

CA17102

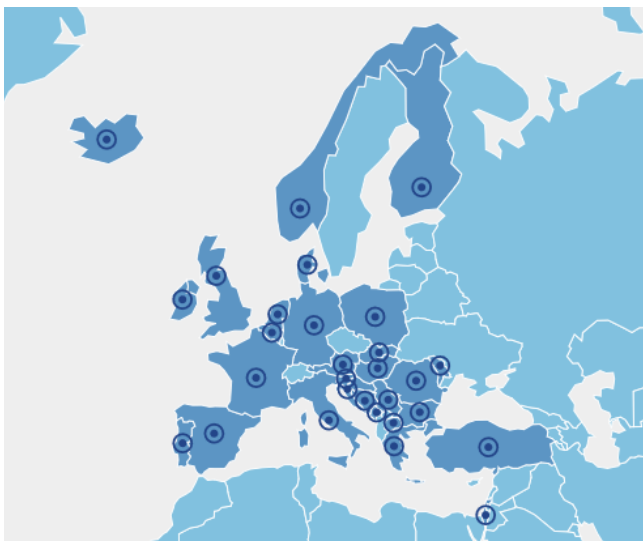
Welcome

This is the first Newsletter of the POLICE STOPS EU COST network (CA17102). This informal communication medium will inform you briefly of the activities of the network and the functioning of the Working Groups, which are the key building blocks of this network. We will also brief you about the most important dates and actions which will take place during Grant Period 3 (2020-21). We wish you a pleasant read.

Our network

New members since April 2019

The initial POLICE STOPS network was signed by 16 members. The CA17102 network started its Kick-off meeting in Brussels with 19 countries. Austria, Greece, Montenegro, Israel, Turkey and Iceland joined us after April 2019 by e-voting. At the moment, the Network counts 29 partners. Meanwhile we have had contact with a counterpart network in USA, led by Barry Friedman (New-York University). They are keen to cooperate with us.



Open calls

Call for more stakeholders

Although we have many partners, we are looking for more involvement from the professional fields in many countries. In GP4, we will organize an International Conference where the target audience will be mainly the professional world. May I, therefore, ask you to make this network and its activities known to NGOs and other human rights organisations, police experts, police education institutions and government bodies that are concerned with and/or have affinity with Police Stops? In particular, we are concerned to involve those most affected by Police Stops, for example from ethnic minorities or from marginalized working class communities. Please help us to extend the reach of our network and of our work.

Call for Training schools

A first call for a Training School – conceptualizing legitimacy - is behind us. Originally, this was to be organized in Edinburgh in June 200 but, due to the CoVid19 situation, everything has been moved to Croatia (October 2020). Training schools offer the opportunity for young and early career (police) researchers to exchange ideas and to learn from the experiences and expertise of our network. It can be an opportunity to involve your researchers or assistants. Don't forget to spread the word about this in your network as well. Further details about the Training School in Croatia will be circulated soon, but contact mikerowe@liverpool.ac.uk to express interest.

Participation

How we work

The Working Groups form the building blocks of the COST project. Here the substantive work is done. That is why the Core Group has decided to mainly focus on Working Group meetings during GP3. During this GP period, work will mainly be done on the data of the questionnaire, its analysis and validation. The result of this work should culminate in an international congress that we hope to be able to organize together with the professional field (human right organizations, police (education) and governmental bodies) in late spring of 2021.

Guiding rules to assure participation in Working Groups

- A. Only active participants can be invited to Working Groups. If you are not able to come to a meeting, inform your Working Group leaders and ask them to be involved in further work and developments.
- B. Keep dates of actions announced in the work and budget plan free in your agenda.
- C. If invitations are late, please ask someone from the Core Group or Mirko Miceli, about what could have been happened with your invitation.
- D. Be aware meetings start mostly in the morning so, if possible, travel the night before, which gives you also the opportunity to meet for dinner with other members of the Working Group.
- E. You can book flights and trains in advance, but remember, you are only eligible for reimbursement when you are officially invited by e-cost platform.

