

Welcome Speech

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CEPOL Executive Director



Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin this welcome address with our sincerest appreciation to the Rector and staff of Mykolas Romeris University for hosting the CEPOL 2022 Research and Science Conference and for all the efforts that have been invested in the organisation of this event.

This is the first major CEPOL activity bringing together so many participants for the exchange of knowledge and scientific insights in a traditional networking format since the last one in Budapest in 2017. As a true networking event, the conference has been organised in various venues and across many countries. In fact, this is the second time it is organised in partnership with Mykolas Romeris University, following the first online edition of the event during the pandemic in May 2021. Today, we are happy and lucky to see and meet so many of you in such a close social encounter.

The concept of systematically organising a constructive and critical dialogue between law enforcement and scientific scholarship has become an integral part of our vision of educating and training police and other law enforcement officials in Europe.

But knowledge and transfer of learning have no value if they are not shared. We will be better law enforcement officials if we improve our training with academic findings and methodologies. We will be more effective if we get to know our peers. The idea is to innovate, improve, educate and combine knowledge with scientific methods. We need a more competent, predictive, agile and secure law enforcement that can adapt to new social changes and knows how to respond in their fight against crime.

The role of higher education will be fundamental in CEPOL's new strategy. One of our objectives will be to increase the number of accredited training actions at various levels of specialisation with European universities of reference in topics such as EMPACT and the EU Strategic Training Needs Assessment. With this event, we aspire to make the work of law enforcement more transparent, to generate relationships of trust and, above all, to look to the future from a perspective of efficiency and professionalism.

The general theme of the conference, 'Preparing Law Enforcement for the Digital Age', reflects one of the most challenging trends in our society: the digitalisation of ever more areas of our public and private lives. During these 3 days, participants will hear about the many related topics that law enforcement agencies have to deal with:

digitalisation of crime, digitalisation of working patterns and tools for law enforcement officials, digitalisation of organisational structures and new ways of teaching and learning. Furthermore, the promises and pitfalls for law enforcement and civil society will take a prominent place in the presentations, along with demonstrations of specialist topics and some of the outcomes and products of the Horizon-Europe-funded projects.

I hope and trust that the presenters and participants will leave the conference informed, inspired and even a bit wiser about how to prepare law enforcement for the digital age.

Thank you for your attention.