

Exchanging practices, strengthening cooperation

European police exchange programme 2012





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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2012

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Printed in Luxembourg

PRINTED ON ELEMENTAL CHLORINE-FREE BLEACHED PAPER (ECF)

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Foreword



To meet the future global challenges faced by Member States, Europe requires highly skilled police professionals sharing a similar culture, who have the ability to understand, assess and deal with international threats on a pan-European basis.

The European Police College (CEPOL) takes pride in playing its role in developing these competencies and the development of a European police culture, based on mutual values and respect. The European police exchange programme is just one example of the activities organised by CEPOL to foster police cooperation, so that we can fulfil our mission to contribute to police cooperation through learning to the benefit of European citizens.

The Stockholm programme calls for a law enforcement exchange programme, inspired by Erasmus and CEPOL, which in turn supports exchange programmes as a practical means for police officers, experts and trainers to acquire knowledge and skills in tackling cross-border crime.

The European police exchange programme was launched in 2011 as a four-year pilot programme designed to run from 2011 to 2014. Funded entirely from CEPOL's budget, last year's programme enabled the participation of 292 police officers from 26 Member States and I am pleased to say that overall satisfaction with the programme was very high (86 %). Such has been the interest in the programme that this year we had more applicants than places and early indications from Member States suggest that next year's programme will also be oversubscribed.

As the internal security challenges facing the Member States become ever more complex, the European police exchange programme provides an important platform upon which a dynamic European police culture can be built.

This year's programme has built on the strengths achieved last year, with greater demand, a greater number of exchanges and greater satisfaction, and we hope that we will continue this trend in future years.

Dr Ferenc Bánfi
Director

Introduction



I'm delighted to introduce this review of the European police exchange programme 2012.

Established in 2006, the exchange programme is a very successful pillar of CEPOL's activities and we have seen increasing interest from the Member States, culminating in over 300 applications from police officers and experts last year. In 2012, we also had a large number of applications and all available exchange places were filled after just one call. The continuing popularity of the programme demonstrates the importance and relevance of this activity to achieving better police cooperation and a more unified police culture in Europe.

This publication is a record of the 2012 exchange programme. It combines information about the programme itself with personal accounts from some of the police officers that took part in exchanges. It is clear from these accounts that participants have gained knowledge from experiencing the tools and tactics used by police forces in other countries to fight the same types of crime. This platform for the exchange of knowledge and best practice contributes both to our mission and the aims of the Stockholm programme.

As in previous years, a thorough evaluation of this year's programme will take place, so that we can continue to improve the programme and continue to offer senior police officers and experts the opportunity to benefit from established cross-border cooperation.

Detlef Schröder

Deputy Director and Programme Manager of 2012 CEPOL European police exchange programme

About the European Police College

Security threats don't stop at borders and nor should Europe's capacity to fight those threats.

CEPOL — the European Police College — is an EU agency dedicated to training police officers and, in particular, to strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies across Europe to respond to evolving security threats, focusing on those with a European — or cross-border — dimension. CEPOL is based in Bramshill, in the United Kingdom.

Every year, CEPOL organises approximately 100 activities from a course catalogue developed in response to the current assessment of security threats and the needs of the EU Member States. Taking guidance from the EU's internal security strategy, the policy cycle and the Stockholm programme, CEPOL is able to create relevant and topical learning activities. Courses and seminars in cybercrime and counter-terrorism, organised crime and drug trafficking are examples of the types of activity that CEPOL organises. In 2011, over 4 000 police officers and experts took part in a CEPOL activity, either classroom- or web-based.

CEPOL draws on the expertise of its network partners, harnessing knowledge and resources from across the EU, to develop and deliver training programmes. CEPOL also works with fellow EU agencies, such as Europol, Frontex and Eurojust, as well as other international organisations, including Interpol, to ensure that the most serious security threats can be tackled with a collective response.

Building on 10 years' experience in classroom-based learning, CEPOL began offering e-learning in 2011, thereby opening access to CEPOL products to any police officer who has access to a computer. CEPOL uses new technology to provide different e-learning options: police officers can learn individually through self-paced courses or by participating in an online webinar. CEPOL also provides a platform for online communities to share best practice and expertise on issues from social media and policing to bioterrorism.

CEPOL: strengthening police cooperation through learning.

About the European police exchange programme

The European police exchange programme was set up in accordance with the Hague programme (2004), followed by the Stockholm programme adopted by the Member States in 2009. The Hague and Stockholm programmes aim at strengthening freedom, security and justice and emphasise the importance of developing systematic exchange programmes for police cooperation and training by the European Commission in close cooperation with CEPOL.

The European police exchange programme is a bilateral exchange of commanders, senior police officers, experts and police trainers from Member States of the European Union. The aim of the programme is to promote mutual trust between senior police officers and training staff, resulting in the support and development of a European dimension to police cooperation and training. The programme gives participants the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the law enforcement organisations in the hosting countries and the EU agencies for police and judicial cooperation, and to enhance their knowledge on a personal, organisational and European level.

Recently, the European police exchange programme has become also a successful tool for creating a constructive environment for closer cooperation among the law enforcement organisations in the EU. The added value of these exchange visits was proven in several cases where a specific support and cooperation has been sought and established consequently.

Objectives and activities

The exchange programme's objectives are:

- to promote mobility and allow the exchange of police officials, in the framework of practical training programmes;
- to establish a common and shared practical knowledge in different police fields;
- to disseminate and share, at the EU level, police good practices;
- to contribute to the creation of the European police identity;
- to encourage mutual learning and networking in the frame of a common European police cooperation.

Activities and topics for 2012

The programme was aimed at organising exchanges on the topics prioritised by the Stockholm programme, including trafficking in human beings, organised crime and drug trafficking. In addition, Member States suggested other relevant exchange topics for 2012, for example police psychology.

As in 2011, the programme was made up of bilateral exchanges between senior police officers, experts, trainers and commanders, as well as group study visits, primarily to EU agencies operating in the field of justice and home affairs.

Topics covered by the 2012 European police exchange programme:

Police officers and scientific and research experts:

- trafficking in human beings
- community policing and prevention of radicalisation
- financial crime
- policing major events
- law enforcement data exchange
- forensics
- crime prevention
- drug trafficking/synthetic drugs
- counter-terrorism

- human rights
- organised crime
- cybercrime
- illegal immigration — new topic
- container shipments — new topic
- mobile organised crime groups — new topic
- network for fugitive active search teams — new topic.

Senior teaching staff and educational programme developers:

- police training and education systems
- civilian crisis management
- distance learning
- learning environment.

Topics for commanders:

- management and leadership
- police ethics
- public–private partnerships (public and private security sector).

Study visits were organised at:

- Europol (European Police Office)
- OLAF (European Anti-Fraud Office)
- EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction)
- Frontex (European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union)
- Eurojust (the EU’s Judicial Cooperation Unit), jointly with Europol.

