

# Executive Director's Prologue

**Montserrat Marín López**

Executive Director



Dear Readers,



It is with great pleasure that I address you, as the Executive Director of CEPOL, for the release of the 22<sup>nd</sup> issue of the European Law Enforcement Research Bulletin. The content of this edition came together in 2022, a pivotal year in the life of our agency. When I took up my duties in February 2022, I felt tremendously honoured that the agency's Management Board appointed me to lead CEPOL in the upcoming years, and this feeling is only getting stronger.

As the agency navigates a fast-changing multifaceted environment, it has become all the more clear that the linear evolution of CEPOL is reaching a turning point. High stakeholder expectations, notably within the EU, make the recalibration of CEPOL's strategic outlook inevitable.

Before I elaborate on the highlights of our reimagined vision for the future, I would like to dedicate a few words on the approach adopted to develop our agency's new strategy 2023-2027.

Participation and inclusiveness have been key. My intention throughout the development of the strategy has been to apply a bottom-up approach, thus ensuring that staff members of CEPOL participated actively in the overall process. The resulting document builds as well on the outcomes of an independent evaluation that addresses the objectives of CEPOL as per the mandate given in 2015 and on the recommendations made by our Management Board. I am proud to share with you in this forum that our strategy was adopted during the 9<sup>th</sup> Management Board Meeting that took place in Prague on 22-23 November 2022.

Allow me now to present you some important aspects of our new strategy and explain **how research is reflected** in our immediate future.

With this new strategy, CEPOL sets out the pathway to become the **EU Hub for law enforcement training** and provide a concerted and systematic EU approach to training. The agency will continue to foster a common EU law enforcement culture and promote the accreditation of law enforcement vocational training. In order to achieve these goals, CEPOL will also dedicate efforts to optimise processes, workflows and resources and ensure that appropriate infrastructures are in place, thus maximising its contribution to a robust and strong EU security ecosystem.

We want to provide EU Member States with the latest **innovation and research developments** in the field of law enforcement training, building on relevant outcomes of national and EU-level security research programmes. The integration of research outcomes into innovative training will be part of CEPOL's efforts to directly increase its impact and efficiency. For this purpose, CEPOL will also leverage its membership in the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security <sup>(1)</sup>, to monitor and coordinate research and innovation developments and structurally ensure a direct correlation between these and law enforcement training with an extended organisational capacity.

I am confident that CEPOL will deliver on its promise to become a hub of knowledge sharing and exchange at EU level for the law enforcement community.

When it comes to the **cooperation with universities**, we have been positively observing that academia and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) are increasingly aligned in their ambitions. In accordance with the EU recommendations related to the need for an evidence-based action, LEAs more and more often formalise collaboration with universities in the areas of curriculum development, teaching and learning, research, development and consultancy.

The benefits are numerous and include the enhancement of research and innovation through joint research projects related to security, the delivery of innovative products for testing by LEAs, as well as improvements in teaching, learning, and provision of new streams of funding to law enforcement training institutions.

Likewise, CEPOL aims to establish an active relationship with academic institutions and researchers with the goal of enhancing its training portfolio. In this regard, CEPOL also aspires to become actively involved in real research activities, particularly those whose results can be applied for the improvement of our training offer to increase its effectiveness and attractiveness.

<sup>(1)</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/operations-services-innovation/innovation-lab/eu-innovation-hub-for-internal-security>

A lot of work has been delivered to reach this point, and a lot of work still awaits us in the future.

I could not conclude my words without expressing my gratitude to the editor-in-chief of the European Law Enforcement Research Bulletin, Dr. Detlef Nogala, an accomplished researcher with a deep knowledge of his area of expertise. With this issue of the *Bulletin*, we bid farewell to our long-standing colleague at CEPOL. We have been extremely fortunate to have him with us in this capacity from the very first edition of this academic publication, back in 2009.

Since then, under his care, the *Bulletin* has gone through a remarkable evolution. Dr. Nogala, with his enthusiasm and leadership, helped this publication become what it is today. Thank you, Dr. Nogala! You have left a mark on its purpose which remains unchanged: to provide a forum where experts across Europe and beyond can keep each other informed on a regular basis about law enforcement research projects and matters related to police science.

By the same token, I would like to take this opportunity to ensure the readers that CEPOL will continue the valued established practice and is looking forward to the next *Bulletin* edition.

Finally, I am grateful to you, dear readers, for your continued support and confidence in our work, and I hope that you will enjoy our latest issue of our CEPOL *Bulletin*.

**Montserrat Marín López**

Executive Director CEPOL