



INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

Section UK



Join Today

Welcome to the International Police Association Section UK

The International Police Association (IPA) was created in 1950 by Lincolnshire Police Sergeant Arthur Troop, as an organisation to promote friendship and co-operation amongst police officers around the world.

From the handful of countries that joined in 1950, the IPA now boasts nearly 400,000 members in over 60 countries. Within the UK there are approximately 9,000 members and the International Administration Centre for the association is based in Nottingham. We are also honoured to have HRH The Princess Royal as our national Patron. The IPA has grown to a global success, recognised by police forces all over the world, connecting officers from around the globe. Providing friendship, networking, professional development opportunities and support to our members along with many other benefits.



Membership is open to all currently serving Police Officers, Special Constables and Police Staff. Former employees and officers, including those who have retired, can still join so long as they completed three years' service upon application.

Our members are given opportunities around the world, including professional development exchanges with overseas police forces, social and cultural events and memorial days, training courses, hosting/visiting officers in other countries and much more.

We aim to provide both social activities for our members in the UK and beyond, plus provide training and CPD opportunities in all types of specialisms.

We provide members with a world of opportunities for travel, professional development, networking and awareness of policing on an international scale.

This booklet is made up of information about some of our projects and news from some of our recent events.



Owen Doherty
Vice President – Section UK
(Head of Recruitment)



**Arthur Troop
Scholarship**

What is the ATS and How Does the Team Work?

Founded to provide opportunities to access high-level study paths, conferences, and courses, the Arthur Troop Scholarship awards annual funds (up to a maximum of €2,500 per candidate) to cover travel, accommodation, and registration expenses for international seminars.

Our Future Begins With Training

In a world where security challenges change at the speed of light and crime ignores all geographical borders, there is one weapon that, above all, guarantees the effectiveness of law enforcement: shared training.

This is the spirit in which, every year, the Arthur Troop Scholarship (ATS) Team selects and funds the most deserving colleagues worldwide, honoring our founder's legacy and tangibly carrying forward the motto *Servo per Amikeco*.





Our Future Begins With Training

This international committee applies a strict and transparent evaluation matrix to the profiles received, working in close cooperation with the National Committees of the various local sections. The latter play the crucial role of a first filter on the territory: they promote the call among their members, verify the candidates' association standing, evaluate the consistency of the submitted documentation, and endorse to the international ATS only those profiles that fully meet the required criteria of merit and excellence.

The primary objective of the team is to support all active-service members of the association (including the youngest or least experienced), giving a decisive boost to their careers and achieving the scholarship's goals.

The "Gimborn Method" and Global Impact

The vast majority of winners select IBZ Gimborn in Germany as their study destination—the castle-academy considered the beating heart of IPA international police education.

From courses on Cybersecurity and operational stress management to negotiation techniques and combating transnational crime, participants acquire cutting-edge skills while exchanging views with colleagues of all nationalities.

IPA Connect, August 2026

The Multiplier Effect: A Duty Toward Colleagues

The ATS winner's work does not end when the classroom lights go out. Upon returning home, each scholar is tasked with drafting a technical report and, above all, transferring the acquired knowledge to colleagues within their own department or station.

In this way, the budget invested by the IPA in a single officer transforms into shared value for hundreds of operators on the ground, raising the safety standards of our local communities.

"The Arthur Troop Scholarship is not just an award, but an investment in the leadership of the future."

How to Apply for the Next Call

If you are in active service, have been an IPA member for at least 2 years, and wish to broaden your professional horizons abroad, visit your National Section's website or the international IPA portal.

To submit your application, you will need:

- A coherent study plan (identifying a course to be held in the year following the application deadline, which is always March 31st).
- An estimate of costs.
- The motivation to become a point of reference for your department.

Salvatore Del Giglio – ATS Project Lead

“

The next face of the ATS could be yours.

”

IPA UK ILDEP Exchange Strengthens International Learning

In late March I welcomed Johanna, from IPA Bremen in Germany, to the UK for a two week visit as part of the ILDEP (International Learning and Development Exchange Program) scheme. Johanna was a policing student who wanted to visit the UK to see how we undertake policing here. In German they undertake a three year degree as their initial training, including rotations through frontline units. She had initially reached out in 2025 after hearing about the opportunity from her university professor, the very first ILDEP exchange I organised when I was Vice President for Learning and Development was a student (called Don) from the same university who passed on my details.



