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High-Quality Research Gives Added Value

Dear reader!

This is the first issue of our international Research Review. We would like to give you a concise package of information about what we are doing in the Police College of Finland on research matters. The reason for publishing this is simple: we would like to be known and to co-operate internationally in the field of police research.

In the recent Research Strategy, the College expressed its wish to become an internationally respected and credible research institute. In order to reach the target, three main factors have been pointed out in the strategy. Firstly, we want to actively develop the know-how and resources of the research activities in the College. For example, we strongly stress the academic qualifications in the recruitment of new research personnel, and we also want to encourage our teaching and research staff to improve their academic qualifications.

Secondly, we strongly rely on academic standards and want to maintain a high scientific level. As part of the national police organisation, we are often reminded of the practical nature of police work. Naturally, this is very true. We, however, believe that high-quality research gives more added value to the practice than a less ambitious approach would. In practice, maintaining a high quality entails, for example, high ethical standards and independence regarding the research results, openness and quality assurance, peer reviewed publications, and co-operation with other high-level research institutions.

Thirdly, we want to actively contribute to the practical usefulness of research and the application of the results in the practice. The tools for this aim would be developing the research agenda, emphasising the police research approach, and developing communication of the research results.

After reading this, and at least part of the content in this Review, you may think that we could benefit from each other. In this case, please don’t hesitate to contact the person in our Unit whose interests best seems to correspond to those of your own!

Dr Risto Honkonen
Head of Research
Police College of Finland
Research and Development

The Research Unit in the Police College of Finland carries out research on the police, policing, and the operational environment of the police. The aim of the research is to give a scientific base to police education and also to act as a knowledge base for decision making and planning in all levels of public administration. Researchers also contribute to domestic and international academic and social debate on police and crime matters.

The Unit has five research areas that concentrate on a specific theme.

Narcotics Crime

The research focuses mainly on the practices and organisation of policing to control and prevent the supply and demand of illicit drugs including organised crime. The research is divided into three broad areas, which are: (a) the organisation of co-operation and knowledge transfer within the police and between police and other authorities, (b) knowledge processes and decision making in drugs crime investigation, and (c) the outcomes of the implementation of drugs legislation and strategies. Individual research projects are carried out in each of the above-mentioned areas.

Crime and Security

The research covers both reported and unreported crime. Ordinary citizens’ experiences of policing, factors shaping their experiences and the experiences of crime victims are also examined. During the last few years, research on reported crime has focused on the monitoring of racist offences. As part of its work on unreported crime, material compiled by the Ministry of Justice and the National Research Institute of Legal Policy has been analysed. The team has collected and analysed material for a research project on crime that targets children and young people.

Police Administration

Police administration research focuses on themes such as police training in Finland, recruitment, education and careers in the police, evaluation of the working conditions of the police personnel as well as leadership. The research and development work focuses on themes such as well-being at work, police personnel and leadership, the organisation of police administration, education in and for the police. The research and development work in these fields is diverse in its form, length and goals.
Policing

The common denominators of the research activities of the team are policing and its role in a changing society. Research on policing focuses on both the effectiveness and emerging future challenges of policing. Cooperation with other agencies, authorities and with civil society is essential. The current research focuses on areas such as changing security environment, terrorism and radicalisation, community policing, investigation of the asylum seeker process and other themes related to immigration.

Economic Crime

In the research area of economic crime, the focus is on the different types of economic crimes and the ways in which they are committed. The research team also analyses the control and the combating of economic crimes. The research activities can be divided as follows: research focusing on the crimes and the operating environment of the police, as well as research focusing on the police organisation and the work of the police.
**Ongoing Projects**

**Narcotics Crime**

*Reprimands and Treatment: To Balance on the Knife-edge between Sanction and Treatment*

This research project analyses the social and organisational factors contributing to a relatively low number of non-prosecution decisions based on reprimands of young people and the treatment referral of problem users in the case of minor drug-use offences. This research is part of a European consortium Developing a research-based policy approach to address criminal behaviour in the EU, which has applied funding from the Framework Program 7.

(Senior Researcher Mr Jarmo Houtsonen).

*Social Marginalisation of Substance Users*

The main focus of the research project is to study the association between substance use and social marginalisation. Based on the register data, the study aims to examine the social and health-related exclusion and criminality of persons suspected of driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol and/or other drugs. The register of all people suspected of DUI in Finland between the years 1977–2007 (DUI register) has been further completed with material from other Finnish registers. The study is conducted by the National Institute for Health and Welfare of Finland (THL) in collaboration with the Police College of Finland.

