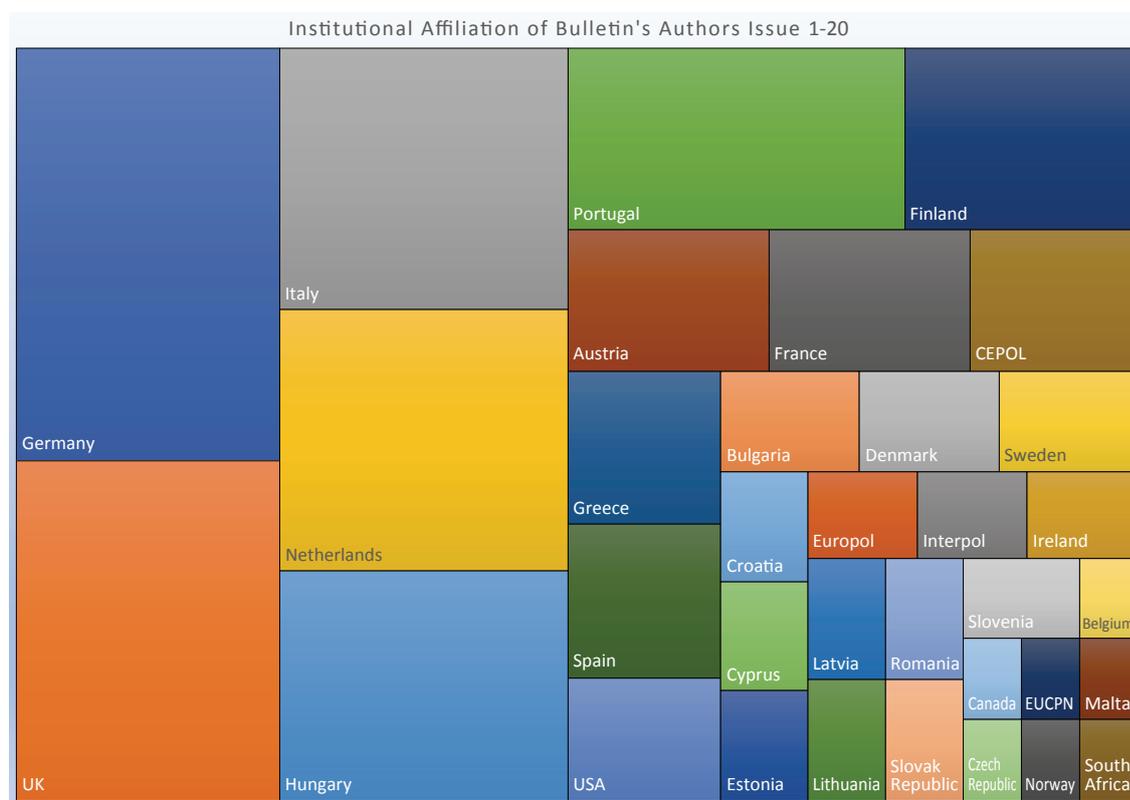

Editorial

The year 2020 is soon going to end and – what are the odds! – this is also the 20th regular issue of the Bulletin, a periodical which started in 2009 under its initial title *European Police Science and Research Bulletin*, and has now become the *European Law Enforcement Research Bulletin*. The general purpose has been still the same since: to provide an open-access forum for those who have a stake or a professional interest in reflecting upon and developing policing and law enforcement via the means and standards of scientific research and high professional standards in the particular context of Europe and the democratic values promoted by the European Union.

Around 180 genuine articles and contributions have been published in the twenty issues of the Bulletin so far (not counting Editorials or the five *Special Conference Editions*), authored by scholars and law enforcement practitioners from (almost) all EU Member States, Europol and Interpol, and from the United States, Canada and South Africa. Taking into account the institutional affiliation of authors only – some articles have been co-written by authors from more than one country and the nationality of contributors might be a different one – the proportionate distribution of contributions across countries and EU-agencies is depicted here:



Despite of Brexit, English will continue as the publication language of the Bulletin, but the editors are keen to receive more input from Member States where the native language is a different one – promoting a European police and law enforcement culture needs input from all corners of the continent.

Bulletin Nr. 20 happens to be the first production under the editorship of the new members of the Editorial Board, which have been introduced to the readership in the Editorial of the previous issue. It is also the first time we are introducing a book review section. Issue Nr. 20 is rich with content, which we hope will find the interest of our audience.

This release opens with an outright topical and learned exploration of the implications the Covid-pandemic has had so far and will have on crime patterns and policing by experienced criminologist **Rob Mawby** from the United Kingdom. The article takes us in a *tour-de-force* through some of the available research studies on the virus's impact on crime rates and shift in the displays of crime and what criminologists could make of it in regard to their theoretical framework. In the second part he elaborates how police and policing has been impacted in three distinct ways: enforcement of new legislation, use of new strategies, and deployment of unusual personnel. Articles about the impact of the Corona-pandemic on policing and law enforcement will possibly spread in the near future – this highly instructive contribution is just one among the first wave.