I put Johanna in touch with Don, who decided to come over to London for a few days holiday with Johanna – so his visit can't have been all bad! I love how the IPA builds friendships with people you never would have met otherwise. As is usual with ILDEP visits, the schedule never survives first contact and there is lots of jiggling to do as the availability of units and officers shifts the closer it gets to arrival date.

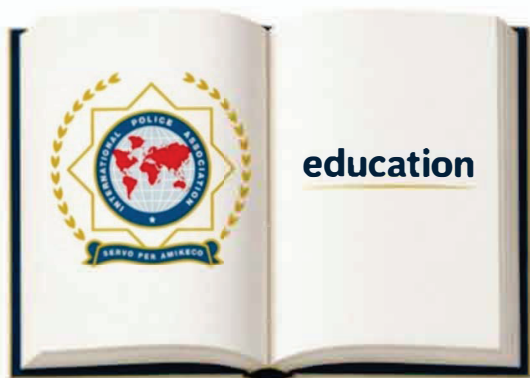
Johanna had a busy schedule, with visits across BTP, NPAS & TVP. She spent time with frontline officers, control rooms, detectives, a couple of training courses (including meeting BTP's ACC Ian Drummond-Smith & DCC Stuart Cundy whilst observing a Taser course), drones, intel and a live facial recognition deployment. She also got a chance to conduct some interviews for her thesis on interviewing children during investigations. She said how friendly everyone was to her during her visit, something she wasn't expecting, and how much the officers and staff she met looked after her. She also saw how the community focus of British policing differed to Germany and where she could develop her own style of being an officer.



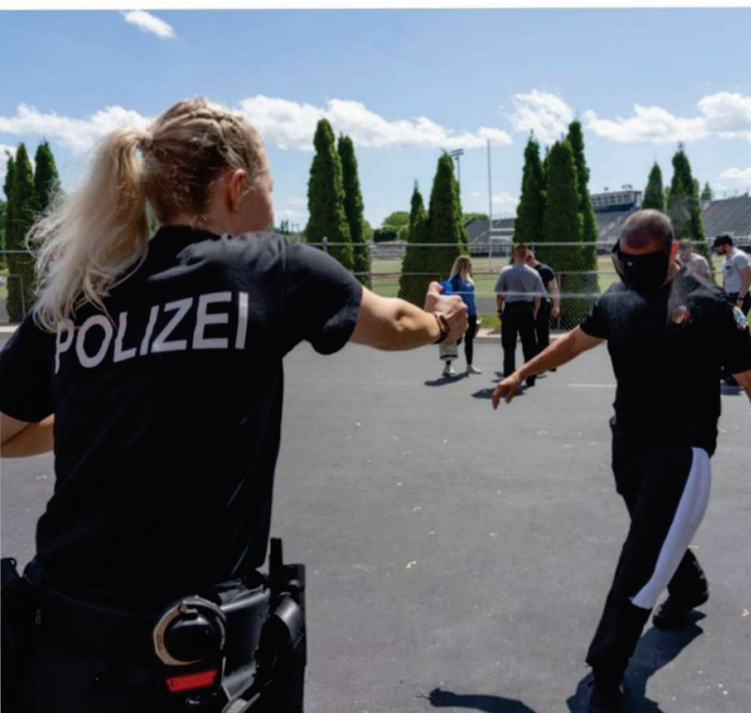
The ILDEP program is designed for members to visit other countries and spend time learning about how they do things. I encourage young people to get in touch with their national sections to see what programmes are available.

Chris Duncombe
IPA UK

www.ipa-international.org



Strengthening Skills Through the IPA Defensive Tactics Group



One of the newest initiatives bringing our philosophy of “Servo per Amikeco – Service Through Friendship” to life is the IPA Defensive Tactics Group (DTG). This program is an international network dedicated to enhancing officer safety, professional development, and cooperation among law enforcement professionals around the world.

The Defensive Tactics Group was established to provide a platform where IPA members with expertise in defensive tactics, use of force, officer survival, less-lethal technologies, instructor development, and operational training can collaborate across international borders. While police officers often face different legal systems, policies, and operational environments, the fundamental principles of officer safety and effective training remain universal.