Exchanging practices

Trafficking in human beings

Participating countries:



Bulgaria



Estonia



Spain



France



Malta



Netherlands



Poland

'There are so many positive outcomes that I gained from my exchange. I got many new contacts in the Polish police and also in the border guard. This experience gave me knowledge about the structure of the police system in Poland. I also got a very good overview on trafficking in human beings (THB) in Poland — they have more experience in this field than us in Estonia, so I learned a lot from their practice. I also got to share different stories and practice about criminal investigation and trafficking in human beings and I got some great ideas about criminal investigation, which was one of my personal goals in this experience.'



Piret RAUDMETS, Estonia, on exchange to Poland

'The main outcome of this exchange was the possibility to learn from a different police agency, with its own procedures on the topic of THB. I was able to exchange different experiences with all the members.'

The main best practice that I learned about THB was the integral approach. An example of this is the centre of expertise on human trafficking and smuggling, which is composed of police officers from all the agencies involved in the fight against THB in the Netherlands. These agencies include the KLPD (national crime squad), the IND (immigration and naturalisation service), the Royal Marechaussee, the social crime investigation service (SIOD) and national staff for the support of the alien police. The main function of the expertise centre is to analyse all the intelligence generated by all institutions of the Dutch government and generate several information products that could support the investigations of the regional or national police agencies and its partners. They also participate in the education of police officers, giving presentations about THB and providing expertise to their partners when they are required.'

During my exchange, we also exchanged the different factors and findings which our police agencies use in detecting human smuggling and/or trafficking.'

Alberto RODAO MARTINI, Spain, on exchange to the Netherlands



Community policing and prevention of radicalisation

Participating countries:



Czech Republic



Germany



Italy

'No matter which police force I visited, I saw that there are the same problems as we have in Germany. In my many discussions I found out that in Italy the developments concerning police work are very similar to ours. For example, violence of football fans and fighting this, avoiding taxes and treating dangerous people released from prison are some of the subjects police in both countries have to handle. The open way colleagues talked to me about their difficulties made it possible to exchange different solutions or to see that in some cases, the same ways lead to success. For example, bans on visiting football stadiums or of leaving the country before games in other countries are very effective instruments against football hooligans in Italy and Germany.'



Corinna KOCH, Germany, on exchange to Italy

I think that this programme gives very useful insights into the police work of other European countries. New ideas can be taken home and bring new impulses for daily work. Contacts with colleagues in other countries and new networks make it possible for future contact with these persons in matters concerning their country, because necessary cooperation between police of different countries becomes nearly the daily work of policemen in Europe.'

'During my visit, I could experience different important practices such as public viewing during the European football championship in which I took part (Germany won anyway!). It was a nice experience being with policemen (in their car) and looking around the town to maintain order and to give a hand to people in the streets. I was impressed by the availability of the German police for every call and every need people can have. An important example of this availability is another practice I experienced there: crime prevention. Germany efficiently fights against crime, trying to prevent it. I was shown all they have done in the last years: prevention against alcohol, against violence, drugs, robberies, prevention against car accidents, etc. I found all this unique and above all useful to society especially because crime prevention works in the schools, between young people, children most of the time. I was impressed by the way German police care for their people, trying to prevent even when intervening. I really appreciated it because it is useful. Then I took part in exchanging information about right-wing extremism which was the main theme of my visit. It was really interesting because I found the German police very sensitive to this problem.'

Finally, I visited two prisons which I really was interested in because I'm a penitentiary police official. Prisons are very well structured and management is really professional and efficient. Almost everything is automatic and that means less stress for people working there.'

Alessandra COSTANTINI, Italy, on exchange to Germany

Financial crime

Participating countries:



Bulgaria



Czech Republic



Estonia



Latvia



Hungary



Malta



Netherlands



Poland



Portugal

'The exchange programme gave me the opportunity to acquire important knowledge about the legal and police system of a different European country and to discuss investigative methods used to deal with financial crimes. As a result, I was familiarised with different police approaches in the field of cross-border financial criminality which will be very useful for improving my professional performance in this field at my workplace. I improved my knowledge on criminal financial threats and got acquainted with different methods of conducting investigations in this field.



During the programme we discussed investigative methods a lot. We also shared information about equipment and databases used in this field. We also presented to each other cases related to financial crimes based on our own professional experience. So even though it's not easy to summarise practices that could be directly shared because police procedures and legal systems are significantly different in both countries, we learnt a lot from what we said, from what we felt and what we exchanged. I think we can surely benefit considerably from this exchange and work more efficiently in the future.'

Armando PEREIRA, Portugal, on exchange to Bulgaria

'During my visit I visited different investigative bodies in Sofia, learning more about the practical aspects of the investigation issues not only dealing with economic crimes. The programme of my visit was divided into several parts, every day we kept on visiting new organisations, including the International Operational Cooperation Directorate, the National Investigative Service and the Research Institute of Forensic Science.

Visiting all these organisations gave me an opportunity to learn about their structure, main objectives, expectations, theoretical and practical approaches in their daily work. I can point out one more very significant advantage of these visits, which is meeting police officers working practically with criminal cases. I was highly interested in the practical approach of the investigative process in Bulgaria, basically working on economic crimes, and as a result I can conclude that pre-trial proceedings in Estonia differ from those in Bulgaria.'

Regina ALEKSEJEVA, Estonia, on exchange to Bulgaria



'It is very useful and helpful to exchange information and expertise, and cooperate across borders — especially with neighbouring countries. The Lithuanian Financial Crime Investigation Service protects the state financial system by disclosing criminal actions and other violations of law. The most important goals are to investigate and prevent criminal acts related to money laundering, VAT embezzlement, and illegal receipt and use of funds from the EU and other foreign countries. It turns out that the Lithuanian service implements operative measures, and discloses and conducts pre-trial investigations in a very similar way to the Polish police, with similar mechanisms being used by both countries. The exchange visit was very well organised, the programme was full of absorbing meetings with interesting people from various institutions dealing with financial crimes and corruption. Within five working days I visited six institutions, including the Financial Crime Investigation Service, the Police department under the Ministry of Interior and the Special Investigation Service.'



Joanna ARCIUCH, Poland, on exchange to Lithuania

Policing major events

Participating countries:



Bulgaria



Estonia



Latvia



Hungary

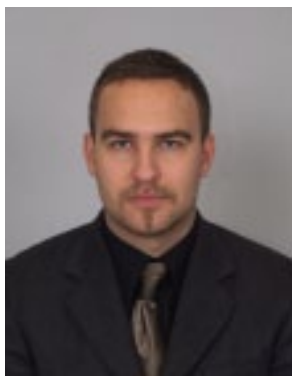


Poland



Romania

'I have learnt about police legislation, equipment and tactics during major sports events like football matches and gained experience of the work of police with supporters, clubs, FA, delegates. In particular, I have seen all the safety preparations before the Hungary vs the Netherlands world championship qualifying match and before the match of Videoton FC vs Diósgyóri VTK from the national league. I had the chance to become familiar with the way the Hungarian police protects public order within public transport before, during and after sporting events.



