

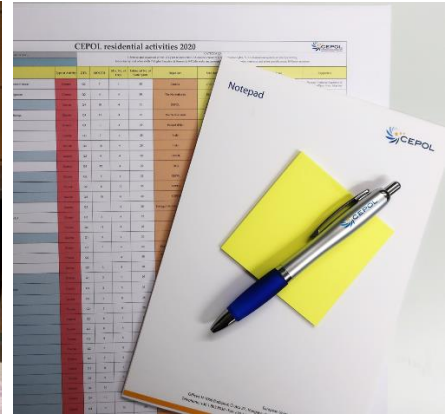
LOOK BACK AT 2020

Read what has been going on in Polamk's International Relations team during the exceptional times of 2020!



Picture on the left: CEPOL National Unit representative Pasi Kempainen and Director Kimmo Himberg ready for the online meeting of the CEPOL Management Board on the last day of Himberg's chairmanship on 30 June 2020. Photo by Anni Kinnunen.

Picture on the right: COVID-19 forced CEPOL to rethink their plans for 2020.



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Text: International Relations team
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Year 2020 was marked by the coronavirus pandemic

The year 2020 started as the years before: preparations for upcoming international events were in full flow.

All of this changed in the beginning of March, when the new coronavirus started to spread in Europe. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared that COVID-19 had become a pandemic.

Although Finland was not among the countries that were most heavily affected, the new safety restrictions in Finland and abroad had implications on the entire Police University College. In this situation, international cooperation had to adapt and take on new forms and methods of interaction.

2020 was a difficult year for many people. Our sympathies are with those who have suffered losses during the pandemic, and we wish strength to all of us as we look forward to a healthier 2021.

CEPOL Management Board meetings in online mode

The last third of Director Kimmo Himberg's term as the Chair of the CEPOL Management Board (MB) took place in the first half of 2020. During Himberg's 18-month chairmanship, the MB worked on formulating a proposal for a new business model for CEPOL, and developing improved modalities for strategic discussions during MB meetings, among other things.

In 2020, the CEPOL MB also had to make difficult decisions on how to proceed in the pandemic situation, along with every other decision-making body in the world.

With travel restrictions in place, the planned MB Meeting in Zagreb under the Croatian EU Presidency in May was cancelled. Instead, the Management Board had additional extraordinary online meetings to follow and react to the COVID-19 situation and its effects to CEPOL's business. In total, Director Himberg chaired

four monthly online meetings from March to June 2020.

Throughout the year, CEPOL and its Framework Partners were able to implement only a few residential courses on-site. CEPOL placed a lot of effort on online learning, and a large number of activities were converted into online activities and implemented on CEPOL's online learning platform LEEd.

In June 2020, Director Himberg handed the CEPOL MB Chairmanship over to José Leitão, Director of the Portuguese Higher Institute of Police Sciences and Internal Security, who took over as the Chair of the Management Board for the next 18 months, with Vice President Uwe Marquardt from the German Police University as the Deputy Chair. As COVID-19 continued to limit international travel, Leitão chaired his first CEPOL MB Meeting online on 12 November 2020 under the German EU Presidency.



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EU Twinning project in Albania

The project Strengthening the Capacities and Efficiency of the Security Academy – Albania took off to a flying start in January 2020. Our Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) Dr Tiina Koivuniemi settled quickly in the beautiful city of Tirana and the co-operation with the Albanian Security Academy (SA) staff worked as if we had known each other for a long time.

In March 2020, during the first Short Term Expert (STE) missions to the SA, first cases of COVID-19 were reported in Albania and the Albanian government took strict measures to control the situation. The Twinning project management also made quick decisions - the RTA returned to Finland and as the situation did not improve quickly, the implementation of the project was paused.

In May and June, plans on how to implement the project were ready and implementation continued, but this time without any travelling. The RTA worked from home, as did the STEs. It was a new experience for everybody, but the implementation continued and we were positively surprised by how well things actually worked, thanks to good cooperation between everyone involved: the Albanian Security Academy, the EU delegation in Albania, the consortium partners Polamk, Estonian Academy of Security Sciences (EASS), JAMK University of Applied Sciences and HAUS International, the project team, the project assistants in Tirana, the STEs, the National Twinning and TAIEX Coordination Team - just to name a few

Of course, there have been a number of challenges during the year, but we are taking this also as a learning experience - the whole year has provided many opportunities to stop and think "Is there another way to do this?" The continuation of our project in Albania was made possible by flexibility measures for Twinning projects, which the European Commission put in place. However, we are certain that the best practices we identify during this project will increase our ability to conduct projects more efficiently and using new solutions in the future as well.

While we continue to implement the project remotely, we do hope to return to conduct STE missions in Tirana soon. The

RTA has already been able to return to Tirana, but for the STEs that is not yet possible. You can do a lot remotely, but not everything (yet) - working face-to-face has its value, and we wish to meet our partners in person soon again

This Twinning project is funded by the European Union.



Only a handful Short Term Experts had the possibility to see the main building of the Albanian Security Academy in real life, as the project was forced to teleworking mode right after its first mission weeks. Photo by Tiina Koivuniemi.