DTG’s serve as a hub for sharing best practices, new and innovative training methods, and emerging technologies. Members have opportunities to exchange ideas, compare techniques, discuss lessons learned, and build professional relationships with instructors from a wide variety of countries and policing traditions. This exchange strengthens not only individual instructors, but also the agencies and communities they serve.

One of the group’s primary goals is to encourage IPA Sections to identify instructors and training specialists within their own organizations who are interested in participating. By creating a worldwide network of subject matter experts, the DTG can facilitate international seminars (online, in-person, and expand IBZ Gimborn’s course offerings), instructor exchanges, and collaborative training opportunities that benefit IPA members regardless of their location.

The group has already begun developing international educational opportunities through online presentations and discussions focused on officer survival, instructor development, and current trends in defensive tactics.

Strengthening Skills Through the IPA Defensive Tactics Group



The DTG is also working closely with respected training organizations and industry partners to provide members with access to current information regarding less-lethal options, instructor certification programs, and evolving training methodologies. These partnerships help ensure that IPA members remain informed about developments that can improve officer performance and public safety while respecting the legal and cultural differences that exist among participating countries.

Perhaps most importantly, the Defensive Tactics Group demonstrates the true international spirit of the IPA. Every seminar, webinar, and discussion creates opportunities for officers to learn from one another while building friendships that extend well beyond the training environment. These professional relationships strengthen cooperation between IPA Sections and contribute to safer policing worldwide.

As the program continues to grow, the DTG welcomes participation from experienced instructors, trainers, and officers with an interest in professional development. Whether your expertise lies in defensive tactics, firearms, less-lethal systems, crisis intervention, instructor development, or officer wellness, your knowledge can help strengthen this global network. If you are or know an experienced trainer within the IPA that would like to be more involved and be included in our newly formed database of instructors, please reach out to Education Team Lead Joe Johnson at president@ipa-usa.org for more information.



Together, through shared experience, mutual respect, and a commitment to excellence, the IPA Defensive Tactics Group helps prepare officers for the challenges of modern policing while continuing to embody the IPA's enduring mission of Service Through Friendship.

Joe Johnson - IPA President United States Section and Education Team Lead

“Through shared experience, mutual respect, and a commitment to excellence, the IPA Defensive Tactics Group helps prepare officers for the challenges of modern policing.”



Friendship Judo Week IPA Japan Section

From November 24 to 30, 2025, the Friendship Judo Week (FJW) was held at the Chiba Prefectural Police (CPP) Headquarters and YohaS Arena, a municipal sports facility in Chiba City, located about 40 kilometers east of Tokyo. The event was organized by IPA Japan Section with the full cooperation of the CPP. Seven participants from five countries—six men and one woman—with a wide range of judo levels, from a complete beginner to a third-degree black belt, had an invaluable opportunity to learn the spirit and techniques of authentic Japanese judo.



The four days of intensive judo practice began with an opening ceremony at the CPP Headquarters' dojo (martial arts training hall) on the morning of November 25. At the ceremony, Ms. Ayako Aoyama, Chief of the CPP, and Mr. Masahito Kanetaka, President of IPA Japan, welcomed the participants and offered words of encouragement, greatly stimulating their desire to learn judo. Judo practice was mainly held at YohaS Arena and began with instruction on "Rei" (courtesy or etiquette) from Mr. Kazuya Iwashita, Deputy Chief Judo Instructor for the CPP. The participants listened attentively as he explained the importance of showing respect to opponents while practicing judo.

Subsequently, instructions were given throughout the sessions on posture, grappling, ukemi (falling techniques), throwing, and ground work. Time passed swiftly as the six judo instructors from the CPP taught with enthusiasm, careful attention to detail, and occasional humor. On November 27, the dojo's atmosphere was further heightened by the visit of Barcelona Olympic gold medalist Mr. Hidehiko Yoshida and the 1985 Italy International Judo Tournament gold medalist Mr. Kazumi Shin. The participants eagerly received advice from the two champions, with excited expressions on their faces.

In addition to judo practice, on November 26 the participants attended an Aikido session led by Mr. Fumiaki Matsuda, a member of IPA Japan, showcasing elegant and precise techniques. Thanks to arrangements made by the CPP, the participants also enjoyed a welcome concert by the police band and visited the CPP Headquarters and Chiba Chuo (Central) Police Station.





IPA Games 2026 Wrocław, Poland

More than 600 police officers came together from 32 countries in Wrocław, Poland, for the IPA GAMES 2026 Championship – several days of sport, integration and international cooperation within the international police family.

