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Introduction from Chairperson Socio-Cultural Commission Christos Parginos



Christos Parginos

Chairperson of Socio-Cultural Commission

Dear Friends and Members of the International Police Association,

It is a true pleasure to address you all through this edition of our IPA Newsletter. As Chairperson of the Socio-Cultural Commission (SCC), I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the energy, creativity, and dedication shown by our members and volunteers across the world. Your continued engagement in our socio-cultural activities is what gives life to the spirit of Servo per Amikeco – Service through Friendship.

Volunteerism is the heart and soul of the International Police Association. It is through the voluntary efforts of our members that ideas evolve into projects, and projects become shared experiences that connect people beyond borders.

Every sports event organised, every cultural exchange arranged, every environmental initiative undertaken, and every journey shared through our IPA Travel programmes – all of these are the result of your passion, commitment, and friendship.

Through your volunteer work, you not only serve your communities but also promote understanding, trust, and goodwill among police professionals worldwide. Each activity, no matter how small, contributes to building the international bridge that makes the IPA unique.



- In sports, we strengthen teamwork and healthy competition that transcend national boundaries.
- Through travel, we discover new cultures and perspectives, creating lifelong connections.
- With our environmental projects, especially the Green IPA initiative, we show our shared responsibility toward the planet.
- And through cultural programs and events, we celebrate diversity and deepen our mutual understanding as a global community of peacekeepers.

Introduction from Chairperson Socio-Cultural Commission Christos Parginos

Your participation in these activities is what gives meaning to our mission. You are not bystanders – you are the protagonists. Each step you take, each event you support, and each friendship you form contributes to our collective history and legacy.



I am delighted to share that the announcement of the IPA Games 2026 will be made soon. This major event will once again bring together our members from around the world to compete, celebrate, and share in the joy of friendship through sport. I warmly invite all members to prepare to participate – whether as athletes, supporters, or organisers – because your involvement makes all the difference.

At the same time, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has taken part in our ongoing initiatives such as the Blue Walks, which promote health, solidarity, and visibility for the policing community, and the Green IPA activities, which highlight our commitment to sustainability and respect for the environment. These initiatives beautifully demonstrate how friendship, service, and responsibility can walk hand in hand.



Looking even further into the future, I encourage all IPA Sections to submit their interest in hosting or supporting upcoming events, such as the 2nd IPA World Football Tournament (WFT) and the IPA Games 2028. The early engagement and collaboration of our sections are vital in shaping memorable and inclusive events that embody the very best of the IPA spirit.



None of this progress would be possible without the collective effort of many passionate individuals. I would like to sincerely thank my colleagues in the International Executive Board (IEB) for their unwavering support, as well as the Project Leads and Members of the various SCC Projects for their commitment, creativity, and teamwork. Together, we have built strong foundations for the continued growth and relevance of our socio-cultural mission.

Introduction from Chairperson Socio-Cultural Commission Christos Parginos

Together, We Make History

As we move forward, let us remember that every project, every event, and every act of volunteerism contributes to the rich story of the International Police Association. Together, we are not only maintaining traditions – we are creating new ones. We are building history through friendship, dedication, and the shared belief that service can unite the world.

Thank you all for your continued involvement, your generosity of spirit, and your commitment to the values that define the IPA. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events – on the field, on the road, and in friendship.

Christos

Christos Parginos
Chairperson Socio-Cultural Commission



International Ice Hockey Tournament – Riga 2026

Get ready for an action-packed event on the ice! From 19–22 March 2026, law enforcement and emergency service professionals from around the world will gather in Riga, Latvia, for the International IPA Ice Hockey Championship. Hosted by IPA Latvia in cooperation with Volvo Ice Hall and Riga City Council, the tournament aims to promote fitness, teamwork, and international friendship – while crowning the top ice hockey team in the IPA community.

Venue: Volvo Ice Hall, Jūrmalas gatve 78D, Riga

[More Information](#)



IPA Strengthens Global Engagement: Revitalising Key Partnerships and Policy Influence

The International Police Association (IPA) has significantly enhanced its professional standing and global policy influence through a focused initiative led by the Vice President of IPA International and the Chair of the International Relations Commission (IRC). This visit to the US successfully revitalized key relationships and ensured the professional expertise of our global membership contributes directly to policy development worldwide.

The foundation for our extensive UN access is the Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which the IPA has held since 2004.

Deepening Our Engagement with the United Nations System

The recent flurry of activity at the UN headquarters and offices has significantly reinforced the IPA's role as a trusted partner and subject matter expert. Focusing on Security, Policy, and Training



UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):

At the New York Liaison Office, discussions with Director Xiaohong Li and Policing Expert Ann-Charlotte Gustafsson focused on the IPA's wide network and the professional development opportunities offered by our International Education and Meeting Centre (IBZ) Gimborn. This dialogue immediately resulted in an offer to include the IPA's on-the-ground experience in future UNODC policy reviews and to explore avenues for financial support for joint projects.

Strengthening Our Partnership with the United Nations

UN Police:

A highly productive meeting was held with UN Police Advisor and Director, Mr. Faisal Shahkar, successfully strengthening our existing cooperation. This engagement will focus on leveraging the IPA's global network to support UN policing initiatives worldwide.

Advancing Social and Cultural Mandates

UN Women:

A constructive exchange focused on advancing gender equality in policing, leading to concrete action plans. Our cooperation will now align with key global initiatives, including the UNITE campaign, the expansion of our #SheisIPA and the UN's HeForShe initiatives, and our planned participation in CSW70 in March 2026.



Revitalising Our Presence in the Americas: OAS

The IPA has also made significant strides in revitalising its relationship with the Organization of American States (OAS), with which we have held Consultative Status since 2009.

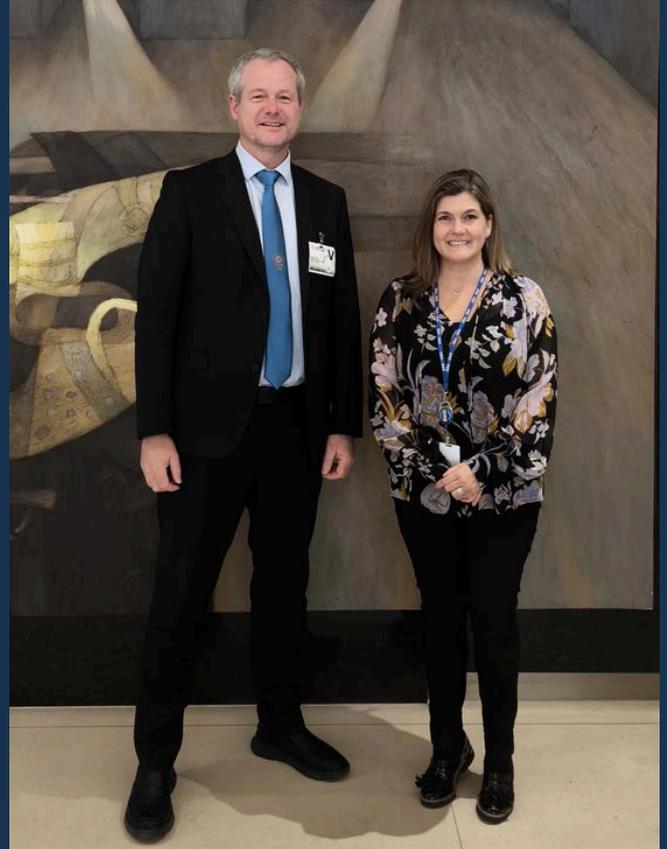
Following the attendance of International President Martin Hoffmann at the Meeting of Ministers on Public Safety of the Americas (MISPA) in June, a constructive meeting was held with Ms. Paulina Corominas, Chief of the Section of Relations with Civil Society. This revitalisation effort may lead to the IPA joining the OAS General Assembly for the first time in June 2026 in Panama, marking a critical step toward formalizing our engagement in the Western Hemisphere.

Strengthening Our Partnership with the United Nations

IPA's Global Contribution

These successful engagements—spanning security, gender equality, cultural protection, and regional stability—demonstrate the immense value of the IPA's Consultative Statuses and the renewed commitment to utilizing these platforms. By revitalizing these relationships, the IPA ensures that the voice and professional experience of our members are heard at the highest levels of global and regional policy-making.

Oliver Hoffmann
International Vice President



NextGen Policing: Terrorism – Response & Investigation

International Police Association

NextGen Policing: Terrorism – Response and Investigation

11–14 November 2025
IBZ Schloss Gimborn, Germany

11–14 November 2025
IBZ Schloss Gimborn

Join this intensive, English-language seminar exploring cutting-edge strategies in counter-terrorism response and investigation.

