



‘Because of their scale and high visibility, major events are vulnerable targets for unlawful activities, including terrorism, and can be exploited by organized criminal groups to further their illegal activities.’

Dr Jonathan Lucas, Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) (2014)

Online Module: Executive Summary

A major event is an organised or foreseeable event which may give rise to threats, and which has at least one of the following:

- historical or political significance;
- large media coverage;
- participation of people from different countries;
- participation of VIPs;
- participation of large numbers of people.

Common major events include:

- sporting events (e.g. the Olympics, world championships, football European Championships);
- political events (e.g. summits, state visits);
- cultural events (e.g. carnivals, festivals, celebrations);
- other events (e.g. scientific conferences, commercial expos).

In most EU countries, the approach to policing major events has evolved considerably during the last twenty years. This evolution has changed the way that police officers and authorities view and interact with a crowd. Crowds used to be viewed negatively, as something not to be trusted, and the goal was to ‘eliminate’ them. Nowadays crowds are viewed positively, as a normal development of society, and the goal is to cooperate with them.

This module aims to raise awareness of the common understanding of major event security within the EU, and to provide a brief overview of policing major events under this approach. The module is aimed at senior law enforcement officers, especially those involved in planning and/or managing the policing of major events.

The module consists of an introduction, nine topic chapters and a glossary of terms and abbreviations related to policing major events. In the My Progress section, users can check their levels of understanding of each of the topics by considering a selection of true/false statements.

The individual chapters are:

1. **Introduction**
2. **Philosophy:** An outline of the widely accepted theoretical framework of managing major event security in the EU.
3. **Leadership and Coordination:** The organisational, leadership and command and control aspects of major event security operations, and an overview of the IPO Model.
4. **Intelligence:** A theoretical and operational overview of the gathering, analysing and dissemination of information and intelligence.
5. **Operational Concept:** An overview of the types of major events and the applicable strategies and tactical options of both event-related and non-event-related security.
6. **Contingency Planning and Crisis Management:** An overview of contingency planning activities for major event security operations, and of risk, crisis and a range of possible responses.
7. **Communication:** A description of the intra- and inter-agency and mass communication options during the preparatory, execution and post phases of major event security operations.
8. **Managerial Aspects:** An introduction to operation support issues such as logistics, human resources, public-private partnerships (PPPs) and research and development.
9. **Evaluation:** A discussion of operational debriefing and accountability, and of psychological intervention.
10. **Education and Training:** An overview of the education and training needed for police decision-makers regarding the policing of major events, including a brief discussion of the contents and methods of learning and training.