Competitors took part in a wide range of disciplines including athletics, swimming, cycling, shooting, football, volleyball, basketball, judo, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, badminton, chess and table tennis, demonstrating sporting excellence while strengthening international friendship and cooperation.

The Opening Ceremony was attended by, among others, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Sport and Tourism Ireneusz Nalazek, Voivode of Lower Silesia Anna Żabska, Marshal of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship Paweł Gancarz, First Vice-Mayor of Wrocław Renata Granowska, representatives of the Chief Commander of the Police, Provincial Police leadership, IPA International President Martin Hoffmann, Chairperson Socio-Cultural Commission Christos Parginos and President of IPA Poland Piotr Wójcik.

IPA Connect , August 2026

The whole event was coordinated by Captain Bartłomiej Majchrzak, Plenipotentiary of the Provincial Police Headquarters in Wrocław for the Protection of Human Rights, who is also the Leader of IPA Lower Silesia. Without his great personal dedication and commitment, the IPA GAMES 2026 Championship would probably not have taken place in Wrocław.

The ceremony was the symbolic beginning of a several-day celebration of sport, integration and international cooperation. Decorations of the competitors and medal presentations took place immediately after the conclusion of each competition, while the ceremonial closing of the championship was held on 14 May at Freedom Square in front of the National Forum of Music.



The closing ceremony began with a short concert by the Orchestra of the Provincial Police Headquarters in Wrocław, one of only a few police orchestras of its kind in Poland, whose musicians have participated in many prestigious events



IPA Games 2026 Wrocław, Poland

Senior representatives of the Provincial and Municipal Police, IPA Chairperson Socio-Cultural Commission Christos Parginos, IPA Poland President Piotr Wójcik and Captain Bartłomiej Majchrzak, Chairman of the IPA GAMES 2026 Organising Committee, together presented commemorative gifts specially prepared for each of the national teams participating in the Games. All participants also received commemorative medals recognising their participation in the championship.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the IPA GAMES 2026 Cup to the national team that won the most medals overall. The Polish Police team claimed first place with an impressive total of 23 gold, 18 silver and 25 bronze medals. It was a symbolic and important victory, as Poland is celebrating the 100th anniversary of sport within the Polish Police this year. Romania finished second with 13 gold, 14 silver and 16 bronze medals.

Despite a surprise spell of rainy weather, the event concluded with smiles, commemorative photographs and lasting memories of sporting competition in the spirit of the Olympic motto, Citius, Altius, Fortius – Faster, Higher, Stronger.

The organisers emphasised that the championship was also an excellent opportunity to promote Wrocław and Lower Silesia as modern, open and welcoming destinations for international events.

The IPA GAMES 2026 Championship was organised by IPA Poland together with the Provincial Police Headquarters in Wrocław, the Wrocław City Hall, the Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship and the partners of the event. The organisers thanked all institutions, organisations and individuals involved in delivering this outstanding sporting event. The public task was funded through financial support from the Municipality of Wrocław, the Ministry of Sport and Tourism and the LOTTO Foundation.

Bartłomiej Majchrzak – IPA Leader in Lower Silesia, Poland



The closing ceremony also provided an opportunity to thank the members of the IPA GAMES 2026 Organising Committee and the guardians of the national teams

A particularly meaningful moment was the presentation of medals by the President of IPA Poland to outstanding individuals who continue to work for the benefit of the Association.



A Night Inside The Tower of London

By David Hunter

The evening of Tuesday 9th June 2026 was an experience I'll never forget, the kind of privilege that reminds you just how much history sits quietly behind the walls of our great nation's capital city, London.

Fifteen members of the York and Scarborough Branches and their guests, had the honour of being welcomed as guests of the Yeoman Warders at the Tower of London, stepping into areas the public never see, the sun was thankfully shining and the weather kind to us.

We entered through the Royal entrance gate and were given a private tour of the inner courtyard, walking through a fortress that has stood for nearly a thousand years, guarded by Warders whose role dates back to the Tudor era and who have protected the Tower and its treasures since 1485.

Hearing the stories directly from the Warders - the "Beefeaters" - brought the Tower's past to life: royal intrigue, prisoners, escapes, and the evolution of the fortress from palace to prison to the guardian of the Crown Jewels.

