CEPOL European Research & Science Conference
"Preparing Law Enforcement for the Digital Age"
8-10 June 2022
Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania

Policing in a Digital Age:
a Balance Between Community-based Strategies and Technological Intelligence

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Summary

1. State of the Art
2. TechPol and TechInt in the Digital Age
3. Community Policing: policing by consent
4. Intelligence Led-Policing and Community Policing
5. Privatization and Militarization: old/new trends
6. Discussion/Conclusions

Context

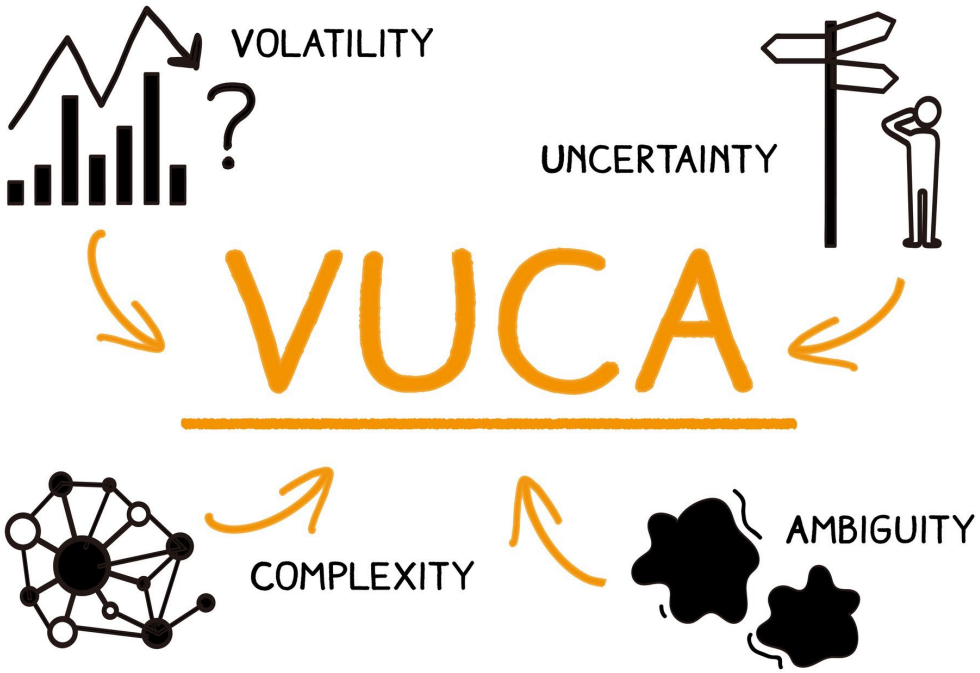
Globalization (Recassens, 2003)

