



**INTERNATIONAL
POLICE ASSOCIATION**
INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

IPA Newsletter

October 2021

IPA at its Best



Happiness all around at a reunion organised by IPA France

WORD OF INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,

October usually represents a change of season, but it is also often the month of the IPA World Congress. However, this year again, there is no change. IPA's major event will not be able to be held physically, and we will use Zoom to hold our world congress via video conference. The joy of seeing each other is thus postponed again. The reasons are well known. I would like to thank the Spanish and Greek sections for agreeing to postpone the organisation of the congress by one year once more, to 2022 for Spain and 2023 for Greece. On the other hand, our video conference will still allow us to move forward with some projects and to all of us together deal with various motions submitted by the International Executive Board and IPA sections.

This renewed postponement of the World Congress should not, however, obscure the fact that the life of our association, as known before Covid, is slowly restarting. Many sections have been able to organise, or will soon be able to organise, their national congresses, their elections, etc. This is encouraging, and we all hope that these first signs of activity will no longer be slowed down by restrictive measures, but will instead mark the return to normal life soon.



Don't we have to admit that the current health situation still only gives us a variant of freedom, or a variant without freedom? We had been promised that the state of emergency, momentarily giving up our rights, obeying the most intrusive orders, letting ourselves be put under guardianship would give us back Freedom. Is that really true? Will it take 3, 4 or 5 vaccinations to give it back to us? It's hard to say.

So even though I welcome the fact that IPA activities are restarting, and the situation is so much better, because the DNA of our association depends on it, I still have the feeling that it will take more for the heart to be really in it as well, and for the clouds of today's situation to stop blurring the blue sky of common sense and freedom.

But one thing is certain, I will never consider wearing a mask as 'the new normal'.

Servo per Amikeco

Pierre-Martin Moulin, IPA President

AROUND THE WORLD

IPA Women from the Baltics head to the Kingdom of Bahrain

Starting with an international symposium entitled “Resolution 1325 Women’s Peace and Security” that took place in March 2017 at the Baltic Sea on the ferry “Tallinn-Helsinki-Stockholm”, and continuing with the international Symposium „Women from World over”, which took place in March 2019 at the Hilton Tallinn Park Hotel in Estonia, this year (2021) IPA Estonia, in conjunction with other partners organised the international conference "Women in Leadership Creating a Better Future Together", which took place from 25-29 August 2021 in a beautiful country – the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The aim of this conference was to inspire and learn from each other, to meet women from different cultures, countries, level of gender equality and women's empowerment; to connect and be connected. It was also a good chance to build up new businesses together.



Four IPA women from the Baltics took part in the conference:

- Maret Tamra from Estonia (the founder of the conference),
- Laura Zaleskienė from Lithuania (one of the conference speakers),
- as well as Ilze Ungure and Indra Luse from Latvia.

For all of us, it was a chance to connect and raise awareness, as well as gain more information about each other.

Most importantly, it was an opportunity for us to present the International Police Association to the conference, and to talk about the Police’s actions against domestic violence. We were also keen to share a vital message - that we must cherish each other.

After the conference we took part in workshops in different ministries and institutions.



The IPA Baltic women had the honour of visiting the General Directorate of Women Police under the Ministry of the Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain, where we were welcomed by Director-General Mona Abdulraheem.

We listened to Bahraini women's history in police forces, shared our practice fighting against domestic violence, and talked about the strength of female police officers, as well as their daily lives at home and at work.

It was a very pleasant talk, and we realised that we were united by the same mission. We hope that in the future, the Kingdom of Bahrain will become a member of our International Police Association family.



With warm regards,

Laura Zaleskienė and Maret Tamra, Board members of IPA Lithuania / Estonia

A Mountain to Climb: Inspirational news from IPA Ireland

In IPA Ireland, members will be very familiar with the name, 'Annmarie Larkin (Brady)', one of the founding members of our hugely successful IPA Hiking Club. Annmarie was the Honorary Secretary of the club from its inception in 2018 until September 2020, when she handed over the responsibilities of the secretariat to Aoife Reilly. Together with club chairman Danny Devlin, Annmarie was instrumental in developing the club from its humble beginnings, with just a handful of members, to the present day, with a membership of over 220 energetic and dedicated hikers.