IPA member and Yeoman Warder #417 Simon Towe and his colleagues gave us a fantastic experience, with the obvious highlight of the evening being to witness the Ceremony of the Keys, the world's oldest continuous military ritual, performed every night at exactly 9:52pm and unchanged for over 700 years.

The traditional challenge —

"Halt! Who comes there?"

"The Keys."

"Whose keys?"

"King Charles's keys."

— has echoed through Water Lane for centuries, even surviving war, plague, and the Blitz, with only a single delay during World War Two.

Before and after the ceremony, we were invited into the Yeoman Warders' Club, a private space rarely seen by anyone outside the Warders themselves. Sharing a drink with them, hearing their stories, and experiencing their hospitality was a privilege in itself.

A truly unforgettable night, steeped in tradition, ceremony, and the rare chance to see the Tower of London exactly as its guardians do and without the presence of the many people that visit every day.

Special Thanks to Keith Palmer our York Branch Social Secretary for organising it all.

York Branch and Region 3 Chairman David Hunter presented Yeoman Warder Simon Towe with a token of our appreciation.



Busy Week for Bavarian State Police Visitors

By Owen Doherty, Vice President Section UK

In February, 6 Region received three serving police officers from the Bavaria State Police who had applied through IPA Munich to visit the UK for a two-week exchange programme. On Monday 16th February 6 Region Chair Owen and 6 Region Secretary Rob met with Anja, Annika and Larissa at the British Transport Police Force Headquarters on Buckingham Palace Road in London.

The exchange opened in London with introductions and a detailed briefing on UK policing structures, providing delegates with an overview of the agencies and operational landscape they would encounter during the week ahead. This was delivered with the assistance of Sergeant Chris Duncombe (former VP of Section UK) who also taught the delegates about the niche area of disruption management within railway policing in the UK.

From there, the group visited the Deutsche Botschaft (German Embassy), receiving a warm welcome from the embedded Bundespolizei. Discussions focused on international cooperation, shared challenges, and the common values that bind policing communities between our two countries.

On Tuesday the participants were again in the capable hands of Chris Duncombe. After travelling to Ebbsfleet International Station, the day began with an overview of Taser capability and training, offering delegates a close look at how less lethal options are managed and deployed in the UK. This session highlighted both the operational complexities and the safeguards that underpin modern policing.



Wednesday began with an early start for the group travelling from London Kings Cross to York via train. The group were met on arrival by 6 Region Chairman Owen Doherty, Treasurer Mike Hopkins and BTP Branch Member Andrew Jones. The group took a short walk from the station to York Minster where they were hosted by the York Minster Police, a visit in which the delegates were able to gain an insight into what is believed to be one the world's oldest police forces. Upon leaving the Minster the participants were taken on a walking tour of the historic streets of York.

Before leaving a visit was paid to the National Railway Museum, where Serving BTP Branch Members delivered an extremely interactive presentation into the complexities of policing the Royal Train.

The group were then driven to Leeds where the programme continued into the evening with the British Transport Police. During this station visit the participants enjoyed time with various departments including Response, CID and NPT. In addition to exploring the equipment used and the vehicles within the fleet, the participants were taught about the differences between policing in the North of England compared with the capital. The evening once again offered space to strengthen friendships and share experiences informally.

Thursday's schedule focused on training and professional development, which saw the group travel to South Kensington, where they joined on a recruit intake and took part in HYDRA training, which is an immersive virtual training experience. The group found this experience extremely interesting, getting a great feel for what goes into training officers in the UK.

Friday was named as a standout day by the three participants. The morning began in Whitehall where Met Branch Chair Victoria Mason facilitated a special visit to Downing Street where they learned about the specialist role of Diplomatic Protection from the Authorised Firearms Officers and their commander.

Remaining in Westminster the memorable experiences continued with a visit to the Palace of Westminster, where the participants enjoyed a uniquely tailored tour, combining both the tourist must-sees with areas relating to policing.





Over the weekend the group enjoyed some free time to explore and tick off some of their own bucket list items. However, being keen to see as much of British policing as possible, on Sunday afternoon the group travelled to the home of BTP's CCTV Operations centre, where they were hosted by BTP Branch member David Slade. It was expressed by the group that CCTV capability was perhaps the most significant difference when comparing policing in the UK with Germany.