Through real case studies, hands-on exercises, and a large-scale mission simulation, you'll strengthen your tactical, analytical, and operational skills while collaborating with law enforcement professionals from around the world.

[Learn More & Register Now](#)

Milestones in the History of IPA by Phyllis Nolan

On my return from Krakow, where the IPA World Congress and the 75th Anniversary celebration of the International Police Association, I was invited to “pen some words on my IPA experience”.

Many years has elapsed since I last attended an IEC or World Congress. Yes, I had been invited to attend the 70th Anniversary Celebrations, which had been planned in conjunction with the hosting of the 2020 International Meeting in Spain. However, the Covid pandemic intervened.



68th IPA World Congress 2025, Krakow, Poland

Now five years on the next Celebration was planned and hosted by the Polish Section. Again, invitations were issued to all past members of the PEB/IEB to attend the Gala evening of the World Congress in Krakow.

Having served on the PEB from 1982 for four terms, I received an invitation to attend the event in Krakow. Needless to say, I was delighted to accept, eventhough I had already booked a trip to Poland for early June, a long weekend in Wroclaw. I lost no time in booking my return flight to Krakow. I travelled with the Irish delegation, President Carlo Griffin, First Vice President Marie Daly and National Travel Secretary Ann Liston.



Although I was already aware not to expect a reunion of PEB members from my era on the Board, I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of friends from past days, who were in attendance. Following my period on the PEB, I continued to attend the International Meeting each year in my capacity as National President and Delegate of the Irish Section, until September 2020. Meeting so many past friends and also many new ones indicates that the spirit of IPA is very real and continues to flourish.

The Official opening Ceremony of the World Congress took place in the Wieliczka Salt Mine, a spectacular venue. This event was conducted mainly in the English Language. It brought me back to my first IEC Meeting, held in Paris in October, 1969; those were early days in IPA and prior to simultaneous translation service.

Milestones in the History of IPA by Phyllis Nolan

The wife of a local IPA member translated from French to English in 1969. I was very happy with her presence at that Meeting, as I was the only female Delegate in attendance. Now, when I reflect on the changes which have taken place in the intervening years, it seems unrecognisable. There were so many female Delegates and Observers in attendance this year to celebrate our 75th Anniversary, it brought a smile to my face and I know that our Founder, Arthur Troop must also be smiling, as he recalls the Aims, "without distinction as to rank, race, gender, colour, language or religion".



Opening Ceremony 68th IPA World Congress 2025, Krakow, Poland



1984 20th IPA World Congress, Renfrew Scotland

Reflection on Milestones in the history of this wonderful Organisation, I can recall first-hand accounts by Arthur of the initial International Meeting which took place in Paris in September, 1955. It is with pride that I can report that Ireland was one of the few Sections in attendance on that occasion, in the person of Tom Collins, who was well known to Arthur. The first PEB members were elected at that Meeting, when Arthur Troop became the first International Secretary General. He remained in that position until 1967, being re-elected in 1958, 1961 and 1964.

When I attended my first IEC in Paris, 1969, the position of International Secretary General was held by Hugh Hallett and the International President was Peter Matthews, later to become Sir Peter. I remember his kindness and very supportive attitude toward me in those early days. Like our Founder, Sir Peter imbued the aims of IPA, which we all endeavour to practice.

This was a new PEB, the only remaining member from the initial election, being Marcel Logean, from Switzerland. Perhaps, I could be forgiven, when I say that Arthur, like those other office holders from the early days, had been committed to history. That was my understanding, until 1976 and the World Congress in Calgary, when Arthur was in attendance.

Milestones in the History of IPA by Phyllis Nolan

In the intervening years, I had attended a number of International Meetings, Catania, 1970, Montreux, 1973 when Rolf Koch was elected to the PEB as Assistance International Treasurer and Michel Joye became International Treasurer. Positions they both held until 1982 when on the retirement of Michel, he was replaced by Rolf and Michel Theraulaz elected Assistant. These men managed the financial affairs of the Association over a period of great change and expansion to the highest standards.



*International Police Association
Australian Section, Adelaide 1986*

I also attended the 1975 IEC in London, as a visitor and the following year, I was Observer at the World Congress in Calgary. The Irish President, Maurice Shortt was Delegate, while Fergus Mc Guinness and I were the Observers. We had each financed our own travel to Canada. That was the year when air travel took a huge increase in price between the time we booked the flights and final payment, were didn't falter. That being said, it was an event that I wouldn't have missed.



It was while in Calgary, that I met Arthur Troop, who was accompanied by his wife, Marjorie and their daughter Susan. Interestingly, I was in their company when Susan met her future husband, a young Italian participant, that evening.

Without double meeting our Founder it was the outstanding "IPA Mile Stone" for me. Arthur Troop was an amazing man, so very interesting, with an incredible recall and knowledge. To describe him as a humble individual is an understatement of the man, he never sought the limelight. He was very welcoming and treated everyone with kindness.

I was privileged to serve on the PEB for 12 years with our beloved Founder Arthur. On many occasions, I was in his company at Airports on our return journey home from International Meetings, Arthur usually travelled alone. However in his latter years on the PEB, he had the support of Alan Carter; following his election as Assistant Secretary General. In the winter of his life, Arthur attended the 50th Anniversary and World Congress of IPA in Bournemouth, which was officially opened by the Princess Royal, Princess Anne. It was inspiring to see Princess Anne craft some of Arthur's words into her address.

Milestones in the History of IPA by Phyllis Nolan

Sadly, a few months later, in December, 2020 Arthur departed this life. How wonderful that he had lived to paginate in the 50th Anniversary celebrations of IPA.

In addition to attending the 50th Anniversary celebration of IPA, I had earlier attended the 21st Celebration in Southampton, April 1971. I set out from my home in Dublin in my car, accompanied by Mary Riordan, a serving member, based in Cork and three friends of ours. We took the night sailing to Liverpool and drove down through England to our destination at the University Halls of Residence. Our accommodation consisted of a self contained unit of five bedrooms, living room, kitchen and bathroom for the duration of the week. It was a week of tours, social events and bonding with many wonderful friends including some members from Region Number 2, British Section, Northern Ireland. The then National President, Hugh Hallett thought that it was wonderful what IPA was doing for the reunification of Ireland.



In June 1982, I represented Ireland as Delegate at the World Congress in Wiesbaden, accompanied by Mary Devine nee Riordan and Peter Kelly as Observers. For the first time an Irish member, Phyllis Nolan was listed as a candidate for 3rd Vice President in the International Elections. I had been a member of the International Social Commission from its initial days. On being elected 3rd Vice President, at the X World Congress, I was presented with a bouquet of flowers, to a standing ovation, and yes, "History was made" and yes, I believe it was a Milestone in the life of IPA. Also newly elected to the PEB on that day were Roy Stranger and Michel Theraulaz, both of whom become good and loyal friends.



The date of the election was 23rd June, a date already significant in my Policing career, it being the Anniversary of my attestation as a member of An Garda Síochána, the National Police Service of Ireland.

It was the beginning of a very busy and interesting time in IPA, at International level, but that is a story for another day.

My sincere thanks to the International President, Martin Hoffmann and the IEB and to the Polish Section for organising the 75th Anniversary Celebrations. It was a fitting tribute to IPA and a truly remarkable Milestone in its history.

I was privileged to have been in a position to attend, for me, it was a remarkable week, one which I thoroughly enjoyed and appreciate.

**Servo per Amikeco
Phyllis Nolan, Ireland.**

40 Years of the IPA Alpe-Adria Hiking Meeting

A vivid retrospective of the anniversary gathering in Bohinj, September 2025



Lake Bohinj shimmered as the backdrop to the anniversary hikes.

A Weekend of Friendship and Mountains

With the 40th edition of the Alpe-Adria Mountain Hike, the International Police Association (IPA) celebrated in September 2025 an anniversary that was far more than just a sporting event. Perfectly organised and carried out by Vinko Otovic and Jure Lešnjak of the IPA Regional Club Gorenjska, Bohinj—nestled amid the peaks of the Julian Alps—became for three days a stage for friendship, culture, and encounters with nature.

By Friday, the hotels around Lake Bohinj were already filled with voices in many languages. After arrival and check-in, the welcome party at Hotel Center offered the first reunion of old friends and the start of new acquaintances. The evening was crowned by the Slovenian Police Orchestra, which delivered a musical highlight at the Bohinjska Bistrica theater, setting the festive tone for the days to come. Saturday belonged entirely to the mountains. Three routes led participants through breathtaking landscapes: an easy hike to a scenic viewpoint, a more demanding trail across the Vogerje alpine pastures with sweeping views over Lake Bohinj and the Julian Alps, and the path to the mighty Savica Waterfall, whose 80-meter drop also forms the source of the lake. Surrounded by the scent of forests and the sound of rushing waters, hikers experienced nature in all its diversity.