I was able to see the moving commanding centre in action while protecting the public order during a sports event and mass event. I was fascinated by the 'Sheriff' (one patrol car — one officer) programme and how the Hungarian counterparts succeeded in having fewer police officers on the street. I have seen how Hungarian police organise the protection of the Danube river during major events and I was able to meet colleagues from the Hungarian national football information point and discuss some problems from the international police cooperation before, during and after football matches.'

Gancho CHOKOEV, Bulgaria, on exchange to Hungary

'I learned a lot from Estonia and the police services there. Our Estonian colleagues were very hospitable and they showed us some interesting points of view for police business. I was mainly interested in topics like public order-related major events, hooliganism or riot incidents and intelligence and investigation of them. It was very positive that our visiting team in that period was composed of three colleagues — two from Bulgaria and one from Hungary, so I could exchange information and experiences from both countries. I gained new knowledge on other very important topics too — crisis management, community policing, police social activities, border control. From my experience during the visit the Estonian police has a very well organised and arranged system. They integrated police and border guard boards into one big structure and centralised a lot of administration activities to be more effective. I was fascinated that the Estonian police services are trying to avoid using paper in daily business. Most of the activities are supported by electronic systems and devices. The best of all is that I have the possibility to include some of the good practices in mine and my colleagues' daily job.'

Anton ZLATANOV, Bulgaria, on exchange to Estonia



'I visited the Bulgarian National Football Information Point of the Sofia Criminal Police General Directorate controlled by the Ministry of Interior, which is responsible for the security of all sports events in Bulgaria. It is a kind of intelligence agency. Their task is to decide which matches will be risky, to make preparations for them, to collect information about the supporters, and after some kind of affray to try to determine the identity of the suspect(s), and after three months send the whole case to the prosecutor. They work in close contact with the Bulgarian Football Union, with the private security of the football clubs.



Adam BALOGH, Hungary, on exchange to Bulgaria

Law enforcement data exchange

Participating countries:



Bulgaria



Germany



Italy



Latvia



Lithuania



Hungary



Netherlands



Poland



Romania



Finland

'Romania is a country where a lot of police officers know foreign languages like English, French or Spanish, which is very helpful in international cooperation. In their offices, they have access to very modern and developed police databases (information systems) with very modern facilities. Access to all these systems and databases is possible after activation of the special individual key written on the pen drive. Romanian police officers are used to communication with national SIRENE officers using national forms, similar to forms used at European Union level, which eliminates paper correspondence.



During our exchange it was noticed that despite the internal division of the International Operative Cooperation Directorate into different units responsible for international exchange of information (Europol, Interpol, SIRENE and liaison officers) this process was performed smoothly and with very good cooperation between the abovementioned units. A lot of good practices concerning everyday work on these subjects were exchanged.'

Karol WULCZYŃSKI, Poland, on exchange to Romania

'I visited Thuringia police (both uniformed and criminal police) located in Erfurt and surroundings and Thuringia police school, and the office of the federal police in Wiesbaden, in particular units dealing with environmental crime, and the local administrative authority dealing with authorisation and inspections on CITES based in Weimar.

I personally maintain that the exchange programme has been a very good opportunity to see how the same situations and problems are dealt with by different organisations working in different systems and administrative situations; this is important to understand the possibility to adopt different approaches. It was also very useful to practice more English and to establish direct contact points for future common activities, in particular investigations.'

Luisa CORBETTA, Italy, on exchange to Germany



Forensics

Participating countries:



Bulgaria



Czech Republic



Italy



Lithuania



Hungary



Netherlands



Poland



Romania



Finland



Sweden

'The major positive outcome was that the differences in our work field lies mostly in law and not in the work itself. However, there were some differences. In Finland they do more on environmental investigation, also by forensics. For this they have developed a special net with gear to collect samples at sea/lake. We did some field testing with this and I took an example with me to the Netherlands.

Further, they have more experience in collecting shoeprints. Especially in the wintertime. For this they use some kind of sulphur. I've asked my counterpart to give a presentation to our department when he comes to the Netherlands. Further, I saw some new laboratory equipment, and I have taken some information with me about it, so if our department is changing/substituting we can take a look at this equipment as well.

Further, I met new colleagues and expanded my network (international).

There was also a difference in the basic education. In our country (the Netherlands) all investigations of crime scenes are done by forensics, also the high volume crimes, like burglary. In Finland every police officer gets a basic training in collecting some easy samples (fingerprints, casting). For the more demanding cases they can call the forensic department. During my stay, I saw that the forensic department did investigate some burglaries, but this was because of a possible series of burglaries by the same offender group. That's one of the reasons that they only have about 160 forensic investigators, while we have about 1 300!



Because they are a smaller group the interaction in the department is very high. Everybody knows what the others are doing and is willing to support the others.'

Richard VERMEULEN, the Netherlands, on exchange to Finland

'At CFLP they work with fingerprint developing, fingerprint identification, AFIS database, lip prints and prints from gloves. I was shown how a comparison of ears is performed. I found the comparison with lips and ears very interesting because we do not work with those examinations at SKL. I also realised what different light sources could do for the visualisation of fingerprints.

At the laboratory I was shown several methods that I had only read about before, and we discussed the reason that SKL is accredited for almost all our methods, in Poland you are only accredited for the identification method.

A big difference between SKL and CFLP is that all departments are in the same building at SKL which makes it easy to work together. In Warsaw you have fingerprint identification in one house, DNA in another and the rest of the departments such as chemistry, drug, firearms and forensic IT in another building several kilometres away.

I also had the opportunity to see how the forensic laboratory of metropolitan police Warsaw works, and how the system is working in Poland between the police and CFLP.

I focused on the fingerprint developing and was curious to learn more about how it works in Sweden. At the police laboratory they do the same examinations as at CFLP but in lesser numbers and my opinion is that CFLP has more forensic thinking.

We visited the police academy in Szczytno which was a new world for me because I have not visited the Swedish police school.

You have to go to the police academy in Szczytno if you want to be an expert in some area or a police officer of a higher level. The academy in Szczytno is also the place where you are receiving an education in forensic science. They showed me what possibilities they had to teach in fingerprint developing and forensic IT.'

Maria FORSLUND, Sweden, on exchange to Poland



Crime prevention

Participating countries:



Czech Republic



France



Italy



Hungary



Romania



Sweden

'It is remarkable that there is no unit in the Italian police force which would be the same as Hungarian crime prevention departments. There are subtasks in all units, which are very similar to Hungarian crime prevention's tasks, but there is no dedicated team for this kind of challenge. It was very interesting to see how an important part of investigation work is crime-analysing activities. All departments had their own team working together if necessary. It was a very important and significant experience, to see what big efforts they make in information-giving to the public and build up a uniform image for every armed corps that contacts the human population directly.

They use exciting Facebook, YouTube and Twitter sites for communication and work hard on developing these community media tools.

I have found some simple and cost-effective organisational solutions, e.g. Italian army guards embassies' street fronts in Rome. Carabinieri guarded in fixed places in front of embassy buildings and this way police won more than 40 policemen per shift serving crime prevention in public places.

