský is an Associate Professor at the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava, Slovakia, lecturing Criminal Law, International Security, International Public Law and International Police Cooperation at the Department of Public Law. He is an author of various publications in the field of international security and international police cooperation.



José Francisco Pavia is currently Associate Professor at Lusíada University in Lisbon and Porto, Portugal, Coordinator of the CLIPIS (Lusíada Research Center of International Politics and Security), and "National Defense Auditor" at the Institute of National Defense of Portugal. He was Visiting Professor at Sciences Po, Grenoble, France, where he is Associate Researcher of CERDAP2 (Centre d'Études et de Recherche sur la Diplomatie, L'Administration Publique et le Politique). Holding a PhD in International Relations and Political Science, his main research areas are Security Issues at Europe's Southern Border, CSDP

Missions, Terrorism, Migration Flows, Maritime Security and Foreign Policies. He is the Editor of the Journal "Lusíada – International Politics and Security".



Dr. Aurelija Pūraitė is Associate Professor and a Vice-Dean for Science at the Academy of Public Security, Mykolas Romeris University, where she has been teaching since 2006. In 2011 she defended PhD thesis “State Regulation of Higher Education”. Her main fields of interest are Human Rights, International Public Law, Higher Education, Public Security. Dr. Aurelija Pūraitė is actively involved in various international and interdisciplinary scientific research projects, related to law enforcement activities and training, and she serves as Deputy-Chief-Editor of the journal „Public Security and Public Order”.

CEPOL is looking forward to the new term of excellent cooperation with the new members of the editorial board.

Dr. Detlef Nogala

Managing Editor