



Vrije Universiteit Brussel



# A European Quality Assurance System for police education, a challenge for CEPOL?

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***“Forget everything you learned at the police school, from now on you will learn what police work is all about...”***



# What's this presentation about?

- The black box of police education needs more pedagogical insights and expertise
  - improve knowledge transfer
- More education and less police in the police education system
- Implement a quality assurance system in the European police education system

# Need for pedagogical insights

- Little impact from police education on socialisation into police profession
- Learning on the job, learning from experience
- Education process = black box
- Insights in knowledge transfer?

# More education less police

- Police education is an exclusive police matter
- No societal influence in police programs
- Police education is steered by corporate management logic
- Unchain police education institution from national mother organisation
  - Bring in EU to steer on police education (cf. Bologna process)



# European accreditation agency

- Development accreditation criteria for police education programs
  - Based on guidelines ENQA
  - Police professionals with academic police scholars
- Providing a system of external evaluation
  - By a professional and recognized quality assurance organization



# Proces of external evaluation and accreditation

Police institution applying for accreditation of police study program

Creation of self-evaluation report by program holders

Onsite visit of visitation (international) panel  
(consisting professional-academic scholar –  
pedagogical expertise)

Evaluation report of panel (does the program meet  
quality standards of police education)

Accreditation by accreditation bureau

# Advantages of accreditation

- Quality criteria: police + academic standards
- Stimulation for investing in quality
- More accountability and transparency of police study programs
- Encouraging curriculum development and innovation
- Programs become more comparable – level and content is made clear
- Increasing mobility of students and staff
- Differences in quality between programs become clear
- Professionalization of police education (and police profession)

Chan ... Bordieu...

# MORE STATUS FOR POLICE EDUCATION SYSTEM



EAPEA

- Hungary
- France
- Belgium
- ....
- Spain