I gained determining experiences in these two weeks. I got more detailed knowledge about the unfamiliar Italian justice system. I have seen every day the work of my Italian colleagues. I have experienced the openness and helpfulness of Italian people. And last but not least, I noticed how proud colleagues in the Italian justice department are to be members of an armed corps. Despite the negative effects of the global economic crisis they focus on their tasks and they do a perfect job.'

Laszlo OLAH, Hungary, on exchange to Italy

Drug trafficking/synthetic drugs

Participating countries:



Bulgaria



Czech Republic



Estonia



Latvia



Lithuania



Netherlands



Portugal

'Because of the appearance of so-called "designer drugs" in order to avoid the provisions of existing drug laws, it is essential to get an opportunity to see how other countries deal with them. It is very difficult to determine psycho-activity or other pharmaceutical properties of these compounds based strictly upon structural examination. During my visit to the Institute of Criminalistics in Prague I received lots of information in these fields:

- the range of synthetic narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances examined, technical capacity, the way to analyse and determine the structure of the substances, used methods;
- chain of custody and sample traceability from the scene to the laboratory and on to the court, used method;
- new synthetic drugs and psychotropic substances, methods of identification;
- development of methods, validation, quality management requirements, collaborative testing, how the laboratory organises testing and monitoring of the experts;
- content of the expert statement, probability calculation and interpretation of results;
- cooperation with law enforcement officers;
- training of experts, upgrading the qualification — how it is organised.



Taking part in this programme will noticeably help me in my routine work due to the newly gained experience and the collaboration established shared experience in forensic examination processes carried out in laboratories in other countries. Also the programme gave me the opportunity to understand policy issues in the Czech Republic, also in the Netherlands and Portugal.'

Zana MALISA-KOPTENKOVA, Latvia, on exchange to the Czech Republic

'I visited the Natural Drugs Section, part of the National Drug Headquarters, which engages in the fight against the national and international smuggle of cocaine, heroin and cannabis.

For me the best outcome of my exchange was meeting not only colleagues from the Czech Republic, but also from Portugal and Latvia. We got to know each other and I think that is a good basis for future cooperation. What was striking to me was that the essence of the judicial systems of the mentioned countries seemed more or less the same, as well as the way investigations are being done. The biggest difference of course is the attitude towards (soft) drugs and the way it is penalised.

In overview, my counterpart:

- gave me the opportunity to learn about the organisation of the Czech police;
- gave me insight on the way they do drug investigations;
- let me attend a big action in the vicinity of Prague, where about 150 police officers invaded a run-down industrial complex where criminals were growing marijuana in big greenhouses;
- took me to the Czech police museum;
- gave me the opportunity to see and join tactical training as well as shooting practice.

And a lot more.

For me the exchange visit was a very nice experience. I got to spend some time in a beautiful city and I enjoyed the opportunity of getting an inside view of Czech policing.'

Joost BLIJHAM, the Netherlands, on exchange to the Czech Republic



Counter-terrorism

Participating countries:



Germany



Hungary

'I visited the federal criminal police office (Bundeskriminalamt — BKA), division 'State Security-Counter-terrorism (Abteilung: Staatsapparat), which is responsible for analyses and investigating left- and right- wing extremism, war crimes as well as international terrorism. Their task is to investigate and analyse the most dangerous international terrorist activities. They work in close contact with the counter-terrorist law enforcement agencies all over the world.

The German police built up a professional counter-terrorist organisation after the Black September terrorist attack in the Munich Olympic Games in 1972. They have a different police law and police organisation in every Member State of the federation, but in some cases (like the politically motivated serial murder last year) they work in common investigation groups. It was very interesting for me to see how fast they created a temporary organisation to investigate the serial murder.

After visiting the BKA units in Meckenheim I have a general overview of German politically motivated crime, the fight against left- and right-wing extremism, witness protection, financial investigation, as well as investigation in war crime cases, and the techniques and tactics of the special unit of the BKA. It seems that they have made several expansions already, in such circumstances they try to do their best. All of the colleagues were very friendly and helpful. All the organisation and conditions of the whole visit were excellent. They organised brilliant free-time activities and cultural programmes also.'

Balazs ZIMONYI, Hungary, on exchange to Germany

Human rights

Participating countries:



Italy



Latvia



Romania

‘During my exchange, I got to understand different practices in investigations in prison and in general in the system of organisation.

With regard to the first topic, I had the opportunity to see how Latvian prison officers get information from prisoners useful for the investigation and to prevent critical events in the prison. I also had the opportunity to know how the prison officers investigate when a crime happens in the prison. Even if in Latvia the prison officers don’t belong to the police they have the responsibility to investigate when a crime happens in the prison. In this case they have the same power as the other police forces. However, to protect the rights of prisoners only prison officers with special competence can investigate.

For these reasons the system in the investigation is completely different as compared with the Italian system but there is some good equipment and good practices they use and we can take. For example they showed me some new ways used by prisoners to traffic drugs in the prison. They also showed me some special equipment to prevent this type of risk.’

Michela CANGIANO, Italy, on exchange to Latvia

‘The thing I liked the most was an opportunity given to me to take part in some practical activities. For example, it was interesting for me in cooperation with a special investigation unit of the state police combating drug crimes to participate in a spot check of one of the disadvantaged regions of Cagliari city. I gained particularly useful knowledge during my meeting and talking to the chief of Carabinieri police unit called “R.O.S.”, specialised in combating and “liquidation” of organised groups, especially mafia clans and terrorism. It was interesting for me to learn the specifics of R.O.S. work — how many people are involved in fighting the mafia, what tactical and strategic steps are made in this process, what methods and resources are used during the operations the R.O.S. make to struggle against organised crime.

In addition, I had a very interesting visit to Cagliari prison. I was really impressed as to how well equipped the prison cells are and how much attention the prison personnel pays to socialising and correcting the behaviour and the judicial consciousness of prisoners. Visiting forensic institutions and talking to its staff I have learned that contrary to Latvian practice neither odorological research nor lie-detector examinations are made in Italy. During my visit to Italy I met and talked to representatives from the court system — a judge and other workers, who explained to me the judicial procedure of pre-trial detention of criminals which differs radically from the one we have in Latvia. It was interesting for me to compare the legislation of both countries in this sphere as well as to analyse, in what way and how the procedure of detention protects the rights of suspected persons.’



Tatjana GORDINA, Latvia, on exchange to Italy

Organised crime

Participating countries:



Bulgaria



Czech Republic



Estonia



Spain



Hungary



Netherlands



Sweden



United Kingdom

'Learning the criminal procedure in the Netherlands showed me that close cooperation between the police and the prosecutor's office multiplies the efficiency of police work. The cooperation not only means talking on the phone but they have common meetings, in some places they even have common offices. The education system provides a really wide range of knowledge and it covers most of the demands of the law enforcement agencies in the Netherlands. The structure of the Dutch police is very different to the Hungarian police, because the Dutch police is decentralised. It was very interesting comparing the advantages and disadvantages of the different structures.

