



**INTERNATIONAL
POLICE ASSOCIATION**
INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

IPA Newsletter

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IPA FRIENDSHIP AT ITS BEST



**IPA Montenegro and IPA Section in Foundation Albania
working together at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic**

WORD OF INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,

Since I was elected to the IEB back in October 2019, I have often been asked what it is like. It's not exactly what I expected; it's that and much more. The sudden realisation that you are representing the biggest police organisation in the world was both an adrenalin rush and a fear-evoking experience. Experiences are best shared, and I'm so fortunate to be joined by such a great IEB team who are both outstanding individuals and devoted IPA ambassadors. Every day is a challenge, and every challenge is an opportunity to promote and enhance the IPA.



Last week for example, we received an email from the Wall Street Journal asking us: 'why does the police in the U.S. kill so many more people in the line of duty than police in other developed nations?' Our President responded eloquently as always, highlighting that we are a friendship association, and that in the case of the recent behaviour of several police officers in the USA, we place our trust in the legal system of the USA to properly investigate and render justice. The question, however, brought me back to my roots as an international trainer in police self-defence and to ponder the many challenges facing modern policing in all our jurisdictions.

The killing of George Floyd was indisputably wrong, but the question that we as police should be asking is: why did it go wrong? This story has claimed international media limelight and has led to protests and riots around the world. As I write this article, London is under siege from activists who are ripping up statues and rioting with police.

Policing has changed, and with the growth of social media, globalisation and such extremist activism, there is sometimes more of an emphasis on scrutinising cop culture than catching bad people. In a book entitled 'The End of Policing' Professor Alex Vitale writes about "how the police endanger us and why we need to find an alternative." The book attempts to spark public discussion by revealing the tainted origins of modern policing as a tool of social control. I obviously don't agree with Professor Vitale's perspective, but I do know that policing as we know it is being scrutinised by many facets of society. We have been pressurised to become all things to all people; an arduous task that is virtually impossible to achieve.

Each of us took an oath when we joined our respective police services; a solemn and moral undertaking to tackle crime and wrongdoing in our communities. That righteous inbuilt code has motivated and driven us to protect and serve, and sometimes our colleagues paid the ultimate sacrifice. As the world and its ideologies change, perhaps policing needs to change to meet modern societal demands.

Albert Einstein once said that 'the world is in greater peril from those who tolerate or encourage evil than from those who actually commit it.'

As the protectors of mankind for the past couple of centuries we, the police, have witnessed evil at its worst.

With over 372,000 members around the world the IPA collectively have millions of years of policing experience, and with our ERC connections and geographical reach, perhaps we are well poised to offer assistance in strategising on the future of policing. IBZ Gimborn recently announced their post Covid-19 re-opening, which is indeed very welcome news. This centre of excellence is a key foundation of the IPA, and a pillar for our future. Their new innovative webinars bring Gimborn to you, and give us all an opportunity to harness and share the IPA's abundant knowledge.

We are all different, yet we are all the same. We pledge the same values and serve the same mission in life. Just as we serve our local community through policing, we serve each other through the IPA with the hands of friendship. Of course black lives matter, as do white lives; but blue lives matter too.

Mick Walsh, Treasurer Finances

AROUND THE WORLD

Montenegro, the first coronavirus-free country in Europe

After a week without registered cases of Covid-19 infections, Montenegro declared the end of the Covid-19 epidemic on 2 June, and gained the status of the first coronavirus-free country in Europe.



Is it because we have a small population (about 650,000 inhabitants), or because in our country we all worked well together to combat the Covid-19 pandemic and rigorously respected all the measures adopted by our government and the National Coordination Body (NCB)? Or is it due to our police, who, together with the other state bodies, successfully implemented both preventive and restrictive measures against

all those who did not comply with the orders and measures of the NCB? It is probably due to a combination of all the above that we succeeded in preventing the spread of the virus.

We are all very proud of this!

Our IPA Section, which regretfully had to inform you in early March about the postponement of the IPA GAMES 2020, was very active during the coronavirus pandemic. We wanted the virus to pass as soon as possible, hoping that all of us would return to the regular events of our large IPA family rapidly.