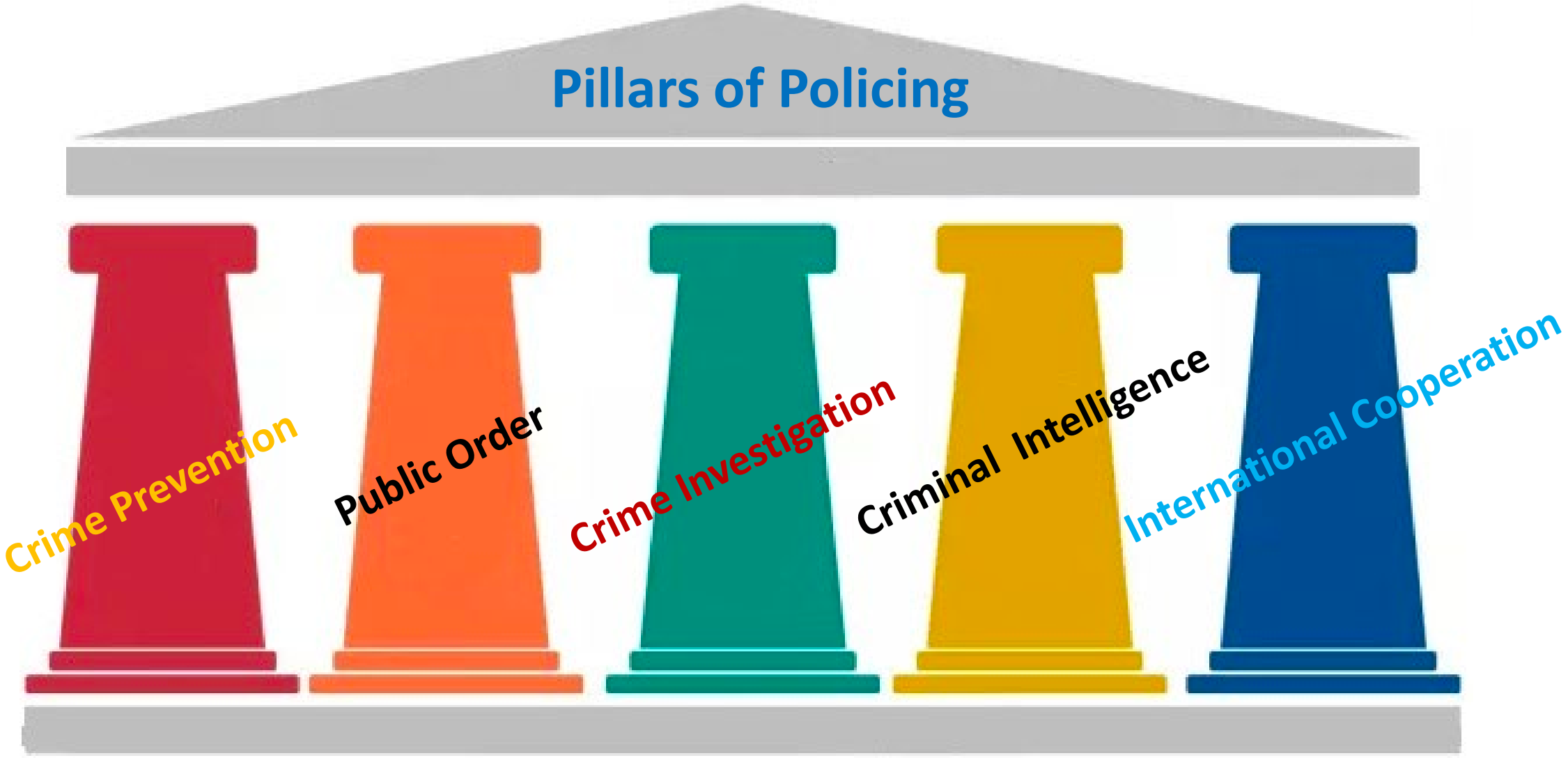
Liquid times (Bauman, 2007)

Network society (Castells, 2009)

Risk society (Beck, 1992)

From a VUCA world to a BANI world




Pillars of Policing
Crime Prevention
Public Order
Crime Investigation
Criminal Intelligence
International Cooperation

Elias, L. (2018)

Aims of the Investigation

Our investigation seeks to answer the following starting question:

- ✓ **Will it be possible to build-up an integrated approach between community policing, intelligence led-policing and technological policing?**

Digital Age

- ✓ **4.95 billion** active internet users (DataReportal, 2022).
- ✓ **4.28 billion** unique mobile internet users worldwide, representing around 54.6 percent of the global population (Statista, 2020).
- ✓ **4.62 billion** social media users around the world