Back in Bohinj, all gathered for a picnic before the day ended with a festive dinner full of music and dancing. The cheerful mood left no doubt that this mountain hike is much more than a physical challenge—it is a celebration of togetherness.

Sunday began on a quieter note with a shared breakfast, which also offered time for farewells. A moving moment came with the departure of Ewald Grollitsch, who stepped down after four decades as coordinator. It was his vision, launched in 1982 and expanded in 1990 to include four countries, that had shaped the hikes. Thanks to his commitment, the event became an annual meeting point for IPA members.

Over the past 40 years, the venue has rotated regularly: 15 times in Carinthia, 10 times in Italy, 8 times in Slovenia, and 7 times in Bavaria. This track record illustrates how the event was always meant to transcend borders, bringing Europe to life on a smaller scale.

In 2026, the IPA Alpe-Adria Mountain Hike will be hosted by the Traunstein branch in Bavaria.

SERVO PER AMIKECO

Ewald Grollitsch

Faroe Islands on Patrol: A Memorable IPA Gathering in May 2025

From May 26 to 28, 2025, the Faroe Islands played host to the exciting event Faroe Islands on Patrol, bringing together IPA members from across Europe. The event offered a unique blend of professional exchange, cultural experiences, and breathtaking nature.

The first participant arrived from Austria on Sunday, May 25, and was warmly welcomed at the airport and hosted privately by a local IPA member.



Despite some flight delays and cancellations due to bad weather on Monday, May 26, all 11 participants from countries including Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, the UK, and Ireland made it to the islands. They were transported to the police station in Tórshavn, where the adventure began.



Day 1: Welcome and City Walk

Upon arrival, the guests received an introduction to the Faroe Islands and an overview of the local police structure and operations. The day concluded with a communal dinner at the police station, followed by a pleasant walk through Tórshavn's streets. This was a great opportunity to explore the city and visit some cozy local pubs. Overnight stays with local IPA members provided a warm and personal atmosphere for everyone.

Day 2: Police Station Tour and Helicopter Experience

The planned hike was unfortunately canceled due to heavy rain and flooding. Instead, participants toured the police station and received a detailed presentation of the equipment used by the Faroese police. The group then visited the region's brand-new shooting range, the most modern in the entire Kingdom. Trying out the various firearms was described by many as feeling "like kids in a candy store."



Faroe Islands on Patrol: A Memorable IPA Gathering in May 2025

After lunch at the shooting range, the group headed to the harbor to board a volunteer rescue boat, equipped with life vests, for a scenic fjord trip accompanied by the police's own RIB boat. Midway, an AW139 rescue helicopter from Atlantic Helicopters arrived, and participants were hoisted aboard in two groups for a spectacular sightseeing flight over Tórshavn before landing at the helipad. The experience was met with wide smiles and great enthusiasm.

The day ended with a joint dinner and lively discussions about the day's highlights.



Day 3: K9 Demonstrations and Scenic Excursions

The final full day started with breakfast, gift exchanges, and badge trading. Guests then witnessed impressive police dog demonstrations, featuring patrol dogs, a tracking dog, and a narcotics dog, much to their fascination.

Next was a visit to the former military radar station at Sornfelli, currently under renovation, involving a hike through the mountains and up to the summit –though the view was sadly obscured by fog.

The journey continued north to the village of Tjørnuvík, renowned for its picturesque, museum-like houses that are still inhabited. Lunch was served at the home of Jens Jensen, a retired police officer and IPA pioneer who helped establish the Faroese IPA section in 1984.

The group then travelled to Gjógv, stopping at the impressive Fossá waterfall, which was roaring due to recent rains. After coffee and cake in Gjógv, a walk through the charming village followed. On the return trip, participants experienced one of the new underwater tunnels featuring an illuminated roundabout decorated with steel sculptures depicting the traditional Faroese chain dance, a work by artist Tróndur Patursson.

Faroe Islands on Patrol: A Memorable IPA Gathering in May 2025

The evening concluded at the OY Brewery with a tour, beer tasting, and dinner joined by local IPA members. The atmosphere was lifted further by musical entertainment from local artist Jens Marni Hansen. Some guests continued on to experience Tórshavn's nightlife alongside their hosts.

Day 4: Farewell

On May 29, the event drew to a close. Three participants left early, while the rest shared a final breakfast before being transported to the airport.

Conclusion

Faroe Islands on Patrol was a tremendous success. Participants praised the combination of professional insights, warm hospitality, and the dramatic Faroese nature with its waterfalls, mountains, and mist. Many described it as one of their best IPA experiences yet, with several eager to return in the future.

The event perfectly embodied the IPA motto: Servo per Amikeco – Serving through Friendship, creating bonds that transcend borders.

Peter Flannum-Larsen – IPA Denmark



IPA Peru Presentation to the Chief Commander of the Peruvian National Police



Following the appointment of Police General Oscar Alfredo Arriola Delgado as Commander General of the Peruvian National Police, a delegation from the Board of Directors of the International Police Association, Peruvian Section, went to his institutional office to present their greetings and, in accordance with the current Interinstitutional Agreement, to present him with his membership card, number 2820, conveying to him the national statute and international standards, as well as the spirit of friendship among police officers from around the world that governs our corporate activities "IPA".

During the visit to General Arriola's office, the President of the Peruvian Section, Carlos Velásquez, and the directors Angélica Tapia, Sergio Monar, Javier Gamero, Francisco Andrade, and the associate responsible for marketing, Elisa Arrivasplata, were present.

Informing him about the opportunities for virtual training in Spanish from Gimborn, access to scholarships, the exchange of police experiences, and the intentions of the Peruvian section to apply to host the 73rd World Congress of the International Police Association in 2030.

During the official visit to the Commander General of the Peruvian National Police, the Spokesperson for Professional Affairs of the Peruvian International Police Section presented the national and international educational objectives for Peruvian police officers, taking into account Peru's demographic dividend; Sociocultural Spokesperson Sergio Monar outlined Peru's potential to host the IPA World Congress in 2030;



Press Spokesperson Angélica Tapia outlined the strengths of the marketing department, represented by associate Elisa Arrivasplata; and Public Relations Spokesperson Francisco Andrade requested a link with the Chief of Staff of the Peruvian National Police to design an institutional strategy that would allow for the drafting of a synergistic project to coordinate, identify shared objectives, and structure the coordination of actions to enhance the holding of the aforementioned World Congress and a parallel event on the fight against organized crime worldwide.

IPA Peru Presentation to the Chief Commander of the Peruvian National Police



Peruvian Section of the International Police Association, presents the membership card to Police General Oscar Alfredo Arriola Delgado, Commander General of the National Police of Peru, in compliance with the provisions of the Interinstitutional Cooperation Agreement in force between the Peruvian Section of the International Police Association and the National Police of Peru.

Carlos Velasquez
President
IPA Peru



IPA Poland Friendship Week



As the emotions after the World Congress in Krakow have just begin to settle down, the rooms and corridors of the hotel become filled with guests from various IPA Sections of the world for the IPA Friendship Week Krakow/Warsaw.

The event gathered 23 people from 10 IPA Sections: Andora, Armenia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Canary Islands, Germany, Ireland, United Kingdom and United States.

In the evening of Sunday 21st September, after arrival, all of the participants met in the hotel restaurant for a welcome drink to meet each other and with their host Piotr Wójcik - President of IPA Section Poland, accompanied by his team.

On Tuesday September 23rd, the participants visited the Royal Castle in Niepołomice, where they learned about the beginnings of Polish State and Royal Dynasties. From Niepołomice, the group returned to Krakow to visit the Wawel Royal Castle and to sightsee one of the biggest market squares in Europe. After a day full of attractions, our guests have the opportunity to learn about traditional Polish cuisine during dinner.



Next morning the jolly group of IPA friends visited the oldest salt mine in Poland in Wieliczka. The tour along mining corridors led the group from one amazing hall to another, all filled with breathtaking craftwork sculptures made of salt.

After lunch in the restaurant, 135 meters underground, the group returned to Krakow for some individual time for sightseeing.

Thursday morning the participants left Krakow and set off to Warsaw. On the way, they visited "Paradise Cave" near Kielce, where during a 180 metre long walk inside the cave everyone could admire fantastic rock formations created by water dripping gravitationally for thousands of years.