Alex with Mum and Dad on Errigal

In those early days, their enthusiasm attracted members to take part in hikes in regional locations around the country, but soon that wouldn't be enough for Annmarie and Danny and their members, as they embarked on a hugely ambitious schedule of national and international mountain climbs, adding more and more challenges to the club's repertoire.

As a serving member of An Garda Síochána, wife and mother of little Alex, their 6-year-old daughter and busy Secretary of the IPA Hiking Club, Annmarie has always had a very full life and busy daily agenda. While the Covid-19 Pandemic stymied the activities of the IPA Hiking Club somewhat in the early days of summer 2020, there was still a lot of planning going on in relation to upcoming national and international events for club members.

Then in July, Annmarie and her husband Aiden's world was thrown into total chaos when Alex developed swollen wrists and joints, and became more and more

incapacitated. Within six weeks, Alex had gone from being a chirpy six-year-old, full of life and activity, to a little girl who couldn't even walk when 'back to school' time came around. With the usual medical checks being carried out and test result after test result being examined, Alex was admitted to Cavan hospital, awaiting an available bed in Crumlin Children's Hospital. Annmarie speaks very highly of the care and treatment afforded Alex in Cavan hospital and in Crumlin Children's Hospital where she was given her diagnosis of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, a debilitating condition in children under sixteen years of age, causing inflammation in a joint or joints.



Close to the summit: Alex with IPA Ireland Hiking Club Chairman Danny Devlin

Around one child per thousand is affected, with upwards of eighteen hundred children affected in Ireland at any given time. Thankfully, treatment by way of medication can be very effective, but it does require a cocktail of medicines and close monitoring. The effects also cause the autoimmune system to be suppressed. Not something anyone wants in ordinary times and much less so in these days of a Pandemic. Following Alex's stay in Crumlin hospital, she had to cocoon at home for twelve weeks. It's hard to keep a six-year-old down, and so it was with Alex, especially when she began to feel a little better.

Keeping that old adage 'the apple doesn't fall far from the tree' in mind, it is easy to see why Alex wasn't going to let her condition keep her sitting still. Soon she was getting up to speed again and accompanying her mum Annmarie on her work as the Cavan/Monaghan 'Little Blue Heroes' representative. Then, earlier this year, Alex met two 'Little Blue Heroes' locally and immediately told her mum and dad that she wanted to do something to help them.

Following in mum's footsteps, she chose to do a sponsored climb of a mountain, to raise money for Little Blue Heroes, a Garda orientated and supported charity, which provides much-needed assistance to children suffering from chronic long-term illness. It is also supported in its work by IPA Ireland. Annmarie got to work, with Donegal's highest peak in Errigal mountain being chosen, and soon the offers of help from the IPA Hiking Club and Little Blue Heroes came rolling in.

On 29th June, accompanied by her mum Annmarie and dad Aiden, Alex arrived in Donegal to a great welcome. There to greet them were Danny Devlin, Chair of the IPA Hiking Club, joined by IPA Camera Club member, John Cahalin and Gardaí Barbara Doherty, Grainne McLoone and Gerry McCauley (who is also a member of Donegal Mountain Rescue) with his three young daughters. Kevin Dockery of Cavan Walkers (retired Garda member)



Mission accomplished!

and Donegal native Christine Gallagher of Cavan's Community Engagement Unit, Hugh Gallagher with his sister Ann and her husband Frank completed the welcome party, as they set off to conquer Errigal.