Our members are dedicated to humanitarian work and assisting other government agencies to help those in need. We conducted several humanitarian actions:

assistance to the pensioners of our service, voluntary blood donations, donating protective equipment and funds to our police officers, amongst others.

Through these activities, we donated a number of food and other packages to the pensioners of our security services, those who suffer from financial hardship, together with the Red Cross of Montenegro.



In cooperation with the Clinical Center of Montenegro, the Blood Transfusion Centre Podgorica and the Society of Voluntary Blood Donors, we conducted a blood donation campaign where a large number of our members contributed to this great action that took place in the days of coronavirus in our country.

At the invitation of our dear colleagues from IPA Section in Foundation Albania, a donation of protective masks to officers of the two border police services took place at the joint border crossing point between the two countries, Bozaj-Hani Hoti. This event confirmed the sincere friendship between our two sections and highlighted the support for further cooperation and professionalism of the border police officers of both countries.

This is just a part of the activities we conducted in order to respect our common motto, which unites us in the IPA family, 'SERVO PER AMIKECO', so let it serve us all for good.

Vojislav Dragovic, President IPA Montenegro

An Update from IPA Section in Foundation Albania

The consequences of the current Covid-19 pandemic are proving hard all over the world with respect to the loss of human lives, economic damages, as well as in the field of security and public order.

Measures taken to combat the coronavirus mean that many activities, meetings and visits were cancelled or postponed. The pandemic, however, did not stop, but moreover enabled us to focus very clearly on friendship, spiritual experience, and care for each other.

During this time we have organised some activities showing that we are not 'sleeping', and that we have not lost hope. We have been in contact with all our IPA members

whether active in service, or retired, and luckily we have not had any loss of life or infections with Covid-19.

Following contact with IPA-Montenegro, we donated 500 mouth masks for police officers serving at the border Hani Hotit (Shkoder Albania) - Bozhaj (Montenegro). The ceremony was attended by the President of Montenegro, Vojislav Dragovic, and border police chiefs of both countries.



Also in Shkodra, under the auspices of the IPA-Scodrin branch of IPA-Albania, and in cooperation with the Mufti of the Shkodra Region, we donated 50 food packages for families of fallen police officers.

On the Memorial Day of the martyrs of Albania, members of IPA Albania placed a wreath at the Memorial for fallen police officers.



On the occasion of Eid al-Fitr, (Eid Mubarak) IPA Albania members met and congratulated the representatives of the Muslim Community in Shkodra.

Furthermore, a delegation of IPA Albania went on a two-day visit to Serbia, where we had a very fruitful experience.

We receive many requests to join the IPA, which we consider with great care. Our current membership has reached 200. We are working on expanding our existing branches, and on founding new branches in the south and south-east of our country.

At the start of the new tourist season we will organise a cycling tour along the sea shore of Albania, and all participants will be police employees displaying the IPA logo.

We are planning other projects, which we hope to share with you in the near future.

Skender Doda, President, IPA Section in Foundation Albania

Police officers from IPA Poland's Lower Silesia Region come to the rescue of their Moldovan colleagues

The coronavirus pandemic has affected the whole world. It is not an easy time for anyone anywhere in the world. This period has highlighted how important helping other people in difficult situations is. Such help, on an international level, was exercised by members of the Lower Silesia Region of IPA Poland, who did not stay idle when a group of Moldovan citizens became stuck in Warsaw after the lockdown, and could not return home. But let's start from the beginning.

The start of the pandemic struck all of us similarly. It all happened fast. Lockdown, bans, orders and closed borders. Suddenly, accustomed to freedom and travelling, we had to isolate ourselves from an invisible enemy overnight. Unfortunately, not

everyone was at home with relatives at that time, some were even thousands of kilometers away from home, abroad. Eight citizens of Moldova residing in Poland were suddenly unable to return to their homeland. They were denied crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border, and practically deprived of their livelihoods, and they had to return to Warsaw.

The situation was dramatic, especially since among those in need was a woman with an advanced pregnancy. And it was during this difficult time that IPA members showed the real meaning of transnational friendship, when they reached out and offered help to their brethren from over the Dniester river.