The practice of handling the intelligence and human information sources are different, because in the Dutch police there is a separated unit, while in the Hungarian police these tasks are integrated in the body of the criminal police. The practice of the community police seems to be effective and gives the advantage of good relations with citizens, which is the basis for the community in judging the police work.

The visit was a lifetime experience for me. I got more experiences than I expected. The hospitality of the people was astonishing and the conditions were excellent. It was really fruitful for me to compare the methods and organisation of the Hungarian and the Dutch police and gave a lot of good examples.'

Gabor HIRIPI, Hungary, on exchange to the Netherlands

'My visit took place in Hungary, mainly in Budapest, and I had the opportunity to become familiar with different agencies linked to police tasks, although not all of them were composed of police officers.

To summarise and from my point of view, Hungary has much less overlapping competences among their law enforcement agencies than Spain, probably because they just have one police organisation. This allows better cooperation because they avoid competence issues.

A very interesting Hungarian practice was that they have procedures to avoid revealing police informers' identities, which I think is a great way to achieve more human sources of information. These informers are also regulated by written police orders, which I think gives legal safety to this kind of police work.

I checked that Hungary has the same problems with storing seized illegal substances or other crime evidence and with destroying some of them as Spain has, because materialising it needs a huge amount of money. I discussed with the Hungarian experts that one of the best ways to solve this problem is to focus on money and properties seized from criminals and the anticipated selling of some goods like cars, which decrease in value as time passes.

Reports made by the Hungarian FIU can be incorporated into a criminal procedure, while in Spain there are just intelligence reports and police enforcement agencies are forced to get the same evidence given by our FIU through other investigation pathways. However, I realised that Spanish money laundering prevention law is very advanced since its last modifications in 2010, and the

Hungarian FIU was very interested in our procedures for seizing cash and money laundering investigations.'

Marina GARMONAL SIMON, Spain, on exchange to Hungary

'In the Czech Republic and the Financial Intelligence Unit, there is basically no difference between asset investigation and money laundering. It goes together, in sequence because it is virtually the same thing. It is the dirty money laundered crime and the police will then seize. The strategy is to work through money laundering first, then they do an asset investigation and profile of the assets, therefore they cannot distinguish between the two.

It's easy to follow the first crime, drugs, extortion, tax evasion, but then it becomes more difficult with the money. You always have to have a predicate to do an asset investigation. And you can use the assets and money laundering reports from banks to find criminals and see where the money goes or ends. Since 2011 there is a new structure for the work with money laundering and asset investigations.

Questions we asked were: where are there specialists, are each of those investigators? We concluded that it is best to place the responsibility on each individual investigator. It is the responsibility and duty to ensure that a financial investigation is carried out. He can assess whether a specialist should do this or if he can do it himself.

There are specialists in each region from Fipo. There is a special office with three policemen or more in each region depending on the needs and size.

Finance police, financial and money laundering investigators are the ones who can handle the most sophisticated money laundering and asset investigations in the Czech Republic. It works on the basis of information and intelligence from the police but also money laundering reports from the Czech Ministry of Finance (MFCR). Financial/money laundering group "Office of assets and money-country ring" is the recipient (contact point) of the MFCR's reports. The finance police sends them on to the police. MFCR and FIU are civilian units in the Ministry of Finance.'

Johan NILSSON, Sweden, on exchange to Czech Republic

Cybercrime

Participating countries:



Bulgaria



Estonia



Italy



Hungary

'There are small differences in the jurisdictional systems of Bulgaria and Hungary, but the main guidelines when fighting cybercrime are the same all over the world, because of the specific nature of the job.

Fighting cybercrime in modern conditions is an extremely important and responsible task for the law enforcement agencies all over the world, and it's a very specific job. On a regional and global level, damages from the activities of hacking forums, botnets, carding groups, groups of money mules, etc. are worth billions of dollars. While law enforcement officials have to exchange letters and reports, in the world of "hackers" things happens within minutes! Speaking of this at the time of the visit we exchanged details of the best ways to make a computer forensic examination, Internet investigations, ways to use proxy servers and anonymous techniques, specifics of surveillance on cyber criminals and the proper hardware and software for doing the above in the right way.



As I can see in the past years, methods and tactics when dealing with cybercrime are almost the same all over the world, but it was interesting for me to understand that it's a good idea to share information with foreign law enforcement agencies even when there is no way to continue your investigation. We had some DDoS cases which we finished unsuccessfully and I have learned from my Hungarian colleagues that it's a good idea to send all the intelligence information to the colleagues from Europol for further investigation purposes.'

Vladimir DIMITROV, Bulgaria, on exchange to Hungary

'I got some specific information and software that I can use in my work. I got some contacts with Bulgarian policemen I can cooperate with. I got acquainted with some instruments that could make our police work more effective. I got acquainted with a different police structure that has some better parts than ours. I got acquainted with some different ways of thinking about the same problems we have in Hungary. There are not so many different methods in investigating cybercrime. Fighting against cybercrimes starts with having a proper law which supports cybercrime investigations, because the orthodox police measures sometimes are not effective. We have to develop our systems to make the authorisation process quicker, keep the bureaucracy at a lower level and develop a better cooperation between countries, because cybercrime does not respect the borders of the countries.

In minor cases, where there is not enough evidence to carry out a successful investigation, no investigation is launched, only introducing data into a database and later when there are more data about the perpetrator an investigation will be launched. This way police do not waste time and resources for dead cases and could be more successful in other, more important cases. The cybercrime unit does not deal with whole investigations, but supports other investigations, this way this specific knowledge has a better exploitation. Making a specific agreement with an IP address service provider about using different IP addresses makes it possible to investigate specific websites without revealing our police identity.'

Zoltan HEITER, Hungary, on exchange to Bulgaria

Illegal immigration

Participating countries:



Spain



Lithuania



Hungary



Slovakia

'After studying the legal background, comparing the tactics and methods in the relevant field we agreed that the challenges are very similar in both countries but the solutions are different. Regarding the fact that Spain has wider experience in this field I have learned new methods of airport border control (brand new e-passport control technology, forced return by air). The policy in the detention centre was very useful, highlighting the cooperation with the NGOs and the Red Cross. We agreed that the international police cooperation concerning the data changes is similar in both countries. Regarding that fact that Spain is the country targeted by the migrants they have a different legal regulation to handle the current situation but the main principle of the human rights is the same in my country.

They set up a special team which analyses, compares and launches investigations against the perpetrator who used or forced illegal migrants into the black economy. Their training system is focused on practical knowledge of police work and the training time is more intensive than in my country.

After visiting the abovementioned organisations, it seems to me that my Spanish colleagues are prepared with regard to their tasks and they have a well-based system to handle illegal immigration issues. The exchange programme gave me a good chance to study and learn new methods in this area. All of the colleagues were very friendly and helpful. All the organisation and conditions of the whole visit were excellent.'

Csaba BORSA, Hungary, on exchange to Spain

'I can see that the Hungarian police are very strict and serious in their job. All the policemen that I met were very friendly and have a close relation with their colleagues. The Hungarian police have very good coordination and have good relations with the neighbouring countries like Austria, Romania and Slovakia.