(Senior Researcher Ms Karoliina Karjalainen)

*Traffic Accidents, Driving Under the Influence and Substance Use*

The research project aims to analyse the influence of substance use and driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs in fatal traffic accidents. We examine psychoactive substances used by drivers killed in road traffic accidents during 2006–2008 and the socio-demographic and health-related differences between sober and DUI drivers killed in traffic accidents. The study is conducted by the National Institute for Health and Welfare of Finland (THL) in collaboration with the Police College of Finland.

(Senior Researcher Ms Karoliina Karjalainen)

*Guidebook for Cross-border Drugs Crime Control*

The project is based on a cooperative agreement between the Police College of Finland and St. Petersburg University of the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation. The aim is to compile the existing information into a practical guidebook for police officers working in cross-border drugs crime control between Finland and Northwest Russia. The guidebook describes, among other things, the organisation of the law enforcement system on both sides of the border, the main authorities and their roles, and how to proceed if cross-border cooperation is needed.

(Senior Researcher Mr Jarmo Houtsonen).

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Crime and Security

Hate Crimes Reported to the Police in 2010

Reports on racist crimes have been conducted at the Police College of Finland and the Ministry of Interior’s Police Department since 1998. In 2009, the system of compiling statistics on racist crime was developed into a more comprehensive system of monitoring hate crimes. For the purposes of these reports, hate crime has been defined as a crime motivated by prejudice or hostility towards the victim’s ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, transgender identity or appearance, or disability. The yearly reports review the suspected hate crimes reported to the police each year. The research is founded by the Ministry of Interior.

(Researcher Ms Jenni Niemi)

Stop Hate Crimes in Europe

Over the last few years, the EU has suffered an increase on violence and offences targeting specific groups such as immigrants, ethnic minorities, religious, social, cultural and ideological communities, as well as individuals due to their sexual orientation. At the moment, there is no common definition of hate crime within the EU countries. The objective of this project is to enhance mutual knowledge and awareness with regard to existing legal tools within the EU in the area of hate crimes and to exchange experiences among actors of criminal justice. The project is coordinated by Movimiento Contra la Intolerancia in Spain and funded by the European Commission’s Criminal Justice Programme.

(Researcher Ms Jenni Niemi)

Child Homicides in Finland and in Europe

The child homicide rates have strongly decreased during the last decades in Finland. The first purpose of the study project is to analyse the structural changes of child homicides in Finland from 1960 until 2010 by comparing the main characteristics of the crimes, their victims and perpetrators. The links of child homicide mortality trends to general demographic and social changes during the period are also considered. The second purpose of the project is to compare the child rates in Europe and in some other Western industrialised countries using WHO mortality statistics. The results will be published jointly with the National Research Institute of Legal Policy.

(Senior Researcher Mr Juha Kääriäinen)

Trust in the Police

Citizens trust in the police in Nordic countries. In this research project, causes and consequences of that phenomenon are studied using national and international survey data such as the Police barometer in Finland and the European Social Survey. In the European context, it seems that trust in the police is in connection with broader structures of the societies like welfare-state and quality of governance. Results have been and will be published partly with the National Research Institute of Legal Policy.

(Senior Researcher Mr Juha Kääriäinen)

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Police Administration

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Police Training in Finland

Completing the Diploma in Police Studies takes about two and a half years and makes the holder eligible for the posts of Senior Constable, Senior Detective Constable and Detective. The Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Police Training in Finland surveys e.g. motives of the newly graduated police officers for acquiring the education/occupation; employment of the police officers; police officers’ general aptitude for police work and general policing skills; differentiated policing skills and career aspirations. The data are collected from both the graduated constables themselves and their supervisors.
(Senior Planning Officer Mr Matti Vuorensyrjä)

Recruitment, Education and Careers in the Police

This is a comparative and longitudinal study coordinated by the Norwegian Police University College. It focuses on the processes of recruitment, education and socialisation and the way the views, values, and attitudes of police students as well as their career paths become shaped.
(Senior Researcher Mr Vesa Huotari).

Pedagogic Strategy in the Police Education

This study approaches police education in Finland from the perspective of educational practice as pedagogical strategy. By depicting the Finnish police education within a systematic, multi-level and strategic pedagogical perspective, the study provides for more reflective and comprehensive pedagogical thinking and contributes thus to the development of a better educational practice.
(Senior Researcher Mr Vesa Huotari).