Little Blue Heroes welcoming Alex

'This was quite a daunting challenge for a six-year-old child, but Alex climbed the whole way and back', said Annmarie. It is easy to tell that Aiden and Annmarie couldn't be prouder of their little daughter, and rightly so. There was a sense of carnival on their return to the car park after their three-and-a-half-hour hike, with Little Blue Heroes, Honorary Sergeant Jack and Honorary Gardaí Rory and Ray and their families waiting for them. Superintendent David Kelly of Milford phoned Alex with a congratulatory call. In the following days, Alex's sponsorship started adding up, amounting to a fantastic €5,750, which was duly given on to the Little Blue Heroes charity by Alex.

Then, a short time afterwards, Alex met with Cavan's Honorary Gardaí, Jessica and Leon, the two local Little Blue Heroes who had inspired her. It was Alex's wish that some of the funds that she had raised would be used to help Jessica and Leon, and so with the kind assistance of Cavan Roads Policing Unit and the local Community Engagement Units, a visit by them all, with family, to Toy Master Cavan was organised. There, the owner Francis Clarke and his staff Maria, Deborah, Dean and Ian took the Little Blue Heroes under their wings and before long, the Little Blue Heroes had decided on getting electric ride-on jeeps while their siblings were also given a chance to choose a gift. The staff of Toy Master also made a generous donation of €200 to Little Blue Heroes, presenting the cheque to Annmarie Larkin Brady for the charity.



The Welcoming Party

And all this happened thanks to six-year-old Alex Brady - what a Star. IPA Ireland congratulates Alex on her great achievement and Annmarie and Aiden on having such a wonderful little girl. We pray that Alex's health will continue to improve, and that she goes on to achieve many more amazing things in life.

Joe Lynch, Editor IPA Ireland

Münster on Patrol 2021

It's been a while since we were able to welcome international guests and could live a normal IPA life. With special hygiene measures and adhering to mandatory requirements, the Münster branch of IPA Germany was, however, able to relaunch with the event "Münster On Patrol 2021".

Six nations, three twin towns



IPA friends from six different nations met in Münster (Germany) and were able to enjoy a packed and diverse programme. The hosting branch was delighted to welcome colleagues from the UK, Finland, Austria, France and the Netherlands. The organisers were particularly pleased that among the participants were representatives from Münster's twin towns of York (UK), Orléans (France) and Enschede (Netherlands).

In collaboration with the Police Headquarters of Münster, the Police University of the state North Rhine-Westphalia and the city council, we were able to cover professional as well as socio-cultural aspects during this event.

Münster On Patrol 2021 started on Thursday, 2nd September 2021. On the first evening, the participants were able to socialise with their colleagues from the other represented countries and share first experiences.

On Friday, 3rd September 2021, the group welcomed the 214 new police recruits who started their journey to become police officers in 2021 in Münster. After the official welcome ceremony of the new recruits, the Chief of Police of Münster, Falk Schnabel, personally welcomed the first international delegation in 2021 at the Police Headquarters.

From the Hall of Peace to the Villa ten Hompel

On Saturday, 4th September 2021, the international group was joined by police recruits in their first and second year of training.

After a guided city tour, the Münster on Patrol participants were invited to an official reception by the mayor of Münster, Angela Stähler, at the Hall of Peace. The Chief of Police, Falk Schnabel, and the Head of the Police University of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, Martin Borträger, joined the group for this special occasion.



By the way, Martin Borntträger was welcomed as a new member of the IPA German Section on this occasion as well.

A short meeting with the Minister of the Interior of North Rhine-Westphalia, Herbert Reul, in the beautiful city centre of Münster was a successful surprise for all participants.



This highlight was followed by a guided, interactive workshop at the historical Villa ten Hompel. The topic of the workshop was 'Self-reflection and the role of the police in a historical context'. The role of different police units during the Second World War also formed part of the discussions.

Strangers became friends!

On Saturday evening the international group reflected on their unique experience in a relaxed atmosphere, before leaving on Sunday.



Eight participants – strangers – made their way from abroad to Münster. Colleagues from six nations exchanged ideas and shared their experiences over four days.

It was a very special event, and we are grateful to have shared this experience with new friends.