The President of the IPA Region Głogów, Artur Klimczak, received a call from his Moldovan colleague Mihail Lesnic from IPA Briceni, who informed him about the difficult situation of his fellow citizens: 'They cannot return to their country, they are currently stuck in Warsaw, and the situation is an emergency'. One phone call was enough to launch a mission to help!



Artur Klimczak, together with IPA members Bartosz Sobota and Bartłomiej Krężel, and members of IPA Region Wrocław Andrzej Kamiński and Janusz Łuszek decided to provide financial support to the Moldovans in need. Due to the fact that travelling between cities was limited at that time, they contacted IPA Poland's Secretary General Ewa Dębowska, who lives in Warsaw, coordinated the operation on site and made a donation.



This altruistic help caused tears of emotion amongst the Moldovan group who had by then run out of means to overcome this situation. The help provided by the members of the IPA Lower Silesia Region enabled them to get through the next four days until a transport corridor was opened, and they could happily reunite with their loved ones. Members of IPA Poland involved in helping their Moldovan friends received

an official thank-you from the President of IPA Moldova, Mikhail Cebotari.

This whole situation would not have happened, had it not been for the continuous cooperation between the officers of both countries. The friendship between brothers-in-blue began last year, when members of IPA Region Głogów visited their Moldovan friends and travelled with them across this picturesque part of Europe. At that time they had no idea that in a few months, there would be a crisis which would highlight the importance of international bonds developed through the cooperation between officers. And all of this in the name of IPA values, stated in the motto of Servo per Amikeco – Service through Friendship.

Text: Krzysztof Marcjan, translation: Michał Sługocki, IPA Poland

IPA Kenya provide 8,500 Police Officers with PPE

The Covid-19 pandemic situation has created new challenges globally, also in policing. The police therefore need to come up with new response strategies to crime and incidents, and the enforcement of Covid-related regulations. This is all the more important during arrests, transfers and confinement, which ordinarily require close proximity with the arrested person. The IPA Kenyan Section, in response to the need for personal protection, has provided police officers serving within the greater Nairobi Metropolitan Region with Personal Protective equipment (PPE).



The Commandant of the National Police Service Senior Staff College, Loresho, Mr. Patrick Obimo (AIG) receiving part of the donation

On 2 June, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG), of the Kenya Police Service, Mr. Edward Njoroge Mbugua, CBS, MBS, OGW, ndc (K), who is also an esteemed IPA member, graced the launch of distribution of personal hygiene items and PPE to the 11 Police Divisions in the Nairobi Region at the Diplomatic Police Unit Headquarters in Gigiri, Nairobi. Mr. Mbugua expressed his gratitude towards IPA Kenya, and noted that the pragmatic approach by the IPA leadership in addressing policing challenges in Kenya was noticeable at all levels within the police. He further said that 'Responsible Policing' ideals promoted by the IPA were being received very well by both the police and the public: This was in reference to IPA Kenya's community outreach programmes which have involved local police command in joint activities including tree planting, food donations and aid to schools.

The items were donations from IPA Kenyan Section members in partnership with the East African Ramgarhia Board (EARB) Sikh Community, Pangani Temple and included: sanitisers, reusable face masks, antibacterial soaps and umbrellas. IPA Kenya Coast Region members donated 14,400 pieces of antibacterial soap towards the project. The exercise covered the 11 police divisions and 2 police formations whose headquarters are within the greater Nairobi Metropolitan Region, catering for 8,500 uniformed police officers.

On their part, the Sikh community, represented by the EARB President, Mr. Jaswinder Singh Viridi & the Hon. General Secretary Mr. Manminder Singh Jandu, Trustee Mr. Gurdip S Rupra, said that they had established a very cordial relationship with Section Kenya and that they particularly liked the opportunity to assist the law enforcement officers provided through IPA.

Meanwhile, the IPA Kenya partnership with the Talia Agler Girl's Centre was taken to a new level. On 11 June, IPA Kenya donated four electric sewing machines and food to the Talia Agler Girls' Shelter in Wangige. The items were donated in partnership with the Sukuma Twende Trust through our member Mr. Rushab Rajesh Shah.



