

other on community engagement and community policing (coordinated by SIPR and the University of Ghent). Individual members of SIPR are also playing important roles within wider networks of researchers and practitioners including the European Academy of Forensic Science, the European Society Working Group on Policing and the European chapter of the FBI National Academy of Associates.

In little under three years SIPR has established itself as a key part of the research and policing landscape in Scotland with strong links to other parts of the UK, Europe and beyond. Furthermore, as a model of collaboration between police practitioners and the academic research community it now attracts national and international attention. Crucial to its success is recognising that regular and sustained contacts between research 'providers' and research 'users' are vital determinants of policy impact. Researchers and practitioners must also share a mutual understanding of the relevance of each others interests and activities and have an understanding of the ways in which research can add value and offer insights to key issues of concern for police practitioners and policy makers. As police organisations across Europe increasingly face the challenge of having 'to do more with less', as a result of growing demands but limited resources, the partnership between universities and police forces embodied by SIPR provides a highly effective way of meeting the need for relevant research and for developing the skills of those who work in police organisations.

Further information

Further information about SIPR is available from its website (www.sipr.ac.uk) and we very much welcome inquiries from researchers and practitioners. These should be sent to its Director, Professor Nick Fyfe (n.r.fyfe@dundee.ac.uk).



CENTRE DE RECHERCHE DE LA GENDARMERIE NATIONALE (CRGN)



By

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Located in Melun, 50km South-East of Paris, the Research Center of the Gendarmerie Nationale (CRGN) is connected with the Gendarmerie Nationale Officers College and headed by a director, who is a senior university professor.

The center was set up as a political initiative to provide major educational establishments, dedicated to the training of high military and civilian servants, including the funding of research facilities.

Benefiting from these 'think-tank'-potentials, the Gendarmerie Nationale Officers College deals with issues linked to homeland security and especially regarding the career of Gendarmes. The work undertaken at the center aims at including the cadets in each and every part of their academic studies.

The former documentation center of the Academy has been the touchstone of the Research center of the Gendarmerie Nationale (CRGN), hence at the origin of its creation in September 2008. It is now supervised by both military and civilian staff.

Organization of the center

It has a permanent team composed of a senior university professor who is in charge of the general policy of the center and a network of several researchers. He is assisted by an administrator second in command who on the contrary has a military background and who is the direct link with the institution. A senior officer is heading the Research Department, whereas the Resource Department is headed by a civilian. In addition to the permanent staff, there are a few researchers who work part time. They are usually people with either an academic background or high qualifications, who are in charge of supplying for a reserve of researchers, coming from universities as well as the Gendarmerie. Through their Master's thesis the cadets are in close relation with the center.

As far as the research field is concerned, there are six main topics:

1. security and territories
2. security and environment
3. security and sciences
4. security and ethical code
5. security and law
6. security and history

All the researchers are listed in a database that is managed by the center, who then makes an inventory of the Master's thesis dealing with security that had been written by Gendarmes on duty or in retirement.

Assignments

Based on resources that are in constant evolution, the CRGN aims at leading and coordinating research in terms of security.

Through the different contributions provided by the CRGN, the cadets are given guidance for their thesis on internal security – and can be supported by other Gendarmes who are either writing a thesis or a Ph.D. The center also works in tight relations with the Gendarmerie headquarters. The work undertaken by the cadets will serve as a think-tank to the high command and the topics must have been requested by the central administration. On the other hand, the Research Center can make suggestions in this matter.

The CRGN's mission is also to watch and pick up updated information dealing with security from the internet.

Overall, just like any other research center, the CRGN organizes seminars and symposiums and participates in several scientific activities in France or abroad to facilitate a general synergy with other centers and institutions.

An overview of the CRGN's activities is available via its website :

[http:// www.gendarmerie.interieur.gouv.fr/crgn](http://www.gendarmerie.interieur.gouv.fr/crgn)

Outlook

This center is still in development and has only been set up for research activities since September 2009. It is already working jointly with the European Police College - CEPOL and with other different European partners in terms of internal security matters and supplies for its own database as well. By the end of 2010 the best thesis written by the cadets during their scholarship will probably have been uploaded into CEPOL e-Library.