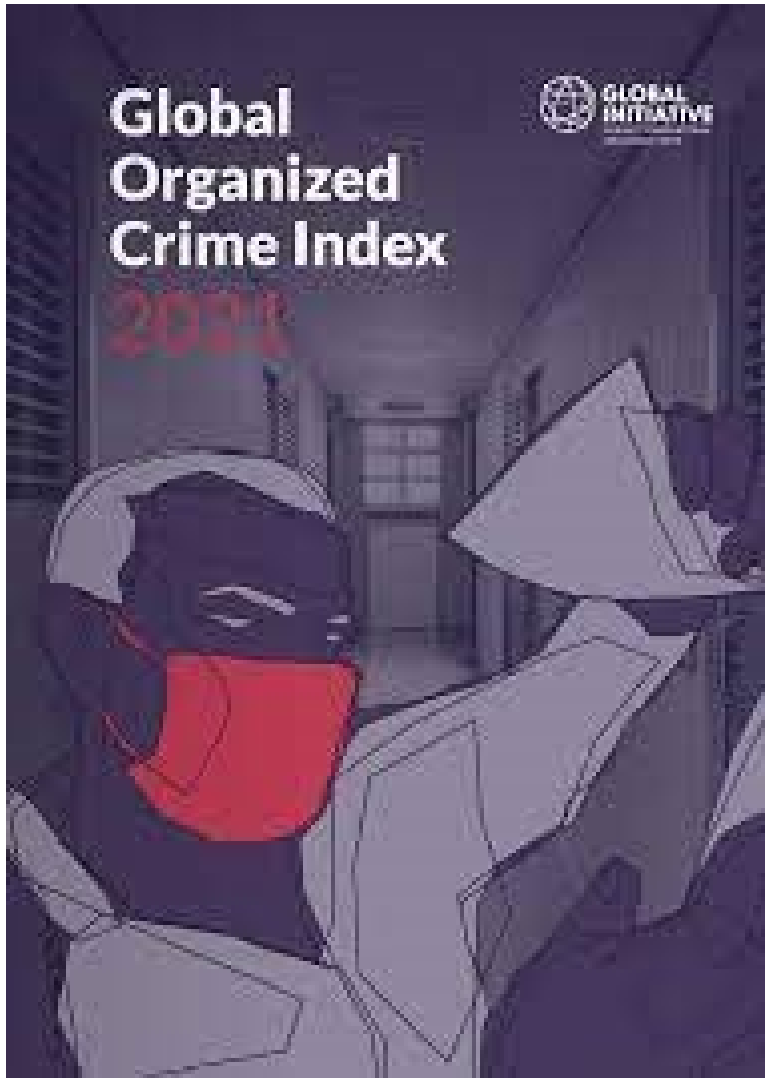
Global Organized Crime Index, 2021

The vast majority of the world's population (79.2%) live in countries with high levels of criminality, and in countries with low resilience (79.4%)

Most prevalent:

- ✓ human trafficking
- ✓ drugs trafficking
- ✓ firearms trafficking

(Global Organized Crime Index, 2021: 40-41).



Global Organized Crime Index, 2021

- ✓ Close to 40% of the criminal networks active in the EU are involved in the **trade in illegal drugs**.
- ✓ 40% have a **hierarquical structure** and 60% are **fluid structures**.
- ✓ 80% use **legal business structures** for their criminal activities.
- ✓ 68 % use **basic money laundering** methods
- ✓ 60% **use violence** as part of their criminal businesses
- ✓ 60 % engage in **corruption**

(SOCTA, 2021)

(IOCTA, 2021)

Models of Policing

Hot Spots Policing

Intelligence Led-Policing

Zero Tolerance

Community Policing

Broken Windows Theory

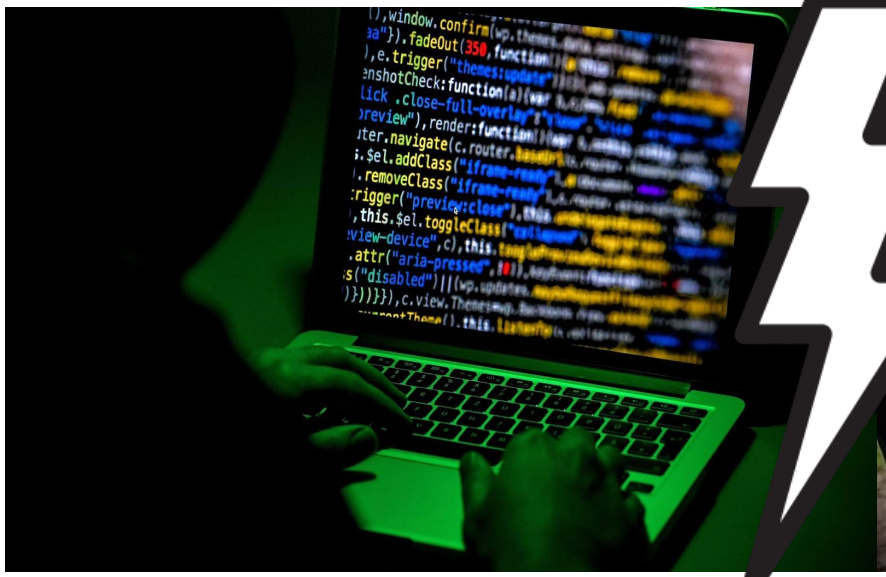
Evidence Based Policing

Problem Oriented Policing

Predictive Policing

Militarization and hard policing versus community based policing versus privatization