Mr. Hitsh Shah (left) and Mr. Noor Y. Gabow (in jungle uniform) during the handing-over ceremony

The donations were received by the Deputy Inspector General - Administration Police Service, Mr. Noor Y. Gabow, EBS, OGW, at the National Police Service HQ, Nairobi, as a physical visit to children's home was not tenable due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Gabow stated that the donation was 'proactive' policing, and that equipping the young girls with life skills such as dressmaking was the best policing philosophy. He added that Kenya will be much safer with such initiatives, and thanked the IPA and partners for helping in actualising the dreams of young persons.

During the donation ceremony, the chairman of the Sukuma Twende Trust, Mr. Hitesh Shah, said that he had followed the activities of IPA Kenya and had come to the conclusion that the association stood for something bigger and greater for the Kenyan society. He praised the IPA Kenyan Section for upholding the higher ideal of giving back to society, especially in these difficult times. On his part, the President of IPA Kenya, Mr. Alfred Osur, thanked all the stakeholders for their steadfast support, promising that the future was brighter with us united, and not divided.

Jared Ojuok, Secretary General IPA Kenya

IPA Poland support the Fight against the Pandemic



All emergency services (including the police) in Poland and around the world have been struggling with the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 pandemic since March. Numerous associations, foundations and international organisations are doing their best to support their efforts taken due to this difficult situation. It is worth indicating that all the structures of our association in Poland have actively joined the fight against the pandemic:

To implement the resolution of the national board, the **board of IPA Poland** bought 4,550 certified protective masks and handed them over to the Police Headquarters in Warsaw. The masks were distributed to police units around Poland, in which there are deficiencies in personal protective equipment. Moreover, we managed to obtain more than 6,000 protective masks (without any additional charge) from the entrepreneurs who support the IPA statutory activity. What is more, we also received more than 600 protective masks from the border guards of the Carpathian Border Guard Unit from Nowy Sącz. To sum up, we received more than 11,000 protective masks in total for police and border guards;

Thanks to the involvement of the **president of the IPA group in the capital, the national president and the Polish IPA Section's treasurer**, we received (free of charge) 100 pallets (more than 50,000 bottles of different flavour and volumes) of 'Żywiec Zdrój' sparkling water. These were handed over to the police officers from the three biggest police units in Poland serving directly in the field, which are: the Police Headquarters in Warsaw, as well as the voivodship headquarters in Poznań and Kraków;

The **voivodship group from Lublin**, in cooperation with the Lublin IPA Region, bought 80 running meters of cotton fabric, which was used to sew more than 3,600 protective masks for police officers from the Lublin garrison;

The **IPA Lublin Region** joined a fundraiser with the aim of equipping Polish hospitals with additional respirators. The funds gained were handed over to Infectious Ward of the Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Lublin;



In addition, the **IPA Lublin Region**, in cooperation with the Lublin Charity Action, bought 70 protective visors, which have been handed over to the Social Welfare Home 'Kalina' in Lublin. These protective measures will help raise the sense of safety of the employees, who are now taking care of over 100 people;

The **West Pomeranian IPA voivodship group** (thanks to the support of the LEVITO enterprise from Wałcz) received external protective measures in the form of:

antibacterial gels (17,000), disposable foil gloves (100), reusable protective masks (90), face protection masks (8,000) and reusable protective visors (100). These items were handed over to police officers from Wałcz, Łobza and Szczecin by the president of the group and the chairman of the Szczecin IPA Region;

The **enterprise 'Just Hero'** from Łódź handed over 900 protective masks to the IPA KWP Region Łódź. All masks have been given to police officers from the voivodship quarter of Łódź;

A **district police officer and IPA member** has been involved in various beneficial activities for many years. During these hard times, together with the 'Dobre Rączki' squad, she sewed more than 2,800 masks, which were handed to institutions and individuals from Opatów county. The first round of cotton masks went to the hospitals in Opatów and Sandomierz, and the second round to the Hospital in Opatów. She also hands colourful masks to the people from her service area;



The **Greater Poland IPA voivodship group**, together with the Poznań IPA Region, Poznań E and Gostyń - thanks to the support of their meritorious members, their own resources and people of good will - handed over more than 9,500 disposable masks, a few thousand rubber gloves, disinfectants in the form of gels and liquids, and protective visors to police units;

