



## **Presentation of the project “Good practice for dialogue and communication as strategic principles for policing political manifestations in Europe” (GODIAC)**

The transnational project runs from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2013. It is funded to 70 % by the Action Grant of the specified programme *Prevention of and Fight against Crime* from the European Union’s General Programme 2007-2013 on *Security and Safeguarding Civil Liberties*. The Swedish National Police Board, who is the project co-ordinator contributes with 30 % of the total project budget of 1 206 431 Euro.

There are 20 partner organisations in 11 countries participating in the project. These consist of 12 police organisations: the Austrian Ministry of Interior, Police Headquarters of Cyprus, Central Police Department of Lower Saxony in Germany, Hungarian National Police, Hungarian Parliamentary Commission for Civil Rights, Romanian Ministry of Administration and Interior, General Inspectorate of the Romanian Gendarmerie, County Police Authority of Stockholm, of Skåne and of Västra Götaland in Sweden, Merseyside Police Headquarters and Metropolitan Police in UK, and 8 research/ educational organisations: Germany Police University, Danish Centre for Police Studies, Institute for Public Security of Catalonia in Spain, Police Academy of the Netherlands, Higher Institute of Police Science and Internal Security in Portugal, Uppsala University in Sweden, Academy of Police Force in Bratislava in Slovak Republic and National Police Improvement Agency in UK.

There are also partners who will follow the project developments. These are Helsinki Police Department in Finland, Oslo Police District in Norway, Norwegian Police University and Swedish National Criminal Police.

CEPOL is also a partner and will facilitate the communication and dissemination within the project through the use of the CEPOL Internet Platform.

### **Background**

Political manifestations and demonstrations take place all over Europe. In recent years such events increasingly exceeded national boundaries. Only in the first half of 2009 major conferences held inside EU (like the NATO summit in Germany and France, the G20 in the UK and G8 in Italy) mobilised thousands of international protesters and activists. Political incidents outside Europe, on the other hand, create spontaneous actions in the EU, often activating local protests.

In line with the internationalisation of protests there is also a development and diversity of manifestation tactics that are seen as either a creative protest or clear provocations and illegal activity. This situation bears huge challenges for police services throughout Europe, in finding appropriate measures to deal with these developments, to provide safety and security on the one side- and to facilitate and uphold the citizens’ legal rights on the other. With the internationalisation of demonstrations, there is a need for an internationalisation of knowledge.



## Objectives

The objectives of the project are to contribute to development of a European approach to policing political manifestations, to learn how research based principles, especially communication and dialogue are applied to de-escalate and prevent public order disturbances in policing political manifestations in Europe and to increase knowledge on demonstrators and activists, their ideology, mobility and strategies towards the police. The project will develop co-operation and networks between practitioners, researchers and trainers in partner countries and enhance the use of research based knowledge in police operations.

## Activities

At ten field studies commanders, dialogue police, researchers and trainers from different partner countries will observe political manifestations in real time in different countries. Good examples will be identified of how the strategic principles of dialogue and communication are applied by the police. Studies will be made on social identities and the mobility of demonstrators and activists, how they adjust their tactics according to changes in police tactics. How non-verbal communication is perceived will be a specific focus. The observers will be trained in the peer review method, a user-focused evaluation method.

There will be two seminars related to the field studies. A final conference will also be organised in Stockholm in the first half of 2013 and all the partners as well as other international expertise will be invited.

## Results

The network of commanders, dialogue police, trainers and researchers will have promoted exchange of good practice and contribute to development of knowledge during seminars and through communication and exchange on CEPOL Internet based electronic environment. The link between practice, training and research will be strengthened, building on CEPOL research seminars.

Reports that can be used for planning and training will have been produced: field study reports, a booklet of European examples of good practice for dialogue and communication as strategic principles for policing political manifestations, research reports and a paper on peer-review methodology. Through these activities a European dimension of policing crowds at political manifestation will emerge.

## Project organisation

The *steering committee* consists of the assistant Head of the Department of Police Affairs Lena Tysk (chair), National Police Board, Sweden and 6 members of the partner organisations: from the Central Police Department of Lower Saxony, Germany, the National Police Improvement Agency, UK, the Higher Institute of Police Sciences, Portugal, the County Police Authority of Skåne, Sweden, the Police research centre, Uppsala University, Sweden and the Centre for Police Studies, Denmark.



## Rikspolisstyrelsen

GODIAC project  
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With the financial support from the Prevention of and Fight  
against Crime Programme of the European Union  
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The *project group* consist of project manager Marianne Hilton, project coordinator Robert Göransson, a project administrator and researchers from the National Police Board, from Uppsala University and from the Police Academy of the Netherlands.

Professor Otto Adang, the Police Academy of the Netherlands is *senior advisor*.

The *reference group* consists of one contact person from each partner organisation.

The *field study group* is built up by two staff from each partner organisation. They are commanders, dialogue police, tutors and researchers within the field.

The *researcher group* will be organised with the researchers from the partner organisations.



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