The second week began with a visit to The Old Bailey where the participants were greeted by Met Branch member DS Atwal. In addition to seeing one of the country's most historic courts, the group were also able to learn about the Judicial processes in place.

The afternoon continued with the Met Branch as the group headed to Stoke Newington, where they were hosted by branch member PC Campbell, seeing the vehicles, equipment and processes used by the country's largest police force.

On Tuesday the group returned to the hands of the BTP branch when they met with PC Springall of the Civil Protection Unit who provided an informative insight into the complexities of the environment within which the British Transport Police operates.

On Wednesday the group spent the day with BTP's various Specialist Operations Units, learning about various aspects such as the force's firearms capabilities, use of dogs and specialist search roles.

On Thursday the participants had requested a visit to Manchester to see alternative city before their departure. After travelling from London they were met by a number of members from the BTP Branch based at various posts across the North of England, and enjoyed a social evening too.

On the Friday the group spent the last day of their exchange travelling back to London by rail taking in scenes as they passed from North to South. Once back in London the group went to their final visit of the two-week exchange programme, visiting the National Police Air Service where they were hosted by PC Webb a BTP Branch member embedded within NPAS. ■





YPOS – Young Police Officers Seminar , Germany 2026



Future Meets Friendship

When fifty-two young police officers from thirty-one nations gathered in the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia for a week, it was never just about the training content. It was about what happens when people from five continents meet – and realize just how much they have in common.

Fifteen years ago, Philipp Kurz himself sat in that very circle – young, curious, and full of expectations. In 2011, he took part in the very first IPA YPOS in Amsterdam. What he experienced there shaped him: encounters with colleagues from countries his official duties would never have otherwise taken him to. Friendships that lasted. In August 2026, he stood on the other side. Not as a participant, but as a host. As President of IPA Germany, he welcomed fifty-two young police officers from thirty-one nations to the Selm-Bork Education Center. The circle had closed.



Arriving in Selm-Bork

The week began with a feeling many of the arrivals knew well: that mix of excitement and anticipation when you step into a place you have never been before, yet meet people you will soon call friends. Markus Henkel, Head of the LAFP NRW, and Philipp Kurz, President of IPA Germany, welcomed the group – and immediately sensed: the chemistry here is right.

A guided tour of the LAFP NRW grounds provided initial insights into the training and exercise areas, including the shooting range. Afterwards, the focus shifted to the IPA itself: national and international structures, commissions, projects, and the international strategy of the association. Those who were new quickly understood: the IPA is more than just a network. It is an infrastructure for connection.

The formal part of the day concluded with a joint sports activity. During the evening BBQ at the IPA House Selm-Bork, conversations flowed freely – about home countries, about the path to joining the police, and about expectations for the week ahead.



When the Future Enters Training

"Future Meets Training – Digitalisation in Police Operational Training" was the guiding theme. Not an abstract buzzword, but a promise that ran through the entire week. The question hanging in the air was: How are digitalization, new technologies, and innovative training methods changing police work – and above all, the way the next generation is trained?



Answers were provided at the Innovation Lab of the LZPD NRW in Duisburg. The digital strategy of the NRW Police was presented in a way that made the topic itself experiential: the lecture was translated live by a self-developed artificial intelligence. A robot dog demonstrated where technical systems can already provide operational support today.

That looking to the future does not mean throwing proven methods overboard was shown elsewhere. In the practical workshop on tactical handcuffing, instructors taught modern techniques step by step. In the VR workshop, participants tried out the use of Tasers and firearms in a virtual environment – realistic enough to learn from, yet safe enough to allow for mistakes. This was exactly the point: experiencing innovation without losing sight of practical reality.

Police Work Up Close

Anyone who spent the week in Selm-Bork didn't just have police work explained to them; they experienced it with all their senses. At the Bochum Police Headquarters, the focus was on the Riot Police, the Technical Operations Unit, and the Water Cannon Unit. The international guests were invited to get actively involved: acting as "disruptors" in a riot police exercise, they experienced first-hand what operational dynamics truly mean. They also experienced the water cannon first-hand: one group got to sit in front of the vehicle and was thoroughly soaked. The State Mounted Police Unit also demonstrated how tradition and modernity work together, allowing participants to act as disruptors in one of their exercises.

At the Federal Police Directorate in Sankt Augustin, the group visited specialized operational areas including the Evidence and Arrest Unit. The actual highlight, however, literally came from above: a Federal Police helicopter landed – and the group was allowed not only to inspect it but also to climb inside.