The **Nowy Sącz IPA Region** delivered two sterilisation devices to the police city headquarters in Nowy Sącz. These devices will serve in preparation for service and work, thanks to the possibility of sterilising everyday objects. The first device was handed over to police officers from Nowy Sącz, and the second one to police officers from Krynica-Zdrój. Moreover, the police officers received 5 non-contact thermometers;

The **Wadowice IPA Region** bought 3 non-contact thermometers, which are used in the district police quarters in Oświęcim, Sucha Beskidzka and Wadowice. The thermometers are intended to be used by duty service and reception staff;

To provide education on social distancing during the period of limited functioning of schools, the **Olsztyn IPA Region** has been supporting the local elementary school by providing two computer sets for students who do not own such devices;

The **West Pomeranian voivodship IPA Group** supported the city hospitals in Białogard and Połczyn Zdrój and the Szczecin emergency medical service by buying around 300 disposable protective masks for paramedics and medical lifeguards.

These are only selected examples of activities undertaken by IPA Poland in the fight against the coronavirus. We hope that they had an impact in raising safety levels of police officers and other emergency services in the difficult times of the epidemic.

Piotr Wójcik, President IPA Poland (text)

Jacek Molik, Iwona Grzebyk-Dulak, Ryszard Balczyński, Aneta Sobieraj (photos)

IPA Public Safety conference on the Surveillance Society held by Javier Gamero Kinosita from IPA Peru

Security expert Javier Gamero Kinosita, a member of IPA Peru, held an IPA conference entitled 'Policies and strategies for citizen security in the 21st century' in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Palace in Miraflores in February 2020. The event was presided over by the mayor of the city, Luis Molina Arles and the General Manager of Citizen Security of the district municipality, Abduhl Miranda Miflin.



The speaker remarked that in the current post-modern discourse of international criminal policy, the surveillance society was a major concept in the development of strategies for the prevention and control of crime. In the political, academic and media spheres, the subject of this society, increasingly marked by telephone interceptions, pin numbers, interception of emails via the Internet, biometric identity documents, video cameras and closed-circuit television systems, is regularly addressed as a critical point in government policy, since it implies the general submission of the population to permanent control by the authorities.

The surveillance consensus and its social cost

Gamero Kinosita said that the surveillance society is emerging with the approval of citizens within a framework of neo-liberalisation of urban policies and effective semi-privatisation of urban spaces, which is reinforced by the fear of terrorism and the population's obsession with reducing risks and increasing security. This is referred to as the surveillance consensus. Kinosita mentioned the social scientist Ulrich Beck who called the society of the 21st century the risk society. However, the suggestion of this surveillance society implies high costs, such as a loss of privacy and the erosion of individual autonomy. Since 11 September 2001, new surveillance technologies have spread rapidly and are increasingly sophisticated and intrusive, leading to a suppression of freedom of expression in privacy, according to the speaker.

The surveillance society as a paradigm shift

Gamero Kinosita argued that the surveillance society has become more pronounced in criminal policy as a result of crime and terrorism, constituting a preventive turn in security policies, shifting from the logic of reactive repression to a logic of proactive prevention.

The surveillance society at different latitudes

The speaker stated that the surveillance society had its first foundations in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s, generated by fears of threats from communism during the Cold War, the demand for civil rights by radical black activism, anti-Vietnam protests, as well as perceived threats to the moral order such as the sexual revolution and feminism, and that it was therefore necessary at that time to have a new defensive architecture and urban design.

In Great Britain, according to Kinoshita, the massive installation of a closed-circuit television system from 1990 onwards was justified to combat hooliganism in football and the high rates of crimes against children.

Kinoshita explained that in Germany, the concept of ownership is related to the private home and business, and private information is based on the notion of ownership in oneself, which is conceived as a precondition of freedom and recognition as a legal person and therefore remains intangible wherever the person is. In the United Kingdom when one leaves the private sphere and enters the public sphere, one is subject to public law, whereas in Germany this distinction between the public and the private is not so clearly and strictly demarcated, which limits surveillance.

