The guiding theme for the 14th edition of the CEPOL Research and Science Conference in 2017 is “Innovation”.

If the term “innovation” basically implies that something is changed, done in a new way, a new idea, method or piece of equipment being applied, then modern life is for sure a testimony for a constant and self-accelerating stream of transformations of how things are...
done. Inventions and innovations are the main drivers of the process of modernisation, which barely a society or an individual on the globe can manage to escape from.

However, it is far from being good news only - crime is innovative as well: Fresh ideas, methods or devices are used for breaking formal as well as informal rules, regulations and laws and can cause harm to others. In turn, police forces and other law enforcement agencies are under unremitting pressure to innovate, in order not to just keep up with innovative criminal activities, but also to improve the organisational efficiency as well as meeting both political and public expectations.

In a similar fashion as major technological inventions and innovations have shaped the way we live, work, move or communicate in general (cars, computers, satellites, the internet, mobile and smart phones - to name a few), they have molded or even transformed the practices, patterns and capabilities of police and other law enforcement bodies (international exchange of data, DNA-analysis, international video-surveillance as high impact examples). However, inventions and innovations are not just a matter of developing technology – new ways in organising, training, education and research are equally as relevant.

As before, the CEPOL European Police Research and Science Conference will convene practitioners in policing and other areas of law enforcement, trainers, educators and scientific scholars from Europe and the international sphere.

The topical focus of this year’s event is on innovations in law enforcement, examined through the lens of scientific research and academic study and looking at the implications from three different angles:

• from the point of view of the police or law enforcement officers;
• from the point of view of the teachers, trainers, educators in the law enforcement education systems;
• from the point of the citizens, who will be subject to and beneficiaries of innovative law enforcement practices.

The conference organisers invite presentations, preferably based on recent empirical research or academic study, addressing the following areas and lead questions:

1. Which are the emerging innovations in society that are prompting a response from the law enforcement community, both in terms of adapting strategies and tactics, as well as the law enforcement educational requirements?
2. What are the expectable implications, benefits, risks or potential ramifications of introducing certain new technologies (gadgets or systems), organisational or
operational concepts for doing law enforcement work in a new, innovative manner? Is it different for innovations that are driven or imposed by the outside environment as opposed to those that are emerging from “inside”? Where and when have law enforcement innovations failed and what lessons have been learned so far?

3. Which educational innovations will have significant impact on the training and education of law enforcement officials on the various levels of the organisations – and why?

4. Some innovations in law enforcement are received with great sympathy and endorsement, some with lesser enthusiasm by members of the civil society. What has to be taken into account in the management of the innovation process so a particular innovation is not perceived as ineffective, undue, unfair or even illegal? Are there innovative ways to manage a confrontation between the innovators and the preservers?

The two and a half day conference will build on its proven format focusing on professional information exchange and facilitation of networking. Keynote, plenary, parallel and open paper sessions will provide ample opportunities to discuss the role of innovation in law enforcement practice, training and education and its likely impact on security and the feeling of security within the European societies.

Presentations are invited for the main and open paper track of the programme and full papers are planned to be published in a Special Conference Edition of the European Police Science and Research Bulletin afterwards.

Proposals for presentation are to be submitted online via the conference webpage at https://www.cepol.europa.eu/science-research/conferences where you will find information about participation and logistics in due time.

Deadline for paper submissions: 31 July 2017

Submitted papers will be evaluated by the organisational committee and information about acceptance will be issued by 15 September at the latest. For presenters of accepted papers conference fee (including buffet lunch and coffee breaks) will be waived.

Any general inquiry about the conference shall be sent only to this address: conference2017@cepol.europa.eu

We are looking forward to welcome you at the 2017 CEPOL Conference in Budapest!