Techint versus Humint



Tech Policing

Emergent/disruptive technologies

Civil Rights

Terrorism

Organized Crime

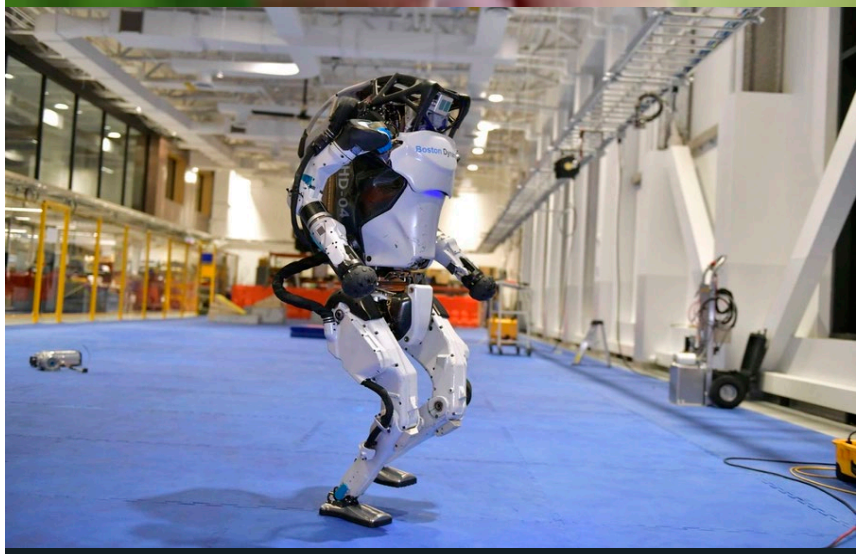
Data Protection

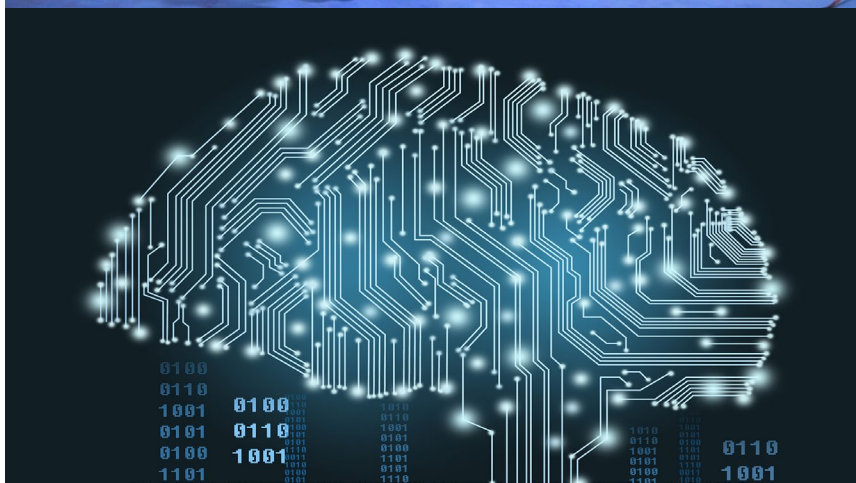
Opportunities

Strenghts

Weakenesses

Threats





Dataveillance

Big Data

License Plates Reading

CCTV and
Body Worn Cameras

5G Communication

Robots

Artificial Intelligence

IoT Connected Devices

Self-Driving Vehicles

Genetic editing and synthetic biology

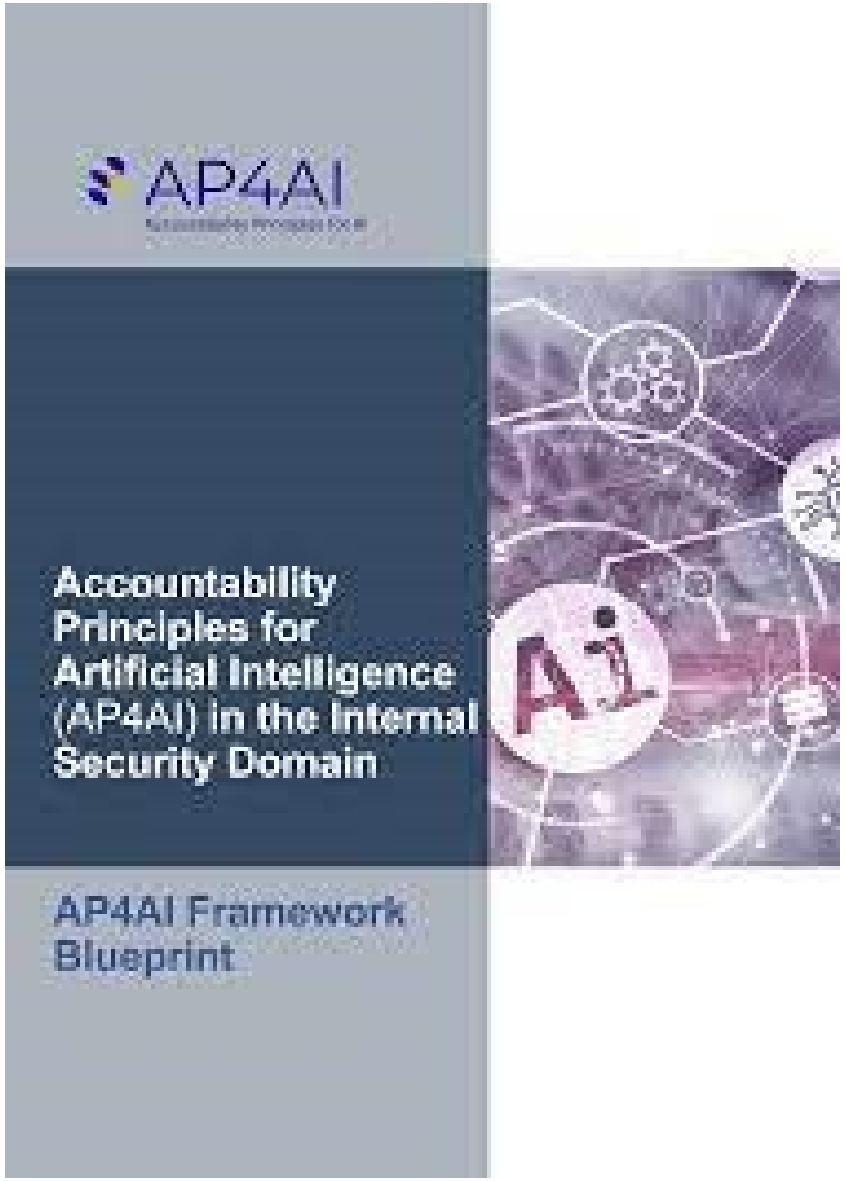