IPA Poland Friendship Week

After lunch the group continued journey to Warsaw for the second part of the IPA Friendship Week.



On Friday September 26th, the participants were welcomed by Secretary General of IPA Section Poland - Ewa Dębowska, with whom the group visited the Copernicus Science Centre and the Warsaw Uprising Museum. In the evening during an official closing gala dinner, the guests from abroad were joined by Vicepresident Radosław Skubina, Treasurer Adam Pietrkiewicz, Deputy Secretary General Bartłomiej Majchrzak and members of IPA Section Poland National Board.

On Saturday, the last day of the Friendship Week, the group visited a 17 century baroque Royal Palace in Wilanów and later admired the panoramic view of Warsaw from the 30th floor viewpoint of the so-called Palace of Culture and Science. Upon return to the hotel it was time for everyone to wrap up the emotions and pack the suitcases, as following morning was the time to return home.



The Friendship Week in Poland brought together various IPA members from different parts of the world, however, in the true spirit of Friendship expressed in motto *Servo per Amikeco*, their backgrounds, cultures and languages were no match to the unity of IPA present in many endless conversations and bonds created that will last years.

Michał Sługocki
Secretary IPA Region Wrocław
Poland

IPA Armenia Hosts Art Exhibition of Renowned Artists

On October 10, IPA Armenia, in collaboration with the Center of Armenian Artists, hosted a remarkable exhibition showcasing the works of honoured artists of the Republic of Armenia. The event took place at the Voskevaz Cultural Center, providing a vibrant and inspiring space for art enthusiasts, local residents, and distinguished guests to gather and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Armenia.

The exhibition featured a diverse collection of paintings, highlighting the unique styles, creativity, and artistic excellence of the participating artists.



The event exemplified IPA Armenia's commitment to supporting cultural initiatives and fostering artistic expression across the country.

**Vice President IPA Armenia
Zevs Sargsyan**



This initiative not only promoted Armenian art and culture but also strengthened community engagement by offering visitors the opportunity to interact with the artists, gain insight into their creative processes, and appreciate the depth and diversity of contemporary Armenian artistry.



Gimborn Seniors and Juniors Meeting



From 17-19 October 2025, the annual "Gimborn Seniors and Juniors Talks" took place at IBZ Gimborn, Germany. Besides the Dutch section also the sections of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom were represented.

Informative discussions were held about the progress of the Gimborn seniors and juniors compared to other meetings, such as the Strategic Young Members Conference (SYMC) and The Meeting, held or planned in Northwest Europe. There was a clear need to continue the Gimborn seniors and juniors.

A key point was fulfilling the agreements made during the juniors' meeting. In the past, many good ideas were presented, but follow-through was lacking. This last point was discussed several times. During the meeting, numerous solutions were proposed, which the chair of this meeting will address.

Recruiting new young members was also discussed during the seniors' meeting.

In short, a good and meaningful meeting held in a positive atmosphere!

Kees Jongh
IPA Netherlands

IPA Japan Experiences and Insights at 68th IPA World Congress

The 68th IPA World Congress took place from September 16 to 21, 2025, in Krakow, a beautiful and historic city in southern Poland, known for its medieval architecture and vibrant cultural heritage. I attended the Congress as an observer from the IPA Japan Section and gained valuable learning. This report focuses on my experiences and insights, excluding the deliberations of the plenary sessions.



Arrival in Krakow

I arrived at Kraków John Paul II International Airport on the afternoon of September 16. After collecting my luggage, I headed toward the exit, where I saw a table with the IPA Poland Section flag displayed and its members waving to greet me. Their warm welcome, smiles, and friendly gestures immediately made me feel at ease.

In the evening, a welcome drink was held at the hotel, giving participants their first opportunity to meet and interact. The venue was filled with smiles, laughter, and warm greetings. Although I was a little nervous at first, I soon got to know many IPA colleagues from different sections as we introduced ourselves and shared our interests. These early interactions heightened my anticipation for the Congress, which officially began the following day.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony took place at the historic Wieliczka Salt Mine, a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its underground chambers and intricate salt sculptures. Through speeches delivered by International President Martin Hoffmann and the President of IPA Poland, I deeply felt the importance of friendship and unity that transcend language, culture, and political perspectives. I also reaffirmed the strong bonds that hold the IPA community together across the world.



IPA Japan Experiences and Insights at 68th IPA World Congress

Technology and Language Barriers

During the plenary sessions, a translation service was available, allowing members whose native languages were English, French, German, Spanish, or Russian to participate in discussions in their own languages. Japanese was not included in the translation service, but I hope that advances in AI technology will soon make it possible for all participants to engage in free and meaningful discussions beyond language barriers.

During Breaks

I had many opportunities to engage with members during coffee breaks, as well as at lunch, dinner, and after the sessions. It was a special honor to see International President Martin Hoffmann and his wife, Angela, again, having first met them in Japan this May. I also met President Karen Duckworth of the UK Section and lead of the #SHEisIPA initiative, along with many colleagues involved in promoting women's participation across IPA sections. These encounters were deeply inspiring, expanded my perspectives, and gave me courage. They also allowed me to exchange ideas, learn more about other sections, and strengthen both personal and professional connections, making my experience at the Congress even more meaningful.



Regional Meetings

On the afternoon of the opening day, regional meetings were held for each region. At the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, many members who attended the May meeting in Tokyo were present. These colleagues are important partners in further developing our region. Although our region still has relatively few sections and members, it holds great potential for growth, and I felt that strengthening cooperation and coordination going forward would be highly beneficial.



Gala Dinner

On the evening after the plenary sessions concluded, a gala dinner was held, during which several former International Executive Board and Professional Executive Bureau members who have guided the IPA over the years appeared on stage. A ceremony celebrating the 75th anniversary of the IPA's founding followed, reminding me of the organization's rich history. This memorable moment inspired me to strengthen my resolve to actively contribute to the IPA's initiatives and to further support the organization's growth.

IPA Japan Experiences and Insights at 68th IPA World Congress

As a Young Japanese Female Member

As a young Japanese female member, I approached the Congress with a variety of perspectives and learned a great deal. Participating in the Congress also made me feel a strong sense of being part of the IPA. Meeting members from around the world was inspiring and unforgettable experience. I hope to continue helping strengthen IPA's international connections. In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all my friends in the IPA for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

Risa Hiramatsu

IPA Japan Osaka Region



IPA Sweden Close Quarter Self Defence Tactical

IPA Sweden is pleased to invite participants to the CQB Defensive Tactics Course taking place 24–26 April 2026 in Uddevalla, Sweden.

This intensive, hands-on course is designed for police officers, IPA members, security and military personnel, and trained first responders.

Early bird offer for IPA members: €599 (available until 31 December 2025)

Seats are limited to 20 participants to ensure focused, practical instruction.

[More Information](#)

IPA Poland – Police School in Katowice



In 2025, the members of IPA Region IV Katowice actively participated in various events and initiatives. From May 6th to 10th, a team representing our region and group took part in the international Copa del Mar Football Tournament in Athens. A total of 53 teams from different countries competed, and our team from the Police School in Katowice finished in 11th place, earning the Copa del Mar 2025 Trophy.

Projects, distinctions and passions – 365 days of success!

The members of IPA Region IV Katowice of the Silesian Provincial Group can be proud of many achievements in the fields of community service, education and physical activity. IPA Region IV Katowice is one of 30 regions of the Silesian Provincial Group, consisting of over 50 members, including both active and retired police officers from the Police School in Katowice.



During the Police Day celebrations at the Police School in Katowice on July 18th, 2025, the President of the IPA Silesian Provincial Group, Paweł Pasternak, honoured distinguished members of the association. Police officers and IPA members were awarded the IPA Poland Gold and Silver Cross of Merit, as well as bronze medals for their service. The ceremony was attended by the Commandant of the Police School in Katowice, Inspector Rafał Stanisławski. As part of activities promoting the mission of the International Police Association (IPA), the board of IPA Region IV Katowice regularly organises educational and informational meetings for the students of the Police School in Katowice.

IPA Poland – Police School in Katowice

During these events, participants learn about the rules of membership, current projects and programs, as well as opportunities for international cooperation. The meetings help strengthen ties within the police community, build networks, and support professional development.



The members of IPA Region IV also pursue their personal passions. One of them, shared by our colleague Andrzej Wilisowski, is diving. By descending into the depths, he discovers the underwater world and experiences sensation sun available on land. Diving allows him to develop concentration, self-control and teamwork skills. For him, it is a hobby that combines adventure with relaxation, gives him the opportunity to connect with nature in a unique way, and opens doors to discovering new places, cultures and people who share the same passion.

