

# Editorial

The articles of issue Nr. 18 of the European Law Enforcement Research Bulletin (formerly known as the European Police Science and Research Bulletin) have been made available to the public online already since February 2019. Similar as with other major publishers, the aim of the “online-first” release is to let readers access the finished article, as soon as it has passed the review and editorial processes: all the latest articles are released at the Bulletin’s homepage at <https://bulletin.cepol.europa.eu>, where readers can register for notification of the release of the next issue and authors can submit new papers. However, the final production of the complete issue for the printed and finished online edition always takes a bit of extra time.

In this issue, overall eight articles will address a variety of aspects driving modern law enforcement development in Europe and in European countries.

The first contribution by **Coaffee, de Vries & Hadjimatheou** summarises the outcome of the H2020 programme research project MEDI@4SEC, which has been looking at the potentials and future roadmap for the role of social media in policing and other law enforcement efforts. While they spell out the new opportunities for investigations, intelligence and in particular for community-oriented policing and communication with the public at large, they as well make aware of potential risks and point at the often thorny issues of securing sufficient resources and training, when innovation is on the agenda.

An exemplification of the obstacles good new ideas in policing have to overcome sometimes is the story **Evangelos Stergioulis** can tell about the “roller-coaster ride” of trying to get community policing introduced in Greece. Again, (lack of) training and resources are raised as critical points.

**Phelps, Kudlacek, Karatrantos & Theofilopoulos** continue the thread, by adding the aspects of hate crime and violent extremism, emerging under the migratory and economic pressures the country has been subjected to. They provide analytic insights from a counter-radicalisation workshop held with officers from various law enforcement bodies and by that, bring practitioners’ experiences and perspectives to the fore.

The theme of “exploring the views of experts in the field” continues in **Kaasik & Tong’s** article about their research into the Schengen Evaluation Mechanism, which delivers a rare empirical insight into one of the quite practical arrangements of the European Union of achieving and securing its objective of being an area of freedom, security and justice. The reader might take note that this contribution is based on one of the successful master thesis of CEPOL’s European Joint Master Programme.

The next two articles are highlighting two emerging crime phenomena of modern times, one happening literally “on the streets”, the other with a wider, geo-political background and impact, but seem to be strangely linked by the hyper-modern connectedness and the associated life-styles of the younger generations. **Brown, Thompson, Pepper & Ryan** report on the increase of a “snatch offense”, where mobile phones are taken from unsuspecting victims and the evenly mobile young offenders are taking opportunistic advantage of crammed inner-city traffic settings. **Arje Antinori**, in contrast, reviews the evolving complexities and “hybridization” of the Jihadist threat and emphasizes the urgency for EU law enforcement to keep up with cyber-realities of the global digitally native “millennium generation”.

The two concluding contributions deal each with a specific law enforcement tool and how its potential and actual use and implementation is perceived among law enforcement professionals in Portugal: **Barbosa Marques & Milne** examine how the “Cognitive Interview” as an investigative technique is assessed among the law enforcement professions of investigators, prosecutors and judges. To their disappointment, they find a considerable discrepancy between what the academic knowledge advises and what officers actually tend to do in practice and call for an institutional move for implementation of “best practise” in the Portuguese case. How they perceive (the prospective introduction of) body-worn cameras for officer duty on the street and the impact this technology might have, is explored in **Morgado & Alves’** contribution amongst a small officer sample.<sup>1</sup>

If there is one commonality between the contributions to this Bulletin, than it is that they all deal with (recent) innovation in law enforcement, may it be on the technological, organisational or procedural level. It is equally noteworthy that almost all the authors point out either the risk or the evidence of a lack of sufficient training and resources, to achieve the new measure promised gains.

Finally, we have to inform the reader that the term for Justyna Jurczak, Barbora Vegríchtová and Peter Neyroud as editors of the Bulletin has ended. Their honorary commitment to this publication project has been invaluable and his highly appreciated.

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<sup>1</sup> The articles by Antinori, Barbosa Marques & Milne and Morgado & Alves are based on initial papers to the 2017 CEPOL Research & Science Conference in Budapest. In this regard, see also the forthcoming Special Conference Edition Nr. 4 of the Bulletin.

New member of the team since last year is Gurchand Singh.



**Gurchand Singh** is the Chief Information Officer at the Department of Justice and Equality in Ireland. He has responsibility for, amongst other things, the Departments research and data analytics programme. Previous to this role, Gurchand worked in An Garda Síochána, Ireland’s national police service, where he helped establish the Garda Síochána Analysis Service. This provided research and data analytics to inform strategic policing and support operational activity. The work of the Analysis Service has been recognised nationally within Ireland. Prior to arriving in Ireland, Gurchand worked in the Home Office in the United Kingdom. He had responsibility for the Home Office’s research programme in various areas, including Crime and Drugs Analysis and Research. Amongst his

other roles, Gurchand is also a board member CeADAR, the National Centre for Applied Data Analytics and Machine Intelligence, which is associated with University College Dublin.

The Bulletin Editors