CEPOL Webinar: Implementation of Resolution 1325 in CSDP Missions

On 24 September 2020, CEPOL implemented a webinar on the topic Implementation of resolution 1325 in CSDP missions with the support of the Finnish CEPOL team.

The webinar was part of CEPOL's learning portfolio on European Union Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions, offering training to support Law Enforcement officials in EU Members States to prepare for deployment to EU's CSDP missions.

The inspiration for the topic of the webinar came from the fact that 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the UN resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security - a landmark resolution on the meaningful inclusion and involvement of women in peace processes.

During the webinar, Lina Andeer from the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) of the European Union External Action Service and Sari Rautarinta from CMC Finland gave presentations on the framework of the resolution 1325 and its implementation in CSDP missions. Andeer's presentation focused on the content of the UN Women, Peace and Security

agenda, whereas Rautarinta focused rather on her first-hand mission experiences.

CEPOL webinars are available to all Law Enforcement officials on CEPOL's LEEd platform, where registered users can also access the recording of the webinar Implementation of Resolution 1325 in CSDP Missions.

Hope to see you soon - in person as well!

In 2019, the International Relations team coordinated or participated in around a dozen visits by international delegations to the Polamk campus in different occasions, where the visitors had the chance to learn about Finnish police education and Polamk's facilities. In 2020, however, the team hosted zero such international visits.

Online meetings with current and potential new partners partially replaced on-campus visits. Experience from 2020 has shown that online meetings can also be a good, low-threshold way to explore potential areas of joint interest with partners.

Undeniably, meeting in person is also very useful, especially with new or potential co-operation partners. Seeing each other face-to-face helps building trust and makes further communication easier. Learning from each other's experiences and sharing knowledge is easier, if you can actually see and experience first-hand how the other works.

Digital solutions and online meetings made it possible to continue international cooperation even in the unusual circumstances of 2020. These more flexible and environmentally sustainable options will provide a welcomed addition to the available means of cooperation in the future as well. Nevertheless, we hope to see our partners soon in person as well!

Did you know that the Police University College's Operational Quality Manual is available on our webpage? Read more about how we plan and implement our activities at polamk.fi/en/operational-quality-manual/!



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Back to Basics: Launching an online training for EUPCST



The online learning package produced for the EUPCST Programme by the Police University College introduces basic concepts of EU Common Security and Defence Policy to police officers and civilians. Screenshot from the online training.

Already in 2019, the Police University College's International Relations team began working on building an e-learning package for the European Union Police and Civilian Training programme (EUPCST) - a project dedicated offering training related to the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) to police and gendarmerie officers and civilians. The plan was to compile an online training to be used as a pre-learning material for face-to-face EUPCST trainings, in order to ensure a more consistent level of knowledge between participants.

As COVID-19 started to spread in Europe, on-site EUPCST trainings were put on hold. However, the work on the online training could continue: luckily, expert interviews in Brussels and Ukraine had already been filmed well before any travel restrictions, and the suspension of many other international activities allowed the team to dedicate the necessary time to finalize the online training.

The online training was launched for the use of EUPCST consortium partners in September 2020. Even though EUPCST on-site trainings were suspended, the consortium partners have the possibility to use the materials nationally.

The EUPCST online training package covers six themes. The participants will begin the training by getting to know the basic concepts and terms of EU CSDP

and the EU Integrated Approach. In addition, the training introduces selected crosscutting issues.

The online training also introduces the Code of Conduct for EU Civilian missions, as well as the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse on CSDP missions. Furthermore, the participants will learn about other CSDP-related training possibilities, and hear experiences from EU CSDP missions from experts who have been deployed to the European Union Advisory Mission in Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine).

The EUPCST project is funded by the European Union.

Polamk chaired the Steering Board of the Finnish Centre of Expertise in Comprehensive Crisis Management in 2020

The Finnish Centre of Expertise in Comprehensive Crisis Management, originally a joint effort of the Crisis Management Centre (CMC Finland) and the Finnish Defence Forces International Centre (FINCENT), was founded to facilitate cooperation between actors in the field of civilian crisis management. Later on, Polamk and the Finnish Border and Coast Guard Academy have also joined the cooperation.

For 2020, Polamk's Director Kimmo Himberg took over the rotating chairmanship of the Centre of Expertise's steering board, which brings together the directors of the participating institutions on a regular basis to discuss cooperation, coordination of efforts and other relevant topics related to crisis management. Himberg chaired four steering board meetings over the course of the year, before handing the chairmanship over to FINCENT for 2021.

Polamk's new website launched

Polamk's website has undergone a complete makeover. The renewed website was published in Finnish, Swedish and English in December 2020. The English version of the site is available at polamk.fi/en.



Polamk's renewed website was launched in December 2020. Screenshot from the new landing page.

To keep up with Polamk's International Relations team in 2021, follow our Superintendent Pasi Kempainen (@KempainenPasi_) and Senior Planning Officer Antti Talvitie (@TalvitieAntti_) on Twitter!



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