A visit was arranged to the border between Hungary and Serbia, where I could see all the devices that they use to prevent the illegal immigration. I was also able to visit Europol and SIRENE in the headquarters in Budapest and compare their structure and functions with the Spanish.

The exchange visit was a great experience for me because I could see in the field the work of the Hungarian national police related to illegal immigration. Also I could refresh my English language, because I had to speak always in English and use specific police vocabulary.

And finally I could get to know Hungarian society, that is stricter in immigration issues than Spanish society, and this is reflected in the Hungarian laws and in police strategies. For example in Hungary every illegal immigrant that is arrested goes to the detention centre and in Spain it is different.'

Antonio Jesus SENOR AVILA, Spain, on exchange to Hungary

Network for fugitive active search teams (FAST)

Participating countries:



Czech Republic



Hungary



Poland



Romania

In Romania, a lot of police officers know a foreign language like English, French or Spanish; this is very helpful in international cooperation. They have a very modern and well done police database (information system) with very modern facilities. I've had a lot of discussions with my host, Radu, and he presented his way of providing cases. The most interesting thing was that he always makes a psychological portrait to find some useful information about the wanted person. Also, I was impressed by the database and security system — they have a token on a pen drive to log in to the system. I learned a lot about the child alert system in Romania, and had the opportunity to speak with police officers who develop and nowadays deal with missing persons; it was very useful for me, because in Poland we are developing this system at the moment.



The Romanian FAST use technical support from special units to catch fugitives, like in Poland, but because most wanted people go abroad, this is based on international cooperation. Fugitives from Romania usually try to settle in Italy, Spain, France and Great Britain, therefore the Romanian police send their officers to these countries to gather intelligence about fugitives and help local police officers in tracing and catching fugitives. For instance, in Italy there is a police officer from the fugitive department in Timisoara who helps to catch fugitives in Italy.'

Tomasz GULARSKI, Poland, on exchange to Romania

'During the exchange programme in Poland I visited many law enforcement departments in different towns.

One of the most important outcomes regarding the fugitive active search job is that the Internet can give us key information conducting us to a hit. For example, the use of social networks such as Facebook, Twitter or other national networks can be very useful in our work of seeking fugitives. The public area monitoring system implemented with success in Warsaw and also Gdynia is a strong point in crime prevention because in Poland it reduced the criminality rate by almost 60 %. The Polish police structure is well organised and equipped, especially the International Cooperation Centre.

During my visit I have tried to outline some of the best practices regarding the methodology and techniques of seeking fugitives as follows:

- creating a psychological profile of the fugitive taking into consideration his age, education, interests, habits, friends and relatives in order to create a map of interest for us;
- using modern techniques such as phone tapping (if law applicable), call logs, GPS locator, call mapping, data analysing software for relational maps;
- Internet — monitoring the social networks, creating an account on social networks trying to approach the fugitive under different scenarios;
- scenarios and legends for gathering information from relatives or from third persons;
- strong cooperation with ENFAST units from abroad for covering the case of fugitives that are hiding in a country other than the one in which he is being searched for.'



Radu CAMENITA, Romania, on exchange to Poland

Police training and education systems

Participating countries:



Bulgaria



Czech Republic



Germany



Estonia



Spain



Italy



Latvia



Lithuania



Netherlands



Poland



Portugal

'The differences between the police organisations are smaller than expected. Very impressive was the cooperation between the mayor/community and the police in smaller end middle sized cities, as well as the cooperation with NGOs. The amount of training for police officers and the quality is good and also here the international cooperation between several EU organisations and the Bulgarian police is quite close. I was also able to see training from the US Department of Energy about the detection of dual use radioactive material, which proves the close international cooperation on various sides. The language skills of the border police at the airport are on a high level, which is in



my eyes very important for the communication with the passengers. Also the security circles are comparable to other European airports.

Also the international cooperation concerning international organised crime or football hooliganism was impressive and the examples given proved it, without neglecting internal problems. Here I would like to mention again that the open way of speaking about their problems was very helpful to understand the problematic and how to resolve it, often with help from the international side.'

Holger NITSCH, Germany, on exchange to Bulgaria

'At the police academy in Szczytno we had meetings with the managers of the higher police school and many teachers from both its faculties — internal security and administration. As I expected the system of police training in Poland closely resembles that in my country. The higher education degrees are bachelor and master — Bologna 3+2 — but there is no doctoral degree yet. This is a difference from the higher education provided in our police academy in Sofia and in many other universities. The other possibility for somebody to become a police officer is to attend a special professional course after his/her graduation in another university. The duration of that main course is six months. There are many other courses on certain topics for improvement of qualification of current police servants and before their increase in rank.

At the police academy we attended selected classes, for example techniques and tactics of intervention, shooting, self-defence and first-aid. I was fascinated by the enthusiasm and professionalism of the teachers and the perfect state of the teaching facilities.

I would like to underline two significant advantages of the police education in Poland in comparison with that in Bulgaria. The first one concerns the studying process on certain subjects, e.g. criminal analysis and first-aid. The analytical software which is used in everyday police practice is used in teaching too. That allows the students to get familiar with it and to be self-confident and ready to use it after realising how much it helps. And the skills on giving first-aid save many lives.



The second thing is the international cooperation and particularly the participation of the police academy in Szczytno in programmes like Erasmus. The capacity of that higher police school for such cooperation is quite high, which makes each of its courses a great international experience.'

Tsvetana PETROVA, Bulgaria, on exchange to Poland

Distance learning

Participating countries:



Bulgaria



Lithuania

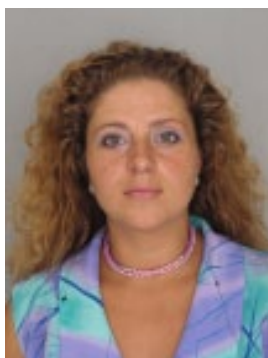


Poland

'During my exchange period I was especially impressed by the following:

The cooperation and mutual assistance provided through the Distance Learning Association (LieDM). This is a great way to share best practices, new methods, technological and technical resources, and support each other. The association's experts provide 'anytime support' in training teachers and keeping them up to date with new technologies and methods for delivering distance learning.

Regular and varied activities are organised for training staff — to familiarise them with new technologies, teaching methods, best practices, etc. Numerous seminars, conferences, workshops and meetings with leading experts are held to help lecturers develop distance learning courses. As a result, a wide range of manuals and methodological guides, video materials, etc. are created and made available for the trainers.



The effectiveness of using European funding to optimise the study process by building and equipping all the necessary facilities.

I have already discussed these and other best practices with colleagues at my home institution. This was done through a formal presentation and a range of informal conversations. The presentation was attended by the majority of my colleagues, including the deputy director. The response was impressive in terms of interest and commitment for building on this experience. Further presentations are planned.'

