



EUPOL COPPS Newsletter - April 2020

Dear friends,

It is a challenging period for the world at the moment, and I'd like to pay tribute to the professionalism and dedication of our Palestinian counterparts in law enforcement and rule of law institutions as they work with other agencies to combat the spread of Covid-19.



The policing and criminal justice agencies in the EU member states that second our advisers are going through a similarly demanding period, and our thoughts are with everyone serving their community on the front line at the moment.

As for our work as a Mission, we are doing our best to maintain 'business as usual', even though we are living through a time which is very far from being usual. Our staff are now almost all working from home, where they continue to deliver strategic advice remotely. This kind of advice includes support for the justice sector strategy and building forensic science capacity, featured in this month's newsletter.

Like everyone else, we are hoping for things to get back to normal as soon as possible. We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and are thinking of all those who have been affected by COVID-19.

Kind regards,
Kauko

Kauko Aaltomaa
Head of Mission
EUPOL COPPS

Strengthening the strategy for the justice sector



"We are holding a consultation session for the strategic plan. It was sent to civil society and donors to listen to comments on the first draft that was delivered to the Council of Ministers. This kind of meeting is unprecedented. The Canadians and the EUPOL COPPS Mission are very supportive in this endeavour and support the Ministry of Justice in this process. We are listening to the comments".

Samah Naser
Head of Planning Unit
Ministry of Justice

EUPOL COPPS will continue to provide support remotely for the Palestinian justice sector strategy. The strategy was originally drafted in 2017 for the period until 2022. It is currently undergoing a mid-term review, with the support of international experts, including EUPOL COPPS advisers.

On 4 March, alongside our friends from the Canadian Embassy, we supported an exercise to include the input of civil society to the strategy. You can find out more about what was said at the meeting [here](#).

Other activities to support the strategy and the justice sector more widely are featured in the stories below [👉](#)



With an elbow bump in place of a handshake, EUPOL COPPS Head of Mission meets Minister of Justice to discuss ongoing cooperation



Supported by COPPS, Ministry of Justice managers meet to plan for the future

Building forensic science capacity remotely



During this challenging period, EUPOL COPPS is finding new ways to deliver on its mandate to support Palestinian law enforcement and rule of law reform.

Our Forensics Adviser, Dr Sabina Resic Lindehammer from Sweden, for example is maintaining contact with her Palestinian counterparts remotely and building on the work she did in person before the emergency measures came into force.

Find out more about how EUPOL COPPS is assisting the Palestinian Civil Police to build forensic capacity:

 <http://www.eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5670>

Supporting the police to plan for mass events



From 29 Feb - 5 March (i.e. before the emergency measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 came into effect), we organised a 5-day training for 19 Palestinian police officers on handling complex operations while keeping people safe and protecting human rights.

Find out about the programme and which topics were covered:

[👉 https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5662](https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5662)



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