Philipp Kurz, Head Department for Young Members IPA Germany & PC Member

IPA France celebrate 3rd International Friendship Meeting

The Gard region of IPA France had the great pleasure to organise their 3rd international friendship reunion. After months of uncertainty, first of all, we would like to thank all those who believed in this event and registered. Right up to the end, we kept our hopes up, and we were right, because this international meeting will remain forever engraved in our hearts.

48 visitors from the USA, Denmark, Kuwait, Ukraine, Ireland, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Germany and the four corners of France made the trip, not to mention the Gard members who joined us on the Saturday of the week.

A very varied programme allowed us to participate in activities such as e-mountain biking, horse riding, hiking, abseiling in a cave, electric all-terrain scootering, pétanque, golf, yoga, karaoke, to name but a few. In addition to this, visits and hikes took us to the Salamander cave, the Ardèche gorges, Grau du Roi, Aigues Mortes, and other beautiful locations.

The friendships and encounters that were created during the week were a real highlight of our reunion. We were in our own bubble, far away from the worries of everyday life and the atmosphere was excellent: a real osmosis.



On the last evening tribute was paid to the victims of the September 11 attacks. Three American police officers were present, making the moment all the more powerful. John from New York said that he had participated not only in a friendship meeting, but in a fraternal meeting.

A thank-you to all our partners for their help: Société Générale BFM, the departmental council, the city of Nîmes, TEGO, Haribo, GMF, as well as MGP who participated on Saturday. A special mention to M Bassier, mayor of Méjannes, and the municipality who supported our project from the first day.

We would also like to warmly thank Thierry Larrouy, our national president, the members of the National Board, Roland, Yves and Jean Luc, who came and supported us throughout our preparations, plus all the volunteers who made this meeting a real success: Betty, Anne Marie, Christophe, Philippe, Isa, Cyril. Finally, a big thank-you to Corinne and all her team at the holiday provider VVF, without whom this week would not have been the same.

See you next year for the 4th Friendship Meeting!

Servo per Amikeco,

Claire Palisse, IPA France Gard Regional Office



Impressions from a wonderful week around Méjannes le Clap



Hoch hinaus! - IPA Österreichs Wanderwoche 2021

Anfang September fand die IPA Wanderwoche mit 130 Wanderfreunden aus 10 Nationen statt. Das Hotel Gartnerkofel war der Ausgangspunkt für die verschiedenen Touren und Wanderungen. Die Begrüßung und Programmvorstellung mit einem Glas Prosecco wurde seitens der IPA von Ewald Grollitsch und vom Hotelier Martin Waldner vorgenommen. Die Wanderfreunde wurden von IPA Mitgliedern aus der Region und Mitarbeitern vom Hotel Gartnerkofel betreut.



Am ersten Tag der Woche führte die Wanderung auf den Hausberg der Villacher, den Dobratsch (2.166 m). Bei der Anfahrt über die Villacher Alpenstraße auf den Dobratsch wurde am Parkplatz 2, der einen herrlichen Ausblick auf die Stadt Villach und die Umgebung mit den Seen bot, von IPA-Freunden aus Villach, eine kleine Stärkung vorbereitet. Danach besuchte eine Gruppe den Alpengarten „Villacher Alpe“. Eine Gruppe ging über den Normalweg auf den Dobratsch-Gipfel, und eine weitere Gruppe über die Aussichtsplattform „Gams- und Gipfelblick“. Vom Gipfel aus gab es einen schönen Ausblick über weite Teile Kärntens, und man konnte auch die beiden am Gipfel erbauten Kirchen, die „Windische Kirche“ und die „Deutsche Kirche“, bestaunen.

Am Dienstag fand bei der Nassfeldkirche, direkt an der österr./ital. Grenze eine Bergandacht mit den Polizeiseelsorgern Dr. Christian Stromberger und Mag. Michael Matiasek statt. Für die musikalische Umrahmung sorgten Christina Brunner & Sebastian Muralter. Nach der Bergandacht wanderten die Teilnehmer auf 3 verschiedenen angebotenen Wanderrouten zum Picknick auf die sich auf der italienischen Seite des Nassfeldes befindlichen Winkel Alm.

