Editorial: New act to change the operation of the Police University College

A new Act on the Police University College entered into force at the beginning of 2014. The act brings big changes to the structure and content of the training provided at the Police University College but also to its research and development functions.

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Research results

With regard to the Police University College’s most recent publications, the spotlight is on collaboration between the Police, the Finnish Customs and the Border Guard as well as the prevention and monitoring of environmental crime. The list of other publications includes analyses on topics such as hate crime and regional safety and security.

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Project news: Review of EU funding and new projects

Project planning is in progress with a view to applying for funding under the EU’s Horizon 2020 programme. The Police University College can participate in the projects in the capacity of a research centre or as an end user. New research projects have started in fields such as social media as well as money laundering and terrorist financing.

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Editorial:
New act to change the operation of the Police University College

A new Act on the Police University College entered into force at the beginning of 2014, replacing the former Act on Police Training passed in 2005. The act brings big changes to the structure and content of the training provided at the Police University College but also to its research and development functions.

Under the new act, the basic education for police officers will become a university-level degree. Police officers who want posts in the police command will need to complete a master’s degree in policing. This brings the academic structure of police training in line with other university courses. The first courses under the new system will begin in the autumn of 2014.

According to the act, the Police University College is responsible for providing scientific and academic university-level education in national safety and security for specialist vocational careers and command roles. The Police University College also supports individuals’ professional development and promotes lifelong learning.

The statutory duties of the Police University College also include applied research and development to support the planning of police work and national safety and security as well as the teaching provided at the Police University College. This calls for methodologically and substantively diverse research as well as the ability to identify and factor in the needs of different target groups when producing information.

The provisions concerning research and development have been modelled on other universities of applied sciences. They have considerable experience of practical research and development projects and of making use of the know-how of teachers and students in project work. The Police University College can adopt suitable best practices from other universities of applied sciences.

The act calls special attention to the need for collaboration between the Police University College and national and international police organisations. The importance of collaboration, whether national or international, cannot be emphasised enough.

Dr Vesa Muttilainen
Director of Research
Police College of Finland
Research results:
Collaboration between the Police, the Finnish Customs and the Boarder Guard – towards a shared intelligence organisation

The Police, the Finnish Customs and the Border Guard have been working in close cooperation for almost one hundred years, mostly in the areas of preventing illegal immigration, combating international and organised crime and deterring smuggling and other customs offences. The Criminal Sanctions Agency has joined in on the cooperation more recently. Collaboration between these authorities has been extremely close at times, and the network is highly esteemed and even internationally renowned these days.

Cooperation can be challenging from the perspective of strategic management and coordination. Coordinating powers and organisational cultures requires flexibility and strong commitment to common goals from all parties. The objective is to prevent overlaps and competition.

According to the study, the authorities’ shared units that focus on strategic and operative analysis need more powers to organise their operations independently. Commanders should also have access to performance indicators that would allow them to motivate the personnel of the different authorities to engage in genuine partnerships with each other.

Pirjo Jukarainen, Researcher, D.Sc.
The study analyses the current status of environmental crime prevention and monitoring in Finland from the perspective of the participating authorities. What is the official process for preventing and monitoring environmental crime in practice? What kinds of problems and opportunities do different authorities recognise relating to the prevention and monitoring of environmental crime?

The study focused on collaboration between the environmental monitoring teams of Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, local government environmental authorities, the Police and the prosecution service in preventing and monitoring environmental crime. A total of 24 representatives of these authorities were interviewed in Uusimaa in the spring of 2013: eight from the Police, five from the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, seven from local government environmental authorities and four from the prosecution service.

Based on the findings, the official process for preventing and monitoring environmental crime is highly dependent on specific individuals and varies according to the circumstances of each case. On the other hand, the interviewees felt that the prevention and monitoring of environmental crime has improved in recent years. The complex legislation and difficulties in interpreting it had major implications on the work of the authorities. Cooperation between environmental monitoring authorities and the Police generally begins when a case is referred to the Police.

Iina Sahramäki, Researcher, M.Soc.Sc, M.Sc.(Admin.)
Terhi Kankaanranta, Senior Researcher, Ph.D
Latest publications

• For international readership, Juha Kääriäinen and Jenni Niemi focus on the trust in the police of the Russian and Somali minorities living in Finland. (see Kääriäinen & Niemi 2014, published in English).

• A study by Jenni Niemi focuses on the status of cooperation between the authorities in combating illegal immigration in Finland. (see Niemi 2013, abstract in English).