The Police Personnel Barometer

The Police Personnel Barometer is a comprehensive survey and development project for the improvement of well-being at work, supervisor work and organisational climate in the Finnish police force. Each police unit has access to its own data and is thus able to identify its relative strengths and weaknesses in terms of its past performance and the national average. This information is expected to yield for the development plans after round table discussions enabling the participation of the personnel. The data have been used in scientific research on the human research management issues.
(Senior Planning Officer Mr Matti Vuorensyrjä)

Leadership 360°-feedback and Evaluation System for the Police

This development project is based on the view of a feedback and evaluation system which enhances leadership in general, creates shared understanding of managerial tasks essential in successful organisational action as well as the respective leadership roles in them. The aim is to improve the fundamental leadership and followership skills of the respondents. The theoretical, technical and educational aspects of the system have been outlined in the Police College of Finland, and the system represents a joint effort of the different departments of the College.
(Senior Researcher Mr Vesa Huotari).

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Policing

**Criminal Intelligence and Crime Analysis in Finland**

The target of the research project is to clarify the situation of criminal intelligence and crime analysis in police departments and in the co-operation between Police, Customs and the Border Guard in Finland. How does intelligence-led management actualise through intelligence and analysis functions? How is the information collected and handled in the departments of inquiry and analysis? How is the information forwarded to operational and strategic functions? And how is it used in operational function, preliminary investigation and strategic intelligence-led management? The knowledge based on this research enables the improvement of the use of information system and the collection, handling and forwarding of data (Senior Researcher Ms Noora Ellonen).

**Legitimation of Suicide Bombings**

The doctoral thesis project concerning the legitimation of suicide bombings began in 2009. The aim is to study the statements of the organisation leaders of Hamas (Palestine), Hizballah (Lebanon), PKK (Kurdistan Workers’ Party) and LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). Research questions are the following: how do the leaders legitimate suicide bombings to their own supporters as well as to general public, how are the enemy conceptions built and re-built in this process and what is the role of martyrdom in the discourses of the secular and religious group leaders. (Researcher Ms Annika Rosberg-Haavisto)

**The Use of the Stun Gun in European Policing**

The project clarifies the use of the stun gun in policing in Finland and in certain other European countries. At the moment, there is only some systematically collected knowledge based on research of the stun gun. The international research knowledge enables the comparison of the use of the stun gun in different countries. Results of the project enable the distribution of good practices and improvement of policing, police education and co-operation between authorities. (Research plan).

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Economic Crime

State of Investigation of Economic Crimes
To be able to further develop the investigation of economic crimes by police, more diversified and comprehensive information is needed. Furthermore, real-time information is needed for strategic planning. Data about the state of economic crime investigation will be obtained via an electronic questionnaire, administered by the Police College of Finland. The questionnaire covers several themes, such as background information about investigators, procedure of investigation, content of economic crime cases as well as co-operation between police and interest groups.
(Researcher Ms Terhi Kankaanranta and Senior Researcher Mr Vesa Muttilainen).

Crimes Related to Corruption in Police Records
Except for bribery, the Finnish Penal Code does not directly cover corruption. However, in addition to bribery offences, the cases of corruption can be investigated, for example, as offences in offices or as embezzlements. This study aims to find the corruption cases by analysing the content of over 30 different types of reported crimes during 2007–2010. Also, corruption-related search terms are used to locate the cases from the police information system database. The study is funded by the National Police Board and the Ministry of Justice.
(Researcher Ms Anna-Riitta Leppänen).

The Legal Limits of Corruption
The PhD-project concentrates on finding the legal limits imposed on corruption in Finland by the law, criminal justice authorities as well as the legal literature. The first article examines the corruption prevention measures and bribery criminalisations in Finland; the second article analyses the criminalisations relating to illicit enrichment and trading in influence; and the remaining three articles concentrate on studying the legal praxis in Finnish courts relating to the bribery cases. The project is made for the faculty of law of Helsinki University with financing by different foundations.
(Researcher Ms Johanna Peurala).

Crimes Related to Computer Systems and Networks (Cyber-crimes)
Information technology devices and data networks are nowadays widely utilised when committing offences. Furthermore, criminals are often professionals in this field. Therefore, the investigation process, as well as combating these types of crimes by police, is an increasingly challenging task. In this study, characteristics and investigation of crimes related to computer systems and networks in order to gain financial utility will be explored. The analyses will be based on the police records, statistics, interviews and other sources of information. Results can be utilised in strategic planning, developing the investigation process as well as in police education.
(Research plan)

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