Bei einem reichhaltigen Buffet, Getränken und Musik wurden die Energiespeicher für die nächsten Tage wieder aufgeladen.



Bergandacht Nassfeldkirche

Am Abend gab es eine Vorführung der Schuhplattler-Gruppe „Kohlroesl Buam“. Die IPA-Wanderer durften bei einigen Plattlerauftritten mitmachen.

Die Obir Tropfsteinhöhlen war die dritte Tour in dieser Woche. Mit Bussen fuhren wir über Hermagor – Arnoldstein – Villach, entlang des Wörther Sees, vorbei an Klagenfurt und Völkermarkt bis zu den Tropfsteinhöhlen in Bad Eisenkappel. Mit der Führung durch die Höhlen begann eine faszinierende Zeitreise: Millionen von Jahren zurück in die Vergangenheit. Der unvergleichliche Mix aus Natur und Mensch, aus der Symbiose von 200 Millionen Jahren Geschichte und moderner Technik faszinierte alle Besucher.



Besichtigung der Obir Tropfsteinhöhlen (l.) - IPA-Freunde aus Estland auf dem Dobratsch (r.)

Am Donnerstag wurden verschiedene Wandertouren in Italien, im Bereich des Lanzenpasses (1.552 m) und Monte Zermula (2.143 m), angeboten. Die Anfahrt über eine schmale Bergstraße war erlebnisreich. 2 Kollegen der Carabinieri aus Pontebba, welche mit einem Streifenfahrzeug als Begleitung vorausfuhren, trugen dazu bei, dass das Befahren der engen und herausfordernden Straße durch das Almtal ohne Probleme gemeistert werden konnte.



Schuhplattler mit Uno Laas aus Estland

Die Wanderungen über schöne Almwiesen zum Rattendorfer-Sattel und zurück war nicht schwer. Anspruchsvoller war der Aufstieg durch lichte Wälder zur Forca di Lanza (1.831 m) und weiter über einen ehemaligen Militärsteig zum Gipfel des Monte

Zermula. Charakteristisch für diesen Berg sind seine üppigen Blumenwiesen sowie die gut erhaltenen Militärsteige, Kavernen und Marterln.

Eine Überraschungsfahrt stand am Freitag auf dem Programm. Diese führte uns in den Biosphärenpark „Nockberge“. Die Buslenker mussten auf der 35 km langen Panorama Nockalmstraße 52 Kehren (Reidn) bewältigen. Die erste Rast erfolgte auf der Schiestlscharte bei der Glockenhütte auf 2.024 m Seehöhe und eine kurze auf dem höchsten Punkt der Nockalm-Panoramastraße, auf der Eisentalhöhe mit 2.042 m Seehöhe. Von beiden Punkten gab es bei strahlend blauem Himmel einen traumhaften Ausblick auf die Gebirgswelt bis zu den Gletschern der Hohen Tauern. Anschließend ging es weiter zur Zechner Alm. Dort konnten sich die Buslenker und die IPA-Wanderfreunde bei einem ausgezeichneten Mittagessen stärken. Die musikalische Umrahmung der Mittagspause wurde von der Musikgruppe „die Pölyys“ übernommen.



Unterwegs zum Rattendorfer Sattel

Zum Ausklang der IPA-Wanderwoche 2021 wurden den Gästen am Samstag verschiedene Wandertouren im Bereich des Nassfeldes angeboten. Gartnerkofel, Madritsche, Wasserweg und verschiedene Almen.

Die IPA-Wanderfreunde konnten beim gemütlichen Mittagsschoppen auf der Sonnenterrasse des Hotels Gartnerkofel, mit musikalischer Umrahmung durch das Bläserensemble der Polizeimusik Kärnten und ausgezeichneter Stimmung den restlichen Tag genießen.