In France, added the speaker, CCTV surveillance was in permanent conflict with the right to privacy under the Data Protection Act of 1978. It took 5 years to create a legal framework to end this situation, and at a later stage the police were empowered to install CCTV cameras in both public and private areas in sensitive neighbourhoods in large urban centres such as Paris, Lyon, Nice, amongst others. The 2006 Anti-Terrorism Law extended the legal framework for the development of the installation of surveillance cameras. The Minister of the Interior, Nicolas Sarkozy, empowered the police to install cameras for a period of 4 months without the need of a judicial order in 2007; 2 months after he was elected president, he expanded the infrastructure by tripling the number of surveillance cameras with the criterion of covering as much territory as possible.

In Japan, the government also proceeded to experiment with the installation of CCTV cameras due to a fear of increasing crime and the threat of terrorism, especially after the lethal gas attack of Aum Shinrikyo, head of a religious sect, in the Tokyo subway in 1995, however its expansion has not reached the dimensions reached by the United Kingdom or the United States. Kinoshita stated that for the Japanese society, the installation of CCTV cameras has been conceived as a symptom or cause of loss of social security, confidence, sensitivity, or security. The Japanese population perceives the massive installation of cameras as an alteration of the natural moral order, preferring milder forms of control. Japanese Human Rights activists, jurists and academics have founded a group called Kanshi Shakai that opposes the expansion of this surveillance society by wielding a new public discourse of the anti-surveillance society.

Final Reflection

To conclude, IPA Peru member Gamero Kinoshita affirmed that the development of surveillance societies is undoubtedly related to the capitalist restructuring scheme and the advances made in the post-industrial era of globalisation. They have been consolidated in the United States and Europe, mainly in the United Kingdom, with marked trends of expansion in non-English-speaking and non-Western societies. The question that arises in international criminal policy today is whether we are moving towards a global surveillance society. Kinoshita remarked that while it was true that surveillance is a valuable instrument in the prevention and control of crime, it was necessary to create a clearer and more restrictive regulatory framework for its application, in order to safeguard people's rights to privacy and thus keep the fundamental right to personal freedom, the cornerstone of democracy and the modern rule of law, intangible.

Javier Gamero Kinoshita, member IPA Peru

An Interview with IPA Slovenia Member Anita Kovačič Čelofiga about the Development of Public Relations

First-time Mum, PhD student, employee of the Slovenian Police and president of the Public Relations Society of Slovenia – this time we talked with Anita Kovačič Čelofiga. We predominantly discussed the Public Relations Society of Slovenia, PRSS, who have been dedicated to the professional development of experts in communication for the past three decades. This year's anniversary will also be marked by issuing the first comprehensive textbook about public relations (PR) in Slovenian.

30 years pass quickly; without a doubt these years influenced society, and consequently the way of working with the public significantly.



The story of the development of our organisation is a story about public relations, searching for a place, and consolidating our position. Numerous historical milestones in public relations in Slovenia are related to PRSS and vice versa, of course.

I remember the words of my colleague in one of the many publications, issued at our anniversary. He said that 30 years ago they did not know how wide and complex

public relations are, and that back then they were still learning about the subject and were professionally evolving. Public relations was something new that has been practiced far away in the West. Slovenian colleagues learned about this field from their experiences abroad and translated them into local practice, as good as each of them knew and was able to.

PR initially developed from an idea that united a few enthusiasts and went all the way to become a serious profession, and consequently also resulted in a Slovenian public relations school, which today includes more than a hundred professionals and has a reputation both at home and abroad. Our organisation played a crucial part in this. Whereas three decades ago they used to say that altogether there were only enough communication experts to fill one large bus, today basically every company and organisation has its own department for public relations or at least one employee qualified in this field.

We can also say that due to the work of our society, public relations is considered a serious and respectful profession in Slovenia. Nowadays, public relations experts in Slovenia and everywhere in the world are more educated, better paid, and recognised as necessary personnel in organisations.

What are the tasks of PR professionals today, what skills are required?

It is definitely a very popular profession; the number of communicators is constantly increasing, and at the same time everyone has heard about public relations or PR as we address it in everyday language.

