Chapter VI: Contemporary and emerging challenges of policing — introduction

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A major task of the CEPOL Research and science conferences has been dealing with and presentation of scientific analyses of contemporary and prognosticated challenges of policing. The events should contribute to overcoming existing deficits and obstacles in acceptance of the importance of police research for dealing with these challenges. They should help in raising awareness of the need to respect research findings for efficient police reforms.

In the field of contemporary and emerging challenges close linkages are essential between practical needs for police and policing on the one side and theoretical/scientific efforts on the other. Therefore the organisers of the CEPOL Research and science conferences were eager to invite police trainers and practitioners as well as police researchers to present their perceptions of the emerging challenges for police and policing and to expose their approaches/ideas on how to meet these challenges to scrutiny.

The following contributions collected in this chapter deal with contemporary and predicted challenges from the viewpoint of consequences for the organisation of police and policing. In addition the articles underline that the challenges have to be seen through the prism of permanent changes in the relation between police or other institutions/persons charged with policing matters and citizens, as well as in the relationship of police to the domain and logic of scientific research. Another aspect of the contemporary and emerging challenges is identified in the need for strengthening (international and institutional) cooperation.

To sum up all the contributions in this chapter, it could be said that the described challenges and their consequences for police and policing (will) have a strong influence on police training/education — and therefore in consequences for CEPOL. However a proper adaptation of police training/education should be based on research findings — as explained in the general introduction. In summary, the articles are a good case in point for the importance of police research dealing with contemporary challenges of policing for strategies and activities in CEPOL.

Based on the upheaval in the contemporary policing landscape, **Peter Neyroud,** familiar with high-level hands-on police management as well as with proper academic research standards, is portraying the shifts in policing, police professionalism and police organisation. He comes to the conclusion that *'Great challenges now face policing, but the uncertainty of the contemporary landscape also promises a real opportunity for police leaders to shape a profession that can withstand the demands of tomorrow.'*

Neyroud's conclusions can be taken as a solid and well-informed basis for further future research projects. From a forward-looking vantage point, they can serve as a constructive starting point for reconsidering and challenging the existing national police training systems — in particular for police managers, including the implementation of the Bologna Process — as well as international cooperation in the field of police training.

Tore Bjørgo makes the point that there is a widely held view in CEPOL circles and among many police researchers that there is a great need for more comparative policing research in Europe. As a case-in-point he presents the research design of an ongoing comparative and longitudinal study of recruitment, education and careers in the police. The fundamental questions in this study are the following:

- what characterises the kinds of people recruited to police work?;

- how are they shaped by police education and socialisation into the profession?;

- how do different systems of police recruitment and education impact on the attitudes and views on police work of the new police officers produced by these systems?

Bjørgo describes the project design and content of the used questionnaire but he was not yet able to present findings — because in 2010 the project was in the phase of collecting survey data. However, he assures us that the core questions can be studied by police research — and to a large extent will be answered– in the presented study. He is convinced that the project may facilitate practical collaboration between police researchers in many European countries. The comparative study, based on shared methodological instruments, used to collect and produce truly comparable data, is necessary for further development of police science as a discipline.

Graham Hooper states in the introduction of his contribution 'Cooperation in policing in Europe — current trends and future challenges': *'The only thing that we can be certain of in the policing environment in which we work today is uncertainty, unpredictability and challenge. They are the constants that we all face.'* He illustrates the range of current and future challenges for European policing as follows:

- organised criminals continue to operate faster, more flexibly and on a truly global scale;

- the market in drugs, illegal immigration and money laundering will probably continue to grow but will become more complex because of the use of technology;

- illegal migration is likely to grow and become an ever-increasing problem;

- the use of the internet and electronic communications will grow and be exploited by criminals and criminal networks;

- changes and developments to the banking, finance and information technology sectors will create demands on police organisations in terms of securing the employment of people.

He is convinced that police will have to strengthen international cooperation for tackling these challenges. He underlines that international cooperation is a key element for successful and effective policing not only in the field of operational policing but also in the areas of police training/education and policing research.

Sabine Vogt presents in her paper 'Innovation in European Police Forces' new approaches, instruments and techniques which are used by the German Federal Criminal Office in order to meet new challenges. Particularly she describes the 'early detection approach', criminalistic-criminological research and technological monitoring, and the 'STEP (Social, Technological, Economic, Political) approach.

One of the major new challenges in policing is cybercrime — a fast mutating phenomena of truly global character — particularly testing for international police cooperation. **Tatiana Tropina** analyses the role of police in fighting cybercrime. In the first part she describes the role of police in fighting this field of crime and highlights the problems and challenges. In the second part she deals with the unique challenges of cybercrime for policing cyberspace, which require a review of traditional approaches to the concept of policing, application of new tools, both legislative and technical, for investigation, development of skills of working with electronic evidence, and last but not least, the ability to cooperate with industry players. One of the critical issues is also capacity building (special training for police experts), because the mere possession of new technologies for the investigation and detection of crime does not mean the ability to utilise them. In her conclusion she says inter alia: *'Despite the number of challenges that need to be addressed, police units and organisations as one of the main stakeholder on the scene of fighting cybercrime can act as a central spin-off for building links between different stakeholders, establishing cooperation with private sector, and developing the national and international approaches to tackle the problem of ICT misuse.'*

Almost demonstrating the fast pace of change of emerging police issues, social media has been becoming an increasingly challenging and complex topic for police forces in Europe and elsewhere during the last few years. Police officers are confronted with the emergence of a new virtual public sphere and they must try to deal with it in a diverse and sometimes quite contested ways. **P. Saskia Bayerl, Gabriele Jacobs and Kate Horton** conducted a study to better understand the disparate attitudes towards social media in European police forces and their underlying reasons. They aim to obtain a clearer picture of current social media usage and the degree of general acceptance within European police forces. They report on their findings from the Europe-wide project 'Comparative Police Studies in the EU' (COMPOSITE) in which they asked police officers from different European countries about their attitudes towards social media. All in all this contribution has the ability to meet contemporary and future expected challenges of policing as a result of technological advance and its consequences for changes in our societies. It can be seen as a strong motivation for further research in this fast-growing environment.

Technological, demographic, economic and political developments, as well as progress in many scientific fields pose central challenges to policing and particularly for police — and they will continue to do so even in the future. In fact, expected developments contain elements of uncertainty and risks. Dealing with uncertainties (expectations, imminent dangers, security risks) — and therefore how to take the correct actions and reactions — is a special challenge for politicians and managers/experts active in the field of policing. Prognoses based on scientific and comparative analyses of the current environments/conditions for policing and predictions (using approved methods and short- and medium-term models) might help them in their decisions. It will be an important task for (the further developed) CEPOL to offer/deliver scientific and comparative findings and approved methods for prognoses to stakeholders/decision-makers in policing for enabling them to deal with challenges in a professional way and with good prospect for success.