In Düsseldorf, the focus was finally on operational reality in an urban environment. The exchange on the specific challenges and concepts for managing police operations in the Düsseldorf Old Town provided ample material for lively discussions – the colleagues from their home countries knew all too well the similar problems they face. In the evening, the day wound down in a traditional brewery, where conversations relaxed over discussions of operations, families, and the future of the IPA.

Europe in Dialogue

That police work no longer ends at national borders was demonstrated in the dialogue with Member of the European Parliament Lena Düpont. Under the guiding theme "Future Policing in Europe – Opportunities and Challenges for the Next Generation of Police Officers," the young police officers actively joined the discussion. It was an exchange on equal footing – and a sign that the next generation of European policing is already thinking across borders today.

When Colleagues Become Friends

What truly makes a YPOS cannot be measured in agenda items. It is the moments in between.

The International Evening, for example: an evening where each nation presented its culinary specialties and cultural quirks. And then there was that one moment when the patch trading began – an exchange of badges as a sign of solidarity, as a memento of encounters that will last. These patches now adorn the memory walls of colleagues around the globe.



A very unique, almost symbolic highlight was the tree-planting event. IPA Selm-Bork has always invited every nation visiting the LAFP Selm-Bork for the first time to plant their own tree – permanently marked with the flag of the respective country. And so, a small, colorful forest of flags grew that day, each one a quiet testament: We were here, and we belong. While planting, the participants encountered another group of IPA members who were visiting Selm-Bork for Friendship Week. Among them, some of the young police officers suddenly recognized their own compatriots – and within minutes, casual glances turned into conversations, and conversations into connections.

Encounters like these resonated far beyond the week. Even before departing, some participants had already made concrete plans to visit each other in their home countries in the coming weeks. What started as a week in North Rhine-Westphalia became the next chapters of a friendship that continues to be written across borders.

The day in Münster also belonged to those moments that matter, even if they aren't on the training schedule: a reception in the Historical Peace Hall of the Town Hall by the Deputy Mayor, a double-decker bus city tour, free time to explore independently, and a shared inner. Conversations that drifted away from duty and the official program.

It was exactly these moments that made YPOS 2026 so much more than a standard training event.

What Remains

At the official closing ceremony, certificates of participation were handed out. But what truly mattered was not written on any certificate.

Hanna from Finland summed it up perfectly: "Thank you all for this amazing week. Honestly, this has been the best trip abroad of my entire life, because everything was organized so well – the food, the activities and especially this community. There is no other work environment where you get the chance to meet new people from such a wide range of cultures."

Muhammad from Pakistan added: "I learned a lot from each of you, not only professionally but also through the friendships, experiences, and connections we shared." Brian from the USA was certain: "I know we all made memories we will never forget and friends that will last a lifetime." And Laura from Germany summarized what everyone was likely feeling: "It was such a wonderful time, filled with great conversations, valuable exchanges, and most importantly, new friendships." Fifty-two participants. Thirty-one nations. Five continents. One police family.



YPOS 2026 has shown that international friendship and professional exchange are not abstract goals of the IPA. They are actively lived by the next generation – in every encounter, in every conversation held across borders. The personal contacts formed this week can endure for many years and form a vital foundation for trust and cross-border cooperation.

What Philipp Kurz began in Amsterdam in 2011 was continued in Selm-Bork in 2026. Not as a repetition, but as a confirmation: when you bring young people together, when you give them space for professional exchange and personal encounters, something is created that carries on long after the week is over. Trust. Understanding. Friendship. *Servo per amikeco. Serve through friendship.* In Selm-Bork, this phrase was not just thought about for a week. It was lived.





YPOS Vienna 2024

By Simeon Coughlan

Having read about the previous YPOS events, when the opportunity arose to apply to be a participant at YPOS Vienna, I jumped at the opportunity to apply and was lucky enough to be chosen to attend, alongside John Catterton from Northern Ireland to represent Section UK.

YPOS Vienna was designed to give officers not only a chance to learn about law enforcement in Austria, but also to have a chance to help shape the future of the IPA.

Having arrived and settled into the hotel, we attended the opening ceremony, taken through the itinerary for the week and given gift bags, as well as getting the chance to introduce ourselves and speak a little of our roles and Policing in our Countries.