Participation

- D. Within the CA17102, we have informally agreed among ourselves to pay more attention to sustainable travel. This means: no use of low-cost airlines or low-budget companies to fly (unless there is no other option); preference for trains if the trip is less than 700km of travel; and if traveling by plane, do not forget to make a financial contribution to green project at the end of your payment
- E. Come prepared to the meetings:
- Read documents sent to you by Working Group leaders
 - Make a presentation of what you've been doing or working on
 - Make clear at the start what you expect from the Working Group meeting? Questions? Deliverables.

Next events

Considering the uncertain travel situation in the upcoming months due to the CoVid19, we would like to remind all members to make travel arrangements only when receiving the official invitation via ecost. The Core Group will keep monitoring the situation and a final decision for the meeting in Croatia will be taken in early September and invitation sent shortly after. Meanwhile we ask you to keep dates of actions free in your agenda's.

OCTOBER 2020

- Training School: 11-15 October 2020
- Core group meeting: 13 October 2020
- MC Meeting: 13 October 2020
- Working group 1-2-3 meeting: 13-14 October 2020
- Working group 4 meeting (symposium): 13-14-(15) October 2020
- STSM: 12-16 October 2020

JANUARY 2021

- Core Group Meeting: 7 January 2021
- Working group 1-2-3 meeting: 7&8 January 2021

CROATIA

SLOVAKIA

Working Group 1

WG1 has prepared a publication plan for 2020 and 2021. During the Budapest meeting, members were divided into smaller groups and each conducted an analysis of the data that had been collected so far from the questionnaire. We evaluated the possibility of developing further research based on this data or producing future publications. A report was produced on this analysis as one of the outcomes of the working group. In the coming period, WG1 will collect submissions for a special issue of The Journal of Organisational Ethnography and will continue to publish blogs periodically. In preparation are proposals for other activities aimed at researching current issues of police stops in the context of the virus pandemic.

Working Group 2

Currently, WG2 is working on a special issue on experiences of police stops within a variety of European contexts. Highlighting how targeted groups experience police stops in different European contexts will also address existing research gaps. Deadline for submissions of abstracts is May 15, 2020. Moreover, we are working on arranging a workshop at which authors will be discussing the manuscripts which are to be submitted for this special issue. This workshop will take place at the COST meeting in January.

Working Group 3

Working Group 3 is planning an edited collection covering key topics connected to the Governance of Police Stops, such as legal frameworks, internal governance, external accountability and oversight bodies, the role of the public and civil society oversight, legal remedies, data recording and the role of technology. We have helped develop a research protocol in order to generate comparative data on the governance of Police Stops across Europe, and will disseminate this information via our website and papers in professional journals (one per WG member country). We plan to hold an online event for key stakeholders to share learning on 'Improving the Practice and Governance of Police Stops'. WG members are also planning to take part in a PolStops panel at the ESC annual conference 2020.

Working Group 4

Working group IV – contextualizing police stops - is preparing a monograph about the politicisation of police stops. Analysing police stops as a political issue, we believe, will allow us to be much more specific about what it means to contextualize a practice, as the different contributions in the book will help us make sense of the wider context in which police stops take place.

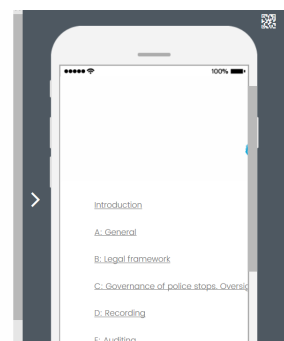
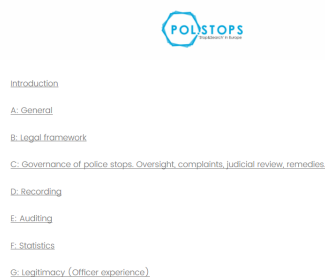
At this moment 13 countries are developing chapters on the basis of the WG IV research protocol that was developed and discussed in Ghent (2019) and Budapest (2020). The preliminary results of this effort will be discussed at the WG IV symposium that was originally planned to take place in Edinburgh the 4th and 5th of June.

The symposium has been postponed due to covid-19 restrictions and will now take place the 12th and 13th of October in Croatia.

