

**CEPOL Annual Research and Science Conference
“Policing civil societies in times of economic constraints”**

**SOME REFLECTIONS ON
MANAGING INNOVATION
IN
PUBLIC POLICING**

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SOURCES OF WORK (IN PROGRESS) :

STUDY OF LITERATURE Easton, M. (2013). Managing Innovation in Public Policing. In: Bruinsma, G.; Weisburd, D. (Eds.). Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice. New York: Springer.

ROUNDTABLE Easton, M., & Bisschop, L. (2013). Comparative perspectives on the policing-science nexus. In P. Ponsaers & L. Gunther Moor (Eds.), De Deinzer Scheepsalmanak. Verslag van de conferentie 'Tides and currents in police theories' op 12 en 13 december 2012 in Deinze (pp. 70-87). Den Haag/Gent: Centrum voor Politiestudies/Stichting Maatschappij en Veiligheid.

EMPIRICA DATA (IN PROGRESS) Easton, M. (2013). Empirical research in 6 local police forces in the Flemish part of Belgium. Interviews with police chiefs, middle managers and street-level cops on context, content and process of change management.

Lessons learned

1. There is a significant diversity in the content of innovations taking place.
2. Most of the innovations have been ‘exported’ throughout the (Western) world
3. Effects of most innovations on practices & performances is unclear.
4. Innovations are often ‘lost in translation’.

Lessons learned

5. Remarkable little research on the management of innovation in public policing
6. Challenges related to the management of innovation in public policing that need to be addressed.
7. Collecting evidence-based practices is important to any advancement in the field – using the evidence is crucial

Main argument: strengthening the policing-science nexus is one of the necessary means to put a step forward in managing change/innovation in public policing.

Some of the enablers being discussed at the Roundtable in Ghent

1. Embedded cops and researchers ('pracademics')
2. Reciprocal and long-term network structures
3. Fostering translation of research into practices
4. Police education,...

Some final pragmatic reflections...

Why do these findings matter?

Context of austerity measures : where to cut?

Education stays a core element in dealing with these challenges.

Any advice?

Do not get lost in ‘translation’

Keep thinking ‘out of the box’

Join networks in which exchanges are taking place

Keep yourself motivated as the world of crime and criminal organisations have far more ‘innovators’ and ‘early adapters’ than law enforcement agencies...