One popular feature of this year's reporting in newspapers and other media was the listing and comparison of infection incidence between various countries – often with a view to identifying the most effective counter-epidemic strategy, sometimes with a touch of complacency. However, comparing statistical numbers across countries, without taking into account those figure's genesis and context can lead to premature and misleading conclusions. This is the message that **Christiana Vryonidou** and **Markianos Kokkinos** from the Cyprus Police Academy would like to bring up when the (nominal) ratio of police officers per 100.000 inhabitants is used in evaluation or political discussion. At the same time this article's critical stance opens the arena for a more profound consideration, who and what shall be counted in Europe as "police" – only if the criteria are (more) transparent comparisons and visions of a European police and law enforcement culture make theoretical sense.

Talking about "European police culture" in the very year where "Black lives matter" became in the global media a synonym for excessive use of force and unethical police conduct – first in the USA, then with echoes in Europe (for instance, France and Germany) –, the list of contributions continues with the notes from a presentation **Stefano Failla** (CEPOL) delivered at an online-conference on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the introduction of the "European Code of Police Ethics" – a guidance which might come in handy at the right time to prevent undesirable individual misconduct and loss of institutional reputation.

Guidance, fetched from many years of well-reflected practical experience and collective thorough scientific research alike, is also the essence of **Gary Corder**'s article on how to build and apply evidence-based policing. It is an invited summary of an extended guide-book recently published by U.S. Department of Justice, useful for both starters and advanced learners, providing not just the "theoretical spirit" of this approach, but also catering for the pragmatists' practical needs. With this contribution, we continue the line of articles in the Bulletin inviting to put more emphasis on (scientific) evidence in law enforcement practices.

The importance of evaluating training programmes is well understood by any law enforcement educational institution adhering to modern principles of management. Before he joined the team of Bulletin editors recently, former active senior police officer and educational specialist **André Konze** submitted his paper on how human rights training is evaluated in programmes run under the auspices of the Council of Europe. The article, based on his PhD study, provides interesting insights into the realities of institutional training programmes and how trainers and managers try to deal with the obstacles they find out in front of them.

Shedding some explorative light on the area of law enforcement –tax authorities are mainly concerned with-, **Umut Turksen**, a specialist researcher at Coventry University, investigates the lack of effectiveness and efficiency he perceives in regard to the hitherto applied countermeasures against tax crimes, leaving significant gaps for perpetrators. Based on insights

from the ongoing H2020-funded PROTAX-project, the author discusses the under-development of common definitions as a major obstacle for making progress in this area.

There is little doubt that our modern world – and our own world view – is increasingly dominated by images and the visual (re)presentation of our lives. In our 21st century, pictures in newspapers and magazines is yesterday's technology – (MTV) 'video had killed the radiostar' long time ago; today Facebook, Instagram and ubiquitous visual recording devices feed and shape people's mind. The process of criminal investigation hasn't been untouched by this shift in cultural practices and the paper by **Fausto Galvan**, while a bit on the technical sight, serves as a legible introduction into the field of image and video forensic and provides some useful hints.

A different kind of cultural shift – the (political and social) reassessment of intimate partner violence and domestic violence – has triggered innovative responses and measures by law enforcement. Highlighted by observers from the early stages of the pandemic, anticipating the restrictions of free movement imposed by governments, a potential significant surge in cases of domestic abuse and violence has been a cause of concern since. In this issue of the Bulletin, three articles are presenting findings of recent studies on this topic.

Eduardo Ferreira presents research on the historic development and impact the national deterrence policy had on the prevalence of intimate partner violence and the judicial handling in Portugal. The report by **Paul Luca Herbinger, Marion Neunkirchner, and Norbert Leonhardmair** from the IMPRODOVA project (see also Bulletin Nr. 19) extends the horizon onto a comparative level and discusses preliminary findings which would explain the variances among European legislation targeting domestic violence. In the same project context **Lisa Sondern** and **Bettina Pfleiderer** examine the variations in the use of standardised risk assessment tools for high-impact domestic violence by front-line responders across European countries. They highlight the appropriate understanding of the terms sex and gender, and derive recommendations for risk assessments in this regard.

Strengthening the law enforcement related cooperation with and between countries at Europe's southern borders had been the objective of the Euromed Police VI project, on which **Katalin Berenyi** and **Zoé Freund** report in detail about the achievements of this ambitious and complex project in their paper.

Last but not least, there is a novelty in the Bulletin: for the first time we introduce the section for **Book Reviews**. The review of a book by a knowledgeable reviewer serves more than one purpose: it informs the reader about new releases by publishers than otherwise would have been missed; it provides the author(s) with a pretty public feed-back about the scale of merits earned (or not); it delivers a convenient summary reading of many pages of scientific prose for the reader; finally it can stimulate scholarly debate and practitioners' insight on important and emerging topics. We are happy to present the first two reviews

in this issue, tackling the monumental volume by Cyrille Fijnaut on the “***The Development of Police and Judicial Cooperation in the European Union***” and the highly relevant PhD study “***The Police, the Public, and the Pursuit of Trust***” by Dorian Schaap (see also his article in the previous issue of the Bulletin). The editors would like to thank both pioneering reviewers **Hartmut Aden** and **Rob Mawby** for their sustained efforts.

The editors hope that more book reviews can be published in future issues and are inviting suggestions and offers from readers and publishers.

Dr. Detlef Nogala

Managing Editor