Biometrics

3D/4D printers

Laser Weapons

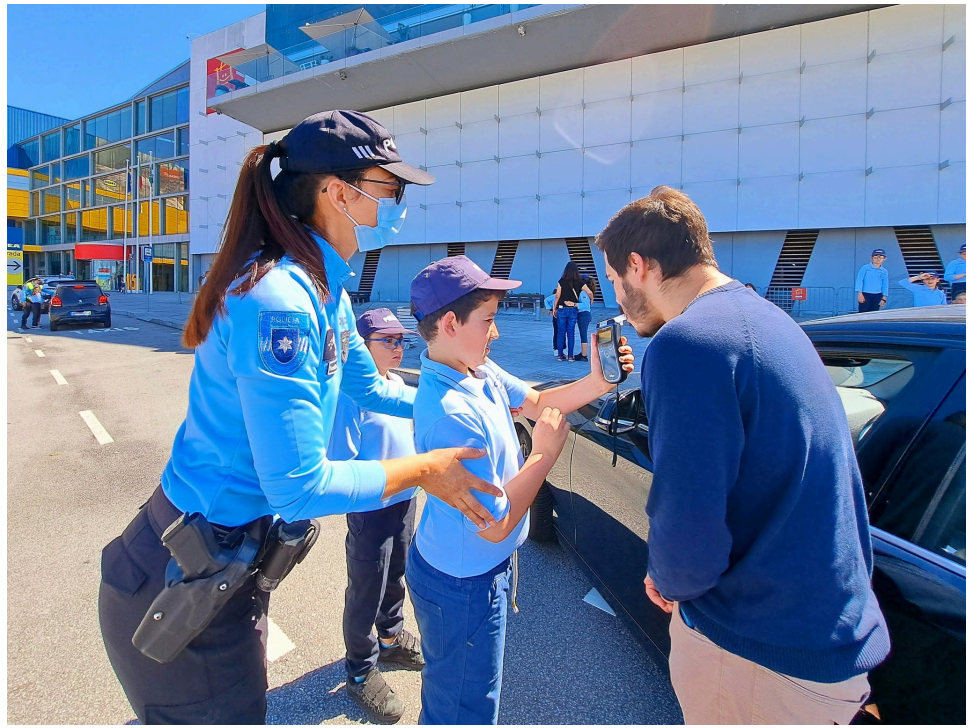
(Nano) Drones

EU SURVEY



- ✓89.7% agreed or strongly agreed that AI should be used for the protection of children and vulnerable groups
- ✓87.1% agreed that AI should be used to detect criminals and criminal organisations
- ✓78.6% agreed that AI is used to predict crimes before they happen

Community Policing



No academic consensus about Community Policing.

Disagreement about its advantages and disadvantages.

