CEPOL European Police Exchange Programme

Information and Frequently Asked Questions

About the European Police Exchange Programme

The European Police Exchange Programme is one of CEPOL’s pillar activities, offering police officers, experts and police trainers the opportunity to spend up to two weeks with a police force in another country.

Built on the principles of traditional programmes, where visits are reciprocated, the Exchange Programme has been designed to:

• Promote mobility and the exchange of police officials, in the context of practical training programmes
• Establish a common and shared practical knowledge in different police fields;
• Facilitate sharing, at an EU level, police good practices
• Contribute to the creation of the European police identity
• Encourage mutual learning and networking within the framework of European police cooperation

Each exchange is organised according to a participant’s area of interest. In 2011, the Exchange Programme covered topics from community policing to counterterrorism, from forensics to financial crime and from dog handling to drug trafficking.

In addition to traditional exchanges, the Exchange Programme also includes group study visits to EU agencies involved in justice and law enforcement, such as Europol and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). These week-long visits are targeted to police officers and specialists in international police cooperation who deal with cross-border crime.

Why do we need an Exchange Programme for police officers?

Many of the security threats facing Europe are cross-border in nature. The European Police Exchange Programme is one way that law enforcement can strengthen a cross-border
response to crime. In addition to a practical knowledge exchange, participants develop wider and deeper networks with counterparts in other countries, which contribute to the overall cross-border cooperation between law enforcement agencies within Europe.

**How is the European Police Exchange Programme organised?**

The European Police Exchange Programme is organised and funded by CEPOL, with the help of national exchange coordinators (NECs) appointed in each Member State and participating country.

NECs coordinate the selection of participants in their country and sends list of nominees to CEPOL, who undertakes a “matching process” to find counterparts for each nominee.

After the matching process, NECs are informed of the outcome and, in turn, NECs inform participants of their respective counterparts. NECs continue to help participants organise their exchanges.

Generally exchanges last 13 days (less for Commanders), although shorter exchanges may be agreed between participants. At the end of each exchange, participants must commit to sharing their exchange learnings with colleagues.

**What topics does the Exchange Programme cover?**

The Exchange Programme is organised around topics that have been identified in the Stockholm Programme as important to the safety and security of European citizens. In addition, a priority topic is identified each year for one or more group exchanges. In 2012, **trafficking in human beings** is the priority topic.

In 2012, the following topics will be available for one-to-one exchanges:

*For police officers and science and research experts*

- Community policing and prevention of radicalisation
- Financial crime
- Managing major events
- International information exchange
- Forensics
- Crime prevention
Drug trafficking / Synthetic drugs
Counter-terrorism
Human rights
Organised crime
Cybercrime
Illegal immigration – *new topic!*
Container shipments – *new topic!*
Mobile organised crime groups – *new topic!*
Network for fugitive active search teams – *new topic!*
*For Commanders*
Management and leadership
Police ethics
Public private partnerships (public and private security sector)

*For teaching staff and educational programme developers*
Police training and education systems
Civilian crisis management
Distance learning
Learning environment

*Study visits*

In 2012, study visits will be organised to: Europol, OLAF, EMCDDA and FRA.

**Who can participate in the European Police Exchange Programme?**

The Exchange Programme is open to law enforcement officers, science and research experts, senior teaching staff and educational programme developers.

There is also a dedicated exchange for police commanders.
To take part in an exchange programme, participants must:

- Speak at least one foreign language
- Have a minimum of three years’ work experience in the exchange topic
- Demonstrate a need and readiness for individual learning; and
- Demonstrate the ability and willingness to share learnings with colleagues at a national and European level

Anyone wishing to participate in the 2012 European Police Exchange Programme should consult the participant handbook for details of the exchange coordinator in their country. Details of NECs are available in the 2012 Exchange Programme handbook which is available on the CEPOL website.

For more information about CEPOL, visit [www.cepol.europa.eu](http://www.cepol.europa.eu)