The past year proved to be exceptionally intense and full of success for IPA Region IV Katowice of the Silesian Provincial Group. Its members actively participated in numerous initiatives, both locally and internationally, consistently living up to the association's motto: "Servo per Amikeco" – "Service through Friendship." And this was only one year in the life of one Silesian region!

IPA Region IV Katowice – Silesian Provincial Group

Text/Photos: Andrzej Wilisowski

Translation: Kamila Walczak

IPA Portugal Beach Volleyball Tournament 2025

On September 13th and 14th, Carcavelos Beach, in Cascais, hosted the I IPA 2025 Beach Volleyball Tournament, a pioneering initiative organised by IPA Portugal, which will go down in history as a milestone of friendship, cooperation and associative dynamism.

More than a sporting competition, the Tournament was a celebration of the IPA spirit: a space for conviviality, sharing and solidarity, where each game and each applause helped to cement bonds and embody the association's motto – "Servo per Amikeco" (Service through Friendship).



Although the Regulations of this event provided for a competitive framework of 16 teams in each gender, the completion of more than twenty registrations proved to be a remarkable achievement for a first edition, consolidating the Tournament as a milestone in the associative calendar and paving the way for future editions with even wider participation.



A participation that exceeded expectations.

The enthusiasm was reflected from the first moment in the expressive adhesion of 22 pairs, distributed by 14 male (7 with institutional sponsorship, 5 individual and 2 invited) and 8 female (4 with institutional sponsorship, 2 individual and 2 invited).

Although the Regulations of this event provided for a competitive framework of 16 teams in each gender, the completion of more than twenty registrations proved to be a remarkable achievement for a first edition, consolidating the Tournament as a milestone in the associative calendar and paving the way for future editions with even wider participation.



IPA Portugal Beach Volleyball Tournament 2025

The teams represented different IPA Regional Delegations (North, Coimbra, Lisbon, Ponta Delgada and Madeira), as well as police forces, individual initiative and partner entities, showing the strength and dynamism of an Association that unites security professionals throughout the country.



At the competitive level, the winners were:

- Men: IPA Delegation of Lisbon (Antony Alves/ Tiago Monteiro);
- Women: IPA Delegation from Ponta Delgada (Filipa Simas / Beatriz Santos).

The individual trophies for Best Athlete / Fair Play distinguished Rúben Camacho (Bock Team) and Beatriz Santos (IPA Ponta Delgada).

All athletes received participation medals, while the podium places were awarded with trophies and vouchers (stay at Casas IPA, tour in the Douro, entrances to Quinta da Regaleira), reinforcing the connection between sport, leisure and the Association's heritage.

Support and partnerships that made a difference

The realisation of the Tournament was only possible thanks to the involvement of entities that believed in the project.

To these were added numerous volunteer employees, photographers, videographers and support teams who, altruistically, ensured that every detail had quality and professionalism.

Exemplary logistics and family spirit

The organisation ensured free meals, drinks, fruit and coffee, as well as accommodation at INATEL Oeiras for those who needed it. Saturday featured a lively "pig on a spit" dinner, further strengthening the group experience.

The control of the venue, night security and all technical support were guaranteed by teams of associates and partners, with professionalism and dedication.



IPA Portugal Beach Volleyball Tournament 2025

Commitment to IPA values and the SDGs

The tournament was also an occasion to affirm IPA Portugal's alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2030), namely:

- SDG 12 – Reduction of single-use plastics and encouragement of recycling;
- SDG 13 – Environmental and climate awareness actions;
- SDGs 14 and 15 – Preservation of marine and terrestrial life, including beach cleanups.

At the same time, inclusion and accessibility measures were ensured, highlighting the encouragement of gender equality (SDG 5), health and well-being (SDG 3) and the reduction of inequalities (SDG 10).

The initiative was also in line with the structuring projects of IPA International:

- Orange the World – awareness against gender violence;
- IPA Green – commitment to environmental sustainability;
- SheisIPA – valuing women's participation in the IPA.

The constructive criticism and suggestions recorded only reinforce the conviction that there is room to grow and improve. But the big message is unequivocal: IPA Portugal has shown that it is capable of organising high-quality events, which strengthen unity, attract new members and give visibility to the Association.

The future has already begun

In closing, the National Directorate launched the triple challenge:

1. Hold the second edition in 2026, with more teams and greater involvement;
 2. Expand international participation.
 3. To transform the Tournament into an annual reference, uniting sport, friendship and associativism.
- To all members we invite you: join, participate and be part of this history. The IPA 2025 Beach Volleyball Tournament showed that united by sport and friendship, there are no borders that separate us.

Fernando Pinto
President of the Portuguese Section



Thanks: the value of all who made it possible
The success of the IPA Beach Volleyball Tournament 2025 was the result of a collective effort, in which each contribution was decisive. A balance sheet that makes us proud and motivates

To a large extent, from the feedback received, in the final balance, made by the National Board, it was clear that the Tournament was a collective success, reflecting the voluntarism, dedication and passion that characterize IPA members.



Empowerment Through Realism: ESDS Instructor Course at IBZ Schloss Gimborn

On August 4, 2025, under the auspices of the #SHEisIPA team and IBZ Schloss Gimborn, a groundbreaking instructor course in the Explosive Self-Defence System (ESDS) took place, marking a milestone in scenario-based training for law enforcement and personal safety professionals.

Initially developed in 1996 by Slawomir "Slavo" Gozdzik, the ESDS method has long been a cornerstone of taught to Police, military and security personnel.

I Rob Stenhouse Co-founded the IPA Defensive Tactics Group (IPA-DTG) in 2012 and adopted the ESDS as the primary self-defence method for the Group and has been teaching it ever since. This latest course, the first of its kind, brought together a diverse cohort of female participants:

- 4 from Cyprus
- 2 from Poland
- 2 from Sweden
- 1 from Germany
- 1 from Israel (Pninit Shain, a #SHEisIPA team member based in Germany)
- 2 male instructors from Austria and Sweden



Course Content & Methodology

The curriculum centered on the COVER – COUNTER – MOVE principle, with practical drills tailored to real-world scenarios and police operations. Participants engaged in:

- Open-hand defensive techniques adapted to everyday threats
- High-intensity physical and mental stress simulations
- Emergency medical response, including tourniquet application under pressure
- Ground defence strategies, including responses to strangulation and face strikes
- Situational drills involving seated, standing, and ground-based attacks
- Affects of stress on the human body
- Theoretical aspect of combat
- Teaching skills





Empowerment Through Realism: ESDS Instructor Course at IBZ Schloss Gimborn

The instructors—Slawomir (Slavo) Gozdzik, Emil Gozdzik, and Robert Stenhouse—delivered the training with precision and purpose. Their message was clear: “It’s only pain—the goal is to prevail in the face of adversity.”

Testing, Trauma Awareness & Final Challenge

Participants were evaluated through:

- Live scenario exercises
- A theoretical exam on ESDS principles
- Teaching skills
- A final immersive test simulating a chaotic scene with multiple attackers, requiring rapid application of defence, counterattack, and movement strategies
- Emergency casualty care under duress, including tourniquet use and safe extraction



The course also addressed trauma triggers—recognising how survivors may enter states of shock or post-trauma during high-stress encounters. This added a layer of emotional intelligence and sensitivity to the training.

As an added bonus, several participants were introduced to the instinctive shooting methods of combat shooting, known as Point Shooting.



Camaraderie & Legacy

Beyond the physical intensity, the course fostered deep trust and camaraderie. Each evening, participants and instructors gathered informally to share stories from their policing careers across Europe, decompress, and reflect on the day’s challenges, often with a well-earned drink and mutual encouragement to ease the aches of training.

A Personal Reflection

This course made me realise that there is another way to save my life if I ever face assault, and to protect those around me. I recommend that every self-defence instructor in the police experience the ESDS method first hand. Look out for courses coming up in the near future. If you want to hear more or how to get involved, contact the IPA-DTG on Facebook or Rob Stenhouse or Slawomir “Slavo” Gozdzik directly.

Pninit Shain - IPA Israel
#SHEisIPA Team

IPA Switzerland Exchange Programme in Lithuania

Introduction

As part of the IPA exchange programme with the Lithuanian police, I had the opportunity to take part in an exchange together with a colleague from the Winterthur city police. From September 20 to 28, 2025, we were able to gain a deep insight into the work, structure, and culture of the police in Lithuania.