Working Group 5

Working Group 5 has been part of the comparative analysis of the police activities. On the CG and WG5 Meeting in Wrocław (January 2020), we discussed the joint questionnaire of WG1&WG3 and we made some recommendations for harmonising the questionnaires of WG2 and WG4 to the above mentioned document. During the Budapest Meeting (March 2020) we observed the data processing of WG1 and WG3.”

Questionnaire



This In 2019, a number of members of the COST network, led by Mike Rowe (Vice-Chair) and working group leaders of WG 1 (Megan O'Neil & Zeljko Karas) and WG 3 (Liz Aston & Janos Fazekas), worked on the development of a research protocol. This resulted in an extensive questionnaire, which contains both yes/no and tick-box questions as well as ones requiring a more qualitative response. We are trying to gather information from countries with very different legal traditions. We ask you to respond as best you can and apologize if the way the questions are presented causes problems of interpretation. If needs be, do contact Mike Rowe (mikerowe@liverpool.ac.uk) for clarification or to identify problems with the survey.

This questionnaire will result in data with which all Working Groups (WG1-WG2 -WG3-WG4) can work. In the first instance, we can use this data for the interactive map on our website (GIS-MAP), but in the second instance we will also use the data for scientific and professional publications. A data protocol was discussed in Budapest and is available for those keen to use the data.

The data that will result from this is essential for the success of our further actions during upcoming Grant Periods (GP3, GP4 and GP5). It is therefore very important that each country completes this questionnaire. We sent the questionnaire to all representatives of participating countries, but we ask that the MC members of each country consult with each other about who will coordinate the process.

Questionnaire

When testing it, it turned out that it takes at least 1,5 hours to complete this form in full. Sometimes it even won't be possible to fill in all questions. We don't expect that everyone has a complete expertise in all aspects of Police Stops. It is therefore perfectly possible that you, as a representative of your country, complete this questionnaire with a group of persons. For example, together with other Police Stops Action members of your country, or with external experts or police professionals. In this, we even suggest you might gather a number of experts who can help you with filling in the questionnaire. However, it is important that you observe scientific ethics. The product of this survey will be made available, so please ensure that your responses are accurate and appropriate for dissemination.

Finally, we hope that every country will commit itself. The success of this network goes hand in hand with the correct completion of the questionnaire.

At the moment **14 Countries** have submitted the questionnaire: Croatia, Israel, Belgium, Romania, Norway, Poland, Northern Ireland + Scotland + England and Wales (3 separate questionnaires), Finland, Republic of North Macedonia, Slovakia, Spain, Hungary, Ireland and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Despite, we still miss 15 Countries

Policing the pandemic

In response to the current COVID-19 public health crisis, European states have introduced measures to close workplaces, to limit the movement of people and to require or encourage social distancing. The ways in which these measures have been formulated and enforced vary from one country to the next and, in many cases, from one town to another. We are seeking to better understand these variations and their effects as part of the COST Action on Police Stops.

We would like each participating member country to contribute to a rapid assessment of these policing changes as they affect Police Stops in terms of the practice, experience, governance and wider local context of stops. We are planning to do a number of things as a group:

- Update the website and the GIS map with information on this topic
- Write blogs on the changes
- Prepare articles on key themes for potential publication in journals.

We have **four key assessment questions** in mind, ones that mirror the questions that structure the work of the COST Action on Police Stops:

- 1 How have police forces been engaged in the policing of lockdowns/social distancing?**
- 2 What do we know so far about the experience of policing the pandemic?**
- 3 What oversight measures and/or controversies have already emerged about the policing of the pandemic?**
- 4 In addition to the public health crisis, are there any other political/social/economic aspects pertinent to the practice of Police Stops during the pandemic?**

YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE ONLINE USING THIS LINK

[CA17102 Policing the pandemic](#)

Publications

As the work of the Police Stops Action develops, we are making plans for publications. Currently, we have one Call for Papers for a journal special issue and plans for more to come:

'Police Encounters' - Special Issue of the Journal of Organizational Ethnography – details at: https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/journals/call_for_papers.htm?id=8915

WG4 plans for an edited book arising from the symposium in Croatia and to be published with Palgrave

WG2 are proposing a special issue of a journal and are currently approaching editors.

We would also encourage participants to communicate the work of the Police Stops Action in relevant professional journals, blogs etc. We need to engage interest in our work and in our international conference in 2021.