

RESEARCH REPORT:

THE GODIAC PROJECT

By

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GODIAC stands for “*Good practice for dialogue and communication as strategic principles for policing political manifestations in Europe*” (GODIAC). This is a pan-European project, with financial support from the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union. The Swedish National Police Board is the project coordinator. There are 20 partner organizations in 11 European countries actively participating in the GODIAC project. These consist of 12 police organizations and eight research/educational organizations. The project runs from 1 August 2010 until 31 July 2013.

Background

In recent years, several countries have seen an increase in the use of research-based knowledge in policing major events. The Elaborated Social Identity Model (ESIM) and conflict reducing principles have shifted police focus from the use of equipment and vehicles towards contact building and negotiations between the police and demonstrators in order to facilitate peaceful political



The project is run with the financial support from the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union European Commission-Directorate-General Home Affairs HOME/2009/ISEC/AG/182

manifestations. In Denmark, “event-policing- and dialogue” is being developed; in Sweden there are dialogue police units; the German state of Lower Saxony uses anti-conflict managers; and, in the UK, engagement with the demonstrators is developing. This project was conceived during the CEPOL Research seminar on Public Order Policing in June 2009 as a means of increasing the exchange between different countries and between researchers and the police. A call for partners was announced at the seminar and also published in the first edition of the CEPOL Research Bulletin.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to identify and spread good practice for dialogue and communication as strategic principles in managing and preventing public disorder at political manifestations in order to uphold fundamental human rights and to increase public safe-

ty. The project aims to ensure that every perspective is represented and the project therefore integrates operative police work, research and training, making use of specific professional knowledge from these areas of expertise. This will support reaching a deeper understanding of the challenges in policing public disorder at political manifestations and help to build international and institutional networks.

Research questions

The GODIAC project focuses on a set of overall research questions. These are:

- How can communication and dialogue strategies contribute to the prevention of public order disturbances or help to defuse tense situations in demonstrations?
- What are the motives of different kinds of protest groups? What are the different tactics and strategies that they use?
- What are the good examples of police strategies and tactics?

Activities

One of the project's main activities is to carry out 10 field studies during political manifestations in different participating countries. During autumn 2010 and spring 2011, four field studies were carried out in Germany, Portugal, Austria and the UK. More field studies will be carried out in the coming year.

The GODIAC field study groups are made up of commanders, dialogue police, researchers and trainers from different partner countries. In this way, all the different perspectives that are represented in the project also work together in the field. The field study members are trained in the peer review method, a user-focused evaluation method and in modern crowd psychology, which means that all the participants have of the same level of understanding. One of the most interesting field observations so far has been the impact that the increasing use by demonstrators of mobile phones and different social media, like Facebook and Twitter, has on the outcome of the events. This is something which will be addressed and analysed further within the project.

In addition to field studies, the GODIAC project also organizes seminars and workshops for project participants in order to discuss results and developments. There are seminars for partner researchers and an interactive course for field study members on policing dissent in the globalised Europe is in development.

In order to facilitate the exchange of information and communication, project partners have access to the GODIAC platform, which has been developed on CEPOL's Internet based electronic environment.

Results

The project will result in a number of reports that can be used for planning and training: field study reports, a booklet of European examples of good practice for dialogue and communication as strategic principles for policing political manifestations, research reports and a paper on peer-review methodology. Through these activities a European dimension of policing crowds at political manifestation will emerge.

A final conference will also be organised in Stockholm in the first half of 2013. All the partners as well as other international experts will be invited to the conference to discuss the project results and findings.

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ESSAY: THE EVOLUTION OF THE HOME AFFAIRS POLICY AREA AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING: (N)EVER CLOSER UNION?

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Introduction

The European Union has indeed gone far in giving itself institutions and bodies tasked with addressing various policy areas in which the Member States have chosen to cooperate and delegate sovereignty to varying degrees. The policy area of Home Affairs, which essentially addresses the issues of Security and Migration, is one of the most recent; while cooperation began more than 30 years ago through mechanisms of informal cooperation and information exchange networks, it has only recently become more in line with the “Community Method” as we had known it under the previous institutional (pre-Lisbon) configuration.

Moreover, this area has gained a tremendous prominence in recent years both in terms of the political agenda and in terms of its relevance in the domestic debates within Mem-