Almost all Police Agencies in Europe have already implemented similar programs.

Community Policing

- ✓ 93.1% positively evaluated the attitude of the PSP police officers
- ✓ 69.6% considered it good or very good;

- ✓ 83.9% positively evaluated the ability of PSP officers to deal with security problems
- ✓ 52.2% considered it good or very good;

Community Policing

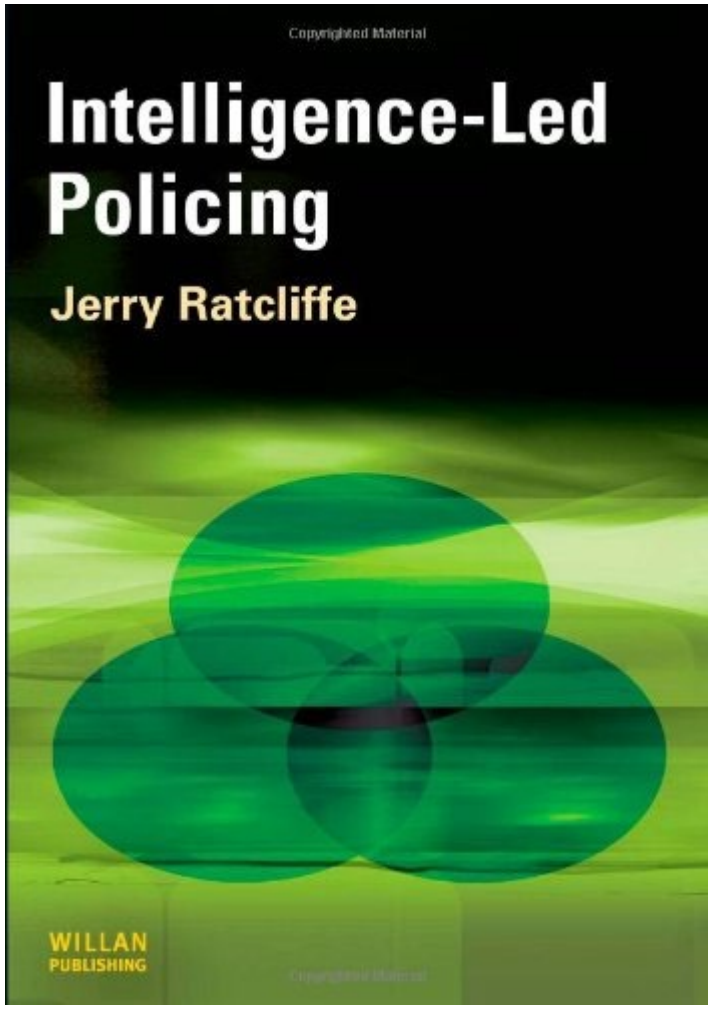
- ✓ 72.2% positively evaluated the presence of PSP police officers at public areas
- ✓ 43.0% considered it good or very good;