Police in Lithuania

The Lithuanian police force is organised nationally and divided into ten regions, known as counties. Although its structure differs in many respects from that in Switzerland, there are nevertheless parallels and similarities. Particularly noteworthy is the balanced gender distribution: women and men are represented in almost equal numbers – around 50% each – which is an impressive example of equality within the organisation.

Programme

We also visited the Lithuanian police academy and gained insights into how cadets learn and live. We were also able to take part in a shooting program in a shooting simulator. Later, we went to the police academy's shooting range. We had the opportunity to try out various weapons.

The seven days of the exchange were tightly organised and offered a varied programme with many exciting and interesting impressions. Of the ten counties in total, we visited three regions – Vilnius, Kaunas, and Marijampolė.

In Vilnius, we were given a comprehensive insight into the headquarters of the Lithuanian police. The visit to the SPOC (Single Point of Contact), the central office for all international inquiries, was particularly interesting. We were also allowed to visit the forensic department and its laboratories.



IPA Switzerland Exchange Programme in Lithuania

In Kaunas, we visited several police stations, including the main station in a historic building, which was presented to us as part of a guided tour. We also had access to the police headquarters. On two evenings, we were able to accompany a patrol during their work. This gave us an authentic insight into everyday police work in Lithuania.

One highlight was a rescue operation in which a mentally disturbed man had barricaded himself in his apartment. Together with the fire department, the police managed to gain access to the apartment via a turntable ladder. The man was then taken to a facility for mentally ill people – we were also allowed to visit this facility and gained exciting insights into the care and procedures of such institutions.



In Marijampolė, we visited another police station and gained exciting insights into the work of the border patrol. We were allowed to visit various locations, including the checkpoint for passenger and freight traffic, the train station in the border area, and the tri-border area. These visits gave us an impressive picture of the challenges of border protection.



Another item on the agenda was a visit to the Lithuanian police academy, where we learned how cadets live and are trained. It was particularly impressive to take part in a shooting simulator before we were later allowed to train with various weapons at the shooting range itself.



IPA Switzerland Exchange Programme in Lithuania



Culture and people

On the very first evening, we had the pleasure of dining with Vytautas Pliuskus, President of IPA Lithuania, and Vytautas Jasiulevičius, Secretary General. They welcomed us with great warmth and made us feel welcome in Lithuania right from the start – accompanied by outstanding Lithuanian hospitality and culinary delights.

During the week, we also had the opportunity to attend various social events. A special experience was the gala evening, which not only impressed us with a delicious menu, but also offered the opportunity to make numerous new acquaintances – and in some cases even real friendships.

Another highlight was our participation in the Lithuanian Police National Day, a kind of “open house” for the public. The day began with a ceremonial parade, followed by a church service, the swearing-in of new police officers, and numerous information stands set up by various police departments to present their work to the public.

The day culminated in a large celebration with around three hundred police officers. At a festive banquet and in a lively atmosphere, we were able to toast the eventful week with our new colleagues and deepen friendships.

Closing remarks

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the board of IPA Switzerland, the Bern cantonal police, who made this exchange possible, and to all the people I had the pleasure of meeting during this time. This exchange was an enriching experience for me, both professionally and personally. I gained many valuable insights and new perspectives that will have a lasting impact on me.

I am very grateful for this opportunity and can warmly recommend such an exchange to anyone who wants to broaden their horizons and experience international police work firsthand.

Nicole Menzi, IPA Switzerland



IPA Lithuania Exchange Programme in Switzerland

Experience Report – Police Exchange Programme between Lithuania and Switzerland We now hear from the officers from Lithuania that visited Bern in Switzerland.

As part of the international police exchange programme of the International Police Association (IPA), representatives of the Lithuanian and Swiss sections took part in an intensive week of experience sharing and knowledge exchange. The aim of the programme was to gain insights into the daily work of the partner country's police, to learn about best practices, and to strengthen the friendly cooperation between the IPA sections.

Participants from the Lithuanian IPA section were Deimantė Dimšaitė and Karolis Rupeikis, who spent one week in October 2025 with the Cantonal Police of Bern.



Monday, 13 October 2025

The first day began with an informative presentation about the specific features of the work of the Bern Cantonal Police. We gained a comprehensive understanding of its structure, main duties, and organisational setup.

Later, we had the opportunity to join local officers on patrols, familiarise ourselves with their equipment, respond to calls, and visit various operational sites across the city. We also visited the joint operations center, where the fire brigade, police, and rescue services work closely together.

The day was extremely interesting, dynamic, and educational. It was impressive to see the professionalism of the Bern police – a valuable experience that we will take back to Lithuania.

IPA Lithuania Exchange Programme in Switzerland



Tuesday, 14 October 2025

This was our day off, which we spent meaningfully with Raphael, the Secretary General of IPA Switzerland. We explored the beautiful Swiss countryside, visiting Gstaad, Thun, and the surrounding areas.

In the evening, we met Franz, a member of the IPA Switzerland Board and editor of the IPA Revue. During an engaging conversation, he shared insights about his work, experiences, and involvement in the IPA. The day was relaxing, yet full of inspiring encounters and impressions.

Wednesday, 15 October 2025

In the morning, we visited the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania, where we were warmly welcomed.

In the afternoon, we accompanied a team from EG Krokus, a unit specialising in drug prevention. Together with the officers, we joined foot and vehicle patrols, learning about their working methods, equipment, and procedures. The day provided valuable insights into police prevention work and was both interesting and educational.



IPA Lithuania Exchange Programme in Switzerland

Thursday, 16 October 2025

We continued our cooperation with the EG Krokus team – this time in plain clothes, both on foot and in patrol cars. Observing their daily work up close and witnessing real-life operations, such as the search for and seizure of narcotics, was fascinating.

We also visited CONTACT, a support centre for people struggling with addiction. Here, individuals can consume their own substances in a safe, supervised environment – a harm reduction approach that was new to us but very enlightening.

The day was full of activity, meaningful discussions, and new insights. Working with the EG Krokus team was truly enriching – we are grateful for their openness, time, and willingness to share their experiences.



Friday, 17 October 2025

On our final day, we once again accompanied officers of the Bern Cantonal Police during several operations. We gained deeper insight into their working methods, professionalism, and handling of various situations. The officers were highly competent, friendly, and dedicated.

At the end of the day, we met with Pascal Zürcher, a division head of the Bern Cantonal Police. During an open discussion, we reflected on the week, shared our experiences, and exchanged small souvenirs as a token of appreciation.

The week was marked by professional exchange, valuable experiences, and warm hospitality.



The exchange programme offered an in-depth look into the diverse responsibilities of the Swiss police and greatly fostered international cooperation.

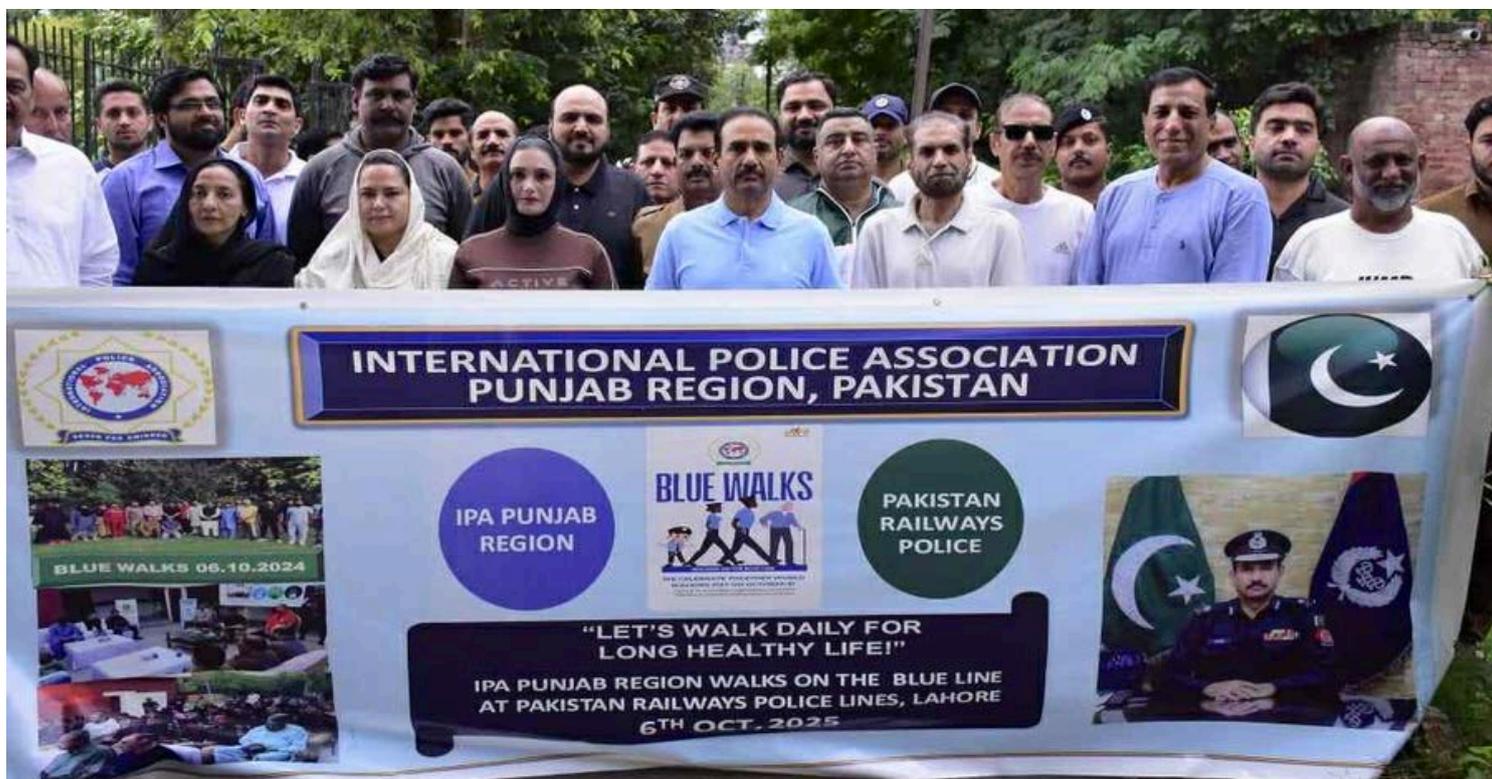
Special thanks go to the Bern Cantonal Police and IPA Switzerland for their excellent organization, warm hospitality, and open cooperation.