Gesellige Abende und gemeinsame Aktivitäten im Hotel (Musik, Tanz, Casino, Schuhplattler, etc.) boten ausreichend Zeit, um Gedanken und Ideen auszutauschen, zum Auffrischen alter Freundschaften sowie Knüpfen neuer Kontakte. Mit flotter Musik aus Italien (Gabriel Moschitz mit seiner Gruppe) wurde mit einem Abschlussglas Prosecco auf diese unfallfreie IPA-Wanderwoche angestoßen.

Die nächste IPA - Wanderwoche ist für den 19. bis 26. Juni 2022, auf dem Nassfeld im Hotel Gartnerkofel, vorgesehen.

Anfragen und Auskünfte: ewald.grollitsch@ipa.at.

Servo per Amikeco,

Ewald Grollitsch, für die IPA Oberkärnten, Österreich

IPA Romania reach Milestone of 25 years' Affiliation

29 years ago, Mr. Iulian Medrea brought the IPA project to Romania, after attending a professional meeting in the Netherlands. Four years later, in 1996, the Romanian Section received the IPA affiliation certificate during the World Congress organised in Brisbane, Australia.



Thus, we celebrate this year a quarter of a century from the moment of affiliation, and for the Romanian Section, the elapsed time has been a road of trials as well as of achievements, which translated into projects with people and about people who wear uniforms! Small steps starting with the dream of a great man - Mr. Iulian Medrea.

Even today the memory of this emblematic figure remains in the association, and people fondly remember the man who always found resources to smile, to do good, and to help.

Today we look with confidence to the future stages we want to go through, rightly considering that in a real partnership with state institutions, we can support a change and an improvement in the level of performance of the entities we operate with! It is obvious that the last years have brought - through social transformation - a dilution of the spirit of camaraderie, that has lost its brilliance, although it is so necessary in our professional environment.

When we all understand that beyond the missions we participate in on a daily basis, we also share common beliefs and issues and passions, the common performance will certainly reach higher standards.

The IPA has the strategic objectives to increase the level of satisfaction of its members, and to support the institutional segment in any approach that involves the professionalisation of the police service offered to citizens.

Dignity, honour, and loyalty are just some of the key milestones we need to strengthen in future projects. Belonging to a professional family in which the sacrifices are constant, implies a fantastic individual responsibility, and the IPA has the necessary levers to consolidate over time, which implies a collective assumption of the decisive role we have in society. Institutions are not made up of walls.



The most important element of any organisation is its human resource. Our motto, Servo per Amikeco, essentially includes the frequency in which our relationship with citizens must take place, the relationship between us.

Mihai-Liviu Tărtăreanu, President IPA Romania

IPA Brazil support III Brazilian Congress on Women in Police

On 27th and 28th August 2021, the 'III Brazilian Congress on Women in the Police' was held at the Hotel Nord Luzzor, located on Tambaú beach in the city of João Pessoa, in the state of Paraíba/Brazil.



The congress was promoted with the support of the IPA in Brazil, by the Movement of Women Police Officers of Brazil – MMUP, and brought together female police officers from the public security forces throughout Brazil.

During the event, the role of female police officers in the segment of national public security was discussed, as well as the difficulties female police officers face as professionals.

In addition, the congress aimed at implementing new policies to confront the issues of Brazilian policewomen, which led to a draft letter for the improvement of the working conditions of policewomen.

We recall that IPA Brazil was the author of a bill on the special retirement of female police officers in Brazil, which is now a specific law that also came to cement the special retirement of male police officers.

The president of the Movement of Women Police Officers of Brazil – MMUP, the police officer Eline Teixeira Lemos, IPA member and part of the National Executive of the IPA in Brazil stated:

“The Congress that sought to value female police officers in national public security achieved its goal.

It was very good to see several speakers presenting themes related to professional activities, nuances and barriers of women's performance in public security, in addition to the exchange of experiences between the participants, which resulted in an important draft letter that we are sure will materially improve conditions of women police officers in Brazil”.