Dennista IVANOVA, Bulgaria, on exchange to Lithuania

'During my visit, I was familiarised with the training system of Bulgarian police officers and the organisation structure. During the CSPPT meetings, very interesting discussions about police officers' training, possibilities for application of new technologies and training methods, and problems encountered while developing distance learning were organised. The distance learning in the Bulgarian police is mainly adopted to improve officers' professional skills (continuing training) and is used to assess employees' competences. The organisation of distance learning is centralised and carried out in the academy of the Ministry of Interior; up to 1 000 police officers participate in distance learning of 20 various courses per year or acquire higher professional qualification. During my visit, I was thoroughly familiarised with the software version of 2012 of distance learning management system. I was introduced to the functionality of this software and as a user I have a positive impression that it is very convenient for users.

It is an advantage that the Bulgarian police uses distance learning technologies while training and assessing police officers' competence at national level (for those who seek to acquire a higher professional qualification).

All training institutions, which carry out the distance learning, have subdivisions of distance learning organisation with employees who are good at technologies, who help trainers to use information technologies, selecting the most effective training methods, adapting the training content, etc. Such training facilitates the transition from classical training to training using information technologies.



During the visit, I went to training institutions, compared them and noticed a significant relation necessary to successfully develop distance learning: training institutions' directors' policy and approach were focused on the material resources which were trainers; for example, the distance learning activity organised by naval academy 'N.Y. Vaptsarov' based on Moodle to develop an electronic library, whose resources are used by other city universities. The electronic library is not only easily accessible, but also the author copyright protection is ensured.'

Audrius CHMIELIAUSKAS, Lithuania, on exchange to Bulgaria

Learning environment

Participating countries:



Czech Republic



Poland



Romania



Slovenia

'Student learning (alongside learning outcomes) is indicative of the level of performance of any educational agency. Bearing this aspect in mind, all police educational establishments must create and provide police cadets with opportunities to engage in practical exercises which replicate real-life police-work field situations. Police officers, on the other hand, during their continuous training programmes (be they courses, seminars, theoretical or practical workshops) need to present, analyse and share best practices, and lessons identified, learnt and disseminated, in order to maintain the learning continuum and to ensure professional improvement and evolution (lifelong learning).

In my opinion, the best practices in the police officers' training courses reflect the following aspects regarding the student-centered practical activities:

- types of topics approached practically: first-aid, tactical techniques and procedures, shooting sessions;
- methods used in the teaching–learning–assessing process: peer observation, peer analysis and assessment;
- pedagogical instruments: interactive whiteboards, tailor-made interactive foreign languages courses, simulation rooms and mock-up police training towns;
- roles of teacher: facilitator and provider of learning opportunities, motivator.

Another aspect which can be, in my view, considered a best practice, is the fact that the police college and secondary police school have been and still are involved in international cooperation through a series of international projects. It is a proper manner in which not only the school but also the Czech Republic itself can promote their image abroad and initiate cooperation and partnerships with other European countries.'

Arina Liana SUSAN, Romania, on exchange to Czech Republic



'As a first part of my exchange programme, there was a presentation of the "Vasile Lascar" police constable school in Campina and the police system in Romania. This school is a further educational institution, which trains police constables on a daily course pattern.

The new type of education, which starts in October 2012, is special course for local police. It lasted three months. I was introduced to the chief of the foreign languages department, Superintendent Delia Precup, and her colleagues. I attended English class and I saw a new system of education for foreign languages, which exploits a special computer programme and cameras for checking and helping students.

Another positive outcome is the possibility to observe lessons, especially teaching driving skills, self-defence, shooting skills and police tactics, which have a lot in common with the system in the Czech Republic. And of course consecutive discussions about technology used, didactic documents and the task of practical training.

In the Romanian police headquarters I had a great possibility to visit the traffic police directorate and get to know how the Romanian system works and of course which problems the traffic police in

Romania have in traffic, especially in the field of accidents. I was introduced to the head of the traffic police directorate, police Chief Superintendent Lucian Dinita. Our discussion was focused on traffic accidents and the numbers of casualties and injured people during accidents.

Andreea Luiza GORAN, Romania, on exchange to the Czech Republic

Police psychology

Participating countries:



Lithuania



Slovenia

'Experts I met in the Lithuanian police were very hospitable and professional.

They were very open and willing to share, to exchange and also to gain knowledge, experience and good practices. Regarding their approach to work one could see that they try hard and are enthusiastic/eager about doing their job with a professional attitude as much as possible. My opinion, based on impressions and experience with them, is that they are quite successful and updated in/at their job as psychologists working in the police. The visit was very productive and useful for both participating parties/sides, establishing the basis for further cooperation in exchanging and implementing/enhancing some of each other's expertise professional knowledge, good practices and projects.



My personal overview of the whole exchange visit overall is a very positive, productive and successful one. I am very satisfied that I participated in it. It was a privilege as it is important to me to meet other/new colleagues and to see different/comparable approaches in the police education system and police psychologists' work. The period of 12 days for the exchange visit was sufficient and of appropriate length. The exchange visit was very productive and useful for both participating parties/sides, establishing a good basis for further professional cooperation.'

Ivan BARIČIČ, Slovenia, on exchange to Lithuania

Commanders' exchange: management and leadership

Participating countries:



Bulgaria



Czech Republic



Estonia



Latvia



Lithuania



Hungary



Austria



Finland

'I received a lot of information about the Hungarian police system and about their structure and distinctions in different regions. As I was especially interested in human resource topics my exchange partner had organised meetings with different people, so I could get specific information about different HR topics, such as education, recruitment and selection procedures, career systems, recognition policies and payment systems. It was very positive to see that the Hungarian police force is a very systematic organisation. They have fixed up different procedures in each level, every step is described and everything is organised in an orderly fashion, almost like in an army. The Hungarian police are also very cooperative and they are in cooperation with different institutions, for example the lifeguard service and the environmental board.



A positive thing is that their police education system is really flexible and you can start working even after a six-month study period (in a low-level position). But you have the chance to continue your studies whenever you want and it is your decision whether you want to study for a straight two years or you want to study for six months, come to work and after a while continue your studies again for six months, etc.

Overall it was a very enriching experience and it helped me to form a broader opinion about the police systems in different countries.'

Signe ANTON, Estonia, on exchange to Hungary

Police ethics

Participating countries:



Malta



Austria

'The main difference that I have experienced relates to the different legal family between Austria and Malta. While in Austria the public prosecutor leads the case and the police assist him in collecting the necessary evidence (e.g. securing a statement from the suspect, from the witnesses and from the victim themselves; as well as forensically tracing, analysing and storing samples obtained from the scene of the crime like DNA and body fluids, etc.), the system in Malta is quite different.

A common feature which I would like to highlight is when it comes to the phenomenon of illegal immigration. A lot of effort is being made by the Maltese police to secure the southernmost EU blue border. I was given the opportunity to see patrol deployments at sea, air and at the airport. I was privileged enough to be given permission for a special orientation visit in one of the illegal immigrants' closed centres. As far as I could see, illegal immigrants are given all legal rights at the same level as that given in Austria.

On a positive note I have to say that the Maltese police have managed to draw up their own police code of ethics. This contains a number of ethical principles which are then expanded upon by a commentary. They have also their own code of practice for the interrogation and treatment of suspects when in custody and this in a variety of languages.