Such programmes not only strengthen professional collaboration but also deepen the bonds of friendship within the global IPA family – true to the motto:

“Servo per Amikeco – Service through Friendship.”

**Report by Deimantė Dimšaitė
IPA Lithuania**

IPA Pakistan Blue Walks



On 6th October, 2025, IPA Punjab Region convened the “Blue Walks” in collaboration with the Pakistan Railways Police at 1630. IGP Muhammad Tahir Rai, HSt., SI, President IPA Pakistan, presided over the ceremony and led the walk. IPA members and railways police officers including female officers participated in the event enthusiastically.

The ceremony started with the recitation of the Holy Quran. The Chairperson IPA Punjab Region Mr Farrukh Hafeez & vice chairperson Azam Manhis & Chairman IPA DTG Pakistan & Member IPA world sports & culture commission Mr MUZAMMAL AHMED briefly apprised about the objectives of the “Blue Walks” and thanked the IPA President for his support and guidance to arrange the event. The IPA President (Pakistan) highlighted importance of walk in our lives to keep ourselves physically healthy. He advised the participants to go for walk regularly to keep your physical and mental faculties fit.

Subsequently, while the sky was cloudy and it was pleasant drizzling, the participants walked, under the leadership of the IPA President, in a beautiful serene environment of the Pakistan Railways Police Lines. All the participants took active part in the walk with zeal.

IPA Punjab Region presented a shield to the President, IPA Pakistan. The participants were served with refreshment (hot and cold drinks). They had a chance to share their views with the IPA President who, as usual, intermingled with them as a “Friend of Friends” and discussed matters of IPA interest.

The walk concluded at 1745 hr and the participants left the venue with the revival of their determination to keep their body fit through regular walk.

Muzammal Ahmed

Socio-Cultural Commission – Sports Project

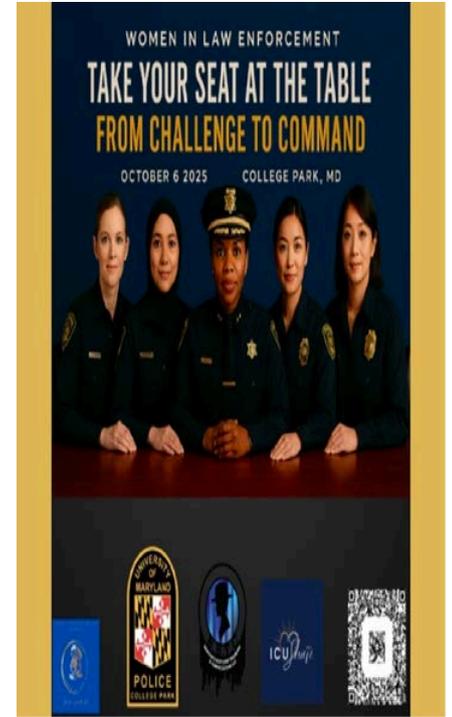
Sandra Smith Arthur Troop Scholarship

My IPA Scholarship Journey to Washington, D.C. By Sandra Smith – IPA Scholarship Recipient

My journey began long before I boarded my flight to the United States. As someone committed to professional growth, I spent months applying for conference opportunities in Canada, Atlanta, New Zealand, and Australia. Responses were slow, and I worried I might miss out. Thankfully, persistence paid off, and I was honoured to receive an IPA Scholarship to attend a professional and cultural conference in Washington, D.C., an experience that has had a lasting impact on both my personal and professional life.

Purpose and Vision

The goal of the visit was to engage with Washington D.C. law enforcement professionals, observe best practices, and strengthen international cooperation based on shared values of service, integrity, and respect. Representing both the IPA and my home country, I gained valuable insights into U.S. policing structures and how international dialogue can help tackle shared challenges.



Trip Timeline: October Highlights

- ✈️ October 1 – Arrival & Rest

Welcome to Washington!

- 🏛️ October 2 – African American Museum & Lunch

A profound cultural experience, followed by a delicious shared meal.

- 👮‍♀️ October 3 – Meet the Chief of UMPD & Campus Tour

A valuable exchange with the University of Maryland Police Department.

- 🏈 October 4 – Football Game & Bowie State University Tour (HBCU)

A vibrant college experience and a deeper look at an important historical institution.

- 🙏 October 5 – Worship at First Baptist Church of Glenarden & Dinner with Some of

Spiritual enrichment followed by heartfelt conversations with the community

- 🛫 October 6 – Conference Day & Departure

A final day of learning, sharing, and saying goodbye to new friends and partners.

Sandra Smith Arthur Troop Scholarship



Attending Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church offered a deeply personal cultural connection. Conversations with community members highlighted the role of faith and resilience in American life.

The conference brought together law enforcement leaders, government officials, and advocates to address leadership, inclusion, and innovation in policing. It provided a platform to network with colleagues and promote IPA membership internationally.

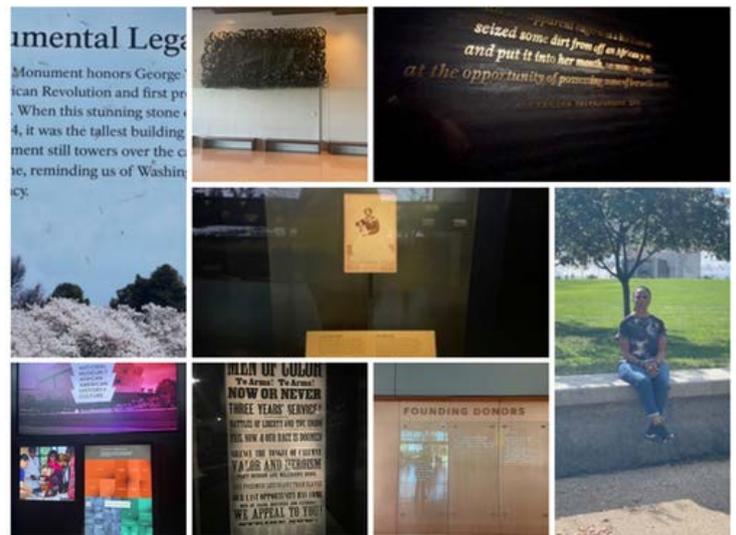


The football game at SECU Stadium was unlike anything I had experienced—an electric atmosphere with thousands of fans, music, and a strong police presence. It was an excellent example of large-scale event management.

Professional Highlights

My arrival coincided with the start of the U.S. federal government shutdown, meaning some sites were closed or limited. Nevertheless, the itinerary remained rich and rewarding.

A visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture offered a profound journey through centuries of resilience, culture, and contribution. The exhibits and architecture provided a moving reflection on history, equality, and identity, setting the tone for the days ahead.