Joel Zarpellon Mazo, President IPA Brazil

IPA Deutschland – Nach der Flut Soforthilfe für IPA-Mitglieder, Kolleginnen und Kollegen

Nach den verheerenden Überschwemmungen in mehreren Teilen Deutschlands hat die IPA Deutsche Sektion schnell und unbürokratisch geholfen.

Zwölf IPA-Mitglieder und sechzehn Polizistenfamilien erhielten bislang Soforthilfen in Höhe von 37500 €.

Sobald Gewissheit über Schadenshöhe und Erstattungen besteht, werden weitergehende Hilfen geprüft.

Über 26.000 € wurden von Einzelpersonen und IPA-Organisationen gespendet, die sich darauf verlassen können, dass ihre Spenden unmittelbar den Betroffenen zugutekommen.

Die Deutsche Sektion bedankt sich bei allen IPA-Organisationen, die ihr Mitgefühl ausgedrückt oder sogar finanziell geholfen haben.

Following the devastating floods in several parts of Germany, the German IPA Section helped quickly and unbureaucratically.

Twelve IPA members and sixteen police families so far have received immediate aid totalling 37,500 €.

As soon as firm details regarding the damages and replacements are known, the process of providing further assistance is started.

More than 26,000 € have been donated by individuals and IPA organisations that could rely on the fact that their donations would benefit those affected immediately.

The German Section would like to thank all IPA organisations that have expressed their sympathy or have helped financially.



Weitere Hilfen sind willkommen / Further aid is welcome:

IPA Deutsche Sektion
IBAN: DE12 3607 0024 0555 5594 00
BIC: DEUTDEDBESS

Hubert Vitt, Vizepräsident IPA Deutschland

ON THE TABLE OF THE IEB

European Police Congress 2021: IPA represented by Section Germany, the IEB and Gimborn

IEB Involvement



The 24th European Police Congress was held in Berlin, Germany on 14th and 15th September. The congress, as so many others, had been postponed twice due to the pandemic. Consequently, only 1/3 of the normal number of participants and exhibitors made a registration. Still, about 1,200 entered the Berlin Congress Center, BCC on the first morning. The organisers had ensured that the congress would be pandemic-safe; EU Covid certification, face masks and check-in via a Covid-19 app tracker plus

support staff present in every seminar room.

The congress theme was “Europe in crisis mode: Legitimacy - Leadership – Equipment”, and the IEB had been invited to represent from an international level. As Secretary General, I participated in the full congress programme which had large panel discussions, panel sessions and breakout seminars on the topic.

The panel discussion which the IPA was invited to join on the first day, examined “Policing during and after the crisis”. The impulse to this was given by Prof Dr Wilhelm Schmidbauer, who gave a basic presentation on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on policing in Germany.

This was followed by a panel discussion with Commissioner Luís Miguel Carrilho, UN Police Advisor, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Dr Daniela Lesmeister, Head of Police Section, Ministry for Home Affairs North Rhine-Westphalia, May-Britt Ronnebro, IPA Secretary General, and Calum Steel, 1st Vice President, European Confederation of Police, Secretary General, Scottish Police Federation.



Questions including democracy in demonstrations, increase of violence, expectations on police officers in crisis – pandemic or war zones, training, equipment and leadership were touched upon. These topics returned in many panel sessions and seminars during the two days.

Many new contacts were made, and we promoted the professional pillar of the IPA.

May-Britt Ronnebro, IEB Secretary General

IPA Germany and IBZ Gimborn presence

“The European Police Congress is an international congress for decision-makers from the police, security authorities and industry. The aim is to strengthen the dialogue between the authorities and to enable participants to make new contacts with colleagues from all over the world”, the organisers stated on their website.

It is a well-established tradition that the IPA German section also shows its colours at this important congress.

In addition to our joint information stand with IBZ Schloss Gimborn and our alliance partner Kinderschutzz Allianz (alliance for child protection), we also actively participated in the congress.

Whereas the IPA Secretary General of the IPA, May-Britt Ronnebro, discussed the topic of policing during and after the crisis in the in the main programme, our Vice President Oliver Hoffmann moderated the specialist forum of the “Future Police Officer” on the second day.