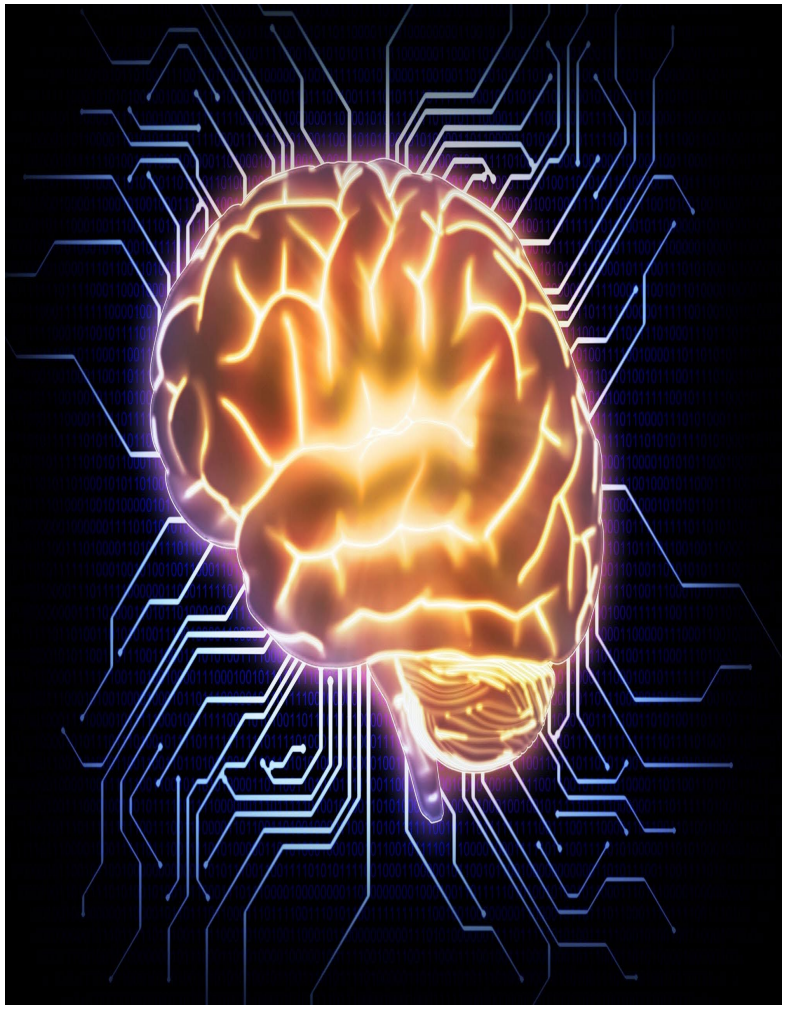
- ✓ 81.4% positively evaluated the police response in urgent situations
- ✓ 51.3% considered it good or very good;

Community Policing

- ✓ 80.9% of reported being familiar with the School Safety program;
- ✓ 77.5% reported being familiar with the Support Program for Victims of Domestic Violence;
- ✓ 55.6% reported being familiar with the Support to Elderly People.

Intelligence Led-Policing





Militarization and Privatization

Discussion/Conclusions

An integrated approach between community policing strategy, intelligence led-policing, techint and humint, may be crucial to prevent and fight crime, to maintain a straight relationship with local communities and to improve the quality of police service.