Real public relations is not just 'clipping', sharing likeable stories with the media, as some might still think today. The central task of PR is the coordination of a successful dialogue between an organisation and their target audience – in this manner, it is more than just a communication technique or a specialised programme for public relations, as for example relations with the media are, because PR encompasses comprehensive planning, performance and assessment of communication.

As Ana Tkalac Verčič wrote in our newest textbook, the function of public relations includes various activities, such as writing, relations with the media, events planning, advice regarding work with administration offices, research, creating publicity, marketing communication, digital communication, and relations with the local community, consumers, employees, government, investors, and others.

Our tasks vary a lot amongst different companies and organisations. The most common types of communication practices are relations with the media, internal relations, with consumers, local communities, online communication, and also assisting in a crisis situation. In a crisis, such as the one we are witnessing at the moment, our role again turned out to be essential. In our organisation, we have been publishing responses from our colleagues about their work during the epidemic for some time now.

Let me summarise some answers about our daily activities, what we have been dealing with these days, so that it is easier to imagine the modern everyday life of a communicator – they have always been and still are an important factor of crisis headquarters in larger organisations for providing safety and controlling the impact of Covid-19. Numerous organisations reinforced online activities or even shifted a part of their business online (therefore, they offered communication support to new sales channels), strengthened communication with employees and consumers, took care of their awareness, understanding of the situation and consequences of the epidemic, dealt with informing about adjustments of business, preparing or adjusting crisis plans, to name but a few.

Will the anniversary be marked by the release of the first comprehensive textbook?

I think we could not find a better way to wrap the celebration of our thirtieth anniversary. By publishing the book, with joint forces, we once again very vividly managed to highlight the publishing activities of PRSS and filled a gap with regards to fundamental works in public relations in the Slovenian market.

In June, the first complete textbook in public relations in Slovenian will be issued. It is not only a translation but also a localisation of the monography of Prof. Dr. Ana Tkalac Verčič. In the Slovenian edition we also present our practices with local examples, placed in the Slovenian environment. The book also includes conversations with acknowledged Slovenian experts.

The book was a huge effort for us. Mag. Nada Serajnik Sraka and Pedja Ašanin Gole were responsible for the translation, modifying the text and adding examples from Slovenian practice, a peer



review was carried out by Prof. Dr. Dejan Verčič. All were highly involved in the function of our organisation in previous years. In addition, the vice presidents of the society, Tina Copot and Alenka Vidic dedicated a lot of their time to the project. It was an extraordinary organisational as well as financial challenge, therefore we are grateful to everyone who supported the project.

In the past, the Public Relations Society of Slovenia has always been very active in publishing. It is interesting to note that the PRSS also assisted in issuing the first Slovenian version of the book 'Public Relations Techniques', which is known as one of the fundamental publications in this field. 25 years later PRSS is again successful with publishing the first comprehensive textbook, adapted for the Slovenian market.

The organisation significantly contributed to the development of this profession: you established your own PR school, and prepared different trends, as well as documents ...what else?



The history of our organisation is outstanding. In all these years, many professional meetings, lectures, workshops, and other activities took place, all directed towards the development and upgrade of technical and professional standards. In addition to many activities of our sections, let me also mention the very vivid international activity through membership in various organisations abroad and with their awards. A step towards local recognition of best practice was achieved by integrating our own award, which is very important to Slovenian's practitioners: a prism that is awarded for excellence in executed communication programmes.

All these awards are proof that we have many excellent communicators in Slovenia, who are also recognised internationally. This year we will again issue the 'Primus' award for communication excellence of managers, which is the only Slovenian award that acknowledges and rewards the communication abilities of workers in leading positions. Together with the Institute for the Development of Social Responsibility we also issue an award called 'Horus'. Through all these years we have also kept the tradition of organising a Slovenian Conference on Public Relations, which is the most important event of the year for communicators and brings together both local and foreign experts. This year it will take place for the 23rd time.

How important is leading the PRSS for you personally – since you are employed in the public relations sector in the police?