• Jouni Perttula’s research project examines the role of the third sector in safety and security collaboration. What does this kind of work require of the third sector and other parties? (see Perttula 2013, abstract in English).

• For international readership, racist crime reported to the Police in Finland is examined by Iina Sahramäki, Jenni Niemi and Juha Kääriäinen. (see Sahramäki, Niemi & Kääriäinen 2014, published in English).

• What differences and similarities are there between Finland and Sweden with regard to preventing and investigating environmental crime? This is one of the questions that Iina Sahramäki and Terhi Kankaanranta set out to answer in their comparative study. (see Sahramäki & Kankaanranta 2014, abstract in English)

See the Publication Register of the Police College of Finland: www.policecollege.fi > Research > Publication Register
Project news: Views of the Police University College on EU funding?

As the new EU programming period (2014–2020) begins, the Police University College has accumulated solid experience and useful contacts from previous Framework Programme projects, other EU-financed research projects and capacity-building projects. The Police University College is in a position to participate in projects both in the capacity of a research centre and as a developer and tester (end user) of new concepts and products.

The EU’s Horizon 2020 programme contributes a total of approximately EUR 70 billion towards European research, development and innovation projects between 2014 and 2020. Topics that are in line with the Police University College’s research and development priorities mostly relate to the Secure Societies section of the Horizon 2020 programme. Funding is available, among other areas, towards fighting crime, protecting the resilience of critical infrastructures, enhancing security in information systems and improving the EU’s performance in crises and catastrophes.

Among the projects in which the Police University College participates is a project coordinated by Kouvola Innovation Oy, which focuses on developing virtual learning environments and so-called smart games for the purposes of police training (e.g. crime scene investigation). The Police University College is also a member of a large consortium which is planning a project relating to local police work. The Horizon 2020 programme also covers several other themes that are important for research in the field of policing.

Johanna Argillander, Project Planner
The EU project studies the use of social media in emergencies. The aim is to examine the operating models of different organisations and their possibilities of using social media in their work. Recommendations are also being drawn up concerning how social media could be linked to emergency communications. The sub-project coordinated by the Police University College focuses on evaluating how the Police make use of social media.

The study will provide information about how different countries and organisations make use of social media and what kinds of costs are involved and what benefits can be derived from the use of social media. The information can be used to improve the operations and communications of the Police and other authorities, to monitor social media and therefore also potentially to investigate crime.

The EU project is coordinated by TEKEVER in Portugal. Finnish partners include the University of Eastern Finland, the Emergency Services College and the Northern Savonia Fire and Rescue Department.

Kari Pylväs, Researcher, MA(Ed.)
Terhi Kankaanranta, Senior Researcher, Ph.D
Project news:
Risk assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing

The aim of the project coordinated by the Police University College is to carry out a national risk assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing on the basis of recommendation No 1 of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The obligation to produce the risk assessment is based on a recommendation issued by the FATF in 2012. A similar obligation will also be included in the new Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive of the EU. The Finnish Ministry of the Interior will provide assistance in the project and contribute to carrying out the risk assessment on the basis of research.

The topic is closely linked to the work of the Police, as the Money Laundering Clearing House of Finland, which operates in connection with the National Bureau of Investigation, is one of the most important competent authorities on money laundering. Its duties have been laid down in the Finnish Act on Detecting and Preventing Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing. The topic is relevant for several authorities as well as other organisations.

Pirjo Jukarainen, Researcher, D.Sc.

Other upcoming projects

• Incorporating social media and mobile technology into the communications of the authorities (in partnership with the Emergency Services College)

• Use of simulation software in the educational institutions of the Finnish Ministry of the Interior (in partnership with the Emergency Services College, the Border and Coast Guard Academy and the Crisis Management Centre)

• Illegal waste as an element of unreported employment – status review from Finland and Baltic Sea states
Seminars

**Nordic Police Research Seminar, August 19-21, 2014. The Institute of Police Education at Linnaeus University, Växjö, Sweden**

The seminar brings together academic and practical police researchers from the Nordic countries and beyond. The fifth biennial event will include topics such as The Past, the Present and the Future of Police Research, Challenges for Nordic Police Research and False Confessions and Correcting Injustices. The seminar highlights new ideas, theories, methods and findings in a wide range of police research and applied areas.

**The Eurocrim 2014 -conference, 10–13 September, 2014. The European Society of Criminology, Prague, Czech Republic.**

The 14th Annual Eurocrim-conference will be attended by experts in criminology and related disciplines from every region of the world offering an excellent opportunity for networking and building collaborations among scientists from diverse regions of the world as well as discussion between disciplines that contribute to the science and practice of criminology.