



COREPOL

Conflict Resolution, Mediation and
Restorative Justice and the Policing of
Ethnic Minorities in Germany, Austria and Hungary

Interaction and Conflict Management between the Austrian Police and People with Sub-Saharan African Migration Background under Study. Preliminary Findings of the European Project COREPOL (EU-FP7).

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.SIAK



REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
SICHERHEITSAKADEMIE

INSTITUT FÜR RECHTS- UND KRIMINALSOZIOLOGIE
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General Project Information

- *European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007 - 2013)*
- *Project team: DHPOL, ERS, .SIAK, IRKS, RTF*
- *Project period: 01.01.2012 – 31.12.2014*
- *Project phases: focusing on Germany, Austria and Hungary*
 - I Stocktaking of the integration of Restorative Justice
 - II *Research about Minority Policing (current project phase)***
 - III Development of Restorative Justice oriented applications for Minority Policing

'The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 285166 (COREPOL).'



Field Study Design & Overview Data Collection

- *Main issues:*
 - Acceptance/non-acceptance of police by minority
 - Critical experiences and encounters with the police
 - Conflict resolution between police and minority – elements of RJ?
- *Research paradigm & methods:*
 - Qualitative research strategy & comparative design
 - Qualitative interviews, group discussions, observations etc.
- *Sampling & spatial setting (Austria – current status)*

<i>(Persons, double- countings!)</i>	African Minority		Police		NGOs	Politicians/ authority	Σ
	AM	Repres. Afr. Org.	No Leadership	Leadership			
Vienna	11	5	16 (2 AM)	8	11 (4 AM)	2 + ?	47
Graz	13	2	10	7	6 (2 AM)	1 + ? (1 AM)	37
Σ	24	7	26	15	17	3 + ?	84



Areas of conflict

- *Language problems & communication difficulties*
- *Disrespectful experiences, racist utterances*
- *Identity checks/ethnic profiling*
- *Preferences of 'natives' during official acts*
- *Physical violence*



Conflict Resolution and Complaint Management: Current situation

- *Existing possibilities for complaining:*
 - *UVS-complaint (UVS = independent administrative panel)*
 - *Meeting between the involved officials and the complainant according to § 89 Secure Police Act*
 - *Complaints offices (NGOs – e.g. ZARA)*
- *Feedback regarding the current situation*
 - *Few complaints*
 - *Imbalance of power*
 - *Mediation during official act is not possible, but subsequent reflection*



Conflict Resolution and Complaint Management: Recommendations

- *Recommendations:*
 - *Making use of existing African associations, NGOs, organizations*
 - *Need of improvement of police education*
 - *Development of “Error Culture” within the police*
 - *Need of independent complaint office*
- *Alternative conflict resolution approaches:*
 - *African community: “Council of Elders”*
 - *Police: Community Policing, prevention strategies*



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Thank you for your attention!