

## CEPOL contribution- The New Internal Security Strategy

*1. Which specific challenges need to be tackled by EU action in the coming five years regarding international crime, radicalisation and terrorism, cybercrime and cyber-attacks, natural and man-made disasters? What role should the border security have in addressing those challenges?*

Raising awareness and at the same time **strengthening effective implementation** of the various EU and international legal and policy instruments **remains a priority** to be pursued in the next ISS. At the same time, attention must be paid to build upon and consolidate on the achievements of which CEPOL in particular has been instrumental throughout its existence; the emergence of a **progressively harmonised professional culture** among law enforcement professionals that can contribute to the **creation of a genuine European law enforcement culture rooted in the respect of fundamental rights**.

*2. Taking into account the developments in the next five years, which are the actions to be launched at the EU level? How do you see the role of your organisation in supporting those actions?*

Coherent and pragmatic responses to security challenges have to be underpinned by a **sound overarching training policy at European level**, whilst respecting the primacy of Member States. It is a fact that many law enforcement officials are yet to be familiarised with European and international law enforcement instruments, let alone use them. **Training can play a key role in bridging the gaps between policy and practice**. CEPOL can continue to be a **prime actor** by leading and **coordinating training initiatives** and by providing a **quality framework for those**. In this context, the *raison d'être* and the specific added value that CEPOL can bring should be maximized via a cost effective, coherent and yet **collaborative division of labour among agencies**. A more structured identification of strategic training needs at European level is needed.

*3. Which specific research, technology and innovation initiatives are needed to strengthen the EU's capabilities to address security challenges?*

From a CEPOL perspective, if training imparted at European level is to be stepped up, **capital investment is needed** to enable **further development and use of new technologies and learning methodologies**. While classroom training cannot and should not be substituted, **e-Learning** and innovative techniques such as **serious gaming** need to be further supported to make them sustainable and effective. **Exchange programmes** need to be extended to a wider law enforcement target group. **CEPOL's role in research** also needs to be further supported. In the absence of external funding sources, it is difficult to see CEPOL becoming a meaningful actor in this field. Towards this end, **eligibility of CEPOL for thematic budget lines** such as Horizon 2020 and others may have to be re-considered by the Commission, together with the use of Delegation Agreements. The implementation of **public/private partnerships in the context of law enforcement education** and training- so necessary nowadays- also need to be supported by effective funding schemes.

*What is needed to safeguard rights of European citizens when developing future EU security actions?*

European law enforcement training must be rooted in the **firm respect of fundamental rights**. This is why it is of paramount importance that European law enforcement training maintains a healthy dialogue with the operational entities, whilst **keeping the educational approach that distinguishes it from sheer skills-building**. Towards this end, dialogue with the relevant EU, International and Civil Society agencies in the development of learning tools and activities should be continued and further pursued.

*How can the EU's foreign policy improve the security within the EU?*

It has been repeatedly emphasised in all possible instances that the nexus between **internal and external security** is **inextricable**. Promoting a **European approach** to law enforcement training can be a useful catalyst for **improving security within Third Countries**, which would have positive repercussions within EU Member States. **CEPOL could become a fundamental promoter of European approaches and best practices**, as long as **resources** are made available for the implementation of capacity building projects.