I have also come to notice that Maltese police officers are keen and very motivated to strengthen EU police cooperation. When visiting the police immigration section at Malta International Airport, I was particularly impressed by a police officer who had created his own database by collecting information regarding the identification of falsified document made use of by passengers throughout his tenure of office. In my opinion, this is quite a good tool to use in detecting genuine from illicit travellers.

Without any doubt, the exchange programme enlarged my personal police cooperation network. The personal contact that I have established will surely secure a more trustful, efficient and expedient information exchange within the Austrian and the Maltese police forces.

I must say that a main benefit of this visit was the fact that I increased my knowledge regarding the different policing systems which exist in the European Union. Although police systems may be different, the results point to a common factor: clear defined and practised ethical principles are the cornerstone leading to the building up of more trust within the policing services of Member States. This will in turn entail the expansion of more police cooperation — the ultimate aim being that of increasing efficiency in combating organised and trans-border crime within the European region.'

Johannes DULLNIG, Austria, on exchange to Malta



'In spite of the fact that geographically, culturally, politically, sociologically and even demographically Austria and Malta are different, my tutor limited my exchange to the county of Carinthia. This county, a rural area bordering Italy and Slovenia, is quite similar in its number of inhabitants as well as its police force's manpower to that of Malta. From a comparative point of view, this could not have been better planned.

I have noticed that even though the historical evolution of the Austrian federal police was quite dissimilar to its Maltese counterpart when it comes to certain areas such as hierarchy, philosophy

and the legal scenario, in its daily operational duties this difference is overridden by the fact that Austrian police officers execute their routine duties almost identically to the way that Maltese police officers carry out their duties. One could notice that the ethical philosophies of both services are convergent and do focus on the principle of disseminating and rendering the best service possible to their clients, i.e. the public and the community in general.

I can state that both the Austrian and Maltese police forces strive to enhance a climate of democratic policing in their respective country. This fact was substantiated during the meetings I had with entities coming from an external environment. In spite of putting some very awkward questions to my interviewees on their perception of the Austrian federal police, the feedback obtained was unwavering in all respects. The Austrian public do perceive the Carinthian police's conduct as something indisputable, highly commendable and of a very high quality. On a scale of 1 to 10, they would award it top marks. This inevitably shows the heavy commitment and effort which is being afforded by the police service's administration in ensuring and preserving public trust, without which surely no police force could work in an effective and efficient manner.'



Mario SPITERI, Malta, on exchange to Austria

Study visits

Europol (European Police Office)

Two study visits were organised at Europol within the framework of the European police exchange programme 2012. The first one, held in May, was addressed to members of the Europol national units and the second one in September was dedicated to senior police officers. The programme was aimed to allow the participants to learn more about Europol's structure, the operational instruments as well as Europol's products and services.

The programme gives an excellent opportunity for the participants to meet their colleagues from the Member States and to create contacts with Europol staff members and the liaison officers. The added value of the visits is the enhanced cooperation in the sphere of the international information exchange.

Altogether 52 participants from 24 Member States took part in both study visits.

OLAF (European Anti-Fraud Office)

The target group of this study visit is (senior) police officers and specialists on international police cooperation who are in regular contact with OLAF or deal with cross-border crime cases (fraud, counterfeiting, economic crime, financial crime, corruption). The goals of the programme are to broaden the participant knowledge on OLAF's structure, its operational instruments and services.

This approach allows CEPOL to fulfil the main objective of the European police exchange programme, to strengthen cross-border police cooperation and to provide participants with the opportunity to get acquainted with the working methods of the agency, and to meet their OLAF counterparts.

Some 20 participants from 17 Member States took part in the event.

EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction)

The first EMCDDA study visit was held in July 2012 as part of the European police exchange programme. The aim of the programme was to involve senior police officers tackling drug supply and dissemination. The programme allowed the participants to learn more about EMCDDA mission, tasks and products. The hosts provided detailed information on the drug problems in the EU and how the available database could reach police officers and organisations in each Member State. Participants were given the chance to present the drugs environment on national level and the cooperation with the other Member States.

Fourteen participants from 14 Member States took part in the study visit.

Frontex (European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union)

For the first time in 2012 the European police exchange programme introduced a study visit in Frontex, collecting senior police officers dealing with border management and tackling cross-border crimes. The study visit kept the objectives of the programme to familiarise the participants with the structure, mission and tasks of the agency as well as to provide the opportunity for strengthening the cooperation between the Member States.

Fourteen participants from 14 Member States took part in the study visit.

ENP and western Balkans: Europol and Eurojust (the EU's Judicial Cooperation Unit)

As an EU agency for police and judicial cooperation, CEPOL collaborates with all Member States of the European Union and at the same time looks forward to enlarging our efforts to the eastern European and western Balkan countries.

Following a successful preliminary meeting in March 2012 with higher police officials from European neighbourhood policy/western Balkan countries, CEPOL took the decision to launch a joint study visit in Europol and Eurojust, kindly supported by our counterparts. The programme was aimed to introduce the EU agencies for police and judicial cooperation and to create a constructive atmosphere for future joint projects.

The study visit was held in November 2012. Eighteen participants from Albania, Armenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey took part in the event.

Looking ahead

The European police exchange programme has attracted a lot of interest and supporters over the past two of years which has resulted in a significant increase in the number of participants in the programme. To ensure the smooth implementation and precise financial planning of the project, CEPOL launched a survey 'Planning of the European police exchange programme 2013'. Feedback was provided by 25 Member States: **Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden** and **United Kingdom**.

The survey aimed to give an indication of numbers of participating Member States and participants in 2013 and to outline the priority topics with highest interest and to raise awareness of the programme.

- Twenty-five Member States indicated their intent to participate.
- Indications are that more than 400 police officers would like to take part in the programme.
- All (24) priority topics for commanders, police officers, experts and trainers were outlined as a necessity by the Member States.
- Seventeen additional topics for police officers, experts and trainers were suggested.
- Five study visits to justice and home affairs agencies will be organised.

The European police exchange programme team

The European police exchange programme is staffed by seconded national experts based at the European Police College, in Bramshill in the UK.

The 2012 programme team was made up of the following members of staff.

- Boryana Dimitrova (Bulgaria) provides e-Net support for the programme. Boryana represented CEPOL on study visits to Europol and EMCDDA.
- Jürgen Fehler (Germany) was responsible for coordinating the programme until July 2012. Jürgen represented CEPOL on a study visit to OLAF.
- Zsanett Kertesz (Hungary) provides administrative support for the programme. Zsanett represented CEPOL on study visits to Europol and Frontex.
- Maria Söderberg (Sweden) took up responsibility for the coordination of the programme in August 2012. Maria represented CEPOL on the joint study visit to Europol and Eurojust for European neighbourhood policy/western Balkan countries.

CEPOL — European Police College

**Exchanging practices, strengthening cooperation
CEPOL European police exchange programme 2012**

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

2012 — 47 pp. — 21 x 29.7 cm

ISBN 978-92-9211-059-8

doi:10.2825/26785

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doi:10.2825/26785