On the first full day of YPOS Vienna, we boarded the bus and headed to the Rossauer Kaserne in Vienna, a huge red-brick Police Barracks opened in 1870 which was impressive and, on a scale, not really seen in the UK. This was where most of the inputs would be taking place.

Throughout the day, we received inputs on IPA Austria, law enforcement in Austria as well as inputs from specialist units within the Austrian Police. Having finished with the formal inputs, it was a quick change out of uniform and on to a guided tour of Vienna.

IPA Austria were kind enough to hire tour guides, who took us in two groups around Vienna, explaining several of the key sites and the history behind them. This was a great opportunity to learn more about the city and the history of where we were staying. Having the chance to see the incredibly rich tapestry of history that is Vienna.

Rounding off the evening, we went for traditional Vienna food of Wiener Schnitzel and beer. Before finishing with a few more drinks and exchanging war stories from our respective countries and experiences in Policing.

The next day started at the Rossauer Kaserne, with an input from the Vienna Police Chief, followed by a number of practical demonstrations by WEGA the Vienna Tactical Unit. They displayed a number of tactics including rope work, at height demonstrations as well as dog displays and scenarios. After this we were able to get hands on and try out the unit's equipment and look around the specialist vehicles that they use, as well as asking questions about their unit. With very different approaches to firearms compared to the UK, we were able to handle all of the weapons used and carried by WEGA including long arms, side arms, tasers and baton guns.

Having eaten lunch at the Rossauer Kaserne we once again boarded the bus, heading to the Operational Training Centre. Once there we were fortunate enough to be shown around, before being split into two groups and having the opportunity to fire the two main weapons of the Austrian Police. These being the Glock 17 and the Steyr AUG. Despite being the





only unarmed officer on the range, I managed to beat a number of my international colleagues in the timed shoot. Being called “English John Wick” by the firearms instructor and begged not to share the results by one international colleague. Despite my apparent prowess with a firearm, a career in firearms is not one I have my eyes on.

Moving on from the Training Centre, we went to the Polizei-Sportanlage (Police Sports Complex) where we took part in Dragon Boat racing on the Old Danube River. Unfortunately the boat I was in didn't win, but it was a great way to experience the area and to see the facilities available to the Vienna Police. We followed this up with dinner by the river at the same venue which provided an incredible view and environment.

The 1st August was the day that we held the Young Members Forum, giving an insight into the IPA, allowing Young Members a chance to put forward their ideas, for how the IPA can continue to grow, and flourish in the years to come. After a busy day of idea sharing, we then moved into some free time before attending a meal at the Vienna City Hall. This meal was hosted and paid for by the Mayor of Vienna, who unfortunately was unable to join us. We were instead joined by the Deputy Mayor and were also lucky enough to have Martin Hoffmann the International President of the IPA join us for the meal. A few of us were lucky enough to spend some time speaking with Martin directly which was a great experience. Travelling the short distance outside the City Hall, we found ourselves in the Vienna Film Festival and were able to enjoy a few more drinks there before heading back to the hotel.

The 2nd August presented an opportunity, which not even many members of the Austrian Police get to experience, as we travelled to the Headquarters of the Einsatzkommando Cobra - the top Police Tactical Unit in Austria. There we got to experience all the incredible training facilities that they have available to them, as well as learning about their work with Police Dogs, Air Marshals, Tactical Medics, Technical Units and Close Protection Teams. It was incredible to be shown around their HQ with facilities on a scale that I have never seen before in Policing. Being more similar to some of the facilities that I have seen available to military special forces. With the day culminating with us having the chance to try out their climbing wall and abseil.



Unfortunately, these events always end far too soon, the return to the hotel signalling the end of YPOS Vienna with the Closing Ceremony. Having been presented with our certificates and a commemorative patch, we headed to the restaurant where we had started the event on the Monday evening and with a brief pause to change out of uniform continued the drinks and time with friends that we had made throughout YPOS Vienna 2024.

This event has given me so much information about Policing in Austria and across the world, with ideas and suggestions that I have to bring to my own area of work. It allowed me to discuss things with colleagues who have shared experiences and come up with ideas that we can use to tackle these issues.

It really does show that no matter where you go in the world, Policing will always have the same issues and officers will always want to do what is best for the victims of crime.

The IPA is an incredible organisation with only one downside, every time I travel the list of friends to visit goes up and up! ■