At the University of Maryland, Captain Michael Weller and MPO Cassandra Chapman provided a detailed overview of their policing structure and community engagement strategies. Discussions comparing U.S. and U.K. policing practices—particularly around firearms, communication, and policing by consent—were insightful. I was able to share perspectives on cultural intelligence and women's leadership in policing, fostering a valuable exchange of ideas.

Sandra Smith Arthur Troop Scholarship



Reflections and Gratitude

This scholarship journey broadened my outlook, equipped me with new ideas, and strengthened my commitment to international cooperation in policing. I return home inspired and ready to share these experiences with my colleagues and community.

My sincere thanks go to the International Police Association for this life-changing opportunity. Through such initiatives, the IPA continues to build bridges across borders and support those who serve with honour and dedication.

Sandra Smith

Cultural Immersion and Lasting Impressions

Beyond formal events, exploring Washington's historical landmarks deepened my understanding of the values of justice and leadership that underpin both American democracy and global policing ethics. Interactions with IPA members highlighted the strength of international friendships and the shared mission of "Servo per Amikeco – Service Through Friendship."



IPA Italy Hosts First National Forum on Public Officials in Sulmona

Great participation in the first IPA National Forum on Public Officials: Academic Lawyer Antonio Maria La Scala

Sulmona (L'Aquila) - 03.10.2025 - Numerous public participation in the first national seminar of the IPA (International Police Association) on Public Officials held in the splendid conference room of the Palazzo dell'Annunziata in Sulmona, in the province of L'Aquila.



Greetings from the Mayor Luca Tirabassi, who spoke via video link, from the Deputy Mayor Mauro Tirabassi, from the councilor of the C.O.A.'s Sulmona Maurizia Sciuba and from the national delegate of the IPA Italia Pellegrino Gaeta. The Editorial Director of the Journal of the International Police Association Mauro Nardella spoke for the presentation of the works. Mauro Nardella.

A lawyer Antonio Maria La Scala, in great grooming, kept the approximately 200 participants glued to their seats, thanks to his proverbial ability to eloquence and communicative interaction.



The topic, already interesting in itself, saw, in 4 hours of absolute academic exposition, an incredible interest on the part of those present, all visibly satisfied with the interest it aroused.

The direction of the Forum was excellent, as was the Commander of the Local Police of Sulmona, Dr. Domenico Giannetta, who was also the creator and organizer of the event.

The topics, all treated with great intellectual acumen, concerned the crimes of public officials and in particular those relating to embezzlement, corruption, extortion and the revelation of official secrecy.

IPA Italy Hosts First National Forum on Public Officials in Sulmona

As is his style, the lawyer La Scala, the authentic star of the training day, also ranged far and wide on other topics, dispensing wise advice on the correct use that must be made of modern technology capable, on its own, of turning even the most insignificant of daily behaviors carried out by each public official and not only into a procedural nightmare and inviting the institutions to engage in a prevention policy by investing in the new generations.

A heartfelt thanks was addressed by the organizers to the Municipality of Sulmona for having thought not only of granting the patronage but also of ensuring locations and various instruments. Heartfelt thanks also go to the Sulmona Bar Association for their patronage and the resolution of the 3 training credits for the lawyers present in the courtroom today.

**IPA Magazine Editorial Director
Mauro Nardella**



MILIPOL 2025

IPA France is proud to announce its participation in Milipol Paris 2025, the world's leading homeland security and safety exhibition, taking place from 18 to 21 November 2025 at the Paris-Nord Villepinte Exhibition Centre.

This major international event brings together key players in the security sector — from government agencies and law enforcement to industry innovators and international delegations. With more than 1,000 exhibitors and 30,000 visitors expected, Milipol Paris serves as a strategic platform for collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange.

This year, IPA France will have a stand at this event, promoting IPA's mission and values to an international audience.

We warmly invite partners, colleagues, and visitors to join us at our stand during the exhibition to learn more about IPA.

 Event: Milipol Paris 2025

 Dates: 18–21 November 2025

 Venue: Paris-Nord Villepinte Exhibition Centre, France

We look forward to welcoming you in Paris and sharing this important moment with the international security community.

View the promotional Video below. You can also visit our website



Upcoming Events

IPA SECTION KENYA

Invites

YOU



IPA Kenya - International Investigation Seminar

2-7 November 2025



IPA Cyprus 42nd National Congress

13 - 16 November 2025



Milipol Événement mo



IPA France Milipol 2025

18-21 November 2025



IPA Japan Friendship Judo Week

24 - 30 November 2025



IPA Switzerland 70th Anniversary

27-30 November 2025



IPA Spain Trader Show 2025

29 November 2025

Here are some of the events taking place throughout the IPA over the next couple of months.

Visit our international website for a full list of our upcoming events:

ipa-international.org/Events

Upcoming Events



IPA Spain – Zambomba 2025

5-7 December 2025



IPA Netherlands Blue Light Ride

10th December 2025



IPA Spain – Motorcycle Route Transpirenaica

11-14 December 2025



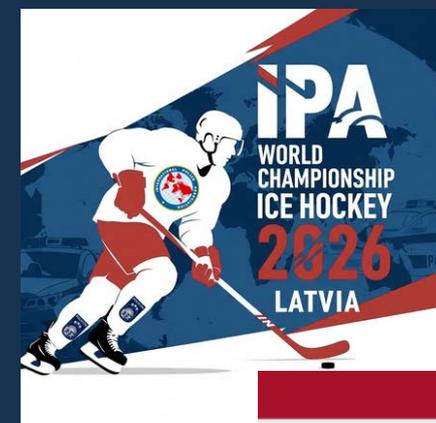
IPA UK – Scotland – Ceilidh Weekend

30 Jan – 2nd Feb 2026



IPA Germany Bremen Kohltour 2026

6-8 February 2026



IPA Latvia International ice Hockey Tournament 2026

19-22 March 2026

Here are some of the events taking place throughout the IPA over the next couple of months.

Visit our international website for a full list of our upcoming events:

ipa-international.org/Events

Gimborn Seminars

IBZ Castle Gimborn also referred to as the flagship of our association offers professional seminars, conferences and meetings and plays a vital role in fostering professional exchange among law enforcement officers. These seminars help to build personal networks that are the cornerstone of successful international crime-fighting.

IBZ Gimborn Seminar Guide 2026 – Now Available!

We're delighted to announce that the latest IBZ Gimborn Seminar Guide for 2026 is now available! Discover the upcoming seminars and register today to secure your place. Each seminar is a valuable step in your continuous professional development, offering opportunities to expand your knowledge, share experiences, and build lasting friendships with police officers from around the world.

View the 2026 Seminar Guide and start planning your next learning experience with IBZ Gimborn!



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UPCOMING SEMINARS

25 38	03.11.–07.11.	■ Veränderungen meistern: Change Management für Polizeibehörden	899 €	IPA 799 €
25 39	10.11.–14.11.	■ Stressintelligenz festigen – Kompetenzen stärken / Verhaltenstraining (Modul II Aufbau/Vertiefung)	499 €	IPA 369 €
25 40	17.11.–21.11.	■ Policing Public Safety Events Policía en Eventos de Seguridad Pública	 499 €	IPA 369 €
25 41	27.11.–29.11.	■ Erholsame Nächte, produktive Tage: Der Schlüssel zu Gesundheit und Leistung	399 €	IPA 299 €



Marketing



Promoting the IPA Together – Every Story Counts

Marketing plays a vital role in strengthening the identity and visibility of the International Police Association worldwide. The International Executive Board (IEB) and the IPA marketing team are working hard to raise awareness of our values, activities, and global impact, but every member has a part to play in sharing what makes the IPA so unique.

Your stories, experiences, and successes are our strongest marketing tools. Whether it's a local project, an exchange, a training opportunity, or a moment of international friendship – sharing these examples helps others see the real value of IPA membership.

Top tips to help promote the IPA:

- Share your experiences and photos on national and regional IPA platforms.
- Highlight how IPA membership has supported your professional or personal growth.
- Talk about IPA at work, in your community, and online – personal recommendations are powerful!
- Contribute short stories or updates for IPA newsletters and websites.
- Use official IPA branding and hashtags when sharing posts on social media.

Together, we can showcase the strength, diversity, and spirit of the IPA community – one story at a time.

Follow Us!

Stay connected with the IPA community by following us on social media – and don't forget to share our updates with your friends and family!

We also want to hear from you. If you have a story, achievement, or event you'd like us to feature, we'd be delighted to share it on your behalf.

Scan the QR code to visit our Linktree and explore all our social media platforms. See how we're promoting the IPA and connecting members around the world.





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