Discussion/Conclusions

- ✓ Prioritization of TECHINT may create an aseptic perspective of reality and increase bias in police and intelligence analyses.
- ✓ Devaluing of community policing and human intelligence (HUMINT) may generate distrust and lack of cooperation from the public
- ✓ Militarization of law enforcement has the potential to undermine citizen's reliance in justice and police

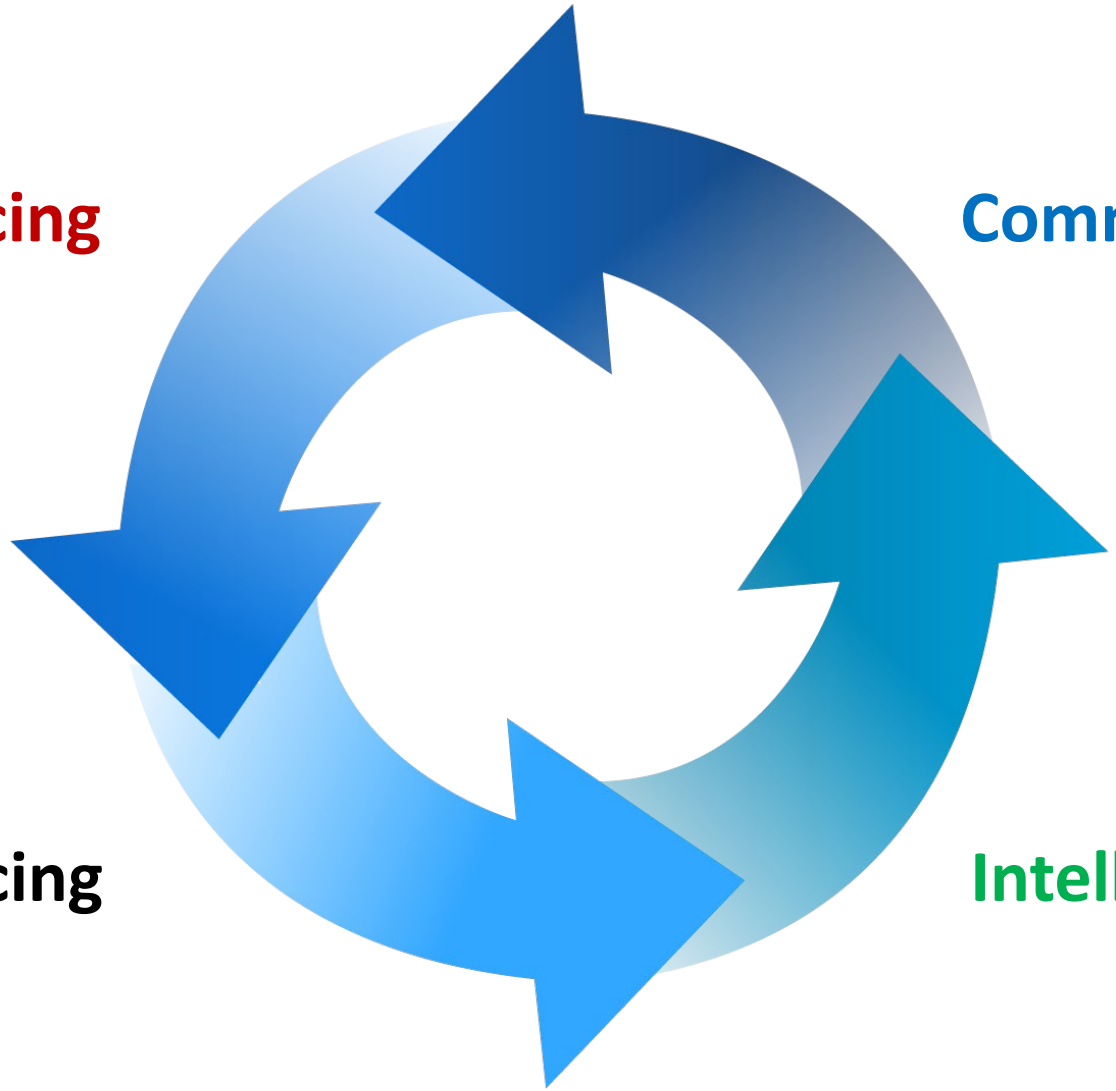
Discussion/Conclusions

- ✓ Evaluation of policing models is fundamental
- ✓ Partnerhips between Police and communities are a key condition for public's cooperation
- ✓ Police to be held accountable for the way the use AI and other emerging technologies and for the consequences of their use.
- ✓ AI should be used for the protection of children and vulnerable groups, and to detect criminals and criminal organizations

Discussion/Conclusions

Technological Policing

Community Policing



Robust Policing

Intelligence Led-Policing

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Thank you very much for your attention!

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