



## CALL FOR INTEREST – HOSTING AND CO-ORGANISING

### CEPOL meeting for Heads of Law Enforcement Training Institutes

CEPOL invites framework partners and Law Enforcement Training Institutes from EU Member States to express their interest in co-organising and hosting the CEPOL meeting for Heads of Law Enforcement Training Institutes (HOLETI) in 2026. The activity is expected to take place over two full days in the first or second quarter of 2026.

This initiative, comprising a workshop and a hackathon, aims to:

- Catalogue the diverse range of innovative digital learning solutions for law enforcement, (including a training offer that integrates tools for criminal investigations) and related research<sup>1</sup>;
- Facilitate the exchange of best practices for forming of collaborative groups to support the development of virtual education products for law enforcement (LE), including curriculum development;
- Share best practices on micro-accreditation and evaluation of advanced online training tools for law enforcement;
- Explore the opportunities to introduce network schemes related to next-generation digital training resources for law enforcement.

### About CEPOL's meeting for Heads of Law Enforcement Training Institutes (HOLETI)

Building on the success of its first iteration in 2023, the HOLETI workshop has fostered a dynamic intellectual environment by bringing together practitioners, trainers, educators, and researchers in policing and law enforcement from across Europe and beyond. CEPOL is committed to continuing this spirit of cooperation in LE research and training through the organisation of its second edition. For more details on CEPOL's first HOLETI workshop, click [here](#).

The **2026 HOLETI workshop** will focus on innovative digital products that support the training of law enforcement officials, with special emphasis on joint training activities, centres of excellence and mobility programmes. The meeting will also feature a hackathon designed to strengthen research and training capabilities in the law enforcement field.

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<sup>1</sup> "Around 85% of criminal investigations now rely on law enforcement authorities' ability to access digital information", is mentioned in page 6 of the Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions, titled "COM(2025)148: ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy". The document was published on 1 April, 2025.



Recognised as a leading EU entity in law enforcement training, CEPOL contributes significantly to building “a common EU law enforcement culture”, as acknowledged in the recently published [ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy](#). The [2023-2027 CEPOL strategy](#) has already achieved key milestones, including:

- High-level discussions at the latest [Research and Science Conference](#);
- The [CEPOL Research week](#), organised every 2 years;
- Strategic partnerships with European agencies to enhance training modules and operational cooperation.

With 2025 designated as the [European Year of Digital Citizenship Education](#), CEPOL sees a timely opportunity to focus on the digitalisation of law enforcement training. The upcoming workshop will help EU Member States set shared goals, exchange best practices, and develop a strategic roadmap for the future, addressing both the challenges and opportunities of digital citizenship in a law enforcement context.

Hosting a hackathon alongside the workshop will offer participants hands-on experiences with emerging technologies tailored for law enforcement, enhancing their understanding and integration into operational frameworks. This interactive format will empower agencies to embrace digital advancements in support of a more secure and effective pursuit of justice.

CEPOL aims to strengthen collaboration among key stakeholders by expanding networks, advancing research initiatives, and enhancing higher education resources. To this end, it seeks partnerships with universities and research institutions to ensure that law enforcement training remains innovative, adaptive, and aligned with the latest advancements in adult learning methodologies – ultimately improving the effectiveness and impact of training programmes.

## About the hackathon

The proposed hackathon aims to harness the innovative potential of artificial intelligence, digital tools, and emerging technologies to address the complex challenges faced by law enforcement agencies. By bringing together a diverse group of participants – scientists, technologists, law enforcement officials, academics, trainers and policy experts – we aim to foster an environment where creativity meets practicality. The collaborative spirit of the hackathon is expected to not only inspire practical solutions, but also to pave the way for robust cross-sector partnerships. This initiative marks a critical step in enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement actions while ensuring that technology adoption remains aligned with the principles of justice, accountability, public safety, and the full respect of fundamental rights.

In the context of the Heads of Law Enforcement Training Institutes meeting, the hackathon will serve as a platform for innovative ideas and technological applications to flourish. By focusing on real-world applications of AI and other emerging technologies, participants will engage in practical problem-solving that directly impacts law enforcement training,



operations, and research. The goal is two-fold: to boost the development of functional prototypes and raise awareness about currently available tools, while also fostering dialogue around best practices, ethical considerations, and future technological directions in law enforcement. This collaborative effort underscores the need to address evolving challenges through innovation, thereby contributing to a safer and more efficient society.

Given the growing incidence of transnational serious crime and the increasing number of EU instruments and mechanisms designed to enhance cross-border collaboration in the fight against serious and organised crime, it is essential that national law enforcement officials are equipped with adequate research and training resources. Access to these resources will empower officials to engage more effectively with their international counterparts, addressing the complexities of modern criminal activity. This was a topic of discussion at the recent [CEPOL Research and Science Conference "Tackling High-Risk Criminal Networks"](#). By gaining familiarity with available EU facilities, instruments and tools, officials will be better positioned to build competencies required for effective cooperation across Member States.

## About the participants

The meeting (workshop and hackathon) will offer a valuable platform for law enforcement training professionals to explore the full spectrum of innovative digital learning solutions -from the initial development of an idea to its practical implementation and evaluation. This initiative is designed to strengthen collaboration among law enforcement training institutes across the EU, with opportunities for broader international engagement.

To support this objective, participants will include Heads of Law Enforcement Training Institutes from across the EU, researchers specialising in digital learning for law enforcement, multidisciplinary experts involved in the development of learning tools, operational law enforcement staff, policymakers and representatives from academic institutions offering accredited digital learning training products for law enforcement. CEPOL, together with the hosting institution, will welcome approximately 100 participants to foster an enriching and diverse exchange of ideas, practices, and partnerships.

## Information for potential hosts

Local hosts shall play a key role in supporting the successful delivery of the HOLETI workshop and hackathon. Responsibilities, as mentioned in the application form, include:

- Providing a suitable venue with meeting rooms and spaces that meet the requirements outlined in the HOLETI and Hackathon Hosting Requirements;
- Coordinating logistics for networking and eventually social events, including coffee breaks, lunches, and a social dinner;
- Serving as the local point of contact to support the implementation of the programme and facilitate communication between organisers and participants.



## Expression of Interest to host the HOLETI workshop and hackathon

CEPOL Framework Partners, training institutes and universities from EU Member States interested in hosting the HOLETI meeting (workshop and hackathon) are invited to contact CEPOL at their earliest convenience via email at [research.inquiries@cepol.europa.eu](mailto:research.inquiries@cepol.europa.eu) to express their interest. To formally apply, interested institutions must complete and submit the **application form** by **15 September 2025**. The application should include:

- A detailed description of the proposed venue, addressing all criteria listed in the HOLETI workshop and hackathon hosting requirements (see application form);
- A brief overview of the local team that would act as the onsite organising partner;
- Travel and accommodation information including indicative hotel pricing across categories;
- An outline of proposed networking and social events that could be integrated in the programme.