IPA Germany Secretary General Jürgen Glaub and President Horst W. Bichl were extremely pleased about the numerous visits and exchanges with German and international IPA members at our stand at the BCC Congress Center in Berlin.

Jürgen Glaub, Secretary General IPA Germany

Online we Meet!

IPA New Zealand National Council Meeting September 2021

In my capacity as IEB Liaison Officer for IPA New Zealand, I was invited to join the Section virtual National Council Meeting on the morning of Saturday 11th September 2021 (midnight my time in Sweden). The level 4 Covid restrictions in Auckland stopped the planned physical meeting, and therefore I could join via Zoom.

At the opening, we reflected on those members who had passed away since the last meeting. A moment of recognition, and also to reflect on the terrorist attack 20 years ago in the USA, where many first responders, firefighters, and civilians lost their lives. We all had memories of the disaster, and where we were when the news was broadcast.

We returned to the business of the day, and very quickly, I was present both in mind and spirit in New Zealand and enjoyed the accent of the different board members. With all board reports having been circulated beforehand, reflecting the impact of the pandemic, board members were invited to add only additional information that had become available between the date of writing of the reports and the meeting. Many physical events had to be cancelled over the past half year. Some regions now have plans to restart their activities and hold events, such as a James Bond movie evening and other social activities. Some of the regions hold membership draws for supermarket vouchers, rugby games and other activities; this was commended, seeing that tangible benefits are being returned to members. Hopefully some reports of IPA New Zealand events will make their way to Facebook or the International Newsletter.



Motions, both national and international, were discussed and voted on, and the national budget was presented and discussed. Fortunately, IPA New Zealand's membership has remained stable, and a list of new enrolments was shared. From January 2022, membership fees will be paid on an annual basis rather than monthly. With Police

Commissioner Andrew Coster having accepted the role of IPA New Zealand Patron, the National Executive and National Council look forward to his support in the months and years ahead, including when IPA New Zealand will host the Young Police Officers' Seminar (YPOS) in 2023.

The atmosphere of the meeting was very friendly and inviting. Three hours pass quickly when everyone works their best. President Mike Norden guided his board members through all agenda items, and when everyone in New Zealand took their lunch, I went to bed at 3am +1 GMT, but it was hard to persuade my brain to return to Sweden, as many great memories of my visit to NZ in 2016 had returned to my mind.

I welcome other IPA sections to invite their IEB Liaison Officer or any IEB member to participate in their online board meetings. Zoom is an easy way to connect for a short update from the IEB.

May-Britt Ronnebro, Secretary General & IEB Liaison Officer for New Zealand

LAST WORD

We have recently been informed by our landlords, Section UK, that the current renovations have finished, and that our physical return to the office is therefore coming closer. Fantastic news, as it has been quite a while: both Section UK staff and Daniel and I from the IAC have been working from home since the start of the first UK lockdown towards the middle of March 2020, when the covid pandemic grounded public life to a complete halt.

Last week, when cycling to the office to check on mail, I met one of Section UK's staff members by chance. Somehow, 18 months of not having seen each other in person

proved no problem, and it felt a real treat to have a chat in the same room rather than by mobile phone.

In agreement with the Head of Administration, Stephen Crockard, Daniel and I aim to work with a hybrid approach, alternating days at the office with working from home. I am convinced that this new pattern will not only allow us more flexibility, but also improve efficiency.

Cutting out the commute during part of the working week will reduce stress, as well as enable quiet working time on projects in our home office. Meeting up for planned working sessions together in the office will provide us with quality working time together. Well, that is the theory in any case! 😊

When we have settled back in, we will also once more be very happy to welcome visitors to the IAC. To be honest, I have missed this aspect of our work; it is always lovely to meet IPA members both from far away or close by, who pop into our office for a cup of coffee, a chat, or to simply have a look around.

Here's to a happy return to the Arthur Troop House!

Elke



*Our newly renovated offices;
photo courtesy of M. Rai, IPA UK*

