



Research at the Police College of Finland

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The Police College of Finland is responsible for research and development on issues of relevance to police work. Its examination of these issues focuses on the social and behavioural science perspective. The emphasis of research is on crime, crime prevention, policing and other matters of importance to the police service in general. The research is carried out with a long-term perspective and on an independent, scientific and systematic basis. The research also supports strategic planning by focusing on the police operating environment and by assessing development and legislative projects.

The research findings are used extensively in police training. The research staff teaches in the senior office education programme and supervises students working on their theses. Teachers are also able to make use of the research results in their work. The aim is to produce new research of relevance to police work and to develop appropriate research methods. The research findings also help to improve the quality and efficiency of policing and enhance the wellbeing of police personnel.

The research carried out at the Police College of Finland covers five areas: narcotics crime, crime and security, police administration, policing, and economic crime. A senior researcher is in charge of each research area.

Narcotics Crime

In accordance with the anti-narcotics strategy of the Finnish police, the narcotics crime research team carries out scientific research focusing on narcotics crime and prevention of this type of crime. The emphasis is on demand reduction analysis and the work covers all stages of intoxicant use and criminal careers.

The aim is to gain a broader strategic understanding of the narcotics crime situation and to produce practical information for crime prevention and the prevention of substance abuse. The research team is headed by Tomi Lintonen (PhD).

Research projects in progress:

- Drug use among prisoners
- Drug-related adverse consequences in adolescence
- Driving under the influence of drugs
- Drug crime futures 2020
- Decision-making in drug-related crime

Crime and Security

The research area of crime and security covers both reported and unreported crime. Ordinary citizens' experiences of policing, factors shaping their experiences and the experiences of crime victims are also examined. Trust between citizens and the police is an important factor in the police operating environment.

During the last few years, research on reported crime has focused on the monitoring of racist offences. As part of its work on unreported crime, the crime and security research team has also been analysing material compiled by the Ministry of Justice and the National Research Institute of Legal Policy. The team is currently collecting and analysing material for a research project on crime that targets children and young people.

Two principal methods are used for monitoring crime trends and the level of crime. Firstly, there are the registers compiled by the police and other information systems maintained by the authorities listing the number and type of offences reported to the police and the trends in

these figures. Secondly, because most offences remain unreported and are thus not entered in the information systems maintained by the authorities, polls and interviews can be conducted among the general public to investigate unreported crime. Most common among these are crime victim surveys in which people are asked how they have been affected by crime and about, for example, their experiences with the authorities. The crime and security research team is headed by Juha Kääriäinen (PhD).

Research projects in progress:

- Children in the criminal justice system
- Development of monitoring hate crimes in Finland
- Follow-up studies of hidden and reported crime
- Public confidence in the police in Finland and in Europe
- Police ethics
- Reported racist crimes in Finland in 2008
- Violence against children

Police Administration

Research on police administration focuses on personnel-related duties of the police and on the structure and development of the police operating organisation. Research themes include police training, leadership, wellbeing in the workplace, and the organisation, assessment and development of police work. The research team also produces a police personnel barometer once every two years, which covers such matters as employee wellbeing and a 360-degree evaluation of leadership skills. The police administration research team is headed by Vesa Huotari (PhD).

Research projects in progress:

- Staff barometer: Occupational wellbeing, organisational climate and management in the police
- Evaluation system (360 degrees) for the development of leadership skills in the police

- Evaluation of the new salary system
- Personal performance and career development discussions and their evaluation
- Lateral career development in the new police organisation
- Sexual harassment in police education and training
- Leadership education in the police

Policing

Although research on policing covers a wide range of issues, the common themes are operational police work and interaction with other stakeholders in a changing society. The focus is on the effectiveness of policing and on predicting changes in the security environment.

Cooperation with other authorities and civil society is of crucial importance in the determination of research topics, the allocation of research resources and the conduct of the research itself. The policing research team is headed by Kari Laitinen (DrSoc.Sc.).

Research projects in progress:

- Research on violent radicalisation and terrorism
- Standard reporting for performance measurement and mapping of analytical method
- Integration, inter-cultural communication and best practices: a case of Thai community

Economic Crime

In the research area of economic crime the focus is on the different types of economic crimes and the ways in which they are committed. The research team also analyses the control and the combating of economic crimes. The research activities can be divided as follows:

- Research focusing on the crimes and the operating environment of the police;
- Research focusing on the police organisation and the work of the police.

The research focuses on, for example, such matters as trends of economic crimes, various types of economic crimes and ways of committing them, and the characteristics of economic crime investigation. In addition, cooperation between the authorities, the efforts to combat economic crime and economic crime in criminal policy are examined. The research team is headed by Vesa Mutttilainen (PhD).

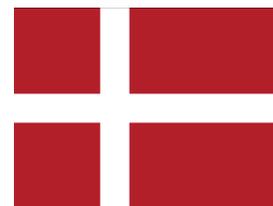
Research projects in progress:

- The trends of economic crimes
- The grey economy in the construction sector in Finland
- Economic malpractices, administrative sanctions and crime suspicions
- Economic safety threats related to business activities
- Scientific research on economic crimes in Finland in the 2000s
- Corruption and bribery in business and public-sector activities

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New Knowledge and Research Centre in the Danish National Police



The Danish National Police has established a new centre, the Danish Police Knowledge and Research Centre. The centre has been commissioned with the task of integrating police research and police science into the activities of the Danish National Police, and with making research and development knowledge about policing available to the police.

The centre will not only produce research that can contribute to the development of all areas of policing, but will also collect and disseminate research and knowledge that may help to secure the continued development and quality of policing. The centre will thus be cooperating with, and distributing knowledge and research from, police research institutions in other countries, private and public research institutions and universities.

Educational Reform

The Knowledge and Research Centre plays a key role in the educational reform under way in the Danish police force. The National Police College is to be transformed into a University College with effect from August 2010. This requires substantial changes in the existing educational structure, not least a stronger emphasis on research and development within both education and practical policing. The Knowledge and Research Centre is expected to support these changes by producing, communicating and disseminating research and knowledge, and by working towards the development of a culture for lifelong learning and knowledge-sharing within the Danish police force.

Participation in working groups and consultancy work related to the educational reform has thus been a substantial part of the new centre's work portfolio since its establishment. The centre will continue to work closely together with the