By presiding the PRSS I stepped into big shoes. In previous decades, the society was led by exceptional experts, also pioneers in public relations, acknowledged academics, excellent practitioners. It is a great honour to be president of such an important and prominent organisation, also recognised internationally. I personally have great respect for the society because I am aware of how important its role was on this evolution path, and how precious it is for us communicators. However, I am not leading it alone; with me are also my colleagues and outstanding experts Tina Cipot and Alenka Vidic, plus we have the support of students, and inside the society we also have different sections. These are led by experts in their disciplines, from

internal and business communicators, to public sector and individual regions. Very active in our organisation are also students, who make their first acquaintances and experiences in the PRSS. Many find their first employment this way.

What are the future challenges of the Public Relations Society of Slovenia?

It is always very vivid. At the moment, we are preparing this year's first volume of the magazine 'Piar na kvadrat' (PR squared). We have also our most important event of the year ahead of us – the Slovenian Conference on Public Relations, we film podcasts, prepare various professional events, and take care of exchanging experiences among communicators during the epidemic.

In the long run, we are planning numerous projects and activities as we are aware that at all times, we must take care of the development of standards, education, and networking of practitioners. A lot of work in publication is awaiting us. Sooner or later we will need to deal with the question of certification, because we are keen for colleagues who can lead public relations professionally. As in any discipline, we encounter individuals that do not fulfil educational, professional, or ethical standards. I think that this is key to a higher reputation of our work.



Interview extract with Anita Kovačič Čelofiga for Radio Maribor of 29 May 2020

ON THE TABLE OF THE IEB

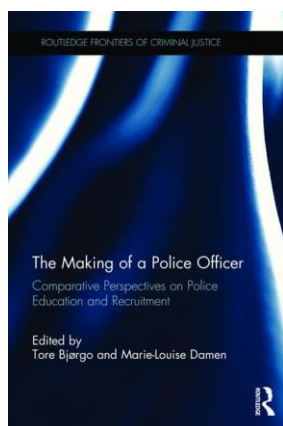
PROJECT BEST PRACTICE

The making of a police officer

This anthology is based on data from the project RECPOL (Recruitment, Education and Careers in the Police: A European Longitudinal Study). The two editors; Professor Tore Bjørgo and Associate Professor Marie-Louise Damen, are connected to the Norwegian Police College in Oslo, Norway.

Does a more academic type of police education produce new police officers that are reluctant to patrol the streets? What is the impact of gender diversity and political orientation on a police student's career aspirations and attitudes to policing? These are some of the questions addressed by this longitudinal project, following police students in seven European countries. The unique data material makes it possible to

explore a wide range of topics relevant to the future development of policing, police education and police science more generally.



Part I presents an overview of the different goals and models of police education in the seven participating countries. Part II describes what type of student is attracted to police education, taking into consideration educational background, political orientation and career aspirations. Part III shows the social impact of police education by examining students' orientations towards emerging competence areas; students' career aspirations; and students' attitudes concerning trust, cynicism and legalism.

The overall results show that police students are strikingly similar across different types of police education. Students in academic institutions are at least as interested in street patrolling as students in vocational training institutions. Gender and recruitment policies matter more in relation to career preferences than education models. The national context plays a more important role than the type of police education system. Written in a clear and direct style, this book will appeal to students and scholars in policing, criminology, sociology, social theory and cultural studies and those interested in how police education shapes its graduates.

The book can be downloaded as an eBook at a lower price here:

<https://www.routledge.com/The-Making-of-a-Police-Officer-Comparative-Perspectives-on-Police-Education/Bjorge-Damen/p/book/9780367228668>

Recommended by: May-Britt V.R. Ronnebro, Secretary General

LAST WORD

I am pleased to see so many positive articles in this Newsletter – it is inspiring to read how many IPA sections help their members, their fellow police colleagues, or other sections during the current crisis. It gives hope to discover that some sections are starting to see better times: I was delighted to read IPA Montenegro's contribution, informing us all that the country is now coronavirus-free.

This current Newsletter is a combined edition for July and August. I am hopeful and quietly optimistic that come September, when the next IPA Newsletter is published, more IPA sections will have emerged from the crisis, and that possibly the IAC staff will be working at least some of the time in